



# COBDEN GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2020

President: Kerrie Smith, 0408 037 355  
Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Cowley, 0427 954 216  
[cobden.org.au/gardenclub](http://cobden.org.au/gardenclub)

### Revisiting August 2019 ~ February 2020:

#### **August 2019:**

We held our usual plant swap and finger-food lunch and a big thank you to all those who set up the hall, especially Anne who also arranged our raffle.

Our guest speaker was Chelsea Wilkinson who entertained us by telling us about the Phoenix Project, which was initially a "Pick My Project" application. Although unsuccessful in that funding, her idea was picked up by the Corangamite Shire using government funding and expanded to include similar projects in both Camperdown and Terang.

The Phoenix Project is a series of workshops, films and markets. With the workshops held in the re-purposed former joinery business which Chelsea and her husband Scott, have purchased. The building which was formerly a picture theatre has proven ideal for Scott to conduct his audio business and for Chelsea to organise her workshops and film nights. Congratulations Chelsea on such an innovative idea that has proven most successful.

Chelsea also spoke to us of her passion for succulents and demonstrated an idea for a decorative arrangement using a "scrounged" piece of wood as a base or "pot", sphagnum moss as a rooting medium and small succulent cuttings that are arranged in the base. As the cuttings develop roots and grow, they can then be potted on, or divided up to begin another arrangement!

Chelsea was a most informative and interesting speaker, after which I for one, was eager to begin my new adventure with succulents!

#### **September 2019:**

Following up from our August meeting we visited Chelsea at the Phoenix Theatre where she arranged a workshop for us to demonstrate how to plant up a pot using succulent plants.

Chelsea had lots of planting material for us which was supplemented by some of the members also bringing some succulent too. As well as the plant material, Chelsea also had a range of decorative pebbles for us to use to enhance the plantings.

At the end of the workshop most of us had created a colourful and interesting pot or bowl, some of which were entered in our Cobden Spring Festival Plant-a-Pot competition.

As well as a gift of a bag of cacti and succulent mix we also gave Chelsea a donation of \$100 to encourage her with her Phoenix Theatre 'productions'.

#### **October 2019:**

On a beautiful spring day we visited two lovely gardens in Camperdown. Although vastly different in size they were equal in beauty.

Our first garden was at the home of Zelda and Laurie Clementson. The home is a unit on a small corner block, but Zelda has packed plenty into the relatively small space.

The garden extends around both street frontages and is about two metres wide and well mulched. There are a range of plants from annuals, perennials, natives and succulents which complement both each other and the space where they are planted.

In a rocky corner area of the garden Zelda has planted a range of succulents that break up the space nicely. This gives the effect of a small "garden room" between the general garden plants that are on either side. A small fish pond complete with iris' completes the succulent area.

In the small area at the back of the home, there are a range of potted plants and also a small vegetable garden.

For keen gardeners, no matter what garden area we are allotted, large or small, a beautiful garden can be achieved, as Zelda has proven.

Our second garden was at the home of Carol and John Eagle. This lovely garden is a little under an acre in size and complements the old brick home beautifully. There are about 300 roses with climbing roses adorning the home and brick wall which divides the front area from the back.

A birch grove provides shade in the back garden along with a row of Manchurian pears. There is also a range of perennials, bulbs and potted plants which give the garden an "old world" feel.

In an area further to the back and divided by a fence, there are fruit trees including three avocados. With many places to play and hide in the garden, Carol and John said that their grandchildren always enjoy coming to visit. That's not surprising!

Carol is an avid patch-worker and quilter and also makes and clothes ceramic dolls, including painting their faces and making their hair! We were pleased to be invited to view her studio where her collection of exquisitely made quilts and dolls and other craft items were on display.

It was a very interesting and pleasant day, which we were fortunate to be able to enjoy.

*Continued on page 2*

## **November 2019:**

Janet and Graeme Fagan's lovely garden on a double block in Cobden is a riot of colour at this time of year.

