

## President's report 2014

I am pleased to say that the Leura Home Garden Club has continued on its busy and happy way through 2014, with new members joining throughout the year. We have participated in a variety of social events and tours, which were all well-attended, and enjoyed some very interesting and informative talks from our guest speakers.

### Speakers

Our guest speakers were : January - Ken Bradley on the Memorial Drive; February - Robyn Bible on Geraniums and Pelargoniums; March - the late Bundaluk on Aboriginal Food Plants; April - our own Roger Walker on his trip to the 'Gardens by the Bay' in Singapore; May -Margie Fallon explaining a Conservation Management Plan for Kingsford Smith Park; June - Sue Cunningham on Bush Regeneration; July - Ingrid Nemetz on Hellebores; August - Kerry Brown on Garden History and Blue Mountains Gardens; September - Trish Oktober on development and rare and unusual plants in her own garden; October - Robert Ross on the Men's Shed and his recycled timber garden items, and in November - Michelle Turner and Erja Immonen from Oasis on new releases of both flowers and vegetables.

### Social and Touring

We started our tours in March with a visit to Swanee Nursery and Geranium Cottage in Dural, where we enjoyed lunch. April was to the Southern Highlands visiting many open gardens; May was to Orchids Out West at Hawkesbury, calling on the way back to Mt Tomah for a walk and lunch. June was to Mt Annan's Seed Bank, which was very interesting and informative; July saw us enjoying lunch at Zest in Leura. In August we had our Harvest Festival and special morning tea; September was a visit to the Japanese Garden at Cowra, a wonderful place. October was to see the Bathurst Spring Spectacular Gardens and November visiting gardens at Yetholme and Black Springs, finishing up with lunch at the Pub at Tarana, and in December saw us enjoying a delicious Christmas lunch at the Leura Golf Club.

### Garden Rambles

We did get to visit and enjoy some gardens despite the weather: in January we had a BBQ lunch and walk around Caroline Stanton's garden; February was a Cottage garden and a Japanese garden in Easter Street, Leura. March at Gwen Howard's, April at Ken Devine's at Bullaburra; May was to Kingsford Smith Memorial Park after the talk by

Margie Fallon. We had a 'winter recess' during June, July and August; September was Trish Oktober's, October was too wet and November a delightful stroll around Noel Roscoe's place.

### Library

Trish Fewer continues to do a sterling job caring for our Library and keeping it fully stocked with new books.

### Community Involvement

- Leura Station Railway Garden
- Rotary Gardens at Katoomba Hospital
- Leura Garden Festival
- Donation of \$150 to the Rural Fire Service.
- Involvement with the Leura Garden Taskforce with Barry Jarrett, currently in abeyance due to BMCC trying to organise insurance for volunteers.

Grateful and many thanks to:

- Our hard-working Secretary and Committee: Roger Walker, Lorraine McMiles, Caroline Stanton, Terry Goulden, Liz Cunningham, John Greenway, Joan Brown, Richard Landon and Nick DeBrett. Without these people we would not be able to keep functioning.
- Our many wonderful volunteers:
  - ◇ Joan Brown and Helen and their many willing helpers in the kitchen
  - ◇ Liz, Margaret, Jean, Shirley & Merle on the trading table plus others in the railway garden
  - ◇ Caroline Stanton for seeking out our raffle prizes
  - ◇ Di Jones, our friendly face at the front desk, and to Ursula, who still offers to help out, if necessary
  - ◇ Trish Fewer, who runs our excellent library
  - ◇ Noel Roscoe, who shares his wealth of gardening knowledge every month
  - ◇ John Greenway, our newsletter editor and raffle ticket salesman
  - ◇ Terry Goulden, who looks after our finances and our web site
  - ◇ John Sowden, who still distributes the Our Gardens magazine, and
  - ◇ Lorraine McMiles, who rescues us when Noel is unavailable

And of course to all the members for taking part in club activities, which include buying raffle tickets, plants, morning tea, and helping out when assistance is required, and most of all for turning up at meetings and socialising with each other. Let's continue to enjoy this happy and friendly club.

**Ann Norman**

President