

NSW Camellia Research Society NEWSLETTER

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Are Those Camellias Red or
Black?



Camellia grijsii and Inset with a pollinator

(Photo D. Low)

No Meetings This Month

JULY REPORT

This month has been a disappointing one in the world of Camellia Societies around Australia. Most importantly, because, yet again the National Show has had to be deferred and in the same way and for the same reason, so has our own Annual Show.

Our thoughts are with our friends in California and Oregon during their Bushfire crisis.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT-JULY 2021

What a disappointment! We were all ready to go for our 51st Annual Show when the Delta Variant struck. It was a real pity to have to cancel our annual show, but the Government reaction at the start of the outbreak meant that we would not be able to prepare for the show in the event that the lockdown was lifted at midnight on Friday 9th July. So cancellation was our only option. Many thanks to Richie Griffiths and other Members for all the preparatory work completed prior to cancellation. The subsequent increases in Lockdown constraints have validated our decision.

The only good news in our lockdown isolation is that many of us will have more time to spend in the garden. Certainly a good antidote for our mental health.



Bruce Walker
President



IS FOR JULY AND ITS JEWELS . . .

PHOTOS C & D LOW



Can Can



Dr King



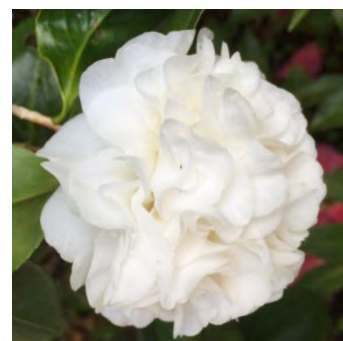
Tama Vino



Susie Fortson



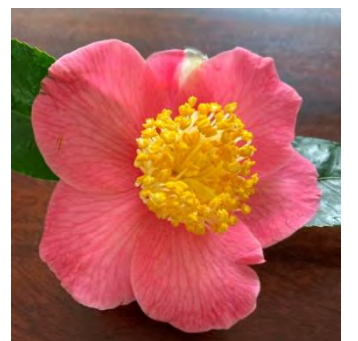
Winter's Own Var.



White Deb



Roger Hall Var.



Kingyo Tsubaki



POSITION VACANT –CAMELLIAS AUSTRALIA

POSITION VACANT - NATIONAL EDITOR

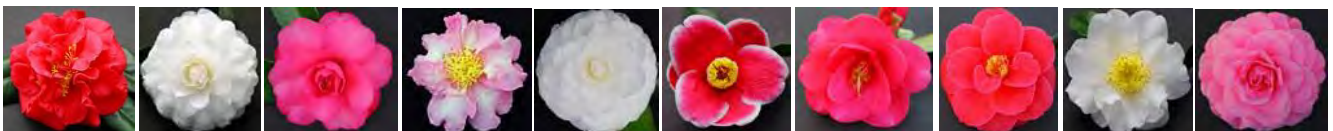
The National Council is urgently looking for a new Editor for our 'Camellia News'. Is there anyone out there with some computer skills willing to take on the job?

Contact the National President Jim Rochford (0400 750 832) or, National Secretary, Jenny Donohoe (02 4294 2877) if you would like to find out more about the position.

