



**LEURA GARDEN CLUB INC**  
 friendship through gardens since 1955  
 SEPTEMBER 2023  
[leuragardenclub.org.au](http://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** Spring weather has prompted the blossoms to erupt and give me much joy. How comforting to sit in the sun with a cuppa and even better with a friend. My garden already has a multitude of superb spring bulbs in flower. Camellia and azalea abound. My magnolia is covered in buds with some colour showing ready for the cockatoo's and parrots to consume, they also love to prune geraniums.

**Noel Roscoe** has hung up his gardening gloves and opted for a city change to be closer to his family. Noel has been a member since 1997. Noel's regular *In your garden* segment gave members the lowdown on the timing for gardening jobs and ideas for handling pests. Noel also opened his beautiful garden 'Shenstone' for the Leura Garden Festival for many years. Thank you Noel, we wish you much-deserved enjoyment with your family. We will miss you. Thanks were extended to **Murray Bailey** for his service to the club. Murray is another of our members who plans to return to the Sydney plain.

Our speaker, **Bryn Hutchinson**, gave us a very interesting talk on the Trial Gardens at Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens where cultivars of plants from breeders across the globe are tested for flower power, vigour and pest resistance to find those best suited to the Sydney climate.

Following the meeting, **Robin Johnson** gave us a practical lesson in rose pruning at his home in Blackheath which was greatly appreciated. I came home and pruned 25 of my roses following lunch at The Gardner's Inn.

At our next meeting **Neil Sing** will tell us about the Millthorpe Garden Ramble bus tour he is organising for the first weekend in November.  
 Happy Spring gardening ... **Lorraine**



**SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKER**

**Sabine Hanisch** and **Ben Jasiak**, authors of the book *Native Orchids of the Blue Mountains*, speaking about species in and around the greater Blue Mountains.

**SEPTEMBER GARDEN RAMBLE**

**Don le Quesne's Cherrydell** and **Chris Morsby's Foggylorne**, which will also be open for Leura Garden Festival. Lunch at Lily's Pad Café, Leura.

**RAFFLE WINNERS**

**Noni McDevitt** native plant **Greg Carty** a punnet of alyssum

**WELFARE**

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



## ROSES

Winter is the time for rose pruning, when the bushes are dormant. **Robin Johnson**, loves his roses and he gave members a demonstration about how he approaches this task.

- Remove dead, damaged or diseased stems
- Remove spindly stems and stems that cross over
- To improve the amount of airflow and sunlight that get to the centre of the rose

remove inward-growing stems, and stems that are very close to each other, clogging up the centre of the plant. The aim is to be left with three to seven strong upright stems with nice even spacing to reduce the risk of fungal diseases like black spot and powdery mildew.

- Cut the remaining stems back to a height of 400-500mm about 5mm above an outward facing bud. This creates a vase-like shape which helps increase the amount of airflow and gives an empty centre to let in more light.



## LIBRARY ADDITIONS

A big thank you goes to **Peter Green** (our July 2022 guest speaker about Biochar) for donating the three volumes of *The Grevillea Book* by Peter Olde and Neil Marriott to the library.

The three volumes of the genus provide comprehensive coverage of more than 260 species as well as the cultivars, with many cultivation tips.

The **Emily Darley** books donation announced in the August newsletter have now been sorted and catalogued and are available for borrowing.

## SWEET PEAS *Lathyrus odoratus*

For fragrance in the garden from autumn to spring you can't go past sweet peas. **Bryn Hutchinson** spoke about the sweet peas included in the 2022 Sydney Botanic Gardens plant trial. The best performer for length was *Lathyrus odoratus* 'Lord Nelson'. With a mid-March sowing this heritage variety provided six months of continuous flowering from late autumn through to late spring. It grows to 2m up a trellis with masses of purple to light pink flowers. Deadhead to ensure extended flowering. Members keep this beauty in mind for your 2024 autumn planting.



*Lathyrus odoratus* 'Lord Nelson'