

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA NEWSLETTER

Sept/October
2023 **INSIDE
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For past newsletters
visit our website

www.camelliasillawarra.org.au

The 1st Camellia Show in the
Illawarra was held in 1953.

Our Monthly Meetings are held at the Bulli Uniting Church Hall, 3rd Saturday of the month, from March to October Check out the Dates to Remember page for more details.



THE 2023 CAMELLIA SEASON

The last Camellias to bloom are the big, beautiful Reticulatas. This lovely one is 'Laska Beauty'. The Australian Nomenclature says it's a retic-hybrid, soft pink, very large semi-double with upright open growth. Blooms mid-season (USA 1975) I say she's a stunner and I'm so happy to have her in my garden. This will be my last Newsletter and I would like to thank everyone who took the time to contribute, comment and thank me. I have particularly enjoyed bringing you all the beautiful photos. Debby x

The President's Message

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

The camellia season is drawing to a close with very few blooms left, however we still have one bloom competition left so I hope we can still find a few flowers to prolong our interest for a bit longer.

Heather and Peter Howe, with support from Jean and Lola, represented Camellias Illawarra at the Bunnings Bellambi spring fair. They have given a good report (see later in the newsletter) and I feel that we should try to do more of this sort of promotion in the future. More members will need to be involved so that it does not depend on one group.

A small group has been to the Rhododendron Gardens to prune some of the plants. This task will take some time, although we do not intend to attack all that needs to be done this year. We must leave some fun for next year. This work takes place on Tuesdays and usually only lasts for a couple of hours. All are welcome to do as little or as much as desired.

The next monthly meeting will also be our AGM. At the present time we have nominations for some positions, but we are still short of- Vice President, Treasurer, Membership secretary and Neutrog coordinator.

Please attend the AGM as we need a quorum to conduct the meeting in accordance with our constitution.

The annual Christmas party is on 18th November at Bulli Workers Club. Advise of your intention to attend so the correct numbers can be booked. More details are later in the newsletter.

Now is the time to do those things in the garden which will pay off with good blooms next season, such as pruning, fertilizing, and mulching.

Thanks to Debby for editing the newsletter for the last five years. Her efforts have made my job easier and I am sure everyone has enjoyed the style she has brought to the newsletter.

Regards, Don.



August Judges and Members choice was Tina with a lovely bloom of Japonica 'Royal Velvet'



September Judges and Members choice was Kevin and Sandy with a full bloom of Reticulata 'Valentine Day'

MONTHLY BLOOM COMPETITION FOR 2023

The Monthly Bloom Comp is on again from April 2023. WE WILL NEED HELPERS TO RUN IT PLEASE.

From 12 noon for table setup to stewarding and judging the sections. Then documenting the results. So please bring along your blooms and enjoy the display. If you're not confident just ask for help.

Thank you so much to all those who have helped over the years.... Well done!

Don't forget that the Members choice winners receive a NEUTROG prize.

More Bloom Comp photos on pages 5 & 6

DATES TO REMEMBER and NEWS for 2023

OCTOBER:

5th Committee meeting 1.30pm

16th – 23rd Backyard Bird Count. Fun activity to count the birds in your garden www.birdlife.org.au

19th West Wollongong Garden Club 'Illawarra friendship Day' Polish Club 143 Gipps Rd Keiraville

9.15am for setup 10am for meeting.... BYO Lunch and Mug. Morning tea provided RSVP before

1st October ...See flier later in this newsletter. Please let us know if you're intending to go too.

Reply to Debby dandddewhurst@bigpond.com or 0422 3744 13

21st Monthly Meeting and AGM It's absolutely crucial that more members volunteer for the jobs that need to be done to keep our society moving forward. Next year will be our 70th Show and it would be devastating if we couldn't give it our best, just because of a lack of help. We owe it to all those wonderful past members who started and kept our Camellia Society going over those 70 years. If you have never been on the committee then now is the time to put your hand up. Nomination forms will be available on the day or come to the next committee meeting on the 5th Oct and see how welcoming we are.

NOVEMBER: 18th Christmas Party 12 noon, Bulli Workers club \$10pp pay on the day

ALL YEARLY SUBS MUST NOW BE PAID BY 1ST OF JANUARY OF EACH YEAR. This entitles you to our newsletters and Camellias Australia's newsletters and Magazine. Most of you have already paid for this year, so thank you. The best idea is to pay **for next Year at the Christmas Party, in November.**

Or pay online using these BANK DETAILS: BANK IMB, Account Name Camellias Illawarra Inc.
BSB 641 800 Account 021112238 Single \$25 Family \$30



Wynne Rayner



Love Light



Mrs. D W Davis Special



Viginia Franco



Elegans Champagne



Tammia



Drama Girl



Susie Fortson



Bokukan



Kumagai Nagoya



Nuccio's Bella Rosa



Elegans Supreme



Edith Linton



Tomorrow Park Hill



Barbara Woodroof



Water Lily

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA INC COMMITTEE 2023

PRESIDENT: Don Dewhurst 7 Moselle Pl, Eschol Park, 2558 02 9820 9912
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VICE PRESIDENT: William Walker 29 East St, Russell Vale, 2517 02 4284 2790
walker38@optusnet.com.au

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dandddewhurst@bigpond.com

Committee Members: Therese Nemcik, Tina Hamer, Heather and Peter Howe
More members are always welcome to join us.

