

# **Leura Home Garden Club Incorporated**

## **Presidential Reports**

**From**

**2006**

**to**

**2015**

**Leura Home Garden Club  
Presidents Report  
Feb 2006 - Jan 2007**

**Membership**

92 members. Average attendance 54 per meeting.

**Social Events**

Small Coach tour to Collectors Plant Fair in Bilpin, W. F. TAFE luncheon, Backstage tour of Sydney Theatre Company, Fernbrook Garden & Botanical Art Gallery Kurrajong Heights & Sefton Cottage at Mt. Wilson. Bus tour to Bathurst for Garden Spectacular, Xmas Luncheon at Dohertys, Leura, Visit to Don Le Queesne's Garden arranged by Trish Fewer, Sausage Sizzle fundraiser in Sally Fent's garden, and we started up "Garden Rambles" - visiting members gardens after our morning meeting.

**Speakers**

February	Ingrid Nemetz on Helibors
March	Elizabeth Docking from Oasis Plants
April	Harvest Festival – auction
May	Brenda Lyon on daffodils & her recent overseas trip
June	Rusty Worsman on World Heritage in the Blue Mts.
July	Colin Slade on Earnie Constable, Botanical Collector
August	Glen Ratcliff on European Gardens
September	Craig Carroll on Day Lillies
October	Dr. Peter Weston on S.E. African Vegetation
November	Vivienne Brown on Poinsettias
January	Sue Bell on Landscape design

**Members**

Life Member Thelma Mawson died in October, and the Club sent flowers

**Yearly Prize Winners for Flower Competition**

Single Cut – Noel Roscoe  
Triple Cut - Ena Cooper  
Vegetables - Lorraine McMiles

**Special mentions**

President Frank Spolc resigned in September following the death of his wife Pat in May. Noel Roscoe continued his educational series on "This Month in your Garden". Leura Railway Garden was cared for by Liz Cunningham and helpers. Our Trading Table did exceptionally well thanks to Liz Cunningham once again. Members assisted in Leura Gardens Festival. We sold 70 Blue Mts. Zone Calendars

**Leura Home Garden Club  
Presidents Report  
Feb 2007 - Jan 2008**

**Membership**

94 members. Average attendance 50 each meeting.

**Social Activities**

Club visit to Lithgow Garden Club Christmas Party

**Speakers**

February	AGM & Questionnaire
March	Our members - Janice Devine, Gwen Howard & Emily Darley
April	Graeme Lees on Fuschias
May	Penny Bentham on Propagation
June	David Kennedy on Winter in your Garden
July	Tania & Stephen from Wildplant Rescue Resource in Katoomba re recycling plants
August	Guy McIlrath on Everglades
September	Mike Rimmer on Neutrog products
October	Dr. Ray & Mrs. Elma Kearny on Fungi, Bushfire & Findings
November	Julia & Bill McConnell on Snakes
January	David Stanton on Water Conservation

**Library**

We budget for \$300 per annum, and this year we have bought 9 new books and 3 have been donated.

**Yearly Prize Winners for Flower Competition - Certificates & Cheques**

Single Cut	Noel Roscoe
Triple Cut	Lorraine McMiles
Produce	Lorraine McMiles

**Our Community Involvement includes**

Leura Railway Garden was cared for by Liz Cunningham and helpers. Leura Gardens Festival in Spring, very successful, was assisted by some of our Members.

**On a more sober note**, we have lost two good people during the year. Joan Wearne's husband, George, died in September. He had previously been secretary of our club. Also, Marie Woods husband, Jeff, passed way just before Xmas. Both these people will be sorely missed by all who knew them.

**Special mention**

We would like to show our special appreciation to a tireless worker in our Club, who has been so helpful, so kind and considerate, and who is a delightful human being, whom we all love dearly. She is now retiring from the front ranks, and going into an assistants role. I would ask Joan Wearne to come forward please, as we have something for her.

Now, I would like to thank not only the elected Committee, but all the people who tirelessly and uncomplainingly do their bit towards making things work, and without whom we would not have this friendly, happy club. And I would like to thank -

*Caroline Stanton, Secretary*, as our extremely competent secretary  
*Joan Wearne OAM, Treasurer*, who keeps our financial affairs in order.  
*Peter Carroll, Vice President, & Speaker Introducer*, for his assistance in my absence, for

introducing our speakers, and for his knowledge with all technical matters.

