



## *Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc.*

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

**9<sup>th</sup> November 2023: Edition No 374**

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

### **A letter to garden lovers .....**

I am writing this, contemplating the outcome of the first tour I have organized – to Parramatta. It was quite exhausting and I am now contemplating the next tour to be organized.

On most criteria I think the tour was a success, however I think I was a little ambitious in what I planned to do in the time available. We ran an hour over and we had to cut short our time at Elizabeth Farm. We probably needed another hour to see Elizabeth Farm fully.

We did not get to hear the full account from Michael Lehan on the recreation of the garden & grounds at Elizabeth Farm after its acquisition by the state government. Michael was just getting started when we had to wrap it up.

The next event is our end of year lunch and we have some work to do finalize arrangements.

Some of you may know I have an apartment in Sydney's inner west & I have had some but not too much involvement in street garden projects to green the suburb.

As you can imagine gardening is very different there to that in the upper Blue Mountains.

The climate is obviously different but so is the space i.e. mostly very limited space in small terraces with little or no backyards & poor soil & aspect. As a response people started to garden on the verge. Councils have generally not been supportive of this activity & wanted the gardens removed. It was the same with the City of Sydney but now they have come fully on board offering free plants & even replacing old footpaths with new ones containing a garden bed.

Greening of the streets is an obvious advantage, but the most important benefit is in the building of "community". Neighbors who once had little interaction are now working together to build, plant & maintain the gardens. Recycling & upcycling can be seen in the use of discarded items otherwise destined for landfill are being repurposed as pots & garden ornaments.

Theft of plants is a problem & certain plants are avoided because they are too attractive - frangipani & jacaranda are popular with thieves.

There is no doubt our desire to garden will find an outlet no matter where we reside.

### **Duncan Leys**



**See Duncan's Slide Show at the meeting!**

### **Events to look forward to**

When	What	How Much?
Thursday, 12:00 noon 9 <sup>th</sup> November, 2023	Garden Ramble after our regular meeting	Free to members
Thursday, 8:30 am 16 <sup>th</sup> November, 2023	Australian Botanic Gardens Mt. Annan Plant Bank	\$30.00 per person. Includes bus and entrance to plant bank. Lunch at own expense. Few spots left.
Thursday, 12:00 noon 14 <sup>th</sup> December, 2023	End of Year Lunch, Palais Royale, Katoomba	\$70.00 per person. Don't miss out! Book Now!

## Today's Speaker is Joyce Stone from Blue Mountains and Penrith Orchid Society

Joyce has had a passion for plants since she was a small child and has needed plants in her life ever since.

Joyce and her husband, Malcolm, moved to Springwood with their three children 45 years ago. Over the years they developed a bush garden of mainly local indigenous plants with no lawn. They do have three shade houses and a few smaller orchid growing areas.

20 years ago, Joyce was driving along the highway with a friend and at Emu Plains saw a sign, "ORCHID SHOW". They went in and became infatuated. She joined the Blue Mountains & Penrith Districts Orchid Society & Malcolm joined about a year later. Both Joyce and Malcolm have served on the society's committee in various roles.

They grow a selection of hardy orchids in their garden at Springwood and more than 600 in the unheated shade houses. A number of their orchids have been awarded by the Australian Orchid Council and the Orchid Society of N.S.W.

Orchids have become a very rewarding retirement project for Joyce and Malcolm. Joyce will tell us about cool-growing orchids and their care.



### End of year Lunch at the Palais Royale, Katoomba, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

We can arrive any time after 11.30, latest by 12:00

Stylish seating and waiting area within the foyer.

Purchase your own drinks in the Foyer. Mingle in the foyer!

Be seated by 12.15    Lunch service commences: 12.30.

### Book and pay today!

Last day to pay is Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### January 2024 General Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Guest speakers:** Fiona Hassleman from Fifi's  
**Bees will speak on encouraging bees into our gardens and the varroa mite.**

**Hall set-up & pull down:**

Blue Phillips  
Daniel Murphy

**Morning Tea – bring a plate.**

Barbara Fox  
Jocelyn Dorrough

***Plates should be ready to serve.***

### ***Club Information***

All members and visitors are asked to sign in upon arrival. Members should wear their club name badges to all club meetings, events and rambles. To take part in club events 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 9.30 am for a 9.45 am start and finish around noon. The library and the plant stall are open before the meeting and at morning tea. \$5 entry fee.

The joining fee is \$35. Thereafter, an **annual subscription is \$25 due in July** each year. Payments can be by direct debit to Wentworth Falls Garden Club Account: BSB: 062-559; Acct: 28003852.

Ensure your **name** is included with your remittance.

**Wentworth Falls Garden Club contact details:**

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

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