



Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc.

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

11th March 2021: Edition No 344

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

From the President.....

How good it was to gather as a group in February, the first meeting of 2021. The meeting went very smoothly and members seemed pleased that the club was active once again. Hats off to Peta Trahar and her excellent presentation “Hydrangeas.” However, I’d like to talk about ‘Grapes’. We all know how important water is for the garden and how some points of interest stick in the memory. Let me share with you one such memory from a documentary I watched in lock down, that has me shaking my head in wonderment. It’s nothing to do with the Blue Mountains or our garden club, but it does reveal the strength and incredible resourcefulness and ingenuity of the human mind.

Underground Irrigation System

‘The Silk Road, the village of Turpan and the growing of grapes in the desert’. This refers to special wells that are linked by underground tunnels to provide irrigation in the desert. This method of irrigation was passed on to Xinjiang people during the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C. - A.D. 24). The wells were sunk at varying distances several dozen meters deep to collect undercurrent water from melting snow. The water is then channelled through tunnels dug from the bottom of one well to the next and into oases. Most of these irrigation tunnels stretch for some three kilometres, but some extend as far as thirty kilometres and there are about 1,100 such wells in the area embracing Hami and the Turpan Depression. Today, the total length of such underground irrigation tunnels in Xinjiang runs for three thousand kilometres. The project can well be compared with the Great Wall and the Grand Canal. The world-famous grapes of Xinjiang owe their excellence to the existence of these wells. It is also a global tourist attraction.

See you in March!!



The Library is back this month! Please bring any books you may have borrowed a year ago!!! We have new books! Come, browse and borrow.

Janice Light

Guest Speaker Liz Benson: “Wally, The Wollemi Pine”

Liz Benson is a founding member of the Central Blue Mountains Garden Club and is involved with all their activities. Liz worked as a High School Science teacher for thirty years and has been employed by the National Parks Service and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Sydney and at Mt Tomah as an education officer and outdoor guide for the last decade. She is a keen bushwalker and lover of nature.

Today, Liz will be talking about a good friend of hers, ‘Wally, the Wollemi Pine’.

Pink Flannel Flowers - *Actinotus forsythii*

These beautiful, small flowers are flowering in the Blue Mountains now because of last year’s bushfires and the good spring rain that followed. They like to grow in shallow, skeletal soils on ridges. Interestingly it is the smoke of the bushfire rather than the heat that helps the flowers germinate. The flowers last only a few months and it may be many years before conditions are favourable for them to flower again.

Thank you, Annabel Fraser. Also, thanks to Marilyn Shields and Carol Conway.

See the [Gallery page](#)



Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Look After Yourself.

My Covid Garden Year

I couldn't resist the invitation from President Janice Light to write about 2020 and the challenges we encountered transforming our new garden during COVID-19.

Warwick and I moved from Kurrajong to Wentworth Falls late January 2020 into a 115-year-old house which we immediately fell in love with while noting the garden had "good bones". Shortly after moving in and despite the usual advice to wait a year, we set to, on what turned out to be far more work than we had anticipated, removing the rampant ivy that had grown up trees, into bushes and the garage with stems as thick as my arm. Initially, we hadn't noticed the lamium, jasmine, crocosmia, grass and weeds. Yes, all very invasive plants, that have been ongoing problems, but a constant assault is proving successful.

After cutting back hedges, removing pittosporums, clearing hidden paths and removing a mighty radiata pine stump with a cubby house on top, the Katoomba waste depot was the recipient of about five tonnes of garden waste and we're quite a few dollars poorer. It's now onto the fun part, as amongst the disorder were some little treasures - bluebells, jonquils, daffodils, snowflakes, crinums, hellebores, Japanese anemones - all of which we kept along with the rhododendrons and tree ferns.

Two reasons for moving from Kurrajong to the mountains were to enjoy a cooler climate and less acreage. I'm now having fun experimenting with plants that might flourish in the different soil and climate. I have a lot to learn, but hopefully with help from joining this club I'll eventually have the garden of my dreams.

Pauline Bartle

Next Meeting

8th April 2021

Guest Speaker:

Lloyd Sharp will tell us how to grow heritage produce in our mountain gardens.

Last Orders, please. Merino Magic may be ordered now. See the email for contact and payment information. \$7 per bag. This may be your last chance **EVER.**



You can see these pictures and more on the [Gallery page](#) on the Club's website.

WE'RE HAVING A RAMBLE AFTER THIS MEETING.

Treasurer's Report Summary February 2021

Opening Balance at 1st Feb.	\$3,968.81
plus Monthly Income	\$256.26
minus Monthly Expenditure	\$376.17
Closing Balance at 28 th Feb.	\$3,848.90

The full reports are available [here](#)

WELFARE.

No cards were sent out this month.

Lea Contact details →

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, rambles and functions. To take part in club functions and rambles 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

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For Club Welfare matters, please contact Lea Nelson
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