*Anne Norman, Vice President, & Welfare officer*, who sends cards to our members when they are ill, greets guests at the door, and for her assistance in my absence.

*John Sowden, Outings Officer*, for the wonderful outings he arranges for us and for representing us at GCA.

*John Greenway, Editor*, for his excellent work on our Bulletin.

*Richard Clare, King of the Chairs*, for kindly setting up the hall for us.

*Betty Clare, Kitchen Organizer extraordinaire*, who is indispensable in the kitchen together with her band of helpers.

*Liz Cunningham, Plant Lady*, for her work on the Plant Stall and at Leura Railway Station garden, and all her helpers, and in her role as Assistant Treasurer

*Jan Cutler & Millie Rogers, Competition Coordinators*, who run our flower and produce competition.

*Rosemary Van der Laan, Librarian*, who thoughtfully finds new books for us.

*Noel Roscoe, Educator*, who kindly teaches us how to look after our gardens.

*Margaret Ohanian, the Raffles Lady*, who loves to give out raffle prizes each month

*Ena Cooper*, who provides the raffle prizes for us

*Ursula Juers, our Door Attendant*, who continues to do such a wonderful job of greeting our members and visitors and ensures we all sign in, at the front door.

*Marsha Durham*, our excellent Publicity Officer, who sends our news to the Gazette newspaper.

Also, to all those people who kindly opened their gardens for our Garden Rambles, for those people who gave the vote of thanks to our speakers, and everyone else involved in the smooth running of this great club, a very big thank you to you all.

It has been a good year, and we look forward to an even better one coming up.

Thank you one and all,  
Anthea Mitchell, President

**Leura Home Garden Club  
President's Report  
Feb 2008 – Jan 2009**

**Membership**

90 members. Average attendance of 44 each meeting

**Social Activities**

April Collectors Plant Fair in Bilpin  
May Mt. Tomah Botanic Gardens guided tour and lunch in the restaurant.  
July Mudgee Field Day  
July Christmas in July lunch at The Olive Tree Restaurant.  
September Mt. Annan Botanic gardens guided tour.  
December Christmas Lunch at Leura House

**Speakers**

February Gai Medbury on Violets  
March Melissa Ryan on Eco Organic Products  
April Colin Slade on Empress Josephine and Aust. native plants  
May Linda Thomas from BM City Council on Weeds in the Garden  
June Lyle Clinton on Bees  
July Ingrid Nemetz on Hellebores  
August Vanessa Steel on Organic Gardening  
September Kathy Fraser on Day Lillies.  
October Produce Market Day with money raised going to the Rural Fire  
Brigade \$300. Lorraine McMiles spoke on Shakespeare's  
flowers & medicinal herbs, and we had a Q & A session  
November Di Cox on Irises  
February Josephine Truman on Flower Painting in the 18th & 19th Centuries.

**Garden Rambles**

April Emily Darley  
May Leura Station Railway Garden  
Recess for the winter months.  
September Dorothy Yettie  
October Sylvia Mommaerts and Rosemary Van der Laan  
November Sonia Werner

**Garden 5 minuter**

January Margaret Brown on her trip to Western Australia  
March Liz Cunningham  
April N/A  
May Janice Devine on Tasmanian gardens  
June Emily Darley on Bilpin Plant Fair  
July Richard Clare on volunteering at Everglades  
Aug Chan Carroll on their trip to Spain, France & England  
September Ken Devine on the setting up of Mt. Annan Gardens  
October Gwen Howard on W. A. Wildflowers

January

Caroline Stanton on Leura Garden Festival Gardens

**Library**

Several new books were chosen by Rosemary for our Library

**Community Involvement**

Railway Gardens

Rotary Garden at the Hospital

Contributed annual sweets for Ritz Nursing home Xmas project.

Leura Garden Festival

**Special mentions**

GCA Zone meeting at Kedumba Gallery - our club co-ordinated the food and a special thanks to Elizabeth Sowden.

Lorraine McMiles for the fabulous job she did with the flowers in the church during the Leura Festival.

Lost a Life Member - Thelma Crawford

Members over 90 years of age automatically become Honorary Members.

I would like give my sincere thanks my Committee for all their help and support over the last few years. We have been a very happy lot and I am sure the next Committee will continue in the same vein. Also thank you to all the members who have willingly opened their gardens for the Club to visit, and to those people who have joined in the Garden 5 minuter talks. My thanks to you all.

