

NSW Camellia Research Society NEWSLETTER

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Camellia sasanqua 'Setsugeka', *Camellia sasanqua* 'Exquisite (Waterhouse)' and *Camellia sinensis*. These Three Blooms are Usually Competing to See Which Will Be the First to Bloom in February and *sinensis* is the Winner (7th Feb.) (Photos D. Low)

2021
Subscriptions
ARE NOW
OVERDUE

FEBRUARY EDITION

It is hoped that all members and their families enjoyed the chance of a relaxing break over the Christmas /New Year period, even under the various restrictions placed upon all Australians in different jurisdictions because of Covid 19—Ed.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to the start of another year of activities by our Society. I hope that you all have had a relaxing break over the Festive Season and that the Northern Beaches Lockdown just before and over Christmas did not cause too much inconvenience or disappointment.

Your Committee has had our first meeting for the year and we are starting to ramp up the planning. However, the big uncertainty is whether or not we can have regular face to face meetings at the Church Hall, due to COVID and associated health restrictions. At this point we are thinking positively, but it depends in part on the Church; we are awaiting their response and will let you know as soon as possible. Hopefully we can have our meeting on Monday 15th March at the Church Hall with blooms on the Tables etc. If not possible, then we will likely revert to the 2020 solution of a virtual bloom competition via photos etc.

Next weekend is our first meeting of the year on Saturday 13th February at Eryldene from 2:30pm to 5pm. You should have received an email or hard copy message. We are looking forward to seeing many of our Members there. Please RSVP if attending to my email address: bfwalks2@tpg.com.au; for planning purposes. There will be a discussion of the Camellia Rejuvenation Project at Eryldene plus time to walk around the garden to see the new growth and progress made followed by Afternoon Tea and a chance to socialise at a distance. When you arrive, please log in on the QR code or complete the attendance list manually, and remember to stay Covid Safe.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter will be further information about the forthcoming Neutrog Order. We anticipate orders closing mid to late February and delivery in late March. But this is all subject to confirmation by Neutrog and is a work in progress.

Happy gardening as the Camellias are preparing for a "blooming good season"; some are already blooming at Eryldene.

Bruce Walker
President NSW CRS



IS FOR FEBRUARY . . .

PHOTOS C. & D. LOW



Fred Sander



Fashionata



Firefalls



Flower Girl



Fra Arnaldo Da Brescia



Fragrant Pink



Fuji No Yuki



Frizzle White



FROM THE FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 5th February 2021 starting from 5pm.

Agenda

- 1 Present
Bruce Walker, Juliet Muras, Helen Wallace, Julie Hood, Carolyn Low, Rachel O’Conor, Judith McGill and Daniel Low
- 2 Apologies
Margaret Levick
- 3 President’s Report
There has been some correspondence regarding the Board of Eryldene and the matter seems to have been resolved to everyone’s satisfaction with our Society to have the current President and one other elected member as representatives on the Board.
- 4 Secretary’s Report
No correspondence other than the Gardening Australia Magazine. A number of enquiries re Camellias in gardens to the Society Email and to the IPP by phone.
- 5 Treasurer’s Report
Only 24 membership renewals to date but some new members who joined after show date in 2020 will carry over to October 2021.
Neutrog Royalties are being deposited regularly.
- 6 Membership report
32 Single, 22 Household (44), 1 Complimentary and 2 to Libraries.
- 7 NSWCRS Meeting Saturday 13th February, 2.30pm at Eryldene
- 8 Future Meetings
Possible guest speakers: a number of names were suggested and will be followed up. Watch the Newsletter for further information as it comes to hand.
- 9 Newsletter
The February edition will be emailed before the meeting next Saturday.
- 10 Neutrog
the Autumn delivery should take place in late March so look to your emails for details from Neutrog who are doing their own coordination this year.
- 11 Other Business.
A limited number of copies of “The Illustrated NSWCRS Camellia Nomenclature” will be available at cost \$20.00 at the Eryldene Meeting and orders can be place by phone to the Newsletter Editor
- 12 Meeting Closed 6.30pm