Jenny Donohoe, National Secretary,
jennydonohoe5@yahoo.com.au



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Red Crystal



Royal Velvet

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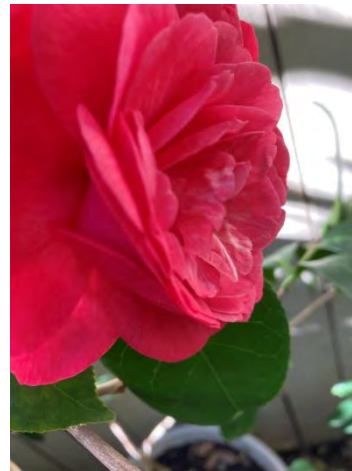
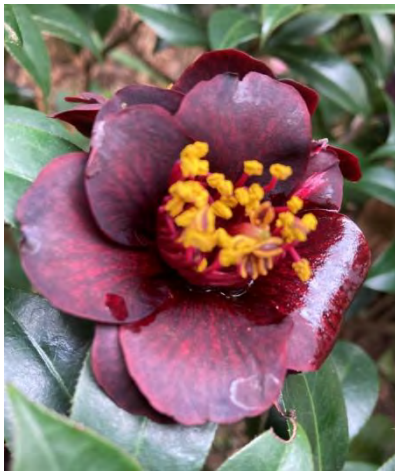


UN JOURNALISTE DANS NOTRE JARDIN

Daniel Low

It was a pleasure to have journalist and avid gardener, Robin Powell visiting to see our camellias on Thursday the 24th of June. Following a discussion Robin had with Pam Watson our home garden was suggested as being worthy of a visit prior to the Annual Show to be held some 17 days later [Unfortunately Covid Cancelled the Show].

Robin has a number of camellias herself but her main interest was to see the culture of camellias that enables them to be kept down to small shrub size rather than growing into specimen trees (even though some of the original plantings in our garden are in that category). Carolyn's special interest in sports intrigued Robin and there were some of the *Aspasia Macarthur* group in bloom such as the parent, *Lady Loch*, *Otauhu Beauty* and *Margaret Davis*; as well *Helenor* and *Helenor Rubra* were out together.



Robin and Dona Herzilia . . ., Black Opal, Helenor Rubra and Speciosissima (Eryldene)

Carolyn then took us around the garden showing some of the miniatures that are currently flowering. Firstly it was two of weeping habit drifting over a dwarf sandstone wall; *Marge Miller* and *Wirlinga Bride*, then *Tama-No-Ura*, *Maroon and Gold*, *Virginia Franco Rosea*, *Minato-No-Akebono*, *Baby Bear White*, *Black Opal*, *Unryu Tsubaki* and *Starry Eyes*. Species were another selection that Carolyn has a special interest in cultivating. *Camellia yuhsienensis*, *rosiflora*, *grijsii*, *kissii*, *oleifera* and the extremely small *parvilimba* were out on the day. Robin was glad to have some of Pam's *crapnelliana* seed pods to take home for an experiment in propagation as they ripen and open up.

Carolyn's bright and deep reds were another class catching Robin's eye; *Tomorrow*, *Susie Fortson*, *Red Crystal*, *Bob Hope* and *Royal Velvet*. This naturally led to an investigation of the intriguing purple of *Dona Herzilia De Freitas Magalhaes*.

Overall, it was great to welcome someone with a desire to gain more knowledge: from the theoretical—"Camellia Register" and its editor, *Thomas Savage* (of *Wirlinga* fame), to gaining practical hints on showing and growing camellias.



PROPAGATION AND PRUNING UPDATES

DANIEL LOW

Following Fran Hackett's donation of seeds earlier in the year we planted some in Jiffy Pots in propagation boxes and some in jars to see how they would germinate under different conditions. They did so at a similar rate. In both cases they produced both tap roots and shoots. We are now at the stage where the seedlings have been potted up into 100mm pots in a suitable potting mix. Initially they were under the shelter of cut off cool drink cups but as they have grown these have had to be removed.



Mini Greenhouse



Jars



Under a Cool Cup



Cup Removed

One of our hedges was pruned back severely at the end of the summer (see earlier edition). Following the start of the arrival of new shoots, further pruning was deemed to be necessary to allow for the initial 300mm growth that would be desired to create a neat top surface to the hedge as it developed.