**Yearly Prize Winners for Flower Competition - Certificates & Cheques**

Single Cut Ena Cooper

Triple Cut Lorraine McMiles

Produce Lorraine McMiles

Anthea Mitchell  
President

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2009**

### **Membership**

Our membership has steadily increased during the year, from about 72, back up to 88 at last count. We are still averaging about 40 members at each meeting.

### **Speakers – organised by Anthea & Caroline, then Janice Devine**

- Jo Truman on Flower Painting in the C18 & 19
- Gil Appleton on Native gardens
- Charlie Brown on Bushfire prevention
- Margaret Stevens on Roses
- Fred & Cathy Fraser on Zygocactus and Hoyas
- Michael Blythe on Cool Climate Perennials
- Jim Lykos on Antique Camellias
- Robyn Bible on Geraniums and Pelargoniums
- David M Banks on Native orchids and new Clivea breeds
- Janice Devine on Fuschias
- Linda Claydon on Making Baskets the English Way

### **Social and Touring**

- In June we had the first of our seasonal morning teas at my house.
- In September we had a bus tour to Rydal to see the daffodils, and have lunch at Bark Ridge.
- In October we had a very successful Produce Stall.
- In November we had our Spring Morning Tea at the Railway Garden.
- In December we had our Christmas Lunch at Leura Golf Club.

A number of other proposed trips were cancelled due to lack of interest and we have consequently decided to concentrate on local social events, such as our seasonal morning teas, with maybe one bus trip only each year.

### **Garden Rambles**

We visited the gardens of:

Roger Walker  
Ursula Juers  
Gil Appleton  
Janice Devine  
Noel Roscoe  
Judy McDougall

And Trish Fewer

### **Garden Travel Talks**

We had talks from:

Peter Carroll on Vietnam  
Liz Cunningham on New Zealand  
Lorraine McMiles on the Death of the Cottage Garden  
Gwen Howard, also on New Zealand  
John Sowden on Uganda  
Helen Robertson on her Children's Garden

### **Library**

Although we cut down on new book purchases this year, Brian White has kindly converted a few of our videos to DVD format and these are now available for borrowing.

### **Community Involvement**

- Leura Station Railway Garden
- Rotary Garden at Katoomba Hospital
- Leura Garden Festival
- Donation to Rural Fire Service

Many thanks to all the volunteers, contributors and members. A special thanks to our new volunteers – Roger Walker as Secretary, Merle Hansard on Competition Watch and Helen Benezon for taking over the kitchen.

### **Horticultural Competition**

The overall winners for the year were:

Single Cut	Lorraine McMiles
Triple Cut	Lorraine McMiles
Produce	Lorraine McMiles

CAROLINE STANTON  
President



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## 2010

The Leura Home Garden Club had a successful 2010. Highlights included our application for a government grant, which we received and which has allowed us to purchase a data projector and a laptop computer. Less of a highlight were the renovations to our hall, which meant that we have had to relocate our storage cupboard and replace our library cupboard. This allowed us to sort the library collection, and we made more room by storing the archival material under the cushions in the long bench.

### Membership

Thanks to 16 new members, our membership numbers are now back up to 92. We are still averaging about 40 members at each meeting and recent social events have been very well attended.

### Speakers – organised by Janice Devine

- Robert Griffin on self-seeding perennials
- Gordon Chivers on begonias
- Robert Slarke on dahlias
- Frank Spolc with photos of WA wildflowers
- Jacqui Lafonte on herbs
- Sue Girard on permaculture tips
- Klaus Eckhardt on heritage and other roses
- Leanne Parker on salvias
- Bill Grattan on alpines
- Lorraine McMiles on flower arranging for tables
- Robert Slarke on Japanese gardens

### Social and Touring

- In March we had our summer seasonal morning tea at Judy McDougall's house.
- In April we had our produce stall at the meeting
- In July we had a mid-winter lunch at Secret Creek, in Lithgow, which was very well attended.
- At our October meeting we combined a special morning tea with Lorraine's wonderfully decorated tables.
- In November we had a bus trip to Cooramilla Nursery, near Blayney – again a very well attended event, which required two private vehicles as well as the bus.
- In December we had our Christmas Lunch at Leura House.

### Garden Rambles

We visited the gardens of:

Merle Hansard  
Elizabeth Sowden  
Shirley Hitches  
Our own Railway Garden

And Janice Evans

### Library

The library budget has been restored now that our financial woes are over, and Rosemary has been buying some interesting new books.