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MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE 2021

February 2021	
Saturday 13th	Meeting at Eryldene 17 Macintosh St, Gordon 2.30 pm. Covid Meeting Regulations to be observed with registration and sign in. Tour of garden changes, Helen Wallace
March 2021	
Monday, 15th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon 7pm benching of blooms for 7.30pm meeting Speaker TBA
April 2021	
Monday 19th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon 7pm benching of blooms for 7.30pm meeting Speaker TBA
May 2021	
Monday 17th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon 7pm benching of blooms for 7.30 meeting. Speaker TBA



June 2021	
Monday 21st	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon 7pm</i> <i>benching of blooms for 7.30 meeting. Speaker TBA</i>
July 2021	
Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th	NSW CRS Annual Show. Details to follow
Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th	Illawarra Annual Show and National Show
Monday 26th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Deferred for Show Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon 7pm</i> <i>benching of blooms for 7.30 meeting. Speaker TBA</i>
August 2021	
Monday 16th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave,</i> <i>Gordon 7pm benching of blooms. Speaker TBA</i>
September 2021	
Monday 20th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon 7pm</i> <i>benching of blooms for 7.30 meeting. Speaker TBA</i>
October 2021	
Monday 18th	NSWCRS AGM 7.30pm. <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon.</i>
November 2021	
	Annual Dinner and Presentations. Date and Location TBA



MEMBERSHIP FEES 2020-2021

Membership fees for 2021 were due on 1st November 2020.

The following table outlines membership fees:

Membership type	Emailed newsletter*	Black & white posted newsletter**
Single	\$30	\$70
Household	\$40	\$80
Life members and Fellows	Free	\$40
*Included as part of all memberships		
**An additional fee of \$40 covers expenses of printing & postage		

PAYMENTS METHODS:

Via Internet Banking, or Direct Deposit over the Counter at a Commonwealth Bank

Account Name: NSWCRS

BSB: 062247 Account Number: 0090 0966, Put as a Reference: "Renewal Your Surname"

All Enquiries to:

Membership Secretary,

Carolyn Low, 2 Narelle Avenue, Pymble NSW 2073. Tel.: 99883280



NSW CAMELLIA RESEARCH SOCIETY
A.B.N. 16 873 158 367 Incorporation. No. Y17693-47



An affiliate of Camellias Australia

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Why renew your membership with the NSW Camellia Research Society?

Membership has many advantages, including:

- Newsletters - enjoy the informative monthly newsletter as well as the Camellia News (from Camellias Australia) on a quarterly basis
- Meetings - join us between February and October for guest speakers, bloom competition, trading table, library access, donation prizes and practical advice on camellia culture
- Social Events - open days, dinners and other special events
- Industry contacts - access to experts, nurseries, new and rare camellia varieties
- Bloom Competition - beautiful displays, monthly point score and annual prizes and awards
- Garden Visits - access to private gardens with amazing camellia collections
- Committee participation - get active behind the scenes and help steer the Society

Membership Fees for **1st November 2020-31st October 2021** are on the previous page

Please renew your membership now by completing the form and following the payment instructions over the page.

NSW CAMELLIA RESEARCH SOCIETY

A.B.N. 16 873 158 367

Inc. No. Y17693-47



I / We would like to renew my/our membership of the NSWCRS and in doing so agree to abide by the Rules of the Society:

Name/s:			
Address:			
Suburb			
State:		Postcode:	
Phone:		Mobile:	
Email:			
Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/>	I / We have selected a Membership Option from those listed over the page	
Payment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bank transfer Reference used: _____ ; Receipt # _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque enclosed for \$ _____	
In renewing my / our membership, I / we understand that my / our contact information may be viewed and used by members of the Society*.			
Signature/s:			

*NB. NSWCRS respects your privacy and will only use or release your contact information for matters associated with fulfilling the Objects of the Society.



