



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

10 March 2016: Edition No 291

*From the President ...*

Whether you go by 1 March or by the equinox, autumn is well and truly on its way and it is the best time of year as far as I am concerned. It is cooler to work in the garden and an opportunity to plant as much as possible and move and sort, and clean up in preparation for winter. If you have any cuttings or small plants that you are thinning that can be potted up, please bring them along to the plant stall when you can.

We are always trying to bring in more “gardening info” into our meetings, so today, as a request from a number of members, Janine Shoemark is going to tell us what she has been doing in her garden over the last month or so. She will explain more during the meeting, but we will alternate this with Q & A each month. Time is always a constraint so the idea of alternating the two segments might work! This is just being trialled so if it can be improved upon, we are always open to suggestions.

Don't forget that there is no June meeting this year. Our AGM will be held in July but for those of you who are new to the club, rest assured the AGM will be short and sweet, and no-one is ever co-opted unless they have previously nominated for a position.

Enjoy this cooler weather,



*Celeste*

*Our Guest Speaker for today is*

**James Adams**

**Production Manager from Engall's Nursery**

James will speak about “All things Citrus”. Find out more information about Engall's Nursery at [www.Engalls.com.au](http://www.Engalls.com.au).

Information about Engall's Nursery and its history was printed in the January Newsletter.

***Good News! The Library has a sale today.  
Make Carol an offer and bag yourself a bargain.  
Books not sold go to Lifeline or Church Fair.***

# Herbaceous Perennials

This article is a reprint from our visit to Hillandale in March 2013. We have been fortunate enough to return and the perennial border is maturing to an even more impressive display. This was especially enjoyable after Sarah's visit to the club and her descriptions of particular plants and their displays.

Such joys! Certainly not easy care, or for the gardener that chooses a year-round permanent static display, but a fabulous seasonal abundance offering exciting changing palettes.

“Herbaceous” is a slightly untidy term that refers to soft, quick-growing, short-lived greenery and is easily left off any description in favour simply of the term “perennial”. Perennials are best described as non-woody plants, lasting many years, but disappearing from the surface at certain times of the year, mostly in winter. Bulbs are technically also perennials as they have a fast early growth pattern, flower and then fade away.

Perennials offer a wonderful opportunity for a constantly changing colour palette, size and structure in a relatively small space. A perennial bed or border can be viewed as a layered cake, with bulbs at the bottom and a succession of plants planted near each other, at recommended depths, to rise to the surface as their own needs and growth habits dictate.

In my garden, one bed offers the excitement of the first of the late winter bulbs, followed by a variety of hellebores and spring bulbs. As the bulb foliage starts to die down, aquilegias spring to life and cover. Then, when spent, these are trimmed to ground level. Salvias and plectranthus rapidly fill the area with abundance. Re-emerging aquilegias and hellebore foliage adds contrast throughout. Around Anzac Day, it all starts to look untidy so a big trim is in order.

Some of my other garden favourites include bergamot, lilies, hostas, sedums, penstemons and, not to my personal taste, but some that do have a place in other gardens include acanthus, gaura, linaria and veronicas. The great joy of perennials is following the change of seasons with their displays. In general, spring is the time of rapid, fresh growth and this contrasts markedly with other garden beds displaying winter-ravaged evergreens. Summer is an extravagance of display in either flowers (usually

bright) or sensational foliage. Autumn gives fading, mellow foliage and quite a few die back gracefully leaving interesting frameworks and seed heads that

have their own magic in frosty conditions. Winter is mostly a time of dormancy – for the plants, but not the gardeners.

Perennials generally need attention in spring such as staking, restraining or tying up plants, as many have rapid, therefore soft, growth that needs some support. Summer is often the time least attention is required other than watering, and

autumn is the season of the big trim – a valuable resource for the avid composter. Winter is the time to move plants to alter the display – see it as a living and ever-changing artwork. It is also the time to divide existing clumps to extend the garden, share with friends and bring divisions to the garden club plant stall. Winter and autumn are usually the best time to plant, or transplant new plants – especially as keen gardeners will want “one of every colour” of a favoured perennial growing well in their location. This allows the “power-house” of the root system to establish before the spring growth bursts into action.

Many gardeners start with personal favourites in a small area and then add different varieties/colours and eventually, with trial and error, will develop a succession of plants to give an almost year-round display in a continuous wave.

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to see Sarah's double perennial border at Hillandale recently with a Garden Club tour (many thanks Sharon and Lynton!). In my opinion, this delightful border is equal to the “greats” at Great Dixter and Sissinghurst in size, diversity, strength, health and suitability for the site. It is a true inspiration for us all to take ideas and adapt them to our own garden setting.



**Herbaceous garden at Hillandale**

**Janine Shoemark, 14 March 2013**

## *Club Tours and Functions*

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Thursday 10 March	<b>Garden Ramble</b> at Karen and Les Handicott's garden in Wentworth Falls. Maps are available.	After General Meeting
Saturday 9 April	<b>The Collector's Plant Fair.</b> Cost \$40 which includes entry to the Fair and lunch at Norman Lindsay Gallery on the way home. Still spaces available.	7.30am departure
Friday 22 April	<b>50 Shades of Orange.</b> Overnight trip to Orange. Final pricing to be advised.	<b>6.30am</b> departure
Friday 20 May	<b>Bonny Day Out.</b> This includes lunch with various choices of gourmet sandwiches, cake of the day and tea and coffee. This is an easy access, short day trip to a nursery, café and lifestyle centre.	10am departure

***Please note: Autumn Garden Information Sheets are available at a cost of \$2.***

### **Next Meeting**

**14 April**

#### **Guest speaker**

Deryl Mason, Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens: **A History of the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens.**

#### **Hall set-up**

Janka Orelova

#### **Morning tea duty**

Lucille Frank and Nancy Pollock

#### **Bring a plate**

Lucille Frank, Nellie Gillott and Margaret Peoples

### **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.

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# Notes

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*Happy Gardening!*