



LEURA GARDEN CLUB INC
 friendship through gardens since 1955
MARCH 2023
leuragardenclub.org.au

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Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at St Alban's Hall, Megalong St, Leura from 9.45am

PRESIDENT'S REPORT I love this time of the year with the subtle change of colour and Autumn leaf fall. At the February meeting **Robin Johnson** demonstrated techniques for budding and taking cuttings.

After the meeting, club members visited the Leura Railway Garden to inspect the new watering system thanks to a **Blue Mountains City Council Community Assistance Program Grant** and installation by **Neil Sing** and **Duncan Leys**. We do appreciate the efforts of the few of our members who look after this beautiful garden. Volunteers are always welcome to contribute a morning a month to the upkeep of this garden space.

Congratulations to our 2023 committee, elected at the February AGM. **Murray Bailey** Vice President, **Neil Sing** Secretary and Public Officer, **Marian Haire** remains as Treasurer, **Kerrie Lee** and **Elizabeth Ginsberg** are

committee members and **Lorraine McMiles** has a second year as President. I would like to extend my best wishes and thank you to **Caroline Stanton** (joined 2006) Past President, committee member, newsletter editor, garden talks presenter and **Trish Fewer** (joined 2000) past librarian and committee member. We have enjoyed garden rambles at both homes over the years. We will miss them and wish them well as they explore new interests. I am delighted to welcome new members into the club: **Marion and Walter Evans** and **Elizabeth Ginsberg** ... yours in gardening ... Lorraine

ANNUAL FEES \$20 are due. If you are paying by EFT to Bendigo Bank **BSB 633 000 A/c 198 427 734** please narrate the funds transfer " ... **your surname** ... + **2023 sub**" The narration is very important so that Marian Haire knows who has paid.



MARCH GUEST SPEAKER

Brenda Lyons - grower, bulb breeder, on-line sales, Open Garden designer at 'Falkirk' – *All about daffodils*.

RAFFLE WINNERS

Gynea Favot *Hakea* **Carol Hill** (Visitor) *Cuphea*
Noni McDevitt *Garden gloves* **Ellis Davidson**
Decorative bag

MARCH GARDEN RAMBLE

Joan Brown's Queens Road, Leura garden followed by lunch at Café Leura, Cnr Leura Mall and Megalong Street.

WELFARE

If you know of someone who needs a card please contact **Kerrie Lee 4757 3176**



BUS TOUR Chris Morsby and Margaret Kristiansson have organized a bus tour on Friday 24 March 2023, leaving 9am for Black Springs. Bus Cost \$20. Entry to Rosalie Pollock's Garden, including morning tea, \$15. Lunch at Oberon at your own expense. Pay the bus fee at the March meeting.

THIS BLACK SLUG IS INVADING AUSTRALIA AT THE SPEED OF ...

SLUG Caitlin Henderson June 2019

If you live in one of the cooler, wetter climates of Australia, you might have spotted this stunning black slime-machine cruising around. The name is the Black Slug (*Arion ater*), and the game is very slow invasion of foreign soils



The Black Slug is a humble native European that likes to get into places it shouldn't, like Canada, the US – and since 2001, Australia. Since it first alighted on our shores, it has reared its jet black eyestalks in places such as the Otways, the Dandenongs and the Blue Mountains. It's even made it into Tasmania. Sensing a theme? This gastropod likes to keep things real, where real means "cool, moist, and generally as European as possible".

This shiny hermaphrodite is hard to miss, having hit lengths of 10-15cm. While it's usually as black as the night it inhabits, the edge of the foot can have bright orange to yellow tiger stripes. Most notable are the prominent ridges (tubercles) along the body, and a large breathing pore on the front right side. Between August and October, an individual slug lays up to 150 eggs. Juveniles hatch after at least twenty-seven days, maturing takes up to nine months, enabling mating in early summer. The black slug dies shortly after laying its last clutch, rarely surviving into a second year.

DIET-It's an omnivore, feeding on live plants and fungi, carrion, earthworms, leaves, stems, decaying or dead plant material and dung. During the winter, the Black Slug likes to hang out deep below the ground and quite literally chill. If you happen to touch one, you'll probably regret it instantly – the slime or mucus produced by this slug is extremely thick, sticky and persistent. The slime helps the slug move and protects it – and even deters predators by tasting awful (I didn't test that part). When it gets its speed up, it clocks in at a prodigious 0.0027 km/h. Perhaps the most endearing quality of the Black Slug is its defense strategy. When threatened – as it's far too slow to get away and has no protective equipment to speak of – it shrinks into a ball. And also it rocks. That's it. The slug has made it this far, so clearly the strategy works.

EFFECTIVE CONTROL - A sprinkle of salt onto the slug will kill it instantly.