NSWCRS COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS 2020-2021

Patron:	Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO	
President:	Bruce Walker	T: 0412 588 719 E: bfwalks2@tpg.com.au
Vice President:	Rachel O'Connor PO Box 9 Killara NSW 2071	T: 9498 2227
Secretary:	Helen Wallace	M:0404 721 572 E:helen_wallace@optusnet.com.au
Treasurer:	Julie Hood	T: 94118569 E: jhoodmazlin@gmail.com
Public Officer:	Richie Griffiths 39 Hazelmead Rd, Asquith NSW 2077	M: 0418 200 139 E:rgriffiths@ryde.nsw.gov.au
Newsletter Editor:	Daniel Low	T: 99883280 E: nswcamellias@hotmail.com
Librarian:	Bill Fleming	E:wffleming@primusononline.com.au
Membership Sec.	Carolyn Low	T: 99883280 E: nswcamellias@hotmail.com
Committee:	Bruce Walker (President)	Helen Wallace (Secretary)
	Julie Hood (Treasurer)	Juliet Muras
	Daniel Low (IPP and Newsletter Editor)	Margaret Levick (Fellow NSW CRS)
	Richie Griffiths (<i>Public Officer</i>)	Carolyn Low (Membership Secretary)
	Judith McGill	
National Councillors:	Yet to be nominated and elected	
ABN:	16 873 158 367	
Incorporation No.:	Y17693-47	

Remember, Neutrog Products Are:



Two of the Original Beauties in Our Garden: Otahuhu Beauty and Lady Loch



A TRIP IN THE BREAK TO SUNNY WAHROONGA

C. & D. LOW

A Rescue Mission at The Garden of Sally Preston

Recently Carolyn and I were contacted by Sally Preston of Wahroonga. As is the case with many of the enquiries made through our website or facebook page, she had a problem regarding some of the Camellias in her garden. The property is the home of numerous native and introduced species of trees, shrubs and flowers.

I would estimate some of the Sydney Blue Gums are well over 100 years old. They and numerous garden plants are to be removed by NSW Roads as part of a road widening project at the corner of The Pacific Highway and Fox Valley Road.

Sally's main concern was a pink Camellia, which from her description, and looking at photos in Carolyn's phone (after an assessment of leaf size and shape) may well be *Camellia hybrid* 'Margaret Waterhouse'.

She has taken cuttings, she asked us to take cuttings and to offer cuttings to Society Members in the hope that at least one replacement may eventuate.

Yet again the friendliness of those with an affinity for gardening came to the fore and we had a most enjoyable time during our visit.



A Stand of Sydney Blue Gums and Looking Up into the Canopy

OVERSEAS NEWS SINCE LAST YEAR

D. LOW

Anke Koschitz, International Director for Germany and Austria, wrote late last year wishing us all the best over Christmas and the New Year. She hope to see some of us in Verbania, Italy next year. The email included a brochure on the city of Mannheim which is paired with Chinese cities and they hope their camellia Garden will gain international recognition in the near future,

Gabriel Gardelle, a highly recognised Bonsai Artist from Toulouse, also hopes to see us in Italy and he is in the process of creating some bonsai from yellow Camellias-both species and varieties.

"The bonsai must sublimate the tree in its natural state. Regarding the yellow camellia, we are faced with a tree with medium or large leaves. I will work with the eleven varieties in the most natural form possible. It will therefore be letter shaped with a fairly long trunk to reduce the size of the foliage and highlight the flowers.

Certain varieties will be grafted, in particular, *chuangtsoensis*, whose flower weeps. The rootstock will be long and inclined at 45° to enhance the wonderful flower.

A very friendly hello to Australian Camellia collectors."

Gabriel



chuangtsoensis



euphlebia



impressinervis



nitidissima



Senritsu-ko



tamdaoensis



NSWCRS MONTHLY BLOOM COMPETITION 2021

Should all go according to plan, the Church Hall will be open from **7.00pm for Benching**.
The **Judging will start at 7.30** as the Meeting begins.

