



LEURA HOME GARDEN CLUB INC.



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

Today we have our AGM and election of the Committee. Nomination form available at the front table. Also subscriptions are due today: \$10.00 per year.

Social and Touring.

Richard said he had sent a thankyou card for the pot given to him and Marilyn at the Christmas lunch. He also advised that the trip to the gardens before Christmas included Ross and Robyn Ingram's garden for which they charged an entrance fee. These fees totalled \$105, which they then donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Our next trip will be:

Monday 20th March: Riverboat Postman Cruise (Hawkesbury River). Bus \$15.00—pay today . Cruise including m/tea and lunch \$45.00, payable on the day. Cruise is about 3 1/2 hours. Depart Leura Bus Bay **7.00 am**. Boat leaves Brooklyn at 10 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.

Too hot at present.

Today's Speaker :

.Our talk today is by Mr Claus Eckhardt, on Roses.

Club Meeting 17 January 2017

Attendance: 53 **Apologies:** 11. We welcomed a visitor: Judy Reynolds.

General Business:

- Ann informed the Meeting that the Annual General Meeting will be held during the February General Meeting and nomination forms were now available.
- Ann further informed the Meeting that Trish Fewer is retiring from her position of Librarian. Maureen Bailey will be replacing her.

Garden Clubs of Australia.

Ann advised that the next Zone meeting will be in March and the Zone Friendship Day will take place on 13 May 2017 at the Lithgow Workers Club with the cost for morning tea and a 2 course lunch to be \$35.00 per person.

Correspondence:

FIVE HUNDRED: a film on the story of Biodynamics in and around Sydney. At Old Katoomba Library, Sat 25th two screenings 4pm and 7.30pm, and Sun 26th February at 3pm. \$20, including refreshments
Reservations and inquiries 0466 391 146.
See pamphlet on Correspondence Table.

Library

Trish advised that the Library was progressing well. .

Railway and Garden and Trading Table:

Merle thanked all who bought plants from the Trading table and asked that plants donated for sale be labelled. She also thanked Ted Burke for donating plant pots that were now available to members for free. Merle also advised that the Hospital Garden was going well.

Roz thanked members for the condolence card she had earlier received . She also thanked Neil and Marlene Hausfeld for their contribution of plants for the Railway Garden and Caroline Stanton for her contribution of mulch. Roz also briefed the meeting on the current work in the Garden and asked if there was a member who would be able to provide a more professional looking sign for the garden. Neil Hausfeld advised on his meeting with Transport NSW and the contractor for the Leura Station upgrade. The landscaping work for the taxi rank would release plants that could be used in the Railway Garden and the building materials removed could be used for the retaining walls and garden edges in the Garden. Neil also noted that there was still time to make submissions on the Station upgrade plans.

Welfare: Ann advised she has sent a get well card to Nerida Benson and a condolence card to Roz Sing following the death of her mother.

Raffle: (with a prize donated by Birches of Leura). The raffle was drawn by Irma Mahling. The 1st prize was won by Nick de Brett and 2nd prize by Beryl Price. .

This Month in Your Garden:

Noel Roscoe again conducted 'This Month in your Garden' with a seasonal round-up of suggestion for attention this time of the year.

Speaker:

Ann introduced Irma Mahling. Irma recounted her garden road trip through Australia, much of it through the inland. Her talk was accompanied by an extraordinary and fascinating range of photos she had taken. These covered historic buildings around the towns she visited, the surrounding country, the range of flowering plants, native birds and wildflowers. Her trip took her through Wilcannia, White Cliffs with its opals and underground living, Broken Hill, Silverton, Peterborough. Illaroo, Coober Pedy, Central Australia, Uluru and Kata Tjuta, the MacDonald Ranges, Tennant Creek, Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, Daly Waters, Kununurra and the Kimberleys, Wyndham and Mount Newman.
Ann thanked Irma, on behalf of the members, for a very informative and interesting talk.

Back Page:

Chân Carroll is back and has written for us a great tale about Roses. This fits in very well with today's talk by Claus Eckhardt, and the 14th February which happens to be Valentine's Day, with its long-standing connection with Roses.
Thank you again, Chân.



A Rose for Valentine's Day

The origin of roses and their early evolution is a matter of conjecture. Fossils seem to indicate that roses existed in prehistoric times and rose gardening probably began in China some 5000 years ago. Over the centuries, changes occurred in the genus either through natural or artificial hybridization. During the Roman period, roses were grown extensively in the Middle East. From the sixteenth century on, roses were carefully selected, bred and improved to form new varieties. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries roses enjoyed more popularity, and many of the rose classics we admire today stem from that period. New requirements, such as resistance to disease, floral quality, and winter hardiness, lead to the development of modern shrub varieties and other modern roses of the twentieth and twenty-first century. The flower of most species has five petals, with the exception of *Rosa sericea*, known to have only four petals, brought to Europe from the Himalayas at the end of the nineteenth century.

Birth of the first rose: One myth credits a team of gods with the creation of the rose; the gift of beauty came from Aphrodite, Dionysus, the god of grape harvest gave nectar for fragrance, Zephyrus, the west wind blew away the clouds so that Apollo the sun could bless the flower with his warmth. Another legend is that once Cupid was carrying a vase of sweet nectar to the Gods on Mount Olympus and some nectar spilled on the ground. From the spot where the nectar fell emerged the beautiful flower rose.