Roses of all colours and types adorn the many garden beds which can be found along the fence line and within the lawned area. Tall bearded iris complement the roses and add further colour throughout the garden.

Fruit trees, natives, annuals, perennials, climbers and a vegie garden all add to the interesting array of plants that can be found. Janet explained if something needed moving or planting she would look for a spare spot to pop it in, although this must be somewhat of a challenge as there didn't appear to be too many spare spots to be found.

Janet had some potted plants that she generously shared with us along with cuttings that will help to serve as a reminder of our interesting and colourful 2019 Melbourne Cup Day outing.

## **February 2020:**

We began the 2020 Garden Club year by visiting Rosemary and Pat Roache's garden in Terang for our traditional twilight February meeting.

Rosemary told us that they moved to the property at 1 Cam-

eron Street Terang in 1982, where they originally planned to renovate the house. But, due to its poor condition they decided to bulldoze it and build a new one instead.

A massive 100 year-old elm tree, which was only ¼ of its current size in 1982, once grew in a paddock which is now part of the front garden with the tree growing along the fence line.

The beautiful garden, full of unusual and interesting plants, is spread over about ½ an acre and Rosemary's philosophy is "To have one each of everything, jammed in until nothing more fits, and then may the best plant win"! Another quote is "If you can put your foot down on a piece of dirt, then there's room for a plant"! But the challenge is to find a piece of dirt, as there are plants everywhere, even out along the side fence along the nature strip, which is used for the 'overflow'

Rosemary is famous for her hospitality and generosity, and both those traits were on show for our meeting. Most members went home with bits and pieces to add to their own gardens and one plant that was especially asked for was the beautiful Elderberry 'Black Lace'. As well as Rosemary, Pat was also very patient and accommodating with the spade, digging up what was requested.

Rosemary's garden plants will always be alive and blooming somewhere, which is just how she wants it to be. Thank you, Rosemary and Pat for a most enjoyable evening.



# **AGENDA - MARCH 2020 - JULY 2020**

**WEDNESDAY 4th March 2020:** Joyce Lindquist, 41 Barrett Street, Timboon. *Please note change of regular day due to Joyce being in the bowls' finals on the 3rd.*

BYO lunch and chair. Meet at the Anglican Church car park at 10.30am to carpool.

**WEDNESDAY 8th April 2019:** Kerrie has organised a bus trip for us to Creswick. As the Creswick ladies have their Garden Club on the first Tuesday, the same as us, we are changing to Wednesday again!

The Creswick GC have arranged three gardens for us, and lunch. We will call at Avalon Nursery on the way home.

Cost will be \$60. If you would like to go the money can be paid at our March meeting, deposited into our NAB account, BSB: 083-573; Acct No: 94-936-5110 or paid on the day. Bookings with Kerrie 0408 037 355 or Barb 0427 954 216.

**Pickup** will be at the Cobden Golf Club at 8am and Leura Street Camperdown toilets (near the Vets) at 8.20am (ish) Bring boxes for plants. Return 5.30/6pm.

**Tuesday 5th May 2020:** This month is a trip to Derrinallum. The gardens are being arranged for us, but are not yet finalised. More details later.

BYO lunch and chair. Meet at the Anglican Church car park at 10.15am to carpool.

**No meeting in June**

**Tuesday 7th July 2020:**

6.30pm Winter Dinner and Annual Meeting at the Cobden Uniting Church hall, cnr Adams and Curdie sts. Bring either a casserole or a sweet to share.

Memberships for the 2020/2021 year will be due, (currently \$10 dollars for individuals and \$15 per family).



- Welcome to our new members, and to those who are not well, we send our very best thoughts and wishes.
- Please try to remember to wear name badges. If you need a new one, please ask me.
- For those members who can access the internet and who misplace their agendas, you can find one online at [cobden.org.au/gardenclub](http://cobden.org.au/gardenclub).

**Barbara Cowley**  
Secretary/treasurer

**Gardening is learning, learning, learning.**  
**That's the fun of them. You're always learning. - Helen Mirren**