



# LEURA HOME GARDEN CLUB INC.



## September 2017

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**President:** Ann Norman 4784 3737  
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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.

**Wednesday 20 Sept: Cowra Japanese Gardens.** Bus \$20.00  
Pay today. Entrance fee is \$12; lunch will be available at the Centre's Café..

**Depart at 7.30 am at Leura Bus Bay.**

**Thursday 26th October:** Rhodo Garden, Blackheath; Hillandale Garden & Nursery, Yetholme (\$8 entry); Hassan's Walls Lookout, M/Tea@ Petalura, Mt Vic; Lunch @ Lithgow Workies.

**Depart at 9.00 am.** Bus \$15.00, pay today or next month. M/tea-lunch at own expense.

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 a replacement. Richard's contact details:  
[richardlandon45@gmail.com](mailto:richardlandon45@gmail.com) 0458 239 259.

### Garden Rambles.

Suspended during the winter months.

### Today's Speaker :

Today's Speaker will be Ms Sarah Ryan, from Hillandale Garden and Nursery; Sarah's topic will be 'Perennial Borders'..

### Club Meeting 15 August 2017

**Attendance:** 49 **Apologies:** 15 . We welcomed a visitor: Wendy Taylor

### General business:

Ann advised that the Christmas lunch will be at The Alexandra Hotel and will be \$40 per person for a two-course meal. Bookings can be made as from today.

### Correspondence:

The Secretary, Nick de Brett reported on the following items of correspondence:

IN:

- Garden Clubs of Australia: notice of AGM on 8 November
- Garden Clubs of Australia: Our Gardens magazine Spring 2017 issue.
- Robertson Open Gardens: flyer advertising the Robertson Open Gardens on Saturday 7 October and Sunday 8 October 2017
- Galston Garden Club: flyer for Galston Open Gardens Friday 20 to Sunday 22 October.
- Lambley Nursery 2017-2018 seed manual

Emails:

- My Open Garden: Upcoming Events for September 2017 and list of regularly Open Gardens.
- My Open Garden: advance notice of Lower Blue Mountains Spring Open Garden Weekend in the Winmalee-Yellow Rock area 23 & 24 September
- Crookwell Garden Festival 11 & 12 November 2017

Copies of all correspondence are shown on the pamphlet table.

### Leura Garden Festival

In an effort to reduce the use of new plastic bags at the Plant Sales, Richard has requested any smallish or medium boxes, clean plastic bags with handles (such as Supermarket bags) and clean newspapers. If you can help with any of these please bring to September Meeting or drop down to Plant Sales during the Festival. He can also pick up any donations.

### Garden Clubs of Australia:

Ann advised the next Zone Meeting is in November. She also noted that the recent GCA Information Meeting was successful. .

### Welfare:

Ann advised that she has sent 'get well' cards to Chris Wilcox and Lorraine Miles, a 'thinking of you' card to Janice Evans and a 'sympathy' card to Philip Gleitzman.

### Trading Table, Hospital Garden and Railway Garden

Merle Hansard advised the Trading table had a variety of plants, biscuits and orchids. More orchids were to come and orders could be placed now. The hospital garden was getting minor Winter maintenance. Roz Sing reported that Winter was a quiet time for work in the Railway Garden. She thanked Di for her donation of foxgloves and thanked Irma for watering.

### Library:

Maureen Bailey advised the Library is going well.

### This Month in Your Garden:

Noel Roscoe was back and conducted his 'This Month in Your Garden' with a seasonal round-up of suggestions for attention at this time of the year. Caroline Stanton then conducted a Q&A session for gardening questions from members present.

**Raffle:** (with a prize donated by Birches of Leura). The raffle was drawn by Ann during the Harvest Festival; the 1st prize was won by Di Jones; the 2nd prize by Erika Honey.

### Harvest Festival:

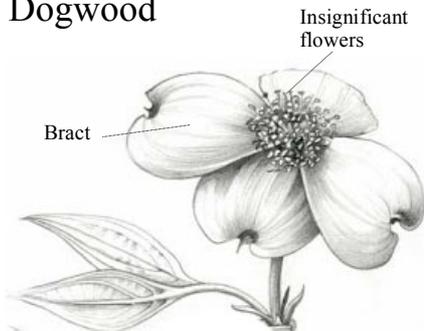
There was a great collection of plants and flowers for sale at the Trading Table, and a feast of various cakes, sandwiches and other snacks for the members to enjoy with their cup of tea or coffee. As always, this was a great success.

### Back Page:

Chân has an article on a local favourite: Dogwood.  
Thank you, Chân.