Why roses have thorns? In Greek mythology, it is said that once a beautiful maiden Rodanthe was pursued by a number of impassioned suitors. In their desperate pursuit they broke the doors of her house. This enraged Artemis, goddess of chastity. She turned Rodanthe into a flower and her suitors into thorns. Roman mythology says the soft west wind one day opened a lovely rose and Cupid bent over to kiss the elegant petals. When he did, a bee inside stung him. Venus got so angry she told Cupid to shoot some bees and string them up on one of his arrows. She then planted this string of dead bees on the rose stems, the strings became the rose's thorns and ever since roses had thorns.

Why roses are red? There are many stories: A Persian legend relates that the rose was white until a nightingale, in a frenzy of passion for its beauty, pressed its breast against the rose until the thorns pierced its heart and its blood stained the flower red. An old Hellenic legend declares that the rose was originally white, till Eros, dancing among the gods, upset a goblet of nectar upon the flower, which thereupon became red. Christian legend would have it that the Crown of Thorns was woven of the briar rose, and how the drops that fell from the thorns became blood-hued blooms. In medieval times the most common rose cultivar was *Rosa gallica*, or the Apothecaries rose. Its deep pink colour represented the blood of early Christian martyrs. The fragrant petals of this rose were dried and rolled into beads and strung into what became the rosary, from which the rosary got its name. The first roses in the Garden of Eden were white; Eve, delighted by their beauty and fragrance, touched a rose bud with her lips, the rose blushed with pleasure and that's how the first red rose was created and why in many Christian countries, the red rose remains a symbol of evil and temptation, while the white rose represents innocence and purity. Yet, another Christian myth suggests that the first roses were red but lost their colour when washed by the tears of Mary Magdalene.

The Latin term *sub rosa*: The ancient Romans believed that anything discussed under a rose was considered *sub rosa* and to be kept secret. In the Middle Ages a rose suspended from the ceiling of a council chamber pledged all present (those under the rose) to secrecy. In Christian symbolism, the phrase *sub rosa* has a special place in confessions. Pictures of five-petalled roses were often carved on confessionals, indicating that the conversations would remain secret. Today the term is still used to express something that is to be kept confidential.

The rose, folklore, folk medicine and culture: In the Middle Ages, roses were used as confetti at celebrations. Many noblewomen carried bouquets of fragrant flowers to cover body odors. It was customary for the wealthy to put rose petals and rose oil in their baths. Some things never change...today, rose petals are still used as confetti and a rose oil bath sprinkled with rose petals is still a treat. The apothecary rose, *R. gallica officinalis* was used to cure a multitude of diseases, from baldness, skin rashes to sore throat etc. Rose and rosehip - reputed to be rich in vitamin C - is used in confectionery (rose petal jam, rose candy, rose water etc.). Culturally, roses are symbolic, as we already know 'A rose for St. Valentine's Day'. More interestingly, roses were used at funerals with other plant material like box leaves, to line coffins. Mourners would throw roses and rose petals into the grave. The early Christians saw a correlation between the five petals of the *Rosa sancta* and the five wounds of Christ. The red rose stood for Christ's blood, while the white rose for the Virgin Mary.

Rose garden: The forerunner of the rose garden as we know it today was planted by empress Josephine (1799-1814) at Chateau Malmaison, France. She created something unprecedented: a garden devoted solely to one type of plant, roses. She grew some 250 varieties of them, collected from all over the world, her enthusiasm was infectious, and France soon became the cradle of roses.

Daisies, Violets and Bachelor's Buttons

Apart from rose, there are a few other flowers considered to be romantic also. The Romans believed that the daisy was once a wood nymph. One day, while dancing in a field she was seen by the God of Spring who fell in love with her but when he reached for her she got frightened. So, she sank into the earth and became a daisy.

As far as Violets go...one day it is said that Venus got jealous of a group of beautiful maidens. When Cupid refused to say that his mother's beauty was better than theirs, Venus got furious, she beat her rivals (these maidens) until they were blue and she watched them shrink into violets.

The cornflower (or bachelor's button), named botanically after a Greek youth (*Centaurea Cyanus*) who was born in a field. One day, while making garlands of the blue blossoms for the altar of Flora, Goddess of Flowers, he died suddenly and left some of the garlands undone, this touched Flora's heart; in his honor she named the flowers after him. In folklore, young men in love wore cornflowers; if the flower faded too quickly, it was taken as a sign that his love was not returned.

Say It With Flowers...

Here are some meanings for some other flowers often sent for Valentine's Day or other touching moments:

Bleeding Heart: Hopeless, but not heartless. Gardenia: I love you secretly. Gladiolus: You pierce my heart. Lily-of-the-Valley: Let us make up. Rose: I love you passionately. Sweet William: You are suave and perfect. Violet: I return your love.

Green leaves represented hope in a love affair (often rumored to be the reason why British girls sprinkled bay leaves with rose water and put them on their pillows on Valentine's Day Eve. They wanted to see their loved one in their dreams).