

Garden Club NEWS

The Camellia & Winter Flower Show was held at the Berry School of Arts on Saturday 7th August and was a great success. Garden Club members decorated the hall stage and competition Camellias decorated the trestle tables which filled the hall. The Winter Flower section was a pleasure to see, perfume, colour and foliage delighting the visitors. The Australian Plant Society's exhibit attracted a great deal of attention, Society members answering many questions. Members advised visitors to take a walk in the bush at this time of the year; many native plants have very small flowers and one needs to look carefully to see the treasures. Of special interest was a display of many Acacia species. The Berry Silver Band entertained visitors at the Hall's entrance and many people delayed their entry to the building to stop and listen.

Guest of Honour was Elwyn Swane, who performed the opening ceremony and presented trophies and certificates to the winners. Elwyn congratulated Berry residents on the calibre of the entries particularly in view of the difficult growing period; she also stressed the need for gardeners to keep up the good work and to bear in mind the great benefits of plants to both the individual and to the community.

On 21st July members of the Club planted a tree in Apex Park to commemorate Tree Day. *Ulmus minor*, a deciduous Elm native to Southern Europe, Northern Africa and Western Asia, was planted on the northern side of the children's playground. The shade cast by this tree as it matures will be a great asset to the site. Many members helped dig the hole, add the spadeful of earth and wish the tree speedy growth..

The members of the Club involved in the care of Berry Hospital planted a tree in the Hospital grounds to commemorate Tree Day; in this case an *Acer palmatum*, Japanese Maple.

The Open Garden Scheme's 2004/5 book is now available, the year's activities were launched on Sunday 8th August at the historic home of Dr. James Broadbent at Wallacia. Berry is a venue for the weekend 18/19th September. This book is a source of interest as well as despair as one realises that it is impossible to rush around Australia to see all the inspiring and creative gardens.

Gardening Australia Live is to be held at Homebush from Thursday, 2nd to Sunday, 5th September; a visit to this gives one the opportunity to see all things horticultural. Also at the beginning of September, from Saturday 4th to Sunday, 12th the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney will be hosting Artisans in the Gardens; an event to inspire. All the pieces on display are for sale

Magnolias have been giving a magnificent display locally; I am, of course, referring to the winter flowering deciduous trees. The number of varieties available continues to increase and it is possible to buy one to suit a small or large garden. The wind experienced during the early weeks of August played a role in early flower fall, a problem at this time of the year.

I have noticed some lovely displays of winter flowering bulbs, although the flowers do not last very long they give much pleasure to the viewer.

Happy Gardening.
Hazel King.



Australian Open Gardens Scheme

The Berry Courthouse garden will feature in the Open Gardens Scheme on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September 2004. This wonderful garden which includes the hedged garden and the xeriscape garden was selected along with two other gardens in Berry. They will all be open from 10am until 4pm daily. The other two gardens selected are John Claydon's garden in Albany Street and "Elizabeth Park" the garden of Frank and Libby Baker in Tulloch Road Broughton Vale.

The Open Gardens Scheme is a non profit organization founded in 1987. Its mission is to promote knowledge and pleasure of gardens across Australia. Each season 600 to 700 are selected in all states and territories.

Currently our garden owners donate around \$250,000 annually to charities and local causes. Donations since the scheme's inception total well over \$2,500,000.

A.O.G.S.'s guide published each year in August is available for sale for \$16.95 from all A.B.C. shops, newsagents and good book shops. The A.B.C. has been a key supporter since 1987.

The Berry Country Gardener will be displaying and selling plants and the Berry Pre-school Kindergarten will be serving refreshments at the Courthouse. A.O.G.S.'s information line is 1902 261 026.

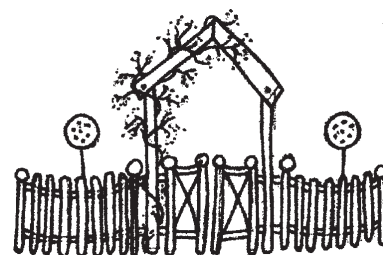
Website is www.opengardens.org.au.
Local contact is Mary Williamson on 4464 1417



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