Don't forget to check out all the information, culture notes and past newsletters that are available on our website www.camelliasillawarra.org.au Photos and information can also be found #camelliasillawarra on Instagram and facebook.com/camelliasillawarra. You can email me, Debby at dandddewhurst@bigpond.com or text me on 0422 3744 13 if you have any contributions, comments or questions about this newsletter.

REPORT OF CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA 2023 CAMELLIA SHOW.

Looking at the number of blooms entered onto the show benches this year, I realize just how important it is that our camellia plants receive adequate amounts of rain. I have been well aware of the lack of rainfall in the past weeks and have endeavored to keep my plants watered, but water from our taps just isn't the same as natural rainfall. Tap water should prevent plants from dying, but it just isn't the same as natural rainfall.

The total number of blooms entered in our show this year was 1008 compared with the 1011 blooms entered into our 2022 show when we had to place restrictions on the number of blooms entered in each class because of the COVID ISSUE, but even though there were no restrictions in any classes this year, we could not produce more entries than what we received in the year 2022 and for this, I consider it was because of the low rainfall this year.

A look through the Show Schedule shows a reduced number of entries in most Sections, with just a few exemptions. Camellia Reticulata entries this year 136, last year 182. Cluster Flowered Cultivars this year 35, last year 37. Section 3 Named Japonica Classes this year saw a total of 387, which didn't quite reach the 388 of last year.

There were 82 entries for Unlisted Japonica Cultivars this year, last year 64, Miniature blooms entered this year 103, last year 80. Non-Retic Hybrids this year 77, last year 73, but the major changes were in the Sections for Three and Five blooms. The total number of Classes of Three, this year 78, last year 159 and Collections of Five this year 65, last year 145.

There were multiple uncontested Classes throughout the Show beginning with Reticulata Hybrids Amy Hunt, Kristie Wilson, and Tyrrhenian Gown. No sprays of Alpen Glo, Baby Bear, Fragrant Pink and Fragrant Joy and any Wirlinga Sprays Not Listed. In the Section for Named Japonicas, there were Zero entries for C M Hovey, Erin Farmer, Laurie Bray and Red Red Rose.

In Section 5 for Miniature blooms and Species, there were zero entries for Angel's Blush, Little Slam, Lollypop, Night Rider, Sweet Emily Kate and Nitidissima. Non-Retic Hybrid Margaret Waterhouse was the only zero entry in Section 7.

The eight Classes for Collections of Three were all contested although two Classes had only one entry. Total number of entries this Section 78, last year, 159. If you thought Section eight was the downfall of this year's entry numbers, you may have to check out the numbers for the entries for the Groups of five. Of the eleven Classes, three were uncontested, the total number of entries this Section this year 65, last year 145. This was the lowest total for this Section for the past ten years. Section 9 was for Collections of five. It was in Sections eight and nine where the lack of blooms was most pronounced in our Show.

By William Walker

REPORT ON 2023 RETICULATA SHOW

In presenting this report on our 2023 Camellia Reticulata Show at the Northern Illawarra Uniting Church Bulli, on Saturday August 12th, I don't imagine it will be a surprise to any of our members to know that 408 was the smallest number of blooms presented on the Show Benches for some time. We have had only one year since 1999, the year we held our first Reticulata Show, when we had fewer flowers on our Show Benches, that was in the year 2006 when we received only 389 entries. It wasn't all that surprising when you look at the small number of blooms presented at our varietal Show just three weeks earlier, when we had only 1008 blooms presented for judging.

I consider the underlying reason for such low numbers in the year 2023 is the low rainfall that we have received during the past few months. We have been told that Camellia Blooms consist of 85 to 95 per cent of water and because of the low rain fall, Camellias are unable to open their blooms in sufficient numbers.

Consider the number of blooms of the most shown Reticulata Cultivar at our Shows in the Illawarra in the past ten years, Dr. Clifford Parks. Three Hundred and Ten entries were benched, that is an average of thirty-one each year. This year, in drought conditions we received just fourteen. There were five entries of this Cultivar in the July Show.

The Cultivar that received the highest number of entries this year was "Ellie's Girl" with twenty-four blooms. Other Cultivars that received reasonable entries were "Francie L" 12, "Frank Houser" 12, "Lady Pamela" 11, "Lasca Beauty" 14, and "Valentine Day" and "Valentine Day Variegated" received 12 and 17. In the Collections of three and five, consisting of seven classes, only 44 blooms were entered, compared with 167 last year.