### Community Involvement

- Leura Station Railway Garden
- Rotary Garden at Katoomba Hospital

- Leura Garden Festival
- Donation to Rural Fire Service

Many thanks to:

- Our hard-working committee – Ann Norman, Peter Carroll, Liz Cunningham, Roger Walker, Elizabeth Sowden, Janice Devine and Rosemary Vanderlaan – with stand in help from Ann Fisher and Judy McDougall.
- The many volunteers –
  - Helen and her many willing helpers in the kitchen,
  - Liz, Margaret, Jean & Shirley on the trading table & in the railway garden,
  - Joan, who steps in wherever necessary
  - Ena, who has done a wonderful job not only selling us raffle tickets, but also finding raffle prizes
  - Ursula, the first friendly face we meet on the door
  - Rosemary, who runs our excellent library
  - Merle, Anthea & Di, who keep the competition table running
  - Peter, who makes sure we can hear proceedings
  - Noel, who shares his wealth of gardening knowledge every month
  - John Greenway, our indefatigable newsletter editor
  - John & Elizabeth Sowden, who step in wherever necessary, whether it's organising catering or driving a bus
  - and Lorraine, who is ever ready at a moment's notice to step in to fill Noel's shoes
  - And to everybody else for taking part in club activities, for buying raffle tickets and plants and morning tea, for helping out when something needs doing, and for turning up at meetings and socialising with each other. After all, that's the core business of this club!

### **Horticultural Competition**

The first and second prize winners for the year were:

Single Cut	Lorraine McMiles, Helen Benezon
Triple Cut	Lorraine McMiles, Ena Cooper
Produce	Lorraine McMiles, Ena Cooper

This year we are replacing the competition with a display of flowers and produce. This means that gardeners can now tell us about their plants.

CAROLINE STANTON  
President

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011

2011 was quite a busy year for the Leura Home Garden Club. We've had a couple of outings, a couple of lunches, some visitors from Lithgow, some fascinating speakers, some interesting garden rambles and, of course, a lot of involvement in the GCA Convention held here in October.

### Membership

Our membership is currently about 83, with 5 new members during the year. We are still averaging about 40 members at each meeting and all social events have been very well attended.

### Speakers

This year the Committee took on the daunting task of organising the Guest Speakers, and we had quite a variety. Five of our own members – Margaret Brown, Marsha Durham, John Sowden, Peter Carroll and Frank Spolc stepped up to the plate, taking us with them on their travels to places as far-flung as South Australia, Eden Park in Cornwall, a river cruise down the Rhine, the gardens of South East Asia and the wildflowers of Western Australia. Scott Pollack told us all about the management of *Everglades*, Barry Jarratt explained how to get autumn colour in the garden, Leon Willis gave us a hands-on demonstration as he pruned Noel Roscoe's fruit trees, and Liz Benson told us more than we ever knew about the humble wattle.

Our data projector has proved very popular with speakers and members alike, and we all enjoyed the meeting at which there was no speaker and we watched a DVD of beautiful English National Trust gardens instead.

### Social and Touring

- In April we had a self-drive trip to the Bilpin Plant Collectors' Fair, and slogged around in the heavy rain.
- Also in April we had our produce stall at the meeting combined with a special morning tea provided by your Committee.
- In May we finally returned the kind hospitality of the Lithgow Garden Club, entertaining about 24 of them to morning tea in our hall, followed by a garden tour of Noel Roscoe's *Shenstone*, the spectacular garden at *The Braes*, member Trish Fewer's cottage garden, the Katoomba Community Garden and, finally, our own Railway Garden, before adjourning to the Hotel Alexandra for lunch.
- In July we had our mid-winter lunch at Hartley Valley Tea Rooms, followed by a visit to Bill Grattan's Hartley Valley Nursery next door.
- Our planned lunch at *Everglades* after our September meeting had to be postponed because raging bushfires along the escarpment not only terrified members living along its path, but caused the RFS to close *Everglades*. We finally managed to have the lunch in November.
- October was a very busy month. Many of our members were involved in volunteering for the Leura Garden Festival, and it was also the GCA Convention. Many of the same members also volunteered to assist with various events and trips, not to mention our club providing morning tea for 226 people in Noel Roscoe's garden as part of the tour of Leura gardens. Trish Fewer not only volunteered her cottage garden again, but organised two of her neighbours to do the same. Speaking on behalf of the GCA Convention Committee, Leura did us proud – sumptuous morning tea, stunning gardens, and volunteers so warm and friendly that the Convention has been judged a huge success by all who attended.
- In December we had our Christmas Lunch at Leura House. Although we like the venue, we think we can do better this year in the food and service areas.

