



Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

9 July 2015: Edition No 284

From the President ...

By the close of today's meeting we will be beginning a new Club year ... and it will be business as usual! Everything seemed to chug along happily over the last 14 months, so why change anything?

At the last committee meeting, Barry, our membership guru, reported that we are now 135 members, and I had been telling anyone who asked that we were around 116 ... so what do I know? That's a great result, but I would like to stress that we are not out to capture as many members as we can, nor are we trying to squirrel away funds for a rainy day. Our unwritten policy is that we keep in the coffers just enough to cover any major equipment replacements, but then we spend to benefit the members.

With an increase in numbers inevitably comes a heavier workload, but we are always mindful of remaining an intimate and friendly group no matter what our numbers. The one area that has increased substantially over the years that Sharon and Lynton have been running Tours and Functions is the five-fold increase in the number of trips they are now organising compared to when they took over. We are very privileged to be able to gain *access* to the BMCC "Access" bus – pun intended! We fit the criterion completely, but are always aware that other groups in the mountains have demands to be met as well. To organise a trip for 21 people is a huge undertaking and therefore we have decided to keep the trips to this manageable number. The use of this bus also keeps the costs moderate – we have costed the hiring of private buses, both big and small and this is just too prohibitive. May I take this opportunity to remind you of the process for booking the trips? To be fair and equitable to all, trips are published in the newsletter and bookings, accompanied by FULL payment, will be taken at the meeting. Kindly understand, for reasons of safety, that private cars are unable to join the tour. No bookings will be taken prior to the meeting, so please ... no phone calls or emails if you aren't able to attend the meeting. There will always be another fantastic trip on the horizon.

Celeste

Today's Guest Speakers *Marnie and Pat O'Mara* *Members of Slow Food Blue Mountains*

Pat and Marnie live on a suburban block in Katoomba. They are passionate about food security, food safety, food miles and taste! From their four-year-old garden they produce the majority of the fruit and vegetables they need – and a little extra to swap and share.

The upper mountains climate provides challenges and surprises. Pat and Marnie have experimented with a range of plant varieties for climate suitability and maximum yield. They have learned that it is possible to grow almost all your own food; however, it requires commitment and creativity – both in the garden and in the kitchen.

Marnie and Pat will speak to us about "*Living the Good Life – Home Grown on a Suburban Block*".

Dominic Wong: Plant List from presentation to Wentworth Falls Garden Club, June 2015

The following are great for Spring colour (15 September to 15 November).

- Annuals: pansies; primulas; annual wallflower (*Cheiranthus cheiri*); Iceland poppies (*Papaver nudicaule*); Flanders poppies; opium poppies; English daisy (*Bellis perennis*); sweetpeas.
- Tall annuals: foxgloves; Queen Anne's lace.
- Bulbs: tulips, ranunculus, anemones.
- Shrubs: lavender (Avonview); perennial wallflowers (*Cheiranthus mutabilis*) (Winter joy, Pastel Patchwork, Bowles' mauve, Fragrant Sunshine, Marmalade).

Thank you to Jenny Priestly for her initiative in getting this list from Dominic.



July Gardening Tips

The next two or three weeks are usually the coldest of the year and the days will slowly get longer having passed the winter solstice. Annoyingly, winter weeds are taking advantage of the season and growing rapidly. Otherwise, there is not much growth in the garden at this time. Soon plants will start to respond as the soil warms up. Despite our natural inclination to hibernate in front of the fire sipping a warm drink, this is a perfect time to get out and work in the garden. Spring and summer gardens are made in winter!

- If you want a colourful garden during winter, thoughtful planning can produce some great results. Check local nurseries for plants which flower and thrive during the coldest months. A good percentage of these plants are fragrant and fill the garden with beautiful scents. *Chimonanthus praecox* ("wintersweet") will produce masses of scented almost transparent yellow flowers on bare branches. *Daphne odora*, a popular plant with white and pink flowers has a beautiful fragrance. Daphne dislikes lime and dislikes its roots being disturbed. Feed with lots of manure gently worked into the surface under the drip line. The small winter flowering *Iris stylosa* produces continuous lilac-blue flowers with a golden centre. *Bergenia cordifolia*, with 200 millimetre high spikes of rosy-red blooms surrounded by shining heart-shaped leaves, is shade loving. *Chaenomeles*, the Japanese flowering quince, comes in a range of colours from brick-red through to pink to snowy white. *Buddleia salvifolia* is an evergreen four-metre tall shrub with spikes of sweet scented pale lilac flowers. Buddleias respond to heavy pruning during and after flowering. Ericas flower with blooms completely covering the plant. They have a sweet honey-like scent which on a sunny winter's day can fill a small garden. All Ericas are acid lovers and prefer a peaty, moist, well-drained soil. They will die if they dry out. Also, the male form of the Tassel bush, *Garrya elliptica*, produces a huge hanging mass of yellow grey catkins which cover the shrub.
- Cut flowers from bulbs, but allow their leaves to die down naturally. Feed and fertilise every week with plant food and manure until leaves yellow.
- Transplant deciduous trees and shrubs while still dormant.
- Spray weedy lawns with Weed n Feed. Fertilise lawns in preparation for spring growth. Spray lawns for bindii.
- Repot indoor and outdoor container plants into fresh potting mix. Remove any brown or shrivelled fronds from indoor ferns.
- Finish pruning repeat-flowering roses. After pruning, give roses a clean-up spray with Yates Lime Sulfur.
- New season dahlia tubers can be planted into well-prepared, sunny garden beds.
- Acid loving plants include ornamental plants such as rhododendrons and azaleas. These are some of the most beautiful and sought-after trees and shrubs which grow very well in our climate. It is not that these plants have a particular love for acid soils or that they even dislike lime. But most of these plants are not particularly good at getting iron from the soil. In the presence of lime it makes the plant's task almost impossible. The result is usually seen in the leaves becoming paler and yellowing. The plant loses its growth and vigour. Supply iron to the plant with chelated iron or iron sulphate.
- Feed camellias with Dynamic Lifter after they finish flowering. Prune camellias to shape if necessary after flowering.
- Prune hibiscus, abutilons, acalyphas and poinsettias.

