



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

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From the President ...

May has arrived with amazing autumn colour this year and I know it's all about day-length but surely the hot summer and lengthy rainy weather have contributed to the display?

As I reported at last month's meeting, we have a full slate of nominees for the new committee. Thank you to those who are remaining on the committee and to the new nominees. It will be a rejuvenated but well-oiled machine once again, I am sure.

We have decided to phase out the use of our laptop as it has become more and more unreliable, which is both frustrating and embarrassing. Fortunately the DVD function seems to be fine which is why Sharon and Lynton will be able to use it today. We decided some months back to ask all of our guest speakers to bring their own laptop if needed, and it hasn't been an issue with any of them.

I am in the middle of getting the garden ready for bed for the winter. This has involved huge amounts of cutting back, mulching, spreading last year's mulch, clearing out the worm farms and putting heaps of muck around the more hungry plants etc. For a while there it seemed to be never-ending but I think I see a very faint light at the end of the tunnel!

This will be my last meeting as President (as there is no June meeting) and boy, am I going to miss it! Thanks for three great years.

... Celeste

Orders are being taken today for *Merino Magic* (Sheep Manure). The cost is \$6 per 10kg bag delivered to your home. See Lea Nelson to put in your order.

Club Tours and Functions

Friday, 9 June	Wivenhoe Historic House, Camden. Sold out.	9.45 am departure
Tuesday, 29 August	Tour Mahratta House; lunch Hornsby RSL; Lisgar Gardens on the way home. Mahratta is one of the finest Art Deco mansions in Sydney and one of the few remaining gardens designed by Paul Sorensen in the Sydney area. It opens only twice a year. Cost TBA (lunch at own expense at RSL on the day).	TBA departure

Guest Speakers

Our Guest Speaker session today will come from our members, Sharon and Lynton Phillips, who recently visited Kirstenbosch and The Cape, South Africa. They will be presenting a very entertaining session about their visit, which included the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens.

Create a Bee-Friendly Garden

If all the bees in the world die, humans cease to exist. There are many ways we as gardeners can create bee-friendly gardens and avoid losing this pollination service which bees perform for us.

- Plant lots of blue or white flowers – bees don't see red!
- Aim to have something in bloom the whole year round. Bees will forage whenever the weather is warm.
- Choose some of your plants with simple, open flowers so bees can reach the nectar easily. They love plants with multiple blooms on the same stem.
- Plant groups of the same flowers together.
- Avoid chemical treatments – bees are under enough pressure already.
- Bees need water but can't swim. A shallow water bowl filled with pebbles will keep them hydrated.



The above information comes from a keeperandhive.com flyer obtained at the Plant Fair recently. It is an Australian website supplying the beekeeping industry and displays gifts for online purchases. We have **Doug Purdie's** book, *The Bee-Friendly Garden* in our library for borrowing. Information about Australian honey production and research can also be found at honeybee.org.au.

You can find out about National Honey Bee Day in the USA at www.nationalhoneybeeday.com. This year it is on August 19. The day was started in 2009 by a small group of beekeepers to raise awareness of the plight of bees. This year's theme is: "For a Natural High: Smoke Some Bees!"

In Britain, "Don't step on a Bee Day" is on Monday July 10. Gardeners are encouraged to plant wild flowers for the bees and we could do our part here in Australia by doing the same. Native shrubs and trees are also good sources of nectar for the bees to make the honey we love.

Carol Conway

Next Meeting Annual General Meeting 13 July 2017

Please note: No June Meeting.

Guest speaker:

Sue Carney will speak about *Bee-Friendly Gardens and Bee-Keeping*

Hall set-up and pull-down:

Les Allen
Kevin Craze

Morning tea and bring a plate:

Margaret Peoples
Ronah Tuite

Membership renewal is due July Annual General Meeting. New badges will be issued upon payment. The cost \$20.

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