### **Garden Rambles**

We didn't have as many garden rambles as usual, partly because of our continuing inclement weather and partly because members seem a little shy about volunteering their gardens for our inspection. We did visit my garden, Peter Carroll's and Joan Brown's, and then in August, Jane McKanna and Silva Horn gave us a delicious feast as well as two beautiful gardens to inspect.

### **Library**

The library now has a new home, and has been culled. Rosemary is now only buying books if she thinks there is a gap in our collection, so if there is a subject you are particularly interested in that *isn't* covered, let her know.

### **Community Involvement**

- Leura Station Railway Garden
- Rotary Garden at Katoomba Hospital
- Leura Garden Festival
- Donation to Rural Fire Service

Many thanks to:

- Our hard-working committee – Ann Norman, Peter Carroll, Liz Cunningham, Roger Walker, Elizabeth Sowden, Joan Brown and Rosemary Vanderlaan. A very special thanks to Liz Cunningham, who is not standing for re-election as Treasurer because of family commitments – but who has agreed to stay on as Assistant Treasurer. Liz's position is well-named – she is, indeed, a Treasure!
- Our many wonderful volunteers –
  - Joan Brown and Helen and their many willing helpers in the kitchen
  - Liz, Margaret, Jean & Shirley on the trading table & in the railway garden
  - Joan Wearne, who steps in wherever necessary. Joan is no longer standing for office this year and I'm sure we'd all like to thank her for her hard work and gentle humour over the years
  - Elizabeth Sowden for finding us raffle prizes – and negotiating a discount!
  - Ursula, the first friendly face we meet on the door. Ursula is stepping down after eight years in the job, and I'd like to give her my personal thanks for the dedication she has shown to the club, for being so efficient and so charming with it
  - Rosemary, who runs our excellent library
  - Ann Norman for keeping an eye on our welfare
  - Peter Carroll, who makes sure we can hear proceedings. Peter is another one not standing for re-election this year and our special thanks go to him for his Vice Presidential duties over the years. We hope he'll continue to master the mysteries of the sound system for us for many years to come!
  - Noel Roscoe, who shares his wealth of gardening knowledge every month
  - John Greenway, our indefatigable newsletter editor
  - John & Elizabeth Sowden, who step in wherever necessary, whether it's organising catering or driving a bus
  - and Lorraine McMiles, who is ever ready at a moment's notice to step in to fill Noel's shoes
  - And to everybody else for taking part in club activities, for buying raffle tickets and plants and morning tea, for helping out when something needs doing, and for turning up at meetings and socialising with each other. After all, that's the core business of this club and I'm particularly chuffed when people tell me how much they enjoy coming to meetings because it's such a happy club!

CAROLINE STANTON  
President

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2012

2012 has been a more relaxed year for the Leura Home Garden Club. We've had a couple of pleasant lunches and a garden party, and many interesting speakers. Meetings have been well-attended and we continue to attract new members. At last count, our membership was 80, but as annual subscriptions are now due, this may change.

### Speakers

This year our Guest Speakers included both visitors and knowledgeable members. We heard from Kerry Mitchell on Salvias, Anne Elliot on the Slow Food movement, Rebecca Morris from Oasis on the latest in seedlings, Bill Grattan on Perennials and Borders, Margaret Jackson from Maples Springs nursery, Clinton Nesci on growing Bonsai, Barry Jarrott on Leura Landscapes and the work of the Leura Garden Force, and Liz Benson on her job at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Our own Kath Baylis gave us a wonderful demonstration of flower arranging, and Di Cox shared some of her vast knowledge about Iris.

### Social and Touring

We tried to organise a bus trip to Mayfield Gardens, outside Oberon, but didn't get enough takers. However we did have a very successful Autumn Produce Stall in April, allowing us to donate \$250 to the Rural Fire Service, and a very pleasant mid-winter lunch at the Megalong Tea Rooms in July. In September we had our own little garden party at *Cherrydell*, courtesy of the owner, Don de Quesne, and in December we had a most successful Christmas lunch at the Alexandra Hotel in Leura, which was followed by the planting of the commemorative rose for the late Janice Devine.

### Garden Rambles

We didn't have as many garden rambles as usual, partly because of our continuing inclement weather and partly because members seem a little shy about volunteering their gardens for our inspection. We did visit Beryl Riley's garden and Sonia Werner's.

