



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

8 September 2016: Edition No 296

### *From the Vice President*

As I write, Celeste is enjoying the tropical delights of Hawaii while our gardens are enjoying today's welcome rain. I encourage anyone who feels they could share with us what is happening in their garden to see Janine and volunteer to be part of the program of speakers for this part of our meetings. Today we welcome back Sylvia Smith for this segment. She has shared her wide gardening expertise with us over previous years. We also welcome back our speaker, Klaus Eckhardt, to tell us all about growing roses.

Earlier this year I spoke about companion and group planting (rather than planting in rows) in my veggie patch. I have had mixed results. Radishes are thriving and the carrot seed I sowed with them has had a much improved germination rate. The wildlife was not fooled with radishes seeded along with peas and sweet peas and most of the latter shoots were eaten. I have sewn more in seed trays and will plant them out with chicken wire protection later this month.

Land cress plants are keeping out weeds and, to a lesser degree, snails and slugs. The leaves make a lovely peppery addition to salads instead of rocket. My one row of broad beans is growing fast and the strawberries are happy in amongst the onion and garlic plants. Spring cabbages and silverbeet are doing well too. Tomato seeds saved from last summer are germinating in my seed tray and will be ready to plant out by Garden Festival time. May your veggie gardening be successful in the coming months.

*Carol*

### ***Things to do in Spring***

- Most plants, trees and shrubs respond to warmer weather conditions and longer periods of sunlight by seeking a regular supply of plant food, so start fertilising with blood and bone and potash. This can be done at a rate of 9 parts of blood and bone to 1 part potash. Sprinkle on all parts of the garden, between shrubs, fruit and ornamental trees. The rate of application is a fistful or 40grams per square metre. Reapply every month until the end of March for best results.
- Once the garden is fertilised and dressed with compost and/or animal manure, spread a good layer of mulch such as lucerne, wood chips, or sugar cane.
- Grass is a ravenous competitor for garden plants. Clear away grass from under trees and around plants, especially over root areas. The quick and greedy growth of grass (and weeds, to a lesser degree) begins ahead of the trees and plants awakening in spring. So the grass gains a huge foothold from the start by robbing plants of their moisture and food. If you do not want the labour of pulling out the grass, lay thick sheets of newspaper over the grass roots to smother them. The newspaper eventually becomes part of the mulch. Soak well, otherwise a crust forms and water cannot penetrate to the ground below.
- Indoor plants can be enriched with weak liquid fertilizers and seaweed concentrate. Never use soil from the garden for pot plants. It is not very porous and becomes a hard lump.
- Spring is a crucial time for lawns – the longer grass is allowed to grow, the deeper the roots. But if cut too short, the roots are exposed to the effects of drying winds and sun.
- Fertilise lawns with blood and bone with about 10% potash at the rate of 40grams (a fistful) for each square metre. Do not put on dry lawns. Water well before and after.

#### **Sources**

*The Year Round Gardener* by Stirling Macoboy

*The Practical Gardener* by Peter Cundall

*Our Speaker for today is Klaus Eckhardt.*

*Green E Plants, Galston*

Green E Plants was established in 1982. It started as a general nursery producing all kinds of plants, ranging from natives to roses. Initially, Green E grew roses in the ground and dug them up in winter for bare-rooted sales. Leftovers were potted up and sold during the year.

As the business grew and production methods changed from growing roses in the ground to growing them in containers, Green E specialised in growing only roses. Roses could then be sold all year round. Green E Roses sell a wide range of roses, including Modern, David Austin, Delbard, Alister Clark, Old World, Thornless, Standard and Weeping Roses. They also sell informative books about roses either from the nursery or by mail order.

### Club Tours and Functions

Thursday 13 October	<b>Garden ramble</b> after General Meeting	
Thursday 1 December	<b>Christmas Party:</b> \$40 Buffet. Money will be collected from October Meeting. Please note: not our usual meeting Thursday.	12 noon

Annual subscriptions to the Wentworth Falls Garden Club now fall due in July each year. For current members the cost is \$20; for new members \$30. Please pay by the October meeting, after which our Constitution allows for transfer to a non-active member list. Methods of payment – cash, cheque or electronically. To remit electronically, BSB: 062 559; Account No: 2800 3852. **Please ensure your name is included with the remittance.**

### Next Meeting

13 October

#### Guest Speaker:

**Liz Benson, Education Officer and  
Outdoor Guide, NPWS and RBG:**

“Gardening with birds: How gardens can  
improve species numbers in an area”

#### Hall set-up and pull-down

Martin Vaughan and Les Handicott

#### Morning tea

Diana Jones and Barby Wylie

#### Bring a plate

Bernadette Heckford and Marilyn Shields

#### **Silent Auction**

*There will be some lovely books on  
auction next month. Bring gold coins.*

### 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.

Club Secretary: Gai Horrocks

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