



# LEURA HOME GARDEN CLUB INC.



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

## Social and Touring.

**Friday 19 May** - The Other Side of the Mountains: Emu Plains: Gallery and garden plus morning tea; Bilpin Orchard/ Mount Wilson/nursery and garden; (\$5). Lunch @ Pie in the Sky on Bells Line of Road at Tomah. Then a drive around Mount Wilson and a visit to Merry Garth's garden. Bus \$15 pay today **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 in Bathurst. Bus \$15 pay today or next Meeting. **Depart: 0900 am**.

**Tuesday 18 July 12.30:** Our annual lunch, after the Meeting. Somewhere in Leura, venue to be decided at this Meeting by popular vote.

Suggestions for other trips are always welcome - speak to Richard Landon: email: [richardlandon45@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Suspended during the winter months, unless someone volunteers their garden.

## Today's Speaker :

.Our talk today is by Mr James Edwards of Engalls Nursery - his subject will be Citrus trees.

## Club Meeting 11 April 2017

**Attendance:** 37 **Apologies:** 10 . We welcomed one visitor, Liz Fox.

## General Business:

Ann noted that one of the winners of last month's raffle was Kay Cheevers, not Breda Seamons as had been recorded in the Minutes of the March General Meeting

## Garden Clubs of Australia.

Ann advised the next Zone Meeting will be in July.

## Correspondence:

**Out:** Blue Mountains City Council requesting that Council provides a number of traffic cones for storage on Council's Community Access bus.

Copies of all correspondence are displayed on the Document Table.

## Welfare:

Ann advised there were no calls on the welfare system this month.

## Library

Maureen Bailey advised there was nothing to report.

## Trading Table, Hospital Garden and Railway Garden.

Liz Cunningham thanked Ellis Davidson for his donation of a box of plants for the Trading table. She also advised that weeding has recently been completed at the Hospital Garden.

Roz gave an update on their work in the Railway Garden. She thanked Tracy Longden for joining the garden team and also thanked Neil and Marlene Hausfeld for their donation of 30 azalea plants. Roz also advised that Gartner Rose had provided a tap for free water until the completion of the Leura Station upgrade, and Neil Hausfeld was in talks with NSW Trains regarding the long-term arrangement for water for the garden.

**Raffle:** (with a prize donated by Birches of Leura). The raffle was drawn by David Coleburn. The 1st prize was won by Marlene Hausfeld; 2nd prize by Thelma Taylor.

## This Month in Your Garden:

Ann advised that there would not be a 'This Month in Your Garden' report. Caroline Stanton then conducted a Q&A session for gardening questions from members present.

## Speaker:

Ann introduced David Coleburn from the Australasian Carnivorous Plants society. David spoke of his interest in carnivorous plants which started when he was a child and became a hobby. He recounted the history of these plants in Australia from when they started arriving in Australia in the 1960s and also the establishment of the Australasian Carnivorous Plants Society, which occurred in 1978.

He noted that carnivorous plants were spread across a number of genera and family groups, made up of over 563 species, with numbers of them within Australia. He described how carnivorous plants lured and captured their prey and described the different types of prey, which includes insects, lizards, mice, rats and other small vertebrates. David showed a fascinating collection of slides of different carnivorous plants and described the range of plants that he had on an extensive display. He also provided advice on the growing of these plants, the soil type and treatment, their need for lots of sun and water, and advice on repotting. David then took a number of questions from members present. Ann thanked David, on behalf of members, for a very informative and interesting talk.

## Back Page:

Chân has a treat for us this month: an article on the Belladonna Lily. This has been in the news lately!

## Belladonna Lily

This plant is a gardener's dream, moderately frost hardy, easy to grow and just as beautiful as the name implies, belladonna - beautiful lady. The flowers come into their full glory in late summer, a time when many other flowers have passed their prime for the year. A top choice for gardens or pots, they even do well in a vase. In average conditions, six to eight flowers open on a stem, in ideal conditions and from a mature bulb, one can expect up to twelve! And the blooms have such a sweet fragrance!