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## Dogwood



Dogwood belongs to the *Cornus* genus. About 65 species of trees, shrubs and a few perennials make up this genus, widely distributed in temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere, especially North America. The dogwood tree that is familiar to us, residents of the Blue Mountains, is of the species *Cornus florida*, commonly known as the flowering dogwood, native to North America and throughout much of the temperate and north Eurasia. The greenish yellow and insignificant true flowers occur in a small bunch surrounded by four large white or pink bracts that give the tree the appearance of bearing large flowers. In autumn, the foliage turns scarlet, deep purple. The tree is commonly

planted as an ornamental in residential and public gardens because of its showy bracts, its attractive autumn foliage and its interesting bark structure. In general, dogwoods need winter cold to flower well and are at home in a climate with distinct seasons. Most dogwoods are deciduous and there are some bractless species. *Cornus capitata* or the Himalayan dogwood that we sometimes see in our mountains is evergreen and long flowering with large yellow flowers (bracts) and fleshy edible but somewhat sour crimson red strawberry-shaped fruits, which are very attractive to birds.

One can't help wondering why such a glamorous looking tree is known by such an unsophisticated name like 'dogwood'? The botanical name 'cornus' comes from *cornu*, meaning horn, referring to the density of the wood. But how did it become 'dogwood'? There's no conclusive link between the name and anything to do with dogs, but some language experts claim the name comes from a misspelling of dagwood. Dags are sharpened bits of wood used as darts, arrow shafts, and the wood of the dogwood tree were well used for this purpose. Yet, another source claims that a decoction of *Cornus sanguinea* leaves, berries and bark was once used to wash fleas from dogs, hence the name dogberry or hound's tree. An earlier name of the dogwood in English is the whippletree. Geoffrey Chaucer uses "whippletree" in *The Canterbury Tales* to refer to the dogwood.

When you think of the dogwood tree, you probably visualize different trees depending on where you live. If you live in Eastern North America (or in our Blue Mountains) you will think of the white or pink flowering dogwood, a hallmark of spring. If you live in Western North America, Eurasia, or Eastern Asia, you are probably more familiar with the non-flowering species, the species that produces edible red fruit such as *Cornus kousa* and *Cornus mas*. *Cornus kousa* trees bear a sweet fruit, while *Cornus mas* or Cornelian cherry, a European species, produce fruits that are both tart and sweet, which are eaten fresh or made into preserves or wine (*vin de corneulle*). Drinks can also be prepared from the berries infused in spirit or brandy. The berries are also used in flavouring sherbet and in making tarts called *rob de cornis*. The dwarf *Cornus suecica* has small red berries, which form part of the Eskimos' winter food-store. In Scotland they have such a good reputation as a tonic for improving appetite that the tree is called 'plant of gluttony' (*lus-a-chraois*). Many different varieties of game birds, including quail, feed on the dogwood red seeds. *Cornus officinalis* is prized in traditional Chinese medicine. The inner bark of the root contains the alkaloid cornin. Native Americans used it as a treatment for malaria, and the leaves are used in a poultice to cover wounds. Dogwood tea, made from the tree bark, was used as a substitute for quinine during the Civil War. This tea was also used to induce sweating to break a fever.

Dogwood was supposedly used to build the Trojan horse. The wood is heavy and fine-grained, valuable for articles like javelins and spearheads, shutters, doorknobs etc. The wood has a high resistance to sudden shock, making it a popular choice for making golf club heads and chisel handles. Cutting boards and other fine turnings can also be made from this fine grained and beautiful wood. It was once used to make hayforks, hubs of small wheels, rake teeth and machinery bearings because it wears smoother as it is used. Dogwood wood has also been widely used to make shuttles for the textile industry: with a mechanical loom, the shuttle is hurled at top speed, and it's essential that the wood used wears smoother and will not crack under the strain. The young twigs can be used in basketry; when stripped off their bark, they are used as a dentifrice by the Creoles, inhabitants of Virginia, to whiten the teeth, while the juice of the twigs preserves and hardens the gums. In industry, the inner bark can be used to make black ink and a scarlet pigment obtained from the root bark used as a dye.

Dogwood is also a popular name of *Piscidia Erythrina* or Jamaica dogwood, which yields a powerful soporific used for toothache although its main use is for intoxicating birds, fish and animals, which, when stupefied, may be caught in the hand and be eaten afterwards without ill effect.

A Christian legend has it that dogwood was once a tall tree, but that changed when its wood was chosen to make the cross where Jesus Christ was crucified. The tree was ashamed and asked Christ for forgiveness. Christ commanded that from that moment on, the dogwood tree would be slender and twisted so that its wood could no longer be used for a cross. However the blossoms bear the scars of Jesus' crucifixion. The petals are tipped with blood-fringed nail indentations, the flower is cross-shaped, and the centre represents the crown of thorns.

*In Jesus' time, the dogwood grew  
To a stately size and a lovely hue.  
'Twas strong and firm, its branches interwoven.  
For the cross of Christ its timbers were chosen.  
Seeing the distress at this use of their wood  
Christ made a promise which still holds good:  
"Never again shall the dogwood grow  
Large enough to be used so.  
Slender and twisted, it shall be  
With blossoms like the cross for all to see.  
As blood stains the petals marked in brown,  
The blossom's center wears a thorny crown.  
All who see it will remember Me  
Crucified on a cross from the dogwood tree.  
Cherished and protected, this tree shall be  
A reminder to all of My agony."*

A good story and a nice poem!  
Some food for thoughts: "were dogwoods native to Israel or Palestine?"