



Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

13 April 2017: Edition No 302

From the President ...

Autumn has well and truly arrived with lovely crisp days, although one minute it is raining and the next the sun is shining, but any chance I get I am using it to get planting, planting, planting. With that in mind, a busload of us and a number of independent travellers went to the Collector's Plant Fair at Clarendon Racecourse last Saturday. It's the garden socialites' venue where you go to see and be seen ... haha ... oh, and to buy some special plants that just aren't easy to get elsewhere. We leave at the crack of dawn, shop and socialise, and then stop for lunch on the way home – all courtesy of Sharon's wonderful planning – and we're back home early afternoon in time to plant our purchases.

Today our friend and nurseryman, Bill Grattan, is our guest speaker. He is a regular at the abovementioned Fair, so we are grateful that he comes to us and sells his plants to those of you who are unable to go further afield. We also have our own Plant Stall which was so well stocked last month that we raised over \$100, which meant that lots of you took home goodies to get into the garden.

Once again, please note that there will not be a June meeting. This is due to the fact that BMCC has a regular booking for this Hall every June long-weekend, and it just so happens that our meeting clashes this year with the set-up days of the hirers. Looking on the bright side though, we can be warm and snug instead of freezing cold as we often are during the winter months in the Hall.

Happy planting!

... Celeste

Snails

The garden snail, *Helix aspersa*, is a terrestrial species with nocturnal habits – that is, it is mostly active at night or very early in the morning. However, if it rains during the day, it usually goes out! Although hermaphrodites, snails usually mate with other snails for fertilization. Both snails lay around 80 eggs, and hatching occurs two weeks later if in summer. They can produce up to six batches a year and young take one to two years to mature. If you have lots of snails and slugs eating your plants, try controlling them with pet-friendly pellets, coffee grounds, beer traps or just picking them up and disposing of them – the heel of the shoe usually works!

Club Tours and Functions

Friday, 9 June	Wivenhoe Historic House, Camden. House tour and buffet lunch. Cost \$35. We will visit a Camellia Specialist Nursery on the way home.	Departure 9.45am
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*Our Speaker for today is Bill Grattan,
Bay Tree Nursery, Mt Victoria*

We are very pleased to have Bill Grattan, one of our favourite speakers, here today. Bill's topic is "Growing Alpines". Bill has lived in the mountains for well over 30 years and runs Bay Tree Nursery at Mount Victoria, which he opened several years ago now. Previously, Bill owned and ran Hartley Valley and Leura Country Gardens Nurseries. His love of plants goes way back to his days at All Saints College in Bathurst. Bill qualified as a Horticulturist and obtained a Post Graduate Certificate in Landscape Design and an Assistant Diploma in Natural Resource Management at Ryde School of Horticulture. He has worked in many interesting and famous gardens, among them Taronga Zoo and Kirribilli House, to name just two. Bill is very dedicated to his trade and specialises in the more unusual varieties of trees and perennials. For Bill it is literally a full-time job. He works six days a week and buys his plants on the seventh day! To obtain the variety and the unusual, for which Bill is well known, he purchases his stock from a range of places, including Sydney, Victoria and the Southern Highlands.

Next Meeting

12 May 2017

Guest speakers:

Lynton and Sharon Phillips, Garden Club members. Their topic is "Kirstenbosch and The Cape".

Hall set-up:

Sed Mayne
Janice Light

Hall pull-down:

Sed Mayne
Les Handicott

Morning tea:

Barbara Wakefield

Bring a plate:

Marjorie Gunasekara
Yvonne Mayne

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. Meetings commence at 9.45am 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.

For Club Welfare matters, please contact Lea Nelson: Ph 4784 1101 or email leanelson@ozemail.com.au.

Wentworth Falls Garden Club contact details:

Email: wentworthfallsgardenclub@gmail.com
Website: www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com

Please Note!

GCA BM Zone **Friendship Day** is being held on 13 May. Cost is \$35. Please RSVP by 22 April.

Payment to be made to:

Blue Mountains Zone Garden Club

BSB 032828; A/C 122493

Or Cheque to Barry Lawson,
13 Beaufort St, Lithgow 2890