The flowers are now finished in our autumn garden; it is time for the large strap-like leaves to appear. These leaves are up to 40cm long and 4cm wide and generally will stay lush and attractive throughout winter and die down by springtime. They gather sunlight, create food through photosynthesis and strengthen the bulbs ready for flowering next season (late summer and autumn). The large, pear-shaped bulbs just stay dormant... when with no announcement or fanfare, beautiful ladies pop out of the ground and open trumpet-shaped flowers on long, sturdy, naked stems which may be up to 1m tall, giving rise to this plant's common names - naked lady, magic lily, resurrection lily. In no time, you have a big bouquet of 10cm pale pink lilies in full bloom in a cluster of six or more. And that's not the end, the plant has a great variation in time of bloom, starting in summer and extending well into autumn, adding glamour to our summer garden; then basal foliage appears, grows through winter and dies down in late spring when the next cycle begins.



Belladonna lilies like hot, dry conditions, so a sunny position is best. Plant them in summer when they are dormant, with the neck of the bulb just protruding above soil level. Separating small bulbs from the side of the parent bulbs can also propagate plants. However, it may be several years before the clumps reach flowering size. These lilies are suitable for all parts of Australia except for the hot tropics. As far as hardy goes, they are the survivors. In areas where temperatures fall below -5°C the leaves may be damaged in winter, but the bulbs stay safe and the plants will recover. In very cold climates, the bulbs can be lifted and saved like a dahlia whereas in warmer climates, you don't need to lift your bulbs each season, just leave them in the ground or pot. This plant is moderately frost-tolerant, it doesn't do well in tropical environments, as it requires a dry resting period between leaf growth and flower spike production. Depending on the onset of rain, the leaves are usually produced in autumn or early spring in warm climates and eventually die down by late spring. The bulb stays dormant until late summer.

Belladonna lilies belong to the genus *Amaryllis*, which consists of one single species, occurring wild in southwestern Cape Province, Africa. Plants are botanically known as *Amaryllis* lily, commonly known as belladonna lily, Easter lily or March lily, naked lady, Jersey lily. March lily or Easter lily is due to its propensity to flower around March and Easter time. Naked lady is because the flower emerges first, without the modesty of foliage. Although originally a wildflower in South Africa, belladonna is also associated with the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel Islands. The well-known English actress Lily Langtry was born in Jersey, her nickname was 'Jersey Lily'. This nickname was popularised by Millais' painting, entitled '*A Jersey Lily*', where Langtry was portrayed holding a Guernsey lily rather than a belladonna lily, as none of the latter was available during the sittings. Miss Langtry was a great society beauty and a well-known actress. Her lifestyle challenged the social codes of her day. She was famous (and probably also infamous!). Millais' portrait of Langtry was one of the most celebrated paintings of its day. Whether the painting and/or the flower made the muse or the other way round, the specific name 'Jersey' for the flower just 'stuck'. So in England, the Belladonna lily is often known as the 'Jersey Lily'.



*The Jersey Lily*  
Photo by  
Cecil Beaton

There is an *Amaryllis belladonna* hybrid, which was bred in the 1800s in Australia. No one knows the exact species it was crossed with to produce color variations of white, cream, peach, magenta and nearly red hues. The hybrids were crossed back onto the original *Amaryllis belladonna* and with each other to produce naturally seed-bearing crosses that come in a very wide range of flower sizes, shapes, stem heights and intensities of pink. Pure white varieties with bright green stems were bred as well. The hybrids are quite distinct in that the many shades of pink also have stripes, veining, darkened edges; white centers and light yellow centers, also setting them apart from the original light pink. In addition, the hybrids often produce flowers in a fuller circle rather than the 'side-facing' habit of the 'old-fashioned' traditional pink. The almost golden-yellow Orienpet Hybrid Lily cultivar has been a real attention grabber. There are also white hybrids (such as 'Hathor') and hybrids of various shades of pink such as Belladonna Lily Pink with vivid pink blooms and a fabulous fragrance.

There is another autumn flowering plant with the common name of naked lady, the *Colchicum autumnale*. Also known as autumn crocus, meadow saffron, they resemble crocuses but are not related. Dormant through summer, these plants burst into life in late summer to autumn, producing their blooms in shades of white, delicate pink or lilac. The flowers are cup-shaped, each have 6 petals, and there are also double-flowered forms. The foliage ranges from grassy to broad and strap-like, and often does not appear for some months after the plant has commenced blooming. All parts of the plant are poisonous due to their colchicine content, even contact with the skin may cause irritation.

