



*Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc*  
Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

9 April 2015: Edition No 281

*From the President ...*

Hello everyone, I hope that your gardens have enjoyed the rain of last week. Peter and I have just started a new section of garden. It is very satisfying, particularly as it had been planned for a while. The part that I love most is the planting and autumn is the optimum time to do that. It is quite the trend now to be part of a community garden but my little patch reflects our 'garden community': yellow irises from Carol; honesty from David Little (which has spread into Carol's patch); herbs from Janine and sedums from Geraldine, via our plant stall; purchases (and gifts) from Lynn, my neighbour up the back who has the open garden so many of us visited; small snowball trees from June and Bill; and other bits that I have collected and kept until now. The rain came at the perfect time!

Our general meetings start at 9.45 am but it is best if you can arrive around 9.30 am so that you have time to sign on, look at the plant stall etc. If you need to slip in after the meeting has started please make sure that you find Narelle, who is at a table just inside the door to the hall, and sign on. This is a requirement for insurance purposes. Or catch up with her at morning tea if you need to.

We are making progress on the public address system situation in the hall and will be purchasing some new equipment to implement this. We had some excellent advice from Rob Clyne who sets up the sound system for ADFAS. Their meetings are also held in this hall so he was familiar with its acoustics and we are very grateful for his help.

*Celeste*

**The Guest Speaker for today is**

***Greg Bourke***

***Curator Manager, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah***

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Since he was a small child, Greg has been fascinated by the natural world. Growing up with the Royal National Park at his doorstep and with frequent family holidays to Jervis Bay, Greg developed an interest in both the sea and native Australian flora, particularly carnivorous plants. The interest in carnivorous plants grew into a passion and in his early 30s Greg became President and founding member of the Australasian Carnivorous Plant Society. His career, however, followed a different path.

Greg worked in the electrical and telecommunications industries in order to fund expeditions to South-East Asia and all corners of Australia to study carnivorous plants and, more recently, trigger plants. In 2012, Greg published his first book, *Australian Carnivorous Plants*. Greg has also been fortunate to discover and describe several species of plants.

In 2011 Greg joined the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust working at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah, managing the infrastructure at the site. In 2014 Greg was appointed to his current role of Curator Manager of the site.



## *Dates for Your Diary*

Saturday 11 April	<b>Collectors' Plant Fair at Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon.</b> Cost \$38. This includes entry, transport and lunch at Norman Lindsay Gallery of gourmet sandwiches, cake, tea/coffee. Please pay today.	<b>Departure is 7.30 am</b>
Thursday 9 April	<b>Garden ramble cancelled due to family matters.</b>	

### *Guest Speakers*

**Today's Meeting:**

**Greg Bourke,**  
Curator Manager, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah:  
**"Carnivorous Plants of the World"**

**Next Meeting:  
14 May 2015**

**Stuart Read,**  
Australian Garden History Society:  
**"Paul Sorensen's NSW Gardens, 1930s-1970s"**

### **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 9.45 am 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, contact Celeste Shadie:  
Phone 4784 2321**

### **Morning Tea Duty**

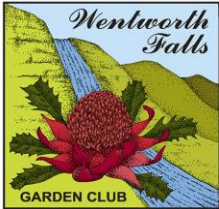
**Today: Annabelle Fraser and Janice Light**  
**14 May: Christine Caton and Desley Hardwick**

### **Bring a Plate**

**Today: Janice Light and Kay Murray**  
**14 May: Lucille Frank**

If you are unable to come on your rostered day, please call Jane Blackshaw on 4757 2887

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### **April Gardening Tips**

The following tips are from the *Flower Power* website.

#### **In the garden**

- + Mulch autumn leaves by adding to your compost heap. Leaves can also be heaped by themselves or put into plastic bags. Add Dynamic Lifter and dolomite to assist with decomposition. Turn compost to aerate and hasten the process.
- + Divide clumps of perennials such as iris, phlox and Shasta daisies.
- + Repot plants into larger containers with fresh potting mix.
- + Prepare a bed for roses. Dig soil over in a sunny position, add compost or rose-planting mix. Bare-rooted roses can be planted in winter.
- + Stone fruit trees should have been pruned by now. Dispose of any stone fruit to guard against brown-rot fungus.

#### **Fertilise**

- + Use lime or dolomite to prepare the vegie garden for a winter crop.
- + Fertilise annuals with weak fortnightly solutions of Aquasol or Thrive.
- + Avoid fertilising camellias and azaleas in April as it will stimulate leaf growth at the expense of flower buds.
- + If you are planting bulbs, give them a dose of Bulb Starter.

#### **Prune**

- + April is not a good pruning month as we are prone to cold and frost. Plants need leaf cover to protect them from frosts.

