

# Garden Club to celebrate its silver anniversary

JANUARY 1980

Leura Home Garden Club will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a luncheon at the Leura Gardens Motor Inn on January 22.

Among the guests will be Mrs. A. Williams Clarke, president of the Home Garden Clubs of Australia who will also be guest speaker.

The inaugural meeting of the club was promoted by Mr. W. Gillham, curator of Admiralty House, Kirribilli and was held in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Leura.

There are no foundation members still on the membership list but Mrs. Thelma Mawson, the serving president, has been with the club for 24 years.

The original name of the club was The Blue Mountains Home Garden Education Club. However, as other clubs were being formed on the Mountains the name was changed several times till The Leura Home Garden Club was adopted in 1973.

The club was affiliated with the National Trust, Royal Horticultural Society, Pioneer Way and Garden Clubs of Australia.

Past presidents have been the original president, Mr. Ralph Bennett, Mr. Hartcher, Mr. George Harley and the present president Mrs. Thelma Mawson who has served the club faithfully and well for eight years.

The club originally held its meetings in the evenings and had an average membership of 25.

However, it was felt that morning meetings would be more popular and since then the club has grown, with a healthy membership of 150 plus.

The club has supported many things, with donations to charity and other community efforts. Naturally most support has been given to things horticultural such as

the Rhododendron Society at Blackheath and the Garden Festival in October.

Over the years the Spring Festival of Flower, held annually by the club on the Saturday of Labour Day Weekend, has gone from strength to strength. Last year's entries filled the hall to overflowing.

During the coming year the club is inaugurating an autumn festival to be held in the Katoomba Community Centre April 11 and 12. Hopefully, with the support of the community, this will become an annual event.

## CLUB CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Many members and friends of the Leura Home Garden Club gathered at the Leura Gardens Motor Inn on Tuesday, January 22, to celebrate the club's 25th anniversary.

Tables looked bright and gay with flowers arranged by some of the members in the club colours of gold and green.

A happy half hour was spent with pre-lunch drinks and reminiscing about other times.

After grace was said by Mrs. J. Jarrett, one of the original members, Mr. George Wearne proposed the toast to the Queen and members enjoyed the very enticing smorgasbord.

During lunch one of the guests of honour, Mr. R. Gillard, M.H.R., congratulated the club on its record of achievement and of its happy, friendly atmosphere and inferred that maybe another place may be better for this spirit of co-operation.

Mrs. Ann Williams Clark, another of the guests of honour and president of the Garden Clubs of Australia, also congratulated the club.

She spoke of the many areas sharing friendship through gardens and of the affiliations with the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the U.S.A.

Other speakers were Mr. Gordon Crawford, vice-president, and Mr. Geoff Sowden, honorary treasurer.

Mr. George Wearne made a presentation to the president, Mrs. Thelma Mawson for her loyal and friendly service.

Patron and life member Dr. North cut the cake.

1980.

OVER 90 members and friends attended the February meeting of the Leura Home Garden Club.

After discussion of next month's mini show, when requests for at least one item for show and one for sale (more if possible) were made, the meeting was turned over to Mr Ron Rowan for a most informative talk on vegetable growing.

He said most vegetables need lime and rich soil full of compost. One of the musts when planting out seedlings is to water them in even if it's raining.

Mr Rowan went on to give some valuable advice on growing vegetables.

Members enjoyed their trip to Swane's Nursery and Koala Park

Next outing will be on Thursday, March 27 to El Cabalo Blanco and Gledwood Cellars. Contact Mrs V. Holliday for more information.



Over 80 members and friends of the Leura Home Gardens Club attended the club's July meeting when Mr. J. Macpherson, from the Blue Mountains Camellia Society was guest speaker.

Mr. Macpherson gave an informative talk on the history and cultivation of camellias.

Mr. Macpherson said growers should not feed newly planted camellias the first year. They should be planted where the early morning sun does not shine on frosty buds. They need plenty of water but must be well drained. Mulch to keep roots cool.

