

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA NEWSLETTER

Issue:3

March 2024

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Past newsletters ,news photos
www.camelliasillawarra.org.au
[Facebook.com/camelliasillawarra](https://www.facebook.com/camelliasillawarra)
Instagram #camelliasillawarra

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

Monthly Meetings are held
at the Bulli Uniting Church
Princes Hy, Bulli on
3rd Saturday of the month,
from March to October

12.00 Bring a Bloom
1.00 Join the Meeting
2.00 Enjoy a chat
and a cuppa.

Next Meeting: 20/4/24

The 2024 Camellia Season



Easter Morn – Nomenclature Australia describes this softly flowing vision as "*japonica Baby Pink*. Large semi-double to informal double. Average upright growth. M-L (USA 1966) .
What a lovely camellia.



From The Editor – It was wonderful to reacquaint with members after such a long break.

The aim this year for me is to conquer the art of inserting pictures into a word doc, without the whole article jumping about, and combating the pests that appear to have now called our camellias home !

Do you have a contribution or photo you would like to share ? I would love to include it in an issue.

The first monthly meeting has been held and was well attended.

April will be the start of the 2024 bloom competition so bring plenty of blooms. Everyone should bring blooms – after all Camellias are what we are all about. If you have any doubt about benching, then please ask. There will be someone who will help. Benching starts at 12pm and the meeting starts at 1pm.

The annual show will be at the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre again and arrangements are already being made to make it as good as possible. This will be the 70th show in the Illawarra so it needs to be a good one.

There are no restrictions on entry numbers in any class so everyone should bring as many blooms as possible.

ARE YOU STILL A MEMBER ? If you have not paid by the end of March, then you will no longer receive newsletters. For payment details see page 6 of this newsletter.

As for blooms, the weather seems so changeable that it is difficult to predict how the season will be for camellias, so we can only hope for a bumper “crop”.

If this all seems familiar, then it may be very similar to last year's March ramble. I do believe in recycling.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Regards - Don.



These points are applicable not only to life, but especially to all things relating to our gardens-

HH

MONTHLY BLOOM COMPETITION - 2024



Pictured above is a lovely array of blooms from Stan and Lorraine that adorned the top table to start our first meeting of 2024.

The Monthly Bloom Comp commences at the **April** meeting – please fill the tables with your beautiful camellias for everyone to enjoy. For a couple of hours once a month we can indulge in the wonders mother nature provides us, in an amazing array of colours, shapes and sizes of the species Camellia, and also share and learn some of the incredible wealth of knowledge that members have gained over time.

The Member's choice winner receives a **NEUTROG prize**

Thank you to those who brought along a little sampler of what we can look forward to over the next 7 months.



The vibrant pink of this Sasanqua, unnamed, but now thought to be Beatrice Emily, (bought many years ago from Theresa Park), is a welcoming sight near our letterbox. It was a very slow grower and had very few flowers for years, but since being fed with Kahoona in 2023, and more summer diligence in watering, it has finally come to life and had a growth spurt in height, and buds galore - these two pics are the first flowering for 2024.

A little dab of Nature, Nurture and Neutrog - – what a combination ! HH

For your Calendar 2024



- April 11th. Committee Meeting, 1.30pm at Bulli Uniting Church
20th. Monthly Meeting bring your blooms at Bulli Uniting Church
- May 9th. Committee Meeting, 1.30pm at Bulli Uniting Church
18th. Monthly Meeting bring your blooms at Bulli Uniting Church

**** July 19, 20, 21 – 70th Annual show at Ribbonwood, Dapto.**

INVITATION from CAMELLIA ARK AUSTRALIA 2024 to Join Them on Their ADVENTURES

APRIL 4-6 – CAA EVENT – SELF DRIVE AUTUMN AMBLE IN GIPPSLAND, VICTORIA

- Ramble Reservations: \$10 per person booking (non-members welcome) Meeting free. Expressions of interest and bookings to su.env.envoy@gmail.com
- **HIGHLIGHTS:** Seven Garden Visits; *The Masters' Garden*, Warragul South; *Merrindah*, Ellinbank; *Wren's Wood*, Warragul; *Carla Watkin's Garden*, Ripplewood; *Killara*, Drouin West; *Lil's Garden*, Trafalgar;
- **OPTION:** CAA General Meeting and rare plant sales including 'Belle Epoque'.