- Top up layers of organic mulch. Fertilise citrus with specially formulated citrus food. Fertilise hydrangeas using a blueing compound if you want blue flowers in December.
- Pinch back geranium and fuchsia tips to encourage bushy growth.
- Keep watch for aphids on new growth and buds.
- Plan and prepare a new vegie bed.
- Sow tomatoes indoors, ready to plant out once the soil is warmer.
- Plant or sow potato, artichoke, asparagus, carrot, lettuce, parsley, parsnip, radish, silverbeet, sweet corn, tomato and pumpkin.
- Slugs and snails are looking for tasty vegies, bulbs and flowering seedlings so protect with snail pellets.
- Companion plants are especially important in the vegetable garden. Deciding on which plants to plant together depends on characteristics such as the depths to which plants send their roots, the amount of foliage grown and the extent to which they can suppress the growth of adjoining plants. Some plants produce substances which limit the growth of their own seedlings; others encourage growth and development of particular unrelated species. The result of companion planting is that better quality yields are obtained while attacks from insect pests and diseases are less likely. Here are some plants that grow well together:

- French or dwarf beans with cucumbers, cabbages and strawberry plants.
- Beetroot with French beans, cabbage, kohlrabi and onions.
- Cabbages dislike strawberries but do like tomatoes, lettuces, beetroot, sage, dill and chamomile.
- Carrots with onions, leeks and shallots. Also lettuces, peas, radishes and chives. Note that once lifted, carrots should not be stored next to apples.
- Cauliflowers grow well next to celery.
- Chives have been grown to help control greenfly on roses. It is thought that the smell from their leaves appears to mask the smell from the growing rose shoots so aphids pass them by.
- Celery grows well with leeks, tomatoes, dwarf beans and cabbages.
- Sweetcorn thrives next to peas, pumpkins, zucchini and early-planted potatoes.
- Cucumbers like beans, cabbages, radishes and lettuces.
- Lettuces go well next to parsley and strawberry plants as well as carrots, radishes, beetroot and cabbage.
- Onions do not like peas or beans. They go with carrots, beetroot, lettuce and chamomile.
- Parsnips go with cabbage, silverbeet and cauliflower.
- Silverbeet go well with French beans, cabbage, broccoli and lettuce.
- Tomatoes go well with asparagus, parsley, cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts and basil.

Sources

Working Manual for Gardeners by Jane Edmanson

Gardening Year by Shirley Stackhouse

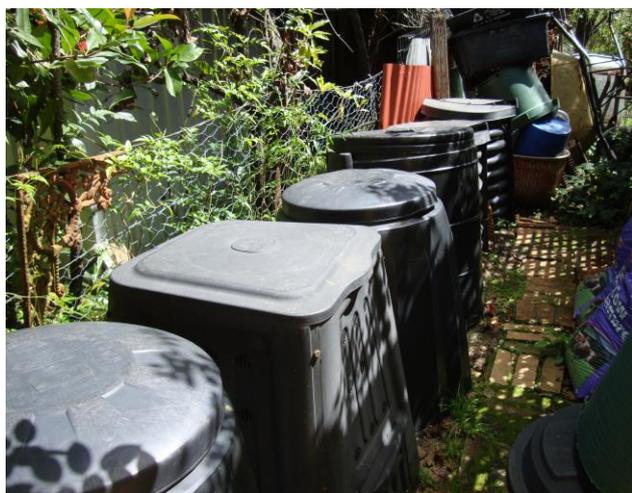
Seasonal Tasks for the Practical Australian Gardener by Peter Cundall

The Year Round Gardener by Stirling Macoboy

<http://flowerpower.com.au/information/garden-diary/may-gardening-diary/>

Club Tours and Functions

Friday 25 September 2015	<p>“Hidden Valleys” Nola’s Garden and the historic St Paul’s Anglican Church (in Cobbitty). Camden Valley Inn for lunch. Cost \$50. <i>Names can only be taken with payment. Thank you.</i></p>	Departure TBA
Friday 16 October 2015	<p>“Up the Country” This includes visiting the beautiful Mayfield Gardens in Oberon and the Gairloch Garden. Lunch and morning tea included. Cost \$45. <i>Names can only be taken with payment. Thank you.</i></p>	Departure 8.45am



This photo of compost bins is a very good reminder to have our own compost cooking away getting ready to be spread on garden beds in Spring.

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, contact Lea Nelson:
Ph 4784 1101

Next Meeting

13 August

Guest speaker

Andrew Kaye, Community Engagement Coordinator from Community Safety Unit, Blue Mountains NSW RFS. Andrew’s topic will be **“Bushfire Survival Plan, including new legislation for property protection”**

Hall set-up

Roz and Neil Sing

Morning tea duty

Nancy Pollock and Betty Allen

Bring a plate

Rosemarie Leathwood

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