We have no control over the weather, and as I've been aware of the low rainfall in recent months, I've watered my Camellias with the garden hose, but water from the taps doesn't have the properties of pure Rainwater, it will sustain them and keep them alive and that is all.

Zero entries were recorded for some cultivars and included Bright Beauty, Highlight, Jean Pursel, K. O. Hester, Kristie Wilson, La Petite, Overture, Susie O'Neill, William Hertrich, Winter's Own and no entries in the Class Three Blooms Different Forms. I will not suggest that we make any deletions in our Show Schedules just because of low numbers of entries this year, because of the unusually dry conditions. Of the 60 Classes of "Named Cultivars" in the Show, only nine of them recorded double digit entries, they were "Dr. Clifford Parkes" 14, "Ellie's Girl" 24, "Francie L" 12, "Frank Houser" 12, "Lady Pamela" 11, "Lasca Beauty" 14, "Valentine Day" 12, "Valentine Day Variegated" 17 and "Winter's Own Variegated" 10.

We all can look forward, hopefully, to a much better year in 2024. By William Walker

Some Reticulata beauties from the group of three section at the August Bloom Comp



From top down 'Margaret Hilford', 'Frank Houser' and 'Ellie's Girl'



Two wonderful Class Wining Blooms from our Reticulata Show
Tina with 'Simpatica' and Kevin and Sandy with 'Fire Chief' variegated

INVITATION

FOR THE 2023 ILLAWARRA FRIENDSHIP DAY

WEST WOLLONGONG GARDEN CLUB INC.



INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL DAY WHEN ALL CLUBS IN THE ZONE GET-TOGETHER TO SHARE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH GARDENS.

The venue will be at the Polish Centre

143 Gipps Road, Keiraville.

9.15 – 10 am Arrival, Registration and Morning Tea provided.

Official Opening Sue Mowle, G.C.A. Director of Communications.

Guest speakers.

Please bring your own lunch and a mug for a cuppa.

There will be a plant stall, raffle & lucky door prizes.

We hope members from your garden Club can join us for the 2023 Friendship Day on the 19th October 2023.

R.S.V.P. Firm numbers would be appreciated by the 1st October 2023

If anyone has a special dietary requirement, please notify us with your R.S.V.P

Email westwollongonggardenclub@gmail.com or suelindsay5@bigpond.com

Or reply to our P.O. Box 435 Figtree 2500





Bunnings Spring Fair at Bellambi

Thank You to Kim from Bunnings for the invitation to be part of the store's spring fair, The time passed quickly, meeting some interesting people, and some knowledgeable product reps. I know we came away with certainly more hints for successful gardening that I could have imagined.

Thanks also to Debby for organising our very colourful cards, Kevin for the Information flyers, Christine for her lovely blooms, Jean & Lola for giving their time & blooms and Peter for transporting the goods. All this team work enabled us to advertise Camellias Illawarra, in the hope of gaining some more new camellia enthusiasts.

The heatwave we had the days leading up to Saturday were so extreme, followed by a huge downpour and strong winds, so combined with being at the end of Camellia flowering time, we were lucky to still have a very colourful table, and during the day, not too many sausage sandwiches were sought - great day, good company and hopefully a positive outcome. *Heather*



The Illawarra Rhododendron Gardens News

Parrish Avenue, Mt Pleasant. Open all year

Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Public Holidays 10am – 5pm



Thanks to the small band of members who regularly meet on a Tuesday to look after the camellia gardens. They were planted by our members back in the 80s and 90s. Many Camellias were identified during the flowering season and a plant of Retic 'Frank Houser' which was kindly donated by Stan and Lorraine Heath, was planted. Pruning has begun now before the spring growth appears. If you would like to help, ring Don for details 0411 527 406 as there is always something to do.

STORAGE KING NEWS

Thank you to Storage King for continuing to sponsor Camellias Illawarra. Another benefit for our members will be a discount on **short-term** hire of a locker. We appreciate your support and look forward to adding you to our Camellia family.

Phone number: 4233 3515 Address: 100 Montague St, North Wollongong, NSW 2500



NEUTROG NEWS

Your NEUTROG orders need to be made on-line.

After last year's talk by Paul Dipuglia, we all know a lot more about the background of the company and the inspirational ideas behind their products.

POPUL8 is their latest and if you missed the talk about it's almost magical powers, you can check it out on their website www.neutrog.com.au

MAKE SURE YOU COME ALONG TO OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS BECAUSE YOU COULD WIN ONE OF THESE EXCITING NEUTROG PRODUCTS AS YOUR LUCKY-DOOR PRIZE



GOGO JUICE
A pro-biotic liquid for your soil & plants
1 litre - makes 250 litres



POPUL8
Advanced Soil Biologicals
1L

Seasoned performers for **Spring**

Whoflungdung is a biologically activated, nutrient-rich, weed-free, absorbent super mulch that introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria to the soil.