The club has arranged a visit to Prof. E. G. Waterhouse Camellia Gardens for August 14. Those wishing to attend should contact Mrs. Peebles, 82-1661.

Mr. Rowan will be guest speaker next month.

1979

MEMBERS of the Leura Home Garden Club recently enjoyed a trip to the E. G. Waterhouse Camellia Gardens at Cronulla and are planning a trip to the Illawarra Spring Festival on September 22.

Preparations for their own Spring Festival to be held on September 29 are well in hand.

Pruning of fuschias was demonstrated by Mr. Ron Rowan.

He said gardeners should not be afraid of cutting back hard as fuchsias only flower on new wood.

Camellia propagation was also discussed. He said cuttings of these are best taken around Christmas when they are half ripe. Mr. Rowan showed some beautiful blooms from his own seedlings.

In memory of one of their valued life members, Miss Greening, who died recently, members stood for one minute's silence. Miss Greening will be sadly missed.

1979

## MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT ROSES

1979

Mr. Connelly, from the Royal Horticultural Society, gave an excellent talk on rose culture at the last meeting of the Leura Home Gardens Club.

He demonstrated how to prune roses and told members not to pick their spring roses with long stems but to save that joy for their autumn crop.

He said that roses should be fed in early spring with fowl manure or cow manure and should be mulched well to stop the soil caking.

Mr. Connelly went on to say that earthworms were the hardest workers in the garden, taking the compost down into the soil and working 24 hours a day. One wit was heard to say "and they don't go on strike either!"

The monthly competition was judged by Mr. Ron Rowan.

Best single bloom was won by Mrs. Boscene. Best group of three blooms was won by Mr. Scott.

Mr. Rowan gave his monthly advice. Plant or divide lilliums but do not let bulbs dry out before planting. Plant deciduous trees and shrubs.

Mrs. Dillon has been entertaining some of the new members to getting-to-know-you-coffee mornings.

A tentative itinerary is out for a trip to Melbourne in November.

Plans for the club's 25th anniversary celebrations will be discussed at the July 17 meeting, starting 9.45 am, in St. Alban's Hall.

MEMBERS and friends of the Leura Home Gardens Club recently enjoyed a talk by Mr. Ron Rowan on root systems of various trees and plants.

The role of leaves in keeping roots cool in summer, and in the case of falling leaves of deciduous trees, warm in winter was discussed.

After his talk Mr. Rowan was kept busy as questions flowed thick and fast.

Next month Mr. Connelly, of the Royal Horticultural Society, will give a talk on growing and pruning roses.

The monthly point score competition was well supported and Mrs. Liddle scooped the pool with some fine fuschias.

A trip to Mt. Wilson on a misty damp day was enjoyed by members. Some felt the mist improved the scenery.

Mrs. Moyle guided members of the Dapto Garden Club on a tour of the autumn leafed streets of the Mountains which was much appreciated.

The trip to Swanes Nursery and Japanese Gardens has been postponed till a later date.

1979



OVER 100 members and friends attended the Christmas party of the Leura Home Garden Club. Among the official guests were Dr. North, Rev. and Mrs. Feldman and Mrs. Campbell of the Rhododendron Society and Mr. and Mrs. Matthews.

During the festivities Mrs. Orchard who has been of great service to the club for many years, was presented with her life membership badge.

St. Alban's Hall, ably decorated by Mrs. Betty Moyle, had a happy Christmas atmosphere and the luncheon table, set up by Mrs. Laurie Boscence and her willing band of helpers, looked most attractive.

A choir of members led community carol singing and Mrs. Eleanor Black entertained with two solos. Mr. Tremayne entertained with background music.

At the November meeting the point score winners were Mr. Scott for a lovely red epiphyllum and Mrs. Thelma Mawson for three heads of rhododendrons.

