



LEURA GARDEN CLUB INC
 friendship through gardens since 1955
OCTOBER 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 Have you ever thought of Springtime as a two-edged sword?

On the one hand we have the 'beauty' as trees, shrubs and plants all burst into an ever so short flower-frenzy, enticing the bees to pollinate, before the ground becomes covered in blossom remnants and the leaves return for summer protection.

On the other hand, we have the emergence of the 'creepy crawlers', you know the ones - spider webs across the pathways, bush flies, snails, snakes passing through. Then we have the pollen filling the air for the bees causing medical emergencies like asthma, nasal sensitivities, sneezing allergies. Who would think such beauty could cause such pain! Do you have a love-hate relationship with your garden?

Our September speaker, **Sue Cunningham**, kindly stepped in at the last minute after **Sabine Hanisch** had to cancel her talk on Blue Mountains Orchids. Sue's presentation highlighted our responsibility to identify, eradicate and preserve a weed-free property, thus preventing invasive weed escapes into the bush.

Our September ramble through the **Don Le Quesne** and **Chris Morsby** gardens in Holmes Street was a delight, *Cherrydell and Foggylorne* were a picture of Spring's beauty. A feast for the senses and an excellent preview of the outstanding gardens to be showcased in this year's Leura Garden Festival.

Happily enjoying Springtime ... **Lorraine**



OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER	OCTOBER GARDEN RAMBLE
Graham Jurd – <i>The place of ferns in the modern world</i> with a focus on the larger ferns such as the tree fern.	Bryn Hutchinson's garden in Blackheath Street, Leura followed by lunch at The Family Hotel, Katoomba.
RAFFLE WINNERS	WELFARE
Ann Norman 10 native plant tubestock Liz Fox fuchsia Kerrie Lee Albany woolly bush	If you know of someone who needs a card please contact Kerrie Lee 4757 3176



ELLISON DAVIDSON AND DANIEL MURPHY SHARE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH GARDENS

Ellis and Daniel sit in *Cherrydell* during the September ramble enjoying a chat. Many of you may not know that Kerrie and Daniel drive from Wentworth Falls to Faulconbridge return

to collect Ellis for garden club meetings. They also drop off his club newsletter and help him get his large volume of trading table offerings into the hall. Ellis is in his 90s, without Kerrie and Daniel's help it would be difficult for Ellis to maintain his long-standing link to LGC, an important part of his social life. Through LGC people come together to learn from each other and watch out for each other.

Being part of a club requires a bit more commitment, but it is a great way to make new friends while sorting out your soil and pest issues and getting new ideas. There is a lot of gardening knowledge stored in the heads of LGC members. LGC is the oldest garden club in the Blue Mountains, with like-minded people first joining together in 1955 to share their knowledge.

Why is the club successful? Because people generously give their time to keep the club running smoothly and, I think **Ann Norman** said it best many years ago, there is no politics in the garden club. Friendship through gardening, that's what LGC is all about.

BARTLETTINA SORDIDA

As you all know, **Lorraine McMiles** is a plantswoman through and through. Lorraine always brings along new and interesting flowers to monthly meetings. The September meeting was no exception. members to *Bartlettina* (or blue mist flower). This cloud forest habitats in



Lorraine introduced *Sordida*, the purple torch plant is endemic to the Mexico.

B.sordida is an evergreen, 2.4m tall by 1.2m wide. It branches, slightly rough, prominent veins and paler are very large, up to 25cm Large clusters of scented

erect shrub, growing to has reddish-purple dark green leaves with undersides. The leaves long and 20cm wide. flowers appear in Spring -

mauve to lilac to magenta-blue in colour. The clusters have a bursting fireworks appearance. The fluffy seed is easily dispersed by wind. The plant prefers bright dappled shade, and moist, well-draining soils high in organic matter. *B.sordida* is frost tender below 1-3 °C. Propagation is via seed, or **Bryn Hutchinson** says it can be easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings taken in autumn and winter or prunings taken after flowering in late spring.

Editor's note: Many years ago it used to be called *Eupatorium megalophyllum* and I grew it happily on the Atherton Tableland, quite a different climate from Leura. The common traits between Leura and Atherton are acid soil, elevation and a similar amount of rainfall.