



Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc.

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

13th February 2020: Edition No 332

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

From the President.....

Heat waves and bushfires are still on everyone's minds as the season continues to be one of the most difficult summers we as gardeners have faced. I am reminded of a great quote from Hannah Gadsby in her very moving stand-up routine, Nanette. Her grandma always said, "It's not the garden, it's the gardening." I think we can substitute watering for gardening at the moment as our plants and gardens suffer and we prioritize what plants to keep alive. We had a very useful brainstorming session at our January meeting when members shared the ways they are keeping their gardens watered during Stage 2 restrictions. You can find details on the website but these are a few tips.

- Soak coir or peat bricks (Mitre10 - \$3.70) in water. Dig into soil around plants.
- Use 1L or 2L drink or milk container. Pierce small holes in lid. Fill container with water. Upend container into soil beside plant.
- Use a bucket (\$1 Woolworths). Pierce holes in base near edge. Fill with water. Place beside plants.
- Wetting solution. To wet hydrophobic soils, add several drops of eco-friendly liquid dish-washing soap to a watering can filled with water. Slowly apply to soil.
- Remember to place saucers under pot plants so they have a reservoir of water to draw from or place small pot plants in a child's wading pool.
- Save your Strength. Locate larger containers throughout the garden (green bin, bucket, garbage can). Use hose to fill. Use small watering can to water nearby plants. Water smaller pots by dipping in the water until bubbles stop rising to the surface.

The drought is a wake-up call for gardeners to consider adjusting their gardening practices. We will need to look at what has survived and use more drought tolerant plants in the future.

I was able to visit Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens last week, driving past devastated country. Once we got to the Gardens it was encouraging to see how much has survived the recent fires. The North American Woodland area has suffered badly but most of the rest escaped damage. A day out with visitors was meant to also support businesses in Bilpin where we headed for lunch. So many people were at the cafes that we turned round and took our custom back to Mt Victoria. Visitors are obviously taking to heart the message that local businesses need our ongoing support. You will remember that Bill Grattan relocated Bay Tree Nursery last year to Clarence. His home and some of the nursery was saved from the fires. He has been a great supporter of our club so perhaps we can return the support eventually.

Carol



Give your garden a boost with **Merino Magic**. See Lea Nelson with your new order. Available for \$6 / 10kg bag, to be picked up from Leura

Our Speaker today is Robyn Bible

The title of her talk is Geraniums and Pelargoniums from A to Z.

Robyn has been specialising in the growing of geraniums and pelargoniums for 46 years and has a collection dating back many years. Her collection includes miniatures, coloured leaf, zonal, scented varieties, variegated ivies, mini ivies, hybrid ivies, cranesbills, erodium species, regal pelargoniums and many more. Robyn will talk to our club members about the different varieties and demonstrate how to cut back and propagate plants. She will also share pointers to take our plants through drought.

Club Tours and Functions

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

If you would like to volunteer to organise club events please speak to a member of the Committee.

Sat, 28 – Sun, 29 March 2020	For your diary: Collectors Plant Fair Racecourse Rd. Clarendon. This is not an organised club tour.
May, 2020	TAFE Luncheon. Details TBA

Drought Garden Survival

Chris Cuddy gave us a talk on Drought Tolerant and Frost Hardy plants. The list of his recommended plants is in the Garden Tips section of our web site.

We have also uploaded your water-wise gardening tips to the web site.

Why not go and have a browse?



It's been a little warm. So, here's something cold.

Future Meetings

12th March 2020

Guest Speaker:

Judy Horton MAIH, RH, HMA:
Horticulturalist will give us a History of the Backyard.

Hall set-up and pull-down:

Barbara Fox and Sed Mayne

Morning tea

Tricia Miskovic and Judi Maitland-Parr

Bring a plate

Adrienne Brown and Tricia Miskovic

9th April 2020

Guest Speaker:

Lloyd Sharp Grower and Supplier of Edible Heritage Vegetables and Herbs: "Growing Heirloom Produce in your Mountains Garden."

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

Website: www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com

For Club Welfare matters, please contact Lea Nelson

Ph 4784 1101 or email leanelson@ozemail.com.au