### Library

Many thanks to Rosemary Vanderlaan for managing our library so efficiently for the last eight years, and we welcome Trish Fewer in the job.

### Community Involvement

- Leura Station Railway Garden
- Rotary Garden at Katoomba Hospital
- Leura Garden Festival
- Donation to Rural Fire Service

Many thanks to:

- Our truly wonderful Secretary, Roger Walker.
- Our hard-working committee – Ann Norman, Elizabeth Sowden, Terry Goulden, John Greenway, Liz Cunningham, Rosemary Vanderlaan, Joan Brown and Lorraine McMiles. These people are the backbone of our club and enable us to keep going.
- Our many wonderful volunteers –
  - Joan Brown and Helen and their many willing helpers in the kitchen
  - Liz, Margaret, Jean & Shirley on the trading table & in the railway garden
  - Elizabeth Sowden for finding us raffle prizes – and negotiating a discount!
  - Di Jones, our new friendly face at the front desk. And to Ursula, who despite stepping down, still helps out when necessary.
  - Rosemary, who ran our excellent library
  - Ann Norman for keeping an eye on our welfare

- Peter Carroll, who makes sure we can hear proceedings.
- Noel Roscoe, who shares his wealth of gardening knowledge every month
- John Greenway, our indefatigable newsletter editor
- John & Elizabeth Sowden, who step in wherever necessary, whether it's organising catering or driving a bus
- and Lorraine McMiles, who is ever ready at a moment's notice to step in to fill Noel's shoes
- And to everybody else for taking part in club activities, for buying raffle tickets and plants and morning tea, for helping out when something needs doing, and for turning up at meetings and socialising with each other. Let's continue to earn our reputation as a happy, friendly club.

CAROLINE STANTON  
President

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## 2013

It was business as usual for the Leura Home Garden Club in 2013. We had some successful social events and tours, which were all well-attended, and a program of interesting guest speakers. Our committee is now at its full strength of ten, which means we can divide up the workload and get a lot more done. The club now has its own website at [www.leuragardenclub.info](http://www.leuragardenclub.info), thanks to Terry Goulden.

### Speakers

In spite of a few hiccups early in the year, we had an interesting selection of guest speakers. In January, Christine Cuneo, owner of Leura's newest nursery, Birches, talked to us about mid-summer gardening. In February Warren Boorman updated us about the bi-centenary of the crossing of the mountains. In March we were to have heard from Sarah Childs on peonies, but she forgot. We made do with a DVD. In April Susan Lewis demonstrated how to press flowers, and in May we had another 'no show' when Ken Bradley was rushed to hospital a few days before our meeting. This time we had more notice, and watched another DVD with much better sound. In June our own Margaret Brown took us to the Simpson Desert with her wonderful photographs, and in July Sue Perkins from the Herb Group told some of the many things that can be done with herbs. In August Peta Trehar took us on a horticultural tour of Tuscany, Provence and the UK and in September local author, Jenifer Tippins expounded on her book about growing natives alongside exotics. In October our own Richard Landon explained the work of the 19<sup>th</sup> century plant hunters and in November Judy McLean told us about the work of our local Plant Rescue Organisation. Also in November we had a last minute speaker in Charlie Brown, from the RFS, who was invited because of October's devastating bushfires in the mountains to give us some practical advice.

### Social and Touring

In April we held our annual Produce Stall, donating most of the proceeds to the RFS. In May we took up the invitation of the Kurrajong Garden Club, joining them for a visit to a couple of gardens and an orchard in the Bilpin area. In June we had our mid-winter lunch at the café at Weber's Nursery at Mt Boyce. In September we again had our little garden party after the meeting at *Cherrydell*, this time including a Best Decorated Hat competition, won by Lorraine McMiles. Also in September, we made another bus trip, this time to the inaugural Plant Lovers' Fair on the Central Coast. In November, Sarah Childs, in apology for forgetting our meeting, invited us to visit her peony farm at Bowenfels and have a free morning tea, which we all enjoyed very much. On the way home, we stopped for lunch at the new café next to Bill Grattan's Baytree Nursery at Mt Victoria. In December we had a most successful Christmas lunch at the newly refurbished Leura Golf Club.

### Garden Rambles

Again because of inclement weather our garden rambling was spasmodic. In April we went to Ursula Juers' garden and admired her plectranthus in the rain. In May new member Christina Wilcox showed us her relatively new garden and gave us a delicious lunch in her new architect-designed house. After our winter recess, we went to *Cherrydell* in September, and Beryl Riley's garden in October. Our planned ramble in November was washed out.