The Initial Growth



After Further Trimming and Awaiting Thinning Out

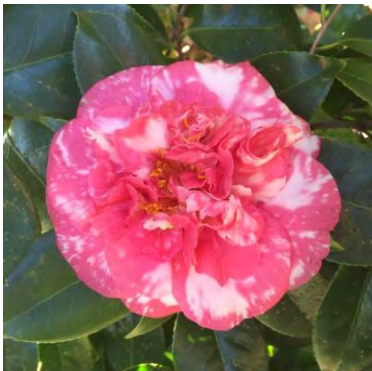


MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE 2021

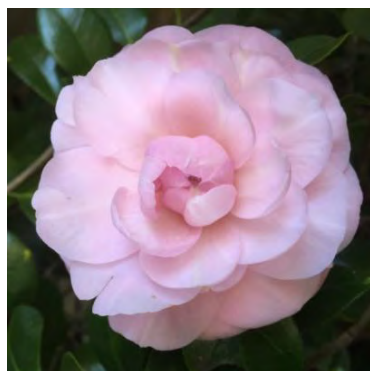
| | |
|----------------|--|
| July 2021 | |
| Monday 26th | NSWCRS Monthly Meeting Cancelled |
| August 2021 | |
| Saturday 21st | NSWCRS Monthly Meeting <i>Keep date in Diary. Afternoon outing meeting at Camellias R Us, Glenorie with Bloom Competition. More details later.</i> |
| September 2021 | |
| Monday 20th | NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon 7pm 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 |

