



**LEURA GARDEN CLUB INC**  
 friendship through gardens since 1955  
 APRIL 2024  
[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** The Autumn Equinox was 21 March, triggering change to autumnal colour and delight and admiration for its beauty. It's amusing to note how nature appears to take a rest while simultaneously prompting us into action. Trees enter a phase of dormancy and we find ourselves engaged in raking, composting and mulching to prepare our garden for the coming seasons. It's a reminder of the symbiotic relationship between humans and the natural world, where our efforts to steward the land complement nature's rhythms.

At our March meeting **Bryn Hutchinson** presented practical suggestions for creating a wildflower meadow in our gardens and small spaces. Bryn used examples from his time in the Botanic Garden Sydney and Mt Tomah. We wished Bryn "Bon Voyage" as he will soon return to the UK. A nervous **Luke Zoglmeier** has taken on the role of talking about plant families, today's was *Lamiaceae*, the aromatic mint family, including herbs, salvia, plectranthus etc. Well done Luke.



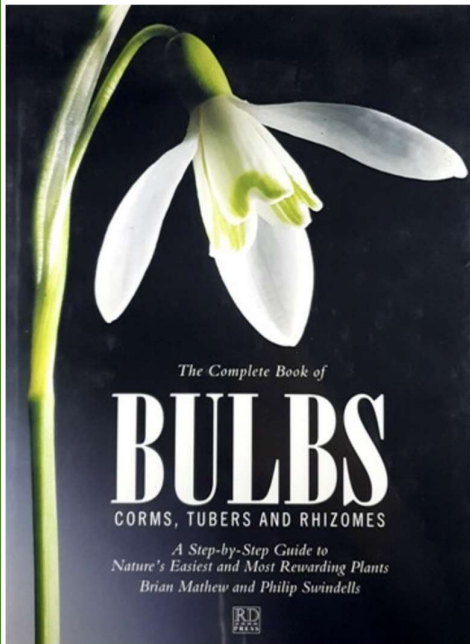
**URGENT** My last request for committee members went unrewarded. We require an assistant treasurer urgently (before Marian travels overseas). We also need a Vice President and two Committee members to add a voice to decisions. Please reconsider. If you can serve LGC in any of these positions contact Lorraine McMiles (details in the green box above).

**70 year Anniversary** In January 2025 we will celebrate 70 years of Leura Garden Club. The committee is open to suggestions about how we would best celebrate this significant event in club life. Please email Lorraine with your suggestions.

As author Jim Bishop says, *Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons ...* your seasonally challenged **Lorraine**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR 2024 CLUB SUBSCRIPTION, IT IS NOW OVERDUE. MAKE THE TREASURER HAPPY AND GET IT DONE. BANK DETAILS ARE IN THE GREEN BOX ABOVE. THE 2024 SUBSCRIPTION AMOUNT IS \$20.**

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER	APRIL GARDEN RAMBLE
<b>Manu (Emmanuela Prigioni)</b> Manu - <i>Farm it Forward</i> , a not-for-profit urban farming social enterprise model connecting landowners and local young people who are passionate about growing food.	Ramble through Joan and Kevin Brown's home, Queen Street, Leura followed by lunch at The Family Hotel, Katoomba.
RAFFLE WINNERS	WELFARE
<b>Patricia Watson</b> and <b>Gynia Favot</b> each won an indoor plant.	If you know of someone who needs a card please contact <b>Kerrie Lee</b> 4757 3176



## FROM THE LIBRARY

*The Complete Book of Bulbs* is one of the best books on bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes I have ever seen. While the book discusses four different types of underground structures that store nourishment from blooming to blooming, the book is organized more by season than by type of plant. Since most of us are far less concerned about whether our crocus plants are bulbs or corms than we are about when to plant what, this makes a lot of sense. Thus, for each season, there is a list of plants of all four types that bloom in that season.

I particularly liked that it covers both indoor and outdoor cultivation as well as suggestions on how to incorporate them in your garden layout. They're tricky to place effectively, gorgeous in bloom but pretty ugly during that period where you have to leave them to ripen and die back. This book offers some great suggestions on bulb / perennial plant combinations; which perennials to plant that will take over after the bulbs have stopped blooming. If bulbs are your thing this is the reference book for you.



## GARDEN RAMBLES – HOW USEFUL ARE THEY?

**Fitness Factor** A bit of incidental exercise is a good thing. Slot it in whenever you can. **Learning** Sharing our gardens with each other can be a rich source of learning experiences, especially in our mountainous region where gardening presents unique challenges and opportunities (steep slopes, soil erosion, shorter growing seasons). **Community building** Sharing our gardens with each other fosters a sense of community among our club members. Not only do we help each other as individual gardeners to improve our own gardening practices, rambles also contribute to the collective knowledge and resilience of our

club as a whole.

In March members rambled in **Murray Bailey's** beautiful garden. **Neil Sing** said one of the stand out plants for him was Murray's prostrate banksia. Banksia are a family of plants that thrive in the Blue Mountains where their needs are readily met – acid soil, sun and good drainage. They particularly like a bit of slope.

*Banksia spinulosa* birthday candles is a form well known to most of us. This dense compact small shrub is perfect for rockeries and smaller gardens, whether mass planted for dramatic effect, in small groups or in containers. *Spinulosa* is a particularly tough form, tolerating sandy, loamy, sandy loam, clay loam, potting mix and poor soil. It grows in acid, neutral or alkaline soil and tolerates a range of soil moisture conditions from dry to well-drained to moist moderate drainage. This tough perennial flowers right through autumn and winter.



Another beauty is the *Banksia serrata*, commonly known as the saw banksia or the old man banksia because of its amazing gnarly form. This banksia produces beautiful cream-coloured flowers in spring and summer and many birds like to feed on either the nectar or the developing cones which follow flowering. Remember, all banksia forms are phosphorous sensitive, so a good native fertilizer is best when it comes to feeding time.