### Library

Trish Fewer is doing a wonderful job as our new librarian, re-organising the display so that borrowing numbers have increased.

### Community Involvement

- Donation of spring bulbs to *Greystanes Disability Services*
- Leura Station Railway Garden
- Rotary Garden at Katoomba Hospital

## President's report 2014

I am pleased to say that the Leura Home Garden Club has continued on its busy and happy way through 2014, with new members joining throughout the year. We have participated in a variety of social events and tours, which were all well-attended, and enjoyed some very interesting and informative talks from our guest speakers.

### Speakers

Our guest speakers were : January - Ken Bradley on the Memorial Drive; February - Robyn Bible on Geraniums and Pelargoniums; March - the late Bundaluk on Aboriginal Food Plants; April - our own Roger Walker on his trip to the 'Gardens by the Bay' in Singapore; May -Margie Fallon explaining a Conservation Management Plan for Kingsford Smith Park; June - Sue Cunningham on Bush Regeneration; July - Ingrid Nemetz on Hellebores; August - Kerry Brown on Garden History and Blue Mountains Gardens; September - Trish Oktober on development and rare and unusual plants in her own garden; October - Robert Ross on the Men's Shed and his recycled timber garden items, and in November - Michelle Turner and Erja Immonen from Oasis on new releases of both flowers and vegetables.

### Social and Touring

We started our tours in March with a visit to Swanee Nursery and Geranium Cottage in Dural, where we enjoyed lunch. April was to the Southern Highlands visiting many open gardens; May was to Orchids Out West at Hawkesbury, calling on the way back to Mt Tomah for a walk and lunch. June was to Mt Annan's Seed Bank, which was very interesting and informative; July saw us enjoying lunch at Zest in Leura. In August we had our Harvest Festival and special morning tea; September was a visit to the Japanese Garden at Cowra, a wonderful place. October was to see the Bathurst Spring Spectacular Gardens and November visiting gardens at Yetholme and Black Springs, finishing up with lunch at the Pub at Tarana, and in December saw us enjoying a delicious Christmas lunch at the Leura Golf Club.

### Garden Rambles

We did get to visit and enjoy some gardens despite the weather: in January we had a BBQ lunch and walk around Caroline Stanton's garden; February was a Cottage garden and a Japanese garden in Easter Street, Leura. March at Gwen Howard's, April at Ken Devine's at Bullaburra; May was to Kingsford Smith Memorial Park after the talk by

Margie Fallon. We had a 'winter recess' during June, July and August; September was Trish Oktober's, October was too wet and November a delightful stroll around Noel Roscoe's place.

### Library

Trish Fewer continues to do a sterling job caring for our Library and keeping it fully stocked with new books.

### Community Involvement

- Leura Station Railway Garden
- Rotary Gardens at Katoomba Hospital
- Leura Garden Festival
- Donation of \$150 to the Rural Fire Service.
- Involvement with the Leura Garden Taskforce with Barry Jarrett, currently in abeyance due to BMCC trying to organise insurance for volunteers.

Grateful and many thanks to:

- Our hard-working Secretary and Committee: Roger Walker, Lorraine McMiles, Caroline Stanton, Terry Goulden, Liz Cunningham, John Greenway, Joan Brown, Richard Landon and Nick DeBrett. Without these people we would not be able to keep functioning.
- Our many wonderful volunteers:
  - ◇ Joan Brown and Helen and their many willing helpers in the kitchen
  - ◇ Liz, Margaret, Jean, Shirley & Merle on the trading table plus others in the railway garden
  - ◇ Caroline Stanton for seeking out our raffle prizes
  - ◇ Di Jones, our friendly face at the front desk, and to Ursula, who still offers to help out, if necessary
  - ◇ Trish Fewer, who runs our excellent library
  - ◇ Noel Roscoe, who shares his wealth of gardening knowledge every month
  - ◇ John Greenway, our newsletter editor and raffle ticket salesman
  - ◇ Terry Goulden, who looks after our finances and our web site
  - ◇ John Sowden, who still distributes the Our Gardens magazine, and
  - ◇ Lorraine McMiles, who rescues us when Noel is unavailable

And of course to all the members for taking part in club activities, which include buying raffle tickets, plants, morning tea, and helping out when assistance is required, and most of all for turning up at meetings and socialising with each other. Let's continue to enjoy this happy and friendly club.