WHATS ON AT PYMBLE UNITING CHURCH AND OUR PLACE

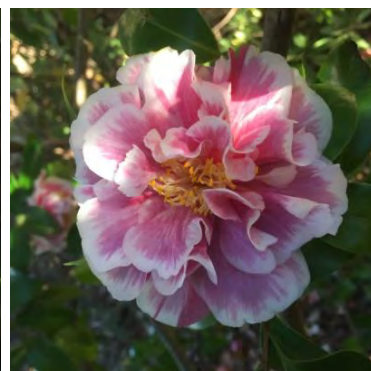
C. AND D. LOW



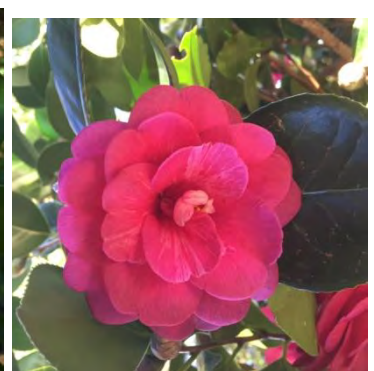
R L Wheeler Variegated



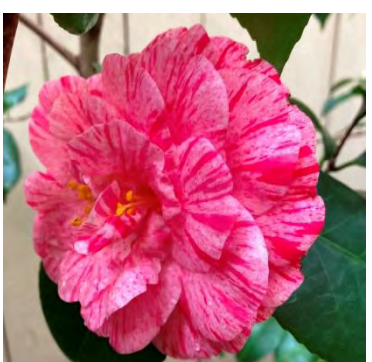
Ave Maria



Hikarugenji



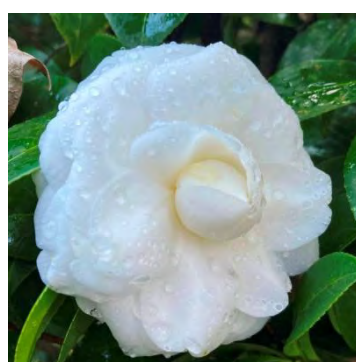
Great Eastern



Helenor



Lovelight



Mrs Bell



Tammia



JUNE BLOOM COMPETITION

D. LOW, (STATISTICIAN)

| MONTH | MEMBER | PTS | SAS | SPR/MINS | RETICS | GRADE | TOTAL/MNTH | TOTAL |
|-------|-----------------|-----|-----|----------|--------|-------|------------|-------|
| June | E. Foulsham | | 3 | | | 0 | 3 | 9 |
| | M. Hall | | 3 | | | N | 3 | 3 |
| | C. & D. Low | 29 | | 8 | 2 | 0 | 39 | 95 |
| | L. Saddington | 8 | | | | N | 8 | 8 |
| | W. Sadler-Moyes | 19 | | | | N | 19 | 59 |
| | W. Fleming | 10 | | | | 0 | 10 | 37 |
| | E. Fuller | 8 | 4 | 4 | | 0 | 16 | 16 |
| | K. Bacina | 6 | | | | N | 6 | 6 |
| | J. Muras | | 4 | 3 | | 0 | 7 | 30 |
| | R. Griffiths | 6 | | 1 | 12 | 0 | 19 | 46 |
| | B. Walker | 7 | | | 3 | N | 10 | 45 |
| | H. Wallace | 2 | | | | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| | J. McGill | 9 | | 3 | | 0 | 12 | 37 |
| | P. Watson | 9 | | | 1 | 0 | 10 | 19 |
| | C. Field | 1 | | | | N | 2 | 1 |

AT CAMELLIA GROVE AND PYMBLE UNITING CHURCH IN JUNE

CAROLYN LOW



Each month we are very grateful for the prize donation from Camellia Grove, this time it was Craig and Bonanza



A Selection of Prize Winning Blooms Champion Blooms



Open Champion: Alaskan Queen, Richie Griffiths



Novice Champion: Easter Morn, Wendy Sadler-Moyes



Lesley Saddington, Tama No Ura



C&D Low Shiro Chan



C&D Low Black Opal



Judith McGill, Nuccio's Gem



One of the June Tables



Lesley, Judith and Juliet Setting Out Their Blooms



The Donor: Erin, and the Winner: Wendy



Another Bench



The Actual Prize Donors



Margaret Hall, Star Above Star



W. Sadler-Moyes, Dixie Knight



Richie Griffiths, Henry E. Huntington



NSWCRS COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS 2020-2021

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Patron: | Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO | |
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| 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 | |
| ABN: | 16 873 158 367 | |
| Incorporation No.: | Y17693-47 | |



LETS KEEP OUR GARDENS IN PEAK CONDITION

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ARE THOSE CAMELLIAS RED OR BLACK?

CAROLYN LOW

PICS: C. AND D. LOW



Ruby Bells



Kuro Tsubaki



Night Rider



Black Opal

I appreciate having the opportunity to talk about camellias, in particular about those raised by Os Blumhardt in NZ. He propagated 'Black Opal' and 'Night Rider' in 1985. Both have been in our garden from the earliest days after we moved in, in 1992. It was the colour of the blooms and the wonderful bronze/red new foliage which first caught my attention. I was used to formal double white or pink flowers but these were much smaller and almost black. It was not until I saw 'Kuro Tsubaki' in the Botanical Gardens of Nantes which was so different and so outstanding, that together with 'Ruby Bells' I could fully appreciate the lineage of these plants. When we were in Nantes accompanied by the Horticulturist and a pair of outstanding Camellians from the USA that I then became infatuated with the parent. The American fanciers were crazy about wanting to see 'George Washington' and I had to insist on being shown 'Kuro Tsubaki' first. They were not sure if I even knew who the famous George was. I said: "No!", even though I had taught American History.

Both 'Night Rider' and 'Black Opal' have the same genetic makeup, coming from crosses of the same parents: 'Ruby Bells' and 'Kuro Tsubaki'.



