



LEURA GARDEN CLUB INC
 friendship through gardens since 1955
JULY 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 Once again Winter does not disappoint, bringing us crisp windy weather with all its wonderful coldness and an opportunity for some rest following the endless hours of raking up a multitude of leaves for the gift of valuable mulch. My garden already has spring bulbs poking their heads up out of the cold earth looking for warmth - jonquils, snow drops and daffodils anxiously waiting for Springtime.

Michael Barns and **Barbara Levy**, our June Speakers from the Iris Society, spoke about their passion for 'the Iris', illustrated with a delightful collection of photographs from overseas iris growers. We also grow some beautiful irises here in the Blue Mountains as you can see from the pictures of entries submitted to the 2022 Iris Show at Everglades.

Our assistant treasurer, **Bryn Hutchinson** is a trained Horticulturist. Bryn has stepped in as our go-to for the Gardening Question Time segment of the meeting. Members thoroughly enjoyed Bryn's in-depth responses to their questions during his first session in this role. Lunching together after the meeting has proved very popular, the fare at Katoomba RSL was enjoyed by all.

Next meeting members will be treated to the annual **Mid-Winter BIG MORNING TEA**. If you have any suitable items to sell on the trade table to boost club savings this is the time to bring them along. Any unsold items and plants will need to be taken home, as the club does not have any storage at the hall.

Due to relocation of a committee member the club has two vacant Vice President positions. Filling a committee position can be very rewarding. Please see **Lorraine McMiles** or **Neil Sing** to learn about the duties attached to either of these two roles.
 Happy Winter Gardening... **Lorraine**



JULY GUEST SPEAKER	JULY GARDEN RAMBLE
<p>Matt Stevens - inventor of 'Hollowhog' a unique wood carving tool specifically designed to create habitat for hollow-dependent wildlife.</p>	<p>The ramble is in rest mode this month. Members are invited to lunch at The Alexandra Hotel, Leura after the meeting.</p>
RAFFLE WINNERS	WELFARE
<p>Noel Roscoe – azalea Tony Burbidge – a book Liz Cunningham – bidens pilosa</p>	<p>If you know of someone who needs a card please contact Kerrie Lee 4757 3176</p>



FOR SALE- two mature pink azalea bushes about 1 metre tall from Sonya Werner's garden. The bushes will be dug up for you, but you will need to collect them from Sonya's home at Katoomba.

Cost per bush \$25 which will be donated to LGC.

Phone Sonya 4782 2797

RAILWAY GARDEN

A beautiful *Hydrangea aspera villosa* has been added to the club's railway garden project thanks to **Marian Haire**.



This is a very different hydrangea from the *H. macrophylla* types that are commonly seen in gardens. It comes from China and flowers from late summer into autumn. It has slim, matt leaves and flattened lacecap blooms, which consist of tiny purplish-blue fertile flowers surrounded by large white or lilac-tinged sterile flowers. Bees love the flowers, the purplish-blue colour of which can be seen in the bees'

pollen sacs as they buzz around the plant.

H. aspera villosa has a more open form than other hydrangeas and seems more robust, coping far better with hot, dry spells than the *H. macrophylla* cultivars with their large, lush leaves. It is quite cold hardy and can grow in sun or part shade. No pruning beyond the removal of spent flowers at the end of its season is required. It will grow up to 2m high by 2m wide.

WINTER COLOUR IN THE GARDEN



At the June meeting **Lorraine McMiles** gave a terrific talk about colour in the winter garden accompanied by a selection of flowers from her own garden.

Flowers brighten our lives. If you have a dull patch that could do with a bit of winter cheer consider: aechmea gamosepala (matchstick bromeliad), azalea, camellia, cyclamen, cymbidium, daffodil, daphne, grevillea, hellebore, jonquil, leucadenron, luculia, pansy, snowdrop, violet, winter honeysuckle.