



# Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc.

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

11<sup>th</sup> January 2024: Edition No 375

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

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

We have been told that we can expect a hotter & drier summer than average this year. Yet as I write on New Year's Eve it is raining steadily & softly. So far December weather has been good for our gardens with regular drops of welcome rain. I have even turned off my automatic watering system for a time as my soil is now saturated.

So far, my hydrangeas are having a very good summer & have survived those few very hot days without wilting & have been regularly refreshed by the timely storms & drops of rain. It just shows how important climate is for some plants. My mother struggled to keep her sole hydrangea alive in Moree for years, it was simply too hot & too dry. My sister at Yetholme tells me the one I gave her is thriving, but it is hand raised & survives on a knife edge, one day without water in summer will kill it.

Although not seen so much in the upper Mountains it has been a spectacular summer for crepe myrtles which are putting on a colourful show in the lower mountains & pretty much everywhere in Sydney. I have a few crepe myrtles in my garden, but they do not get enough sun or dry heat to flower. Looking back at the President's message for this time last year I see we were expecting the BMCC to complete the upgrade of the School of Arts Hall with new seating & a new audio-visual system in 2023. So far, we have no word on when this work will start.

Looking back over 2023 it is pleasing to see we have pretty much got back to normal activities with tours & functions & guest speakers. We had our moments with speakers pulling out at the last minute, but we managed to get replacements in time. We could have done without the angst.

It was particularly pleasing to have a very successful end-of-year lunch at the Palais Royale. The event exceeded our expectations with a delightful venue & a delicious meal. A great outcome after a disappointing end of year lunch in 2022. We will look forward to return to the Palais Royale for an event in 2024.

We trust all members have had a joyful festive season catching up with family & friends, & we wish you all good health & good fortune in 2024. Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting on Thursday 11 January 2024.

## Duncan Leys



## Your Committee needs your help

This July we will be electing a new committee. As it is every year, all committee positions become vacant and any member can nominate for a position on the committee. This year, we have several committee members stepping away from their positions on the committee.

We need members to join the committee and engage in the following activities: Treasurer (and Public Officer), Speaker coordinator, Events coordinator, Website Manager and Newsletter writer. These activities are vital to the existence of the club. This year, we invite you to step up and volunteer to assist in the management and operation of the club. **Speak to any committee member for more information.**

## Today's Speaker is Fiona Hasselman from Fifi's Bees



Fiona has always had a keen love of nature. While she grew up in the suburbs of Sydney, she always felt her heart belonged in the bush, living with the land. Her best childhood memories have been camping and bushwalking. She has studied bush regeneration, horticulture, permaculture and beekeeping. She has travelled and lived overseas, spending seven years in London working on community outreach and environmental causes.

On returning home Fiona worked in the horticultural field and built permaculture gardens. She loves self-sufficiency and could not imagine living any other type of lifestyle.

Fiona will tell us about the Cultural Centre Hives and all things bees.

## End of Year Lunch



See all the pics from our lunch, full size, in the gallery on our website:

<https://www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com/gallery.html>

### Mt Annan Seed Bank visit.

For me it felt like a really fun group going on an educational jaunt with lunch thrown in. It was my first such trip - we all talked non-stop on the journey to Mt Annan - and after a rather bizarre circuitous effort on the part of Susan to find the entry on this hot morning - our guide Virginia emerged from this State of the Art Plant Lab set on never-ending land (which was inexpensive to buy in the earliest instance, I believe) It hosts some of the rarest seeds in the world and the propagation techniques have to be seen to be believed. It was like being on a Top-Secret James Bond set where some of the country's top brains work behind thick glass panes.

After covering considerable distances in this vast building, lunch in a rather smaller adjacent restaurant was certainly welcome and really both colourful and delicious. Full marks from us all, I believe. Not forgetting our indefatigable organisers - a very interesting day, thank you!

*Sandie Cleaver*

### **February 2024 General Meeting** **8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Guest speakers: Kippy and Jesse from Bush Tucker Babies. Talking and Tasting Bush Tucker Plants**

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

**Sed Mayne  
Vic Tuite**

**Morning Tea – bring a plate.**

**Barbara Thomas  
Janice Light  
Marjorie Gunasekara**

***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 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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