Maroon And Gold



Red Crystal



Bob Hope

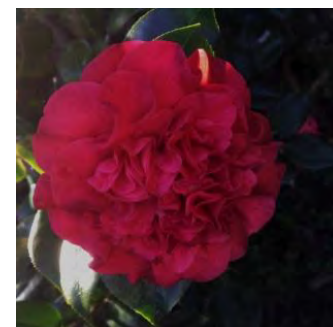


San Dimas

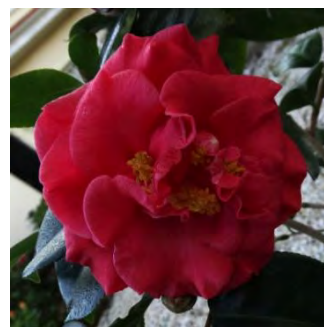
'Kuro Tsubaki' has been known in Japan since 1896. I believe that other people in NSW have examples of 'Kuro Tsubaki' but I have never seen it outside of France. Both it, and its progeny have unique physical features: those being; pink roots, mid-ribs and veins and dark red flowers.



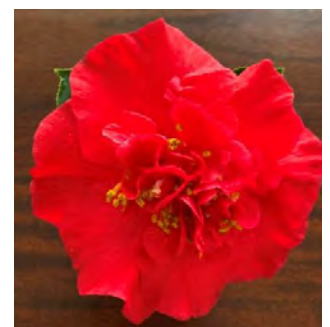
Susie Fortson



Fire Falls



Emperor of Russia



Ted Craig

The beauty of our longest-lived 'Black Opal' is its upright growth habit and it thrives in terms of flowering capacity because it is in 75% shade, only catching some direct sunlight for about one hour each morning. In the early days of our coming to Pymble I made a list of all the deep red camellias. I have secured many of them, however, a few did not survive in our soil with the use of chlorinated water.

Currently, many of our red ones are blooming and the cold weather is turning their reds at least two shades darker.

Most noticeable have been:

'Royal Velvet'-which we see every day through the kitchen window;

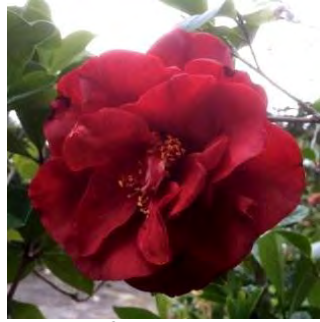
'Maroon and Gold'-its small bush a mass of deep red highlighted with its golden stamens, hiding under 'Red Crystal'



(another red special), was named for the University of Southern California which has Cardinal and Gold for its colours (as did Florida State University where our son studied at one time);
 'Black Magic'-shares the same microclimate as 'Black Opal' and once again developed by the Nuccio Family;
 'Bob Hope'-darker than usual but always a strong colour in our garden.



Dr Clifford Parks



Candy apple



Black Tie



Imperial Splendour

A number of others have made a real show of their very strong reds: 'San Dimas', 'Susie Fortson', 'Fire Falls', 'Emperor of Russia', 'Ted Craig', 'Dr Clifford Parks', 'Candy Apple', 'Tomorrow', 'Black Tie' and 'Imperial Splendour'.



IN THE GARDEN AT ERYLDENE THIS MONTH

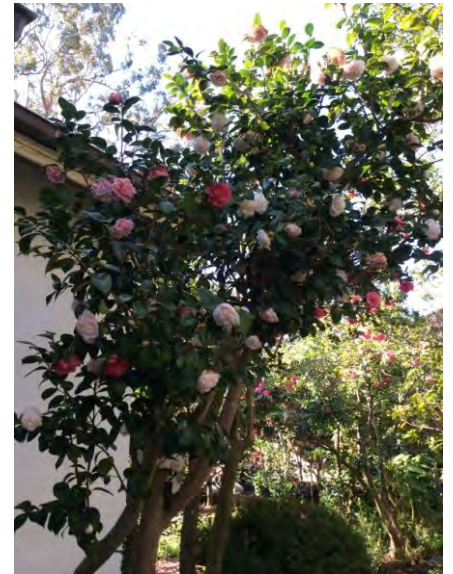
PHOTOS, JULIET MURAS



Eryldene Excelsis



Oki No Nami/ Moshio



Aspasia Macarthur/Lady Loch/ Otahuhu Beauty



Tarokaja



Unknown



Bokuhan