



LEURA HOME GARDEN CLUB INC.



President: Ann Norman 4784 3737
Secretary: Nick de Brett 4784 2656
Treasurer: Terry Goulden 0412 380 273
Webmaster: Terry Goulden
email:goulden44@gmail.com.

April 2017

Editor : John Greenway
Email joopgreen-
way470@gmail.com.
Phone: 0412 662 223

Website: www.leuragardenclub.info
Mail to: PO Box 7082, Leura 2780

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each
month at St. Alban's Church Hall,
Leura commencing at 9.45am

Please Note: This month, the St Alban Church hall will be used for a book sale, and we have been relegated to the 2nd week of April, i.e. Tuesday the 11th, for one month only.

Social and Touring.

Wednesday 26th April - Bayview Gardens, Sydney. Bus \$15.00. Pay today. Depart Leura Bus Bay at 008am. Two gardens in Bayview. \$5 for one which includes morning tea. Lunch at own expense - venue to be advised.

Friday 19 May - The Other Side of the Mountains: Emu Plains; (m/tea)/ Bilpin Orchard/ Mount Wilson/nursery and garden; (\$5). Lunch @ Pie in the Sky. Bus \$15 pay today or next Meeting. **Depart : 9.00 am.** Richard will be away and Ann will run it. Volunteers needed to assist Ann.

Thursday 15 June: Westward Ho: tiny villages and backtracks. M/tea Lithgow, lunch Bathurst. Bus \$15 pay today or next Meeting. **Depart: 0900 am.**

Suggestions for other trips are always welcome - speak to Richard Landon: email: richardlandon45@gmail.com Phone 4759 1669 or mob 0458 239 259.

Please contact Richard if you book on a trip and then find you are unable to attend, as there are often waiting lists for the trips. Please do not arrange anyone to take your place as members on the waiting list must have first option on any vacancy.

Garden Rambles.

At Caroline Stanton, 61 Craigend St Leura; weather permitting.

Today's Speaker :

.Our talk today is by Mr David Coleburn from the Australian Carnivorous Plants Society.

Club Meeting 21 February 2017

Attendance: 52 **Apologies:** 7 . We welcomed 2 visitors, Lois Miles and Alan Taylor, and three new members: Lia Johnson, Therese Laurant and Richard White.

General Business:

- + Regarding the new License to occupy sent by St Albans Church for signing, Ann advised that for 2017 and 2018 the Church will not increase the Club's rent but there will most probably be an increase after December 2018
- + Ann reminded members that the next General Meeting will be on the 2nd week in April, i.e. a week early.
- + Ann thanked Ginia Favot for the home-made biscuits she had provided for morning tea.

Garden Clubs of Australia.

Ann advised she attended the Zone Meeting on Saturday 11 March.

Correspondence

Copies of all correspondence are displayed on the Document Table.

Library

Maureen Bailey advised that the Library was running well.

Trading Table, Hospital Garden and Railway Garden:

Merle thanked Ellis Davidson for his donation of a box of plants for the Trading Table. Merle also advised it had been too wet to work in the Hospital Garden.

Ross gave an update on their work in the Railway Garden and thanked Caroline Stanton for her donation of mulch for the garden. Ross also advised that the water pipe from the Station to the Garden had failed and she was taking this up with the Station staff.

Welfare: Ann advised she has sent get-well cards to John Greenway and Kath Bayliss, and had received a thank you note from her.

Raffle: (with a prize donated by Birches of Leura). The raffle was drawn by George Oehm, who also donated three of the prizes. These were won by Merle Hansard, Therese Lamont, Barbara Thomas, Breda Seamons and Maureen Bailey.

This Month in Your Garden:

Ann read Noel Roscoe's report 'This Month in your Garden' which Noel had earlier provided due to his absence at today's Meeting. It included a seasonal roundup of suggestions for attention this time of the year. .

Speaker:

Ann introduced George Oehm who spoke about native orchids. He spoke about his interest in orchids which he had maintained for the last 13 years. George described the range of orchids, the potting mixes required in growing them and their cultural requirements. He advised that to grow orchids, they need only fine bark as a substrate to hold them in place and which is also effective in holding moisture. Overall, orchids needed sun, water, air movement and a temperature range that suited them. George also gave information on websites useful for orchid growing. These included OrchidWiz at <https://www.orchidwiz.com>, a software application with a database of orchids species and hybrids, orchid photographs and botanical prints, and an orchids journal. Also, SunCalc at www.suncalc.org/ an on-line application to ascertain the sun movement with interactive map, sunrise /sunset, shadow length, sun position, sun phase, sun height and solar eclipse. These were important for establishing the best placement for orchids in the garden. George also showed a fascinating collection of slides of a variety of orchids, their location types and their development over a three year period. Ann thanked George, on behalf of the members for a very informative and interesting talk.