Class	Description	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	Sasanqua Single	✓	✓					
2	Sasanqua Formal Double & Elegans Form	✓	✓					
3	Sasanqua other forms	✓	✓					
4	Sasanqua any form			✓	✓			
5	Japonica/Hybrid Single		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Japonica/Hybrid Semi-double		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6A	Japonica / Hybrid Irregular Semi-Double		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Japonica/Hybrid Elegans Form		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Japonica/Hybrid Informal Double		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Japonica/Hybrid Formal Double		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Japonica/Hybrid Miniature		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Japonica/Hybrid any form	✓						
12	Reticulatas & their hybrids		✓	✓	✓			
13	Reticulatas & their hybrids up to 130mm					✓	✓	✓
14	Reticulatas & their hybrids over 130mm					✓	✓	✓
15	Other not listed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Clusters & sprays of multi-flowered species & hybrids	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	New seedling or sport (1 to 3 blooms)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C1	Collection: Sasanqua, any form, 3 blooms	✓	✓					
C2	Collection: Any camellia, any form, 3 blooms		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Classes

Classes 1 to 15: one bloom, with a maximum of 2 attached leaves

Classes C1 & C2: a collection of 3 blooms, with a maximum of 2 attached leaves

Competition

A 'Novice' exhibitor has not won the annual 'Novice' championship, nor have they scored 20 points in a monthly 'Open' competition. The competition year starts in March, and a 'Novice' in March remains so to the end of that year. A bloom exhibited by a 'Novice' can win in 'Open' classes.

Points

'Open' and 'Novice' Classes 1 to 16: 1st = 3 points; 2nd = 2 points; 3rd = 1 point (if required)

'Open' and 'Novice' Collections Classes C1 to C2: 1st = 6 points; 2nd = 4 points; 3rd = 1 point (if required)

'Open' and 'Novice' Champion bloom (from the winning blooms): Extra 3 points.



HISTORY STILL BLOOMS

ARTICLE FROM FLYER DONATED BY HELEN WALLACE

The Conservatory at Chiswick House, London, Holds a Remarkable Camellia Collection

Author: Geraldine King, Estate Garden Manager at Chiswick House and Gardens. Photography: Ellen Rooney



On a cold, late-winter morning, the frosted glass of the conservatory at Chiswick House, in west London, shelters a remarkable burst of life from the historic camellias within. From floor to ceiling, sumptuous red, pink and white blooms drip from dark green foliage.

The Grade I-listed conservatory (above) stands in the grounds of a neo-Palladian villa constructed around 1729. Designed by architect Samuel Ware for the 6th Duke of Devonshire (1790- 1858), owner of Chiswick House, the conservatory was completed in 1813. It is almost 100m (330ft) long, and at the time was the longest glasshouse yet built, longer even than the Great Conservatory at Chatsworth, the Duke's Derbyshire estate.

Originally Chiswick's conservatory contained hothouse fruit, replaced in 1828 with an exciting new import from China: *Camellia*. Records tell us these camellias were from plant nursery Chandler and Buckingham of Vauxhall in South London. They were not cheap, costing between 3 and 5 guineas each in 1825, five weeks pay for an average earner.

The camellias were originally kept in pots, then likely planted into the conservatory beds around 1855. Camellias grow well outdoors, but at first it was thought that they should be kept under glass. Curtis's *Botanical Magazine* of 1788 notes 'with us, the *Camellia* is generally treated as a stove plant... but it appears to be one of the properest plants imaginable for the conservatory'.



(1)



(2)



(3)



Several of the original 40 plants still survive at Chiswick, forming what is thought to be the largest heritage collection under glass in Britain - possibly the biggest outside China and Japan. Our collection includes four of the first camellias introduced into Europe: *Camellia japonica* (c1739), *C. japonica* 'Rubra Plena' (1794), *C. japonica* 'Variegata' (1792) and *C. japonica* 'Alba Plena' AGM (1792).