#### **Pests and diseases**

- + Snails and slugs are prevalent, so you'll need to protect your newly planted bulbs and seedlings with snail pellets.
- + If mildew is a problem, spray roses, hydrangeas and vegetables with fungicide.
- + Aphids on seedlings such as pansies and violas can be kept under control with an insecticide.
- + Caterpillars munching on cabbages can be controlled with Derris Dust or Success Ultra.

#### **Flowering now**

##### **Trees and shrubs**

Azaleas (spot flowering), *Banksia ericifolia*, berberis, *Camellia sasanqua*, crowea, gordonia, hibiscus, plectranthus

##### **Annuals and perennials**

Chrysanthemum, Japanese windflower, Michaelmas daisy, pansy, polyanthus, poppy, viola

##### **Bulbs**

Dahlia, daylily, nerine

#### **Plant/sow**

##### **Flowers**

Candytuft, Canterbury bells, cornflower, lobelia, lupin, pansy, penstemon, polyanthus, poppy, snapdragon, alyssum, sweet pea, verbena, viola, wallflower

##### **Trees and shrubs**

Plant all container-grown shrubs, including Australian native plants, azalea, citrus, conifers and daphne

##### **Bulbs**

Anemone, babiana, bluebell, daffodil, Dutch iris, freesia, grape hyacinth, hyacinth, jonquil, ranunculus, tulip

**Vegetables**

Broad beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, capsicum, celery, lettuce (winter varieties), onion, parsley, peas, rocket, silverbeet, spinach and strawberries for a spring crop.

**Planting bulbs in the garden.** Spring bulbs are planted in autumn. While they are easy to grow, planning where to incorporate them into your garden is necessary to ensure a striking display. They can be slotted in amongst other plants or planted in clumps, either in a lawn or under deciduous trees. Planting depth is quite important. Plant at least twice as deep as the bulb is high, and plant with the neck up and the roots down. The only exception to this is ranunculus. These bulbs are always planted with the legs going down. The key to planting bulbs is to give them plenty of sun and well-drained soil. Bulbs look their best when grouped in masses. Note that the bulb leaves keep growing after the flowers finish. This is the time to fertilize the bulbs as they are manufacturing food to feed next year’s growth. Generally, bulbs can be left in the ground rather than lifting them at the end of the season.

**Growing bulbs in containers.** Bulbs can be planted in layers at different depths in what some call a “bulb lasagne”. The emergent shoots of the lower layer bulbs just bend around anything they hit sitting over their heads and keep on growing. Select three types of bulbs: small, medium and large. Also look for bulbs that bloom early, mid and late in the season (this information is generally listed on the packet). Start by adding a two-inch layer of soil on top of gravel placed over the holes of a container. A wide container like a Tuscan Bowl is a good choice. Plant the largest bulbs first, such as tulips or daffodils, at approximately eight inches deep. Space them no more than a half-inch apart, then cover with a two-inch layer of soil. This is one layer of your lasagne – perhaps the sauce! Sprinkle this layer with a handful of bone meal – Parmesan cheese! Next, add bulbs that should be planted about six inches deep, such as Dutch hyacinths and narcissus, and top these with another layer of soil and bone meal. Finally, top the casserole with small, shallow-planted bulbs like crocuses and grape hyacinths. This time, cover them with 3 to 4 inches of soil and finish the container with a planting of pansies, violas or dianthus. Mulch and keep watered throughout winter. In spring you will see sequential waves of flowers in the same pot.

VERY EARLY	EARLY	MID-SPRING	LATE SPRING
Snowdrops Snow crocus <i>Muscari azureum</i> Dwarf iris	Giant Dutch crocus Tulips: Kaufmanniana Tulips: Fosteriana Siberian squills Grecian windflower Wood anemone Daffodils: Cyclamineus Daffodils: Short cup Daffodils: Triandrus Daffodils: Trumpet <i>Muscari botryoides</i> <i>Muscari latifolium</i> Hyacinths Tulips: some Tulipa species Tulips: Single early Tulips: Double early	Flame anemone Daffodils: Double Daffodils: Long cup Daffodils: Split corona Daffodils: Tazetta <i>Muscari armeniacum</i> English bluebells Tulips: Darwin hybrid Tulips: Greigii Tulips: Triumph	Spanish bluebells Daffodils: Jonquilla Daffodils: Poeticus Lily of the valley <i>Muscari comosum</i> <i>Muscari plumosum</i> Tulips: most Viridiflora Tulips: most Rembrandt Tulips: most multiflowering Tulips: some Tulipa species Tulip: most Fringed Tulips: most Parrot Tulips: Lily-flowered Tulips: Double late Tulips: Single late

**Sources**

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*Seasonal Tasks for the Practical Australian Gardener* by Peter Cundall  
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