

I am sitting on my verandah watching the rain fall as I write this article.



Although this is a school holiday period I am sure that all

members of the community will appreciate the rain. Many more falls are required but it is certainly a case of "every drop is appreciated".

Most deciduous trees have lost their leaves. I am sure that I have the only Liquidambar in the district that is not a completely deciduous specimen; many of the leaves remaining when the new appear in Spring. It is a mature specimen some 25m in height and I am sure that this habit is not going to change. Such a tree produces lots of wonderful leaves which are of great value as garden mulch.

I have a Frangipani growing in my garden; this plant is usually leafless at this time of the year but at the moment a few flowers are present. Also flowering are some bulbs such as Jonquil and Snowflake. A great advantage of bulbs is the 'popping up' when one has forgotten their position. I have quite a few clumps of Viola odorata, the common perfumed Violet much loved in cottage gardens. If you are looking for a good groundcover in

a shady position this plant is a good choice; however it does not flower very well in the shade; plenty of winter sun is required.

If you are looking for a flowering plant for the house you may choose a Cyclamen. It is native to the cold winter regions of eastern Europe/western Asia, e.g. Turkey, Armenia and is a great choice at this time of the year. However, it dislikes a warm environment and should not be kept in a heated situation. Put the plant out at night in a sheltered spot and return to the house in the early morning before the sun strikes it; if cared for, a good sized Cyclamen should flower for approximately three months. This plant is called the Florist's Cyclamen. Also available from the Nursery is the bedding Cyclamen, this will flower in the garden at this time of the year; it is small compact grower available in white, pink, mauve and red. An added attraction to these plants is the patterned leaves.

Do not forget the Camellia & Winter Flower Show which will be held at the Berry School of Arts on **Saturday 7th August**; you may also like to visit two local Camellia gardens that will be open on **Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th**.

Hazel King.

The Berry Alliance have been working toward putting the Town Crier on the Berry Alliance web site ([www.berryalliance.org.au](http://www.berryalliance.org.au)) for some time now and are very pleased to announce that we have managed to get the July edition up, and are now testing a variety of search engines and ways to improve on it for future editions.

This means that this, the August edition, should also be on our web site early in August. The past editions will remain there as an archive and resource for the Town.

Other improvements that we are investigating include a bulletin board where all DA's and matters from Council will be posted as they arrive; another bulletin board for late breaking and important news. There are very many more improvements that we are looking to make.

There are a number of benefits in this for the community, including the business community whose advertisements will now be seen on the web as well as in print. We are also looking at putting a web link to all advertisers who have a web site to increase their business and ease the system.

The Berry Alliance gratefully acknowledges the funding that is to be provided through the Regional Partnerships grant received by the Chamber of Commerce through the Berry Tomorrow Project from DOTARS (Department of Transport and Regional Services). This grant of \$30,800 included an amount for putting the Town Crier on line. The Berry Alliance has had this plan for some time and knowing that there was some funding coming through we expedited the process and advanced some funds to get it going.

Have a look, go to [www.berryalliance.org.au](http://www.berryalliance.org.au).  
Berry Alliance Executive



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Rob & Beth Packer  
**4464 1195**  
email: [packers@flatearth.net.au](mailto:packers@flatearth.net.au)

## Berry Masonic Village

# Seeking Volunteers

Our aged care village is seeking bus drivers for our 23 seater bus. Trips involve shopping to Nowra and outings in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven areas.

We are also seeking piano players to entertain our residents on a regular basis.

For further information please contact our Resident Activity Officer, Mr Mark Boyd-Skinner on **02 44 642 765 (Monday - Friday 8.30am to 5pm)**

Thank you from Berry Masonic Village.