Back Page:

Chân Carroll is back with a great article on a fascinating plant: the Windflower. Thank you Chân !

Windflower



Aren't the windflowers just lovely this time of the year, definitely one of the stars of our autumn garden!

Towards the end of February, firm stems holding clusters of plump buds arise from basal clumps of grapevine-like leaves; these buds will open in March and April to beautiful cup-shaped flowers in shades of white, pale pink to darker pinks with orange yellow stamens, single or double rows of silken petals, fluttering in the wind and bobbing gently in the breeze...

Windflower belongs to the *Anemone* genus of some 120 different species, growing wild in many European countries, in North America, in Japan and northern China. Greek legends say that Anemos, the wind, sends his namesakes, the anemones in the early spring days as the heralds of his coming. The flowers only open when the wind blows, hence their names of windflower. This unfolding of the blossoms in the windy days has inspired many poets:

*'Coy anemone that ne'er uncloses
Her lips until they are blown on by the wind.'*

The meanings of the flower are also tied to the story of Adonis and Aphrodite. Aphrodite, the goddess of love kept Adonis as her companion for too long, the other gods got jealous and killed him, so she wept over his grave and her tears for her fallen love grew into anemone flowers.

*'Where streams his blood there blushing springs a rose
And where a tear has dropped, a windflower blows.'*

There are many species and numerous cultivars. Broadly speaking, there are three main groups: Spring-flowering species: found in woodland and alpine meadows, often tuberous or rhizomatous. Spring and summer-flowering species from hot dry areas, with tuberous roots. Summer and autumn-flowering species with fibrous roots, which thrive in moist dappled shade.

As they originate in damp, open woodland areas, windflowers grow best in partial shade. In cooler climates they can tolerate full sun, but in hot climates, it is best if they are sheltered from the late afternoon sun. They do appreciate a soil enriched with organic matter, and reasonable moisture in order to get established, but once settled, they are quite forgiving and can cope with harsh conditions, in fact sometimes it is almost impossible to get rid of them! They do have a tendency to spread! Propagation is traditionally by root-cuttings, but small rooted runners can often be successfully potted. Feed and mulch them well before fresh growth begins to shoot. Come their flowering time, enjoy the rewards! They don't seem to require deadheading to prolong flowering, however, cutting off spent flowers can keep the plants looking tidy, although you will sacrifice the attractive green seed heads.

Although pink-flowering selections far outnumber those in white, there are a couple of outstanding white cultivars. 'Honorine Jobert' is an exquisite heirloom with single white flowers introduced by M. Jobert of Verdun, France in 1858 and named after his daughter. The blooms have wide silky sepals that are flushed pink on the outside. 'Whirlwind' is another white heirloom cultivar. It is a compact plant and its semi-double flowers are made up of a multitude of narrow, somewhat twisted sepals, flushed green at the edges.

Windflowers are a great cut flower and will give you a good vase life when properly cared for.

Pasque flower (Pulsatilla)



While we 'down under' enjoy our summer-autumn windflowers, in the northern hemisphere, their cousins Pasque flowers (*Pulsatilla*) are in full bloom welcoming spring! The genus *Pulsatilla* is sometimes considered a subgenus under the genus *Anemone*. Also called windflower, Pulsatilla, May Day flower, prairie crocus, meadow anemone or Easter flower, these clump forming wild flowers are native to the alpine meadows of northern and central Europe. They have silky, finely divided, pale green fern-like foliage. Early in spring, the attractive nodding and primarily purple flowers with conspicuous yellow centers appear before the foliage. Fluffy white seed heads follow after flowering. In the northern hemisphere, Pasque flowers are linked to Easter, hence the name 'Pasque', as the blooms are generally at their peak during Easter time (March/April). Although native to Europe, Pasque flowers of different varieties are available in Australia as rare woodland plants. They are attractive and quite hardy, well suited for the rock garden, but 'down under', September/October is their blossom time, not Easter.

The plants are listed as medicinal plants; herbalists value the flower's mild sedative action and muscle relaxing properties. The leaves and flowers are used to correct membrane disorders of the respiratory and digestive tracts. Low doses of plant tincture are used to calm nervous disorders associated with the fluctuation of female hormones. Plant parts are poisonous when fresh, but only sedative when dried.