Plans were made for a luncheon on January 22 at Leura Gardens Motor Inn to celebrate the 25th Anniversary. Contact Mr. G. Sowden for booking. 1979

Plans were also made to hold an Autumn Festival at the Katoomba Community Centre in April. XMAS 1979

EIGHTY members attended the recent monthly meeting of the Leura Home Gardens Club. The point score of the day was won by Mr Charlesworth for one beautiful rose and by Mrs Calcutt for three outstanding chrysanthemums.

The club is to host next year's biennial convention of the Garden Clubs of Australia.

Mr Ron Rowan, who had some successes in the Royal Show, revealed a few secrets about growing dahlias at the monthly meeting.

Congratulations have been extended to secretary and assistant secretary Mr and Mrs George Wearne on their 25th wedding anniversary.

Members enjoyed a coach tour to Bathurst and Orange to view the glorious autumn colours.

Next trip is to the Japanese Garden at Auburn on May 14. More information may be obtained by phoning Mrs Holliday, 82-1710. (APRIL 1980)

JAN 1980

## MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

There was a good attendance at the annual general meeting of the Leura Home Garden Club. The president Mrs Thelma Mawson reported a happy year with a growing membership even though fees had been increased to \$3.

Over the year there have been numerous guest speakers, a mini show for members in March and the annual Spring Festival and various enjoyable outings.

The Autumn Festival planned for April has regrettably been abandoned due to a clash of dates with the Royal Blind Society.

During the year a new constitution was drawn up as it was felt that a new one would enable a management committee to handle the business side of the club, leaving more time for garden subjects.

Under this constitution the following management committee was elected: President, Mrs Thelma Mawson; vice-presidents, Messrs Liddell and Crawford; secretary, Mr G. Wearne; assistant secretary, Mrs G. Wearne; treasurer, Mr G. Sowden; assistant treasurer, Miss M. Holmes; social secretary, Mrs V. Holliday; chief steward, position unfilled; committee, Miss J. Ward, Mr A. Cumin, Mr R. Scott, Mr Wood.

A trip to Swane's Nursery and Koala Park is planned for February 12. Contact Mrs Holliday for bookings.

Annual point score competition: 1 bloom, 1st, Mrs Butcher; 2nd, Mr Scott; 3rd, Mrs Peebles. 3 blooms, 1st, Miss Ward; 2nd, Mrs Butcher; 3rd, Mrs Mawson.

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## FLOWER SHOW SUCCESS

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1979

St. Alban's Hall, Leura, was ablaze with colour for the Leura Home Gardens Festival of Spring Flowers.

Spring blossom, flowering shrubs, bulbs and floral art filled the hall.

Entries were past expectation and the show was voted most successful.

It was capably organised by show director Mr. Ron Rowan and his band of willing helpers.

The children's corner was well supported.

The main prize winners were:

Show champion, Mr R. Rowan.  
Daffodil: 1st, Mr F. Leonard.

Bulbs and Corms: Champion and 1st, Mrs. J. Sowden.

Flowering shrub: Champion and 1st, Mr. R. Scott.

Camellia: 1st, Mr. R. Rowan.

Annuals and Perennials: Champion, Miss F. Baker; 1st, Mr. R. Rowan.

Pot plants: Champion and 1st Mrs. J. Sowden.

Decorative art (open): Champion, Miss I. Ward; 1st, Mr. R. Scott.

Decorative art (Novice): Equal 1st, Mrs. D. Denyer, Miss Feldman.

Children's classes:

Floral saucer: Junior, 1st, G. Sowden; 2nd, G. Sowden Senior, 1st, E. McGann; 2nd, R. Sowden.

Novelty Junior, 1st, C. Doherty; 2nd, R. Parrington. Senior, 1st, P. Geddes; 2nd, R. Sowden.

Miniature vase: Junior, 1st, G. Sowden; Senior, 1st, R. Sowden; 2nd, K. Merckx.