



LEURA HOME GARDEN CLUB INC.



President: Ann Norman 4784 3737
Secretary: Nick de Brett 4784 2656
Treasurer: Terry Goulden 4757 3450
Webmaster: Terry Goulden
email: goulden44@gmail.com.

January 2017

Editor : John Greenway
Email joopgreen-
way470@gmail.com.
Phone: 4757 3450

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

Happy New Year.

Note: AGM next month, February. We will need to look at some amendments to the Constitution. Nomination forms for Committee member positions at front table.

Social and Touring.

Thursday 9th February: Local gardens: a new garden, an old garden rediscovered and a couple of others. Bus \$15.00— pay today. M.tea at Lily's Pad, lunch at the Old Bank Brasserie, Katoomba. Depart Leura Bus Bay **9.30 am.**

Monday 20th March: Riverboat Postman Cruise (Hawkesbury River). Bus \$15.00—pay today or next meeting. 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.

Garden Rambles.

Our January Ramble will be at Blackheath, at Gynia Favot, and Karen and Carl Perkins: both gardens are adjacent to each other.

Today's Speaker :

.Our talk today is by our club member Irma Mahling, who will tell us about her recent overseas garden tour.

Club Meeting 15 November 2016

Attendance: 55 **Apologies:** 10. We welcomed 4 visitors: Jannek Krueger, Cilene Maier, Loreen Lan and Vivienne Brown.

General Business:

+ Ann advised that the Committee had agreed that a proposal that an honorary membership of the Club for Rob Stanton be announced at the Christmas lunch, be put to the General Meeting. The Meeting unanimously concurred with this proposal. Ann further advised that Rob will be driving for the Club in 2017.

+ Ann advised that membership fees for 2017 will be due at the January Meeting. Still only \$10.00.

+ Ann also 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 Jean Cowley is leaving the Club for her move North. Ann thanked her for all her work with the Railway Garden and the Hospital Garden.

Correspondence:

Copies of correspondence are on the pamphlet table.

Library

Trish advised that a book on succulents was now available.

Railway and Hospital Gardens:

Margaret reported that work on the Hospital Garden was proceeding well and always welcomed donations of plants for it. Marlene reported on the Railway Garden work. Pruning, weeding and watering was continuing. Two nandenas had been added and the walls were being restored. Work continued on a one day per week basis.

Trading Table: Margaret Brown advised that the Trading Table was doing healthy business.

Welfare: Ann reported that she had sent cards to Beryl Price, Beryl Riley, Elaine Mondy and Nerida Benson.

Raffle: (with a prize donated by Birches of Leura). The raffle was drawn by David Thurston. The 1st prize was won by Ellis Davidson, 2nd prize by Karen Perkin.

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. Caroline Stanton then conducted a Q&A session where questions and their solutions and suggestions were open to all to contribute.

Speaker:

Richard introduced David Thurston. David recounted his work in the garden design industry which he began in 1999. The focus of his talk was on his own garden which he had started designing and working on in the Winter of 2006. This was accompanied by a fascinating and striking collection of pictures many of which were 'before and after' shots. This showed the challenges and remedies in establishing and developing the garden. The plantings were mostly a remarkable selection of succulents and his garden design ensured the succulents chosen showed a mix of foliage with colourful seasonal variations, a range of depth of the plantings and also ensured that a number were bird-attracting. David described the points to consider when designing a garden landscape. These included the space available, the plants that were available, the mix of mass plantings and single specimen plantings and the shapes of the different plantings to ensure they complemented each other. The use of succulents was determined by the position available, the soil and the sun. For obtaining succulents, David suggested firstly developing a list of the succulents one wished to obtain, then searching online and eBay, exploring specialist nurseries and visiting rare plant fairs. He also advised that the Friends of the Botanical Gardens was a good source of information.

Ann thanked David, on behalf of the members, for a very informative and useful talk.

Back Page:

Chân Carroll is having a well-deserved break. As many members have cats as pets, we want to draw your attention to a variety of plants that are poisonous to cats.



Tulip



Azalea



Castor Bean

MOST COMMON TOXIC PLANTS

Azalea/Rhododendron – all parts of the plant moderately toxic. Severe poisoning, though unlikely, could lead to death.

Castor Bean – contains highly toxic ricin. Severe cases of poisoning can result in seizures, coma and death.

Cyclamen – highest concentration of toxins are usually in the root. Can produce intense vomiting. Some fatalities have been reported.

Dieffenbachia – this popular indoor plant is highly dangerous to animals and small children.

Ivy – many species considered mildly toxic. Can cause gastrointestinal symptoms, breathing difficulty or even death.

Kalanchoe – can produce gastrointestinal irritation and serious cardiac abnormalities.

Lilies – all members of the liliaceae family are highly toxic. Ingestion of even small quantities of the pollen, flower or leaves can cause severe kidney damage or lead to death. A vase of tiger lilies may look pretty but it could be fatal for your cat.

Marijuana – not only illegal and dangerous to people, in cats it can depress the central nervous system and cause vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures and coma.

Oleander – all parts toxic, with potential serious effects and even death.

Poinsettia – this popular Christmas plant does not make a good present for households with pets!

Sago Palm – all parts poisonous, with the seeds or 'nuts' containing the most toxin. Can cause very serious effects including seizures and liver failure.

Tulip/Narcissus – bulbs can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, depression of central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

Wisteria – seeds and pods toxic. Can cause vomiting and diarrhoea.

And don't forget to be extra careful with pesticides and fungicides – read the product information carefully. Snail pellets are sometimes eaten by cats, so try liquid or natural alternatives. Organic gardening is becoming more popular and most nurseries or gardening books and magazines will provide good advice on maintaining your garden without using dangerous pesticides.



Cyclamen



Dieffenbachia



Kalanchoe



Lily



Marijuana



Oleander



Poinsettia



Sago Palm



Wisteria

Further information

There are several comprehensive lists of toxic plants available on the web. The sites below are particularly informative.

Animal Poison Control Center www.asPCA.org/apcc

About Cats www.cats.about.com

Cat-World www.cat-world.com.au