JUNE 16 – INFORMAL CAA MEETING & LUNCH - PARKER'S PLACE NURSERY, WOLLONGBAH, NSW

- Booking necessary for meeting and lunch provided, RSVP 10 June – su.env.envoy@gmail.com
- Expressions of interests taken for a possible guided coach tour from Sydney 5 days/4 nights to; *Helen Savory's Garden*, Macksville; *Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens*; *Hunter Botanic Gardens* and *Crawford House Museum*, Alsonville. (Photo tropical camellia 'Nidisimma')
- Preliminary inquiries to Ron on ronfhewitt@gmail.com



JULY (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED) 10 OR 17 LIKELY WEDNESDAY

'TALKING CAMELLIAS' – ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS SYDNEY

- Expressions of interest for tour plus interpretation lecture on the Bob Cherry species collection. Event being developed under consultation with Foundation and Friends of Botanic Gardens. (Photo Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney)



AUGUST 6 – CAMELLIA ARK GENERAL MEETING AT CAMDEN PARK, NSW

- CAA Meeting held at Camden Park Estate, Menangle, NSW
- Including lunch and tour of Camden Park Estate gardens (cost TBA)
- Presentation of *Camellia japonica* 'Isabel' (part of preservation program)
- Photo Camden Park House



AUGUST 24 SATURDAY - CAA GENERAL MEETING, NARRANDERA, NSW

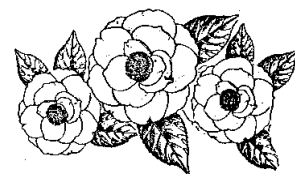
- Held in conjunction with Camellias Australia (on Friday 23) National Show & Business Meeting, presentation dinner, and Saturday optional tours – RSVP CA Secretary Jenny, jennydonohoe5@yahoo.com.au
- CAA Business Meeting and dinner being held at the Ex-Services Club on 24 August, 4.30-5.00pm (Photo Narrandera Information Center)



**** More information will be announced in the next Camella Ark Discover Journal**

Thank you, Jenny Donohoe, for the above article

Camellias Illawarra Inc.



Contact :

Website: www.camelliasillawarra.org.au

Facebook.com/camelliasillawarra

Instagram #camelliasillawarra

-COMMITTEE 2024

President:	Don Dewhurst	dandddewhurst@bigpond.com	0411 527 406
Vice President:	**		
Secretary/Web Manager:	Deborah Dewhurst	dandddewhurst@bigpond.com	0422 374 413
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Social Secretary:	Elizabeth Martin		02 4261-3484
Treasurer:	Les Dewhurst *till March 2024		02 9528 2728
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Show Coordinator:	Peter Howe		0419 016 545
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	William Walker, Therese Nemcik, Tina Hamer		



Information,
Culture notes, past
Newsletters are
available on our website
and photos on
Facebook.. Newsletter
contributions will be
gratefully accepted.

If you have any queries
or suggestions please
ring me direct on
0419 274 174

*Easter is the time to
rejoice and be thankful
for the gift of life,
love and joy,
and our Camellias*

(Wishes Quotes.com)





The Illawarra Rhododendron and, Rainforest Garden



Pictured is part of the Camellia Grove, which began in 1980.

Can You help ?

Tuesday mornings, weather permitting, volunteering by our members is needed in the Camellia Grove for a little pruning, weeding, and now they are coming into flower, identifying as many Camellias as possible. It's byo refreshments and your **gumboots** If you are able to help, **ring Don** for details on 0411 527 406 .



Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat ?

From The TREASURER

YEARLY SUBS now OVERDUE

Single \$25 Family \$30 Due on 1ST OF JANUARY of each year.

Payment can be made **online**:

BANK is IMB, **Account Name:** Camellias Illawarra Inc.
BSB- 641 800 **Account:** 021112238

Or, you can pay over the counter at any IMB branch for either of these, please include a reference whom the payment is from **or** pay Membership Secretary Lorraine at the monthly meeting.

**** If unfinancial you will not be able to receive your copy of:**
 Our Newsletter,
 Camellias Aus Newsletter,
 'Our Gardens' magazine
 Neutrog product discounts
 or Insurance from Garden Clubs Australia

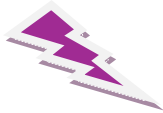
did you know?



Camellias have been cultivated in Ireland since the early 19th century. In 1815 John Nash designed and constructed a Camellia House at , Shane's Castle, Co. Antrim, the property of the 1st Earl O'Neill. The most extensive camellia collection is at Mount Congreve (near Waterford).

(extract from Mary Forrest & John Tooby)

Happy St Patrick's Day to our Irish Camellia lovers



Camellia Australia News



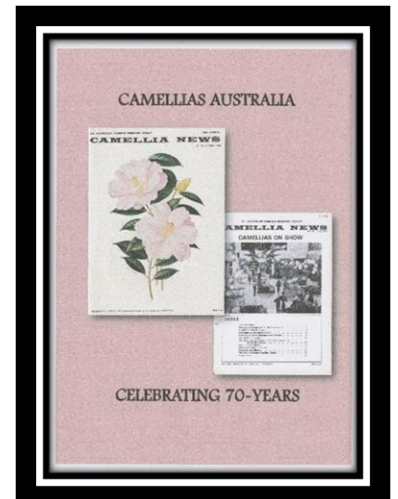
A beautiful book full of information and wonderful full coloured photos is being prepared, to celebrate Camellias Australia's 70th year.

The presentation will be a soft cover edition, with a bonus booklet of extra photos.

This will make a worthy edition to your home library, and could hit a home run if given as a gift.

Currently, donations are being sort to assist cover the cost of printing.

* Enquiries/further information contact Jim Powell and Jenny Donohoe



Camellias Australia National Show

&

Narrandera Garden Club 50th Annual Show

at: Ex-Servicemen's Club, Bolton St., Narrandera, NSW

Friday 22nd August, 2024

2.00pm – 5.00pm **Show** : with the **Opening** at 3pm

4pm Camellias Australia Business Meeting (RSVP)

6:30pm Camellias Australia's Presentation Dinner (RSVP)

Saturday 23rd August, 2024

9am – 4pm Tour (RSVP)

10am – 4pm Show

4pm Camellia Ark Meeting (RSVP)

6:30pm Dinner (RSVP)

RSVP can be made to Jenny Donohoe via Facebook Messenger

NEWS from NEUTROG



Check out their website, www.neutrog.com.au

Kahoona and other Neutrog products are used by many of our members, and when you come to the monthly meeting, don't forget to get your ticket to go in the draw for the **Lucky Door Prize** of a **Neutrog** product.

Planting in March

Now is the time to be preparing and planting your autumn and winter garden, and you can give your plants the best start with these simple steps:

1. Before planting, incorporate **Rapid Raiser** or **Seamungus** into the loose soil and water in well.
2. Position your plant and backfill the planting hole, adding a handful of **Seamungus** on top of the soil and watering in well with **GOGO Juice**. These products contain seaweed, which will help overcome transplant shock.
3. Once your plant is in, mulch with Whoflungdung to protect its roots, retain moisture in the soil and regulate temperature.

* *



Pictured below is our little Pumpkin patch – last year with just home compost added we got one pumpkin, and this year, with adding **Seamungus** as well, we have 11 (approx 1-2 kg each) with more still growing. HH



Share your success stories with us