**Ann Norman**

President



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015**

Again I am pleased to say that our Club continues to prosper with new members joining regularly. We have been able to participate in a variety of events, which were all well attended and enjoyed some great speakers.

### **Speakers**

Starting off the year was our own Lorraine McMiles with flower arranging, followed by Liz Benson on Gum Trees, Dick Turner from the Australian Plant Society, Bill Grattan on his nursery's new plants. Linda Thomas on weeds, Helen Caughey about Bugs, Slugs and Thugs, our own Caroline Stanton on vegetables, Terry Goulden on the Club's 60 year history, Luke from Cut Above Tools, Karen Silver on Lilacs and Murray Clark on Carnivorous Plants.

### **Social and Touring**

Again we have been very lucky with some wonderful trips beginning with a visit to Nutcote, then Orange, the Collectors Plant fair, Wildwood Garden, Megalong Tearooms, EG Waterhouse Camellia Gardens, a Mystery Tour, gardens in Mittagong, the Bathurst Spring Spectacular, open gardens in Mount Wilson, finishing the year with our delightful and delicious Christmas lunch at Everglades.

### **Garden Rambles**

We did manage to visit and enjoy some gardens despite the weather, which included Chris Wilcox's, Caroline Stanton's, Lorraine McMiles, Cherydell, Easter Street, Di Cox's and Murray Bailey's.

### **Library**

Trish Fewer continues to care for our Library keeping it up to date with new books and DVDs.

### **Community Involvement**

- Leura Station
- Rotary Garden at Katoomba Hospital
- Leura Garden Festival
- Donation to the Rural Fire Service

Once again grateful and many thanks to:

- Our hard working Secretary and Committee, Nick de Brett, Terry Goulden, Lorraine McMiles, Caroline Stanton, Joan Brown, Richard Landon, Liz Cunningham and John Greenway. We could not function without them.
- And our many wonderful volunteers-
  - Jon Brown and Helen Benezon and their many willing helpers in the kitchen
  - Margaret, Jean and Merle on the Trading Table plus others in the Railway Garden
  - Di Jones, our greeter at the front desk
  - Trish Fewer, for our excellent Library
  - Noel Roscoe, for his wealth of gardening knowledge every month
  - John Greenway, our Newsletter editor and raffle ticket salesman

- Terry Goulden, who looks after our finances and our website
- Lorraine McMiles, who rescues us when Noel is unavailable
- Rob Stanton, our driver
- Marilyn Hawkett, who does a great deal helping Richard with our tours.
- Maureen Bailey for stepping in when required to look after the Library
- 

And of course all members for turning up at meetings and participating in so many activities. You all keep our Club operating in what I hope will remain a happy and friendly way.

Thank you  
Ann Norman  
President

- Leura Garden Festival
- Donation to Rural Fire Service

Many thanks to:

- Our truly wonderful Secretary, Roger Walker.
- Our hard-working committee – Ann Norman, Elizabeth Sowden, Terry Goulden, John Greenway, Liz Cunningham, Lorraine McMiles, Joan Brown and Richard Landon. These people are the backbone of our club and enable us to keep going.
- Our many wonderful volunteers –
  - Joan Brown and Helen and their many willing helpers in the kitchen
  - Liz, Margaret, Jean & Shirley on the trading table & in the railway garden
  - Elizabeth Sowden for finding us raffle prizes – and negotiating a discount!
  - Di Jones, our friendly face at the front desk. And to Ursula, who despite stepping down, still helps out when necessary.
  - Trish Fewer, who runs our excellent library
  - Ann Norman for keeping an eye on our welfare
  - Peter Carroll, who makes sure we can hear proceedings.
  - Noel Roscoe, who shares his wealth of gardening knowledge every month
  - John Greenway, our indefatigable newsletter editor and raffle ticket salesman
  - Terry Goulden, who not only looks after our finances, but also runs our new website
  - Frank Spolc, who is our new representative at the BM Zone
  - John Sowden, who distributes the *Our Gardens* magazine, provides GCA merchandise, and steps in to run the sound system when necessary.
  - and Lorraine McMiles, who is ever ready at a moment's notice to step in to fill Noel's shoes
  - And to everybody else for taking part in club activities, for buying raffle tickets and plants and morning tea, for helping out when something needs doing, and for turning up at meetings and socialising with each other. Let's continue to earn our reputation as a happy, friendly club.

CAROLINE STANTON  
President