

LEURA HOME AND GARDEN CLUB – LEURA RAILWAY GARDEN GROUP - MEETING 23 AUGUST 2016
AT LEURA RAILWAY GARDEN

ATTENDEES: Marilyn Hawkett, Richard Landon, Roz and Neil Sing

PURPOSE: To review existing plantings to identify plants and resolve problems.

There is a tall Liquidambar, a 3m tall golden pine, a 1m tall juniperus and a 60cm piscea planted in an almost straight line 3m in length. Decision – to reduce the overcrowding, remove the 3m golden pine which is encroaching on the juniperus.

The silver and pink leafed plant to the right of the Piscea is a Pittosporum.



Behind the juniperus is a Choysia. Choysia prefers full sun and wind shelter, and will withstand summer dryness once established. It will grow almost anywhere in any type of soil provided it is well drained. It is tolerant of light frosts to -3°C , it will survive in colder districts such as Canberra and Orange if planted in a warm, sheltered place. Propagate from semi-hardwood cuttings in summer.



There are two Spiraea Thunbergii, one near the pittosporum (Richard labelled this one), the other on the LHS of the path between the azalea and the Chinese fan palm heading east.



In late summer discuss moving the Acanthus mollis to a site where the flower spikes can be admired. Presently the spikes are hidden within the rhododendron.

In front of the Acanthus mollis is a prunus species.

At the back of the trailing lasiandra is an ornamental raspberry.

The plants between the Chinese fan palm and the ferns are aspidistra.

When the Clematis Montana and Berberis are ready to be planted onto the benched garden bed shift:

- the hydrangea to the mass planting area for hydrangeas
- the daisies to sunny parts of the garden
- the stachys and blue chalk sticks succulents to a dryer part of the garden

If the Australian Mint Bush (Prostanthera) does not recover from hard pruning remove it. It is located behind the eastern azalea planting.

Move the red Hebe from next to the fuchsia under the Japanese maple to a sunnier section of the garden.

Remove the cotoneasters growing above the tree ferns.

The fern in front of the tree fern is a King Fern (Todea).

Remove the dead limbs from the pine at the eastern end of the garden.

To the right of the central azalea planting remove the euonymus and extend the azalea planting when Neil and Marlene Hausfeld make azaleas available. The tree protecting the central azalea planting is an apple tree.

There is a banksia crowded out by the most RHS camellia bush in the central planting. Dig up the banksia, pot it up and, if it survives, move it to the western native plantings.

To the left of the Salvia Phyllis Fancy planting is a Grevillea Juniperina, then callistemons sandwiching an unidentified large native bush. Remove this bush to reduce the overcrowding in this area.

Remove the 3 straggly callistemons on the RHS of and under the apple tree, remove a couple more low branches from the apple tree and reshape the Hebe to the right of the tree.

Richard thinks the groundcover under the apple tree may be a type of Vinca.

Remove the Leucadendron from the LHS of the apple tree and cut the callistemon back to shoulder height. Prune a few of the long shoots on the Leucadendron to the left of the Japanese maple in this area to see what happens. Take the dead wood out of the prostrate grevillea and renovation prune the Westringia, it may reshoot. Remove the melaleuca. Cut out the cupressus macrocarpa that has obviously self-seeded. This site will be a good hot spot for salvias. On the opposite side of the path remove the 3m leptospermum pressing against the fence.

On the RHS remove the 3 Coprosma repens because Richard says they will be impossible to prune into a pleasing shape.

The fine leafed plant is either a melaleuca or a callistemon. Now that the plant is getting sun it should flower and we will be able to work out what it is.

Roz needs to take cuttings and propagate daisies to fill sunny spots in the garden.

On the LHS remove the smaller of the 2 birches (3m high) to reduce overcrowding in this area. Tip prune the callistemons surrounding this birch. The tree on the right at this point is a wattle. Remove the branch that is starting to jut into the path.

To the right of the Acacia Burgundy Cascade is a syzigium which we have clipped into a standard, then a callistemon, then a melaleuca. Near the path in this section is a Melaleuca hypericifolia which needs to be reshaped now that the sun is reaching it. It was previously very straggly. This shrub grows to 2m, we need to consider if we should try moving it.

The red stemmed bush to the right of the Melaleuca hypericifolia is a red twiggged Cornus. This plant also grows to 2m.

Remove the geraniums from around the Magnolia tree. Let the bulbs flower, and plant this area with sedums when the bulbs are finished. There may also be room for daisies and salvias.



The creeper on the LHS just before leaving the garden is a Bignonia

The bush on the RHS of the path just before leaving the garden is a Prunus glandulosa



Richard and Marilyn donated:

- 4 * purple Salvias that will grow to 1m.
- 2 * Strobilanthes Anisophyllus

Strobilanthes Anisophyllus or Goldfussia is an evergreen, erect, bushy shrub with lance-shaped, purplish foliage and long, tubular, lavender flowers that open to a bell-shaped mouth on long, brittle, cane-like stems. This plant loves a sheltered location to grow where it will be warm and humid most of the time. Winter flowering. It

is not very frost hardy but does clip well to make an effective low hedge. If you have cold winters then ensure it has a very sheltered position like next to a protective wall. Likes fertile, well drained soils in a sunny location. The more sun it gets the darker the foliage will go. Add some organic material like compost for best results when planting.

Maintenance: Keep well pruned, especially after flowering, to promote bushy growth and keep it tidy.