Whoflungdung
Whoflungdung



Kahoona
CAMELLIAS, GARDENIAS, AZALEAS & OTHER ACID-LIVING PLANTS 4kg

Kahoona is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants such as Camellias, Gardenias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons.



GOGO JUICE
A pro-biotic liquid for your soil & plants
1 litre - makes 250 litres

GOGO Juice is teeming with beneficial microbiology and is essentially a pro-biotic for your soil and plants. GOGO Juice combines the "catalytic" power of the billions of beneficial bacteria with the well documented benefits of applying kelp, seaweed, fish and humic acid.



Year round fertilising for year round health

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year - at least once in each season. Happy, healthy well-maintained plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.



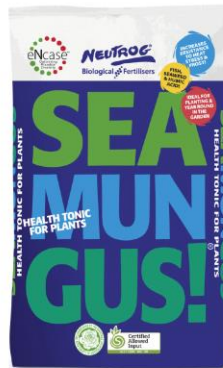
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Biological Fertilisers
www.neutrog.com.au

All of these products are recommended by many of our members.

SEA
more from your garden all year round.



Seamungus is a fantastic product that is suitable throughout your garden.

A garden that receives a regular feed of fertiliser through every season ensures that your plants have access to the nutrients they need, as soon as they need them.

The potent combination of ingredients in Seamungus, including three different types of kelp, along with poultry manure and humates will improve your soil and the resilience of your plants to stress.

Seamungus is available as both pellets and liquid.



Freecall 1800 65 66 44 www.neutrog.com.au

Kahoona

Kahoona is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants such as Camellias, Gardenias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons.

The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio within Kahoona, plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development, whilst the boosted levels of iron and magnesium help maintain healthy green foliage, aiding in preventing the yellowing leaves which are often seen in late winter and early spring.

Kahoona is manufactured into a pellet form – each pellet contains the full range of macro and micro plant nutrients along with good levels of organic carbon. This organic carbon helps in retaining the water soluble nutrients within the soil, and aids in regulating their uniform uptake by plants.

Following successful trials, Kahoona has been endorsed by Camellias South Australia, the Australian Rhododendron Society (SA Branch) and Camellias Illawarra. These endorsements provide confidence to use and recommend Kahoona.



Directions for use

Apply evenly to pre-soaked soil around the drip line of the plant, avoiding contact with foliage or flowers. Water again well. Apply after signs of new season growth and thereafter every 8-10 weeks throughout the growing season – Spring to Autumn. In Winter apply Seamungus.

Established plants:

100g per plant.

Established potted plants:

15g per 150mm size pot then at 5g per 25mm pot size increase.

Planting:

Apply Neutrog's Seamungus at 100g per plant.



Analysis (dry weight basis)		%w/w
Nitrogen (N)	as Organic	2.98
	as Ammonia	3.42
Total Nitrogen (N)		6.4
Phosphorus (P)	as Citrate Soluble	0.86
	as Citrate Insoluble	0.08
	as Water Soluble	1.02
Total Phosphorus (P)		1.96
Potassium (K)	as Organic	0.84
	as Sulphate	7.36
Total Potassium (K)		8.20
Calcium (Ca)	as Organic	3.40
Magnesium (Mg)	as Organic	0.30
	as Sulphate	0.50
Total Magnesium (Mg)		0.80
Sulphur (S)	as Organic	0.95
	as Sulphate	7.62
Total Sulphur (S)		8.57
Iron (Fe)	as Organic	0.09
	as Sulphate	0.22
Total Iron (Fe)		0.31
Zinc (Zn)	as Organic	0.0003
	as Sulphate	0.0355
Total Zinc (Zn)		0.0358
Copper (Cu)	as Organic	0.0003
	as Sulphate	0.0252
Total Copper (Cu)		0.0255
Manganese (Mn)	as Organic	0.0245
	as Sulphate	0.0637
Total Manganese (Mn)		0.0882
Molybdenum (Mo)	as Molybdate	0.003
Boron (B)	as Borax	0.07
Humic Acid		1.0

In WA product analysis may vary



Year round fertilising for year round health

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once in each season.

Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.



Join the Pooh Bah Club
Become a member of Neutrog's Pooh Bah Club to receive regular updates on Neutrog, its products and their applications. To join, register your email address at www.neutrog.com.au



Follow us on **facebook** via the link on our website, click the 'like' button and join us for regular updates. All comments, questions, photos and feedback are welcome.



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NEUTROG™
The Experts' Choice

Kahoonna

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Ideal for acid loving plants.

