



# *Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc.*

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

9<sup>th</sup> January 2020: Edition No 331

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of this land: the Darug and Gundungurra people.

## *From the President.....*

Such terrible scenes of fire, devastation and loss face us every day on our TV screens as the drought tightens its grip on the country. Our gardens are suffering from the extreme conditions facing everyone this summer. Firefighters are serving the community above and beyond whatever they have had to face before and their efforts have mitigated even greater losses. We have been fortunate in escaping the progress of the Ruined Castle and Grose Valley Fires while some of the residents in Katoomba, Blackheath and along Bell's Line of Road were not so lucky. The Club has donated \$250 each to the local SES and RFS branches.

Peta Trahar was booked to come and speak to us today about her favourite plants, hydrangeas. She cancelled in mid-December, understandably, when the reality of the fire threat became apparent. It was uncertain if she could get out or if she would have a home to go back to in Bilpin. With much preparation and help from the fire services *Woodgreen* survived. You can follow her at 'Town and Country Gardens' on Facebook and see what they faced. I believe water from a dam constructed over fifty years ago when Dorothy and Lyle lived close by actually saved *Woodgreen* and surrounding properties. Now that's foresight! I hope to have Peta speak to us later this year.

We are very grateful to Jackie and Marilyn from the Blue Mountains and Nepean Herb Society for stepping in to speak to us today about "*Tea Kettle First Aid - Medicinal Herbs you can grow.*" Our lucky door prizes contain some of the herbs mentioned and you can purchase plants after the talk. The picnic after the meeting has been cancelled. Straw instead of grass and sad gardens are not going to lift our spirits so we will resume rambles when conditions improve.

It was wonderful to wake up this morning to a little rain and the sound of water dripping into my tank. It's not enough to fill it but any is welcome. Watering with buckets and watering cans seems to be taking so much effort now and prioritizing what to save is necessary. I have soaked coir/peat bricks in water and used the mixture around plants to hold the water and find that is working well. Hopefully we will get proper rain soon and adjust our gardening practices over time to these drier conditions.

*Carol*

## **Christmas Lunch**

The Mountain Heritage Hotel provided us with a wonderful venue for our Christmas Lunch on December 11th. The food and service were excellent and the function room decorated to put us in the Christmas Spirit. Views were clouded by bushfire smoke but a good time was still had by all. Thank you to Sharon for setting up the function and to Lorissa and Tuan of Mountain Heritage Hotel who made everything go smoothly. Thank you too Joanna Burgess and Sandie Cleaver for your photographs.

## *Club Tours and Functions*

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*Club tours and functions are available only to members and must be booked and paid for at a club meeting.*

There are no outings or events planned. If you would like to volunteer to organize one please speak to a member of the WFGC Committee.

## *Our Speaker today is Jackie Anstis*

Jackie is a member of the Blue Mountains and Nepean Herb Group. She is assisted today by the group's President, Marilyn Pride.

The Herb Group is a not-for-profit group and like us, a member of Garden Clubs of Australia. While the AGM is held in Faulconbridge Community Hall, meetings with guest speakers are held on Monday nights in members' homes with outings on Saturdays. The group was formed in 1987 by a small number of herb lovers who wanted to expand their knowledge and hopefully introduce new people to the delights of herb growing and use.

Jackie and Marilyn will have plants for sale after the talk and will also answer any questions you may have about herbs. Thank you to them both for making up two special baskets of herbs for our raffle prizes. If you wish to learn more about the group you can visit their Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/bluemountainsandnepeanherbgroup](http://www.facebook.com/bluemountainsandnepeanherbgroup)



Merino Magic orders will be taken at the February meeting.



Christmas Lunch 2019 at Mountain Heritage Hotel

### **Future Meetings**

#### **13<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

##### **Guest Speaker:**

**Robyn Bible:** Geranium and Pelargonium specialist. Her topic is "Geraniums and Pelargoniums A to Z"

##### **Hall set-up and pull-down:**

Martin Vaughan and Ken Bernoth

##### **Morning tea**

Patricia Pamment and Barbara Fox

##### **Bring a plate**

Marg Kennedy (2 plates)

#### **12<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

##### **Guest Speaker:**

Horticulturalist **Judy Horton** MAIH, RH, HMA. Judy will present a 'History of the Backyard'.

### **Club Information**

All members and visitors are asked to sign in upon arrival. Members are asked to wear their club name badges to all club meetings, tours and functions. To take part in club functions and tours you must be a *bona fide* club member. General Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, from January to November, at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts Theatre, Adele Ave (cnr Great Western Hwy), Wentworth Falls. Check-in at 9.30am and finish around noon. The library and plant stall are open before the meeting and at morning tea. \$5 entry fee.

Joining fee is \$30. Thereafter, annual subscription is \$20 due in July each year. Payments can be direct debited to Wentworth Falls Garden Club Account: BSB: 062-559; Acct: 28003852.

Ensure your name and the word "Sub" is included with your remittance.

##### **Wentworth Falls Garden Club contact details:**

Email: [wentworthfallsgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:wentworthfallsgardenclub@gmail.com)

Website: [www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com](http://www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com)

**For Club Welfare matters**, please contact Lea Nelson

Ph 4784 1101 or email [leanelson@ozemail.com.au](mailto:leanelson@ozemail.com.au)