Reviving the collection

The conservatory and its collection fell into ruin towards the end of the 20th century; the plants were in poor health and infested with mealybug. In 1994 the collection was adopted by the International Camellia Society and a team of three local members - Jane Callander, Marigold Assinder and Herbert Short - rescued and revived the plants, before placing them into the care of Chiswick House and Gardens Trust in 2007. Highlights of the collection include *Camellia japonica* 'Variegata' (1) which was introduced in 1792 from China, travelling on the same ship as *C. japonica* 'Alba Plena'. One of the first in the collection to flower, often before Christmas, with variegated pink and white blooms, it is believed to be an original specimen. It matches perfectly a painting from Chandler and Booth's 1831 volume *Illustrations and Descriptions of the Plants which Compose of the Natural Order Camelliae*.



(5)



(6)



(4)

We also have *C. japonica* 'Corallina' (2), which bears striking red semi-double flowers. Again, this is possibly an original plant, obtained in 1819 from the Vauxhall nursery of Chandler and Sons (before Mr Buckingham became a partner).

Extravagant, pink-flowered *C. japonica* 'Elegans' (3) is widely available today but it was first introduced in 1823 and known as Mr Chandler's Elegant Camellia. It has larger-than-life pink flowers with a tight cluster of white and pink petals in the centre. We think our specimen was planted in the 1830s.

Imported from China to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (which is just a few miles from Chiswick) in about 1810, *C. japonica* 'Pomponne' (5) produces white flowers with pink ripples. This is a difficult cultivar to propagate because it has a habit of producing pure pink sports. To reduce this problem, a trick I learnt in China is to tie tags onto the parts of the plant you want to propagate later, while they are flowering. Lastly, I must include *C. japonica* 'Chandleri' (6) - of which we have two plants. One of them (4) has a trunk measuring 135cm (53in) in circumference - our largest. This was planted about 1825, and has a lovely deep red flower with splashes of white.

As part of the ongoing conservation of our plants at Chiswick, the camellias are propagated and distributed across the globe. Although some of these selections are still rare, it means many people are now able to grow and enjoy them.

'They were not cheap, costing between 3 and 5 guineas each in 1825, five weeks' pay for an average earner.'



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NEUTROG NEWS FOR AUTUMN DELIVERY 2021

Following on from the last Newsletter Neutrog Fertilisers has recently opened an online store and is offering our members the opportunity to continue to purchase a range of products at exclusive pricing up to four times per year.

Shortly we expect Neutrog to send details to participating members regarding the Autumn Order which it is hoped will be delivered in March.

To enable you to participate, Neutrog has asked that we provide them with your email address following which they will send you a unique activation code that will take you into their online store. If you do not wish to participate, please let Bruce Walker know by email ASAP and your details won't be passed on to Neutrog. Once set up in their system they will send the activation code with further instructions. This platform allows direct payment to Neutrog so we do not have to collect money and collate the order. The order will be collated by Neutrog and sent as one order to the nominated collection point, Juliet Muras' home as in 2019. Picking tickets for each order will be provided. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Bruce Walker and he will discuss it with the Neutrog Representative.

- Once we have all participating email addresses an email will be sent to all with an activation code. Instructions will be provided with the email as to setting up your account.
- Once your account is set up you simply place your order online and select your collection point.
- Payment is at the completion of the order, via credit card and direct to Neutrog.

Benefits to the Club and Members

- The online order process is very straight forward and provides extended product information for ease of selection.
- Order up to 4 times per year, generally in time for the start of each season, less volume at distribution time.
- Individual order detail provided at pick up for ease of distribution.
- Payment is direct to Neutrog, eliminates the need for the club to collect money and collate the order.
- A \$20 bonus voucher on initial order applies for orders over \$40.

Concerns raised

What if the member does not have an email address or is not tech savvy?

- We suggest they 'buddy up' with another member and combine their order, several in other societies do this already.