



Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc. Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

14th March 2024: Edition No 377

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of this land: the Darug and Gundungurra people.

A letter to garden lovers

I am writing this on Thursday, after receiving a heatwave warning this morning on my BOM app. On Monday & Tuesday you would swear we were well into Autumn with drizzling rain & mist. There were the first signs of leaves changing colour & some shrubs had already shed a lot of their leaves. Many of my bulbs are well & truly up & are starting to form flower heads. On Wednesday morning I received the first heat wave warning & was worried my potted plants would be at risk of dying & later that day I got a surprise storm delivering a welcome drink. The first part of the week was too wet to work in the garden & the last part was too hot!

I read in the press during the week that the head of the BOM was under fire from a couple of senators because the BOM did not predict accurately the recent Queensland rain events. Such is our weather now. Who would be a weather forecaster?

I have been putting the final pieces in place for the visit to Rookwood Cemetery & have lined up the venue for lunch & will have a final run through with our guide before the event. One of the benefits of arranging tours is you meet people with interesting stories you would not otherwise get to hear. Last week I drove down to Rookwood to finalize the lunch arrangements & I popped in to check on my grandfather & confirm he was where I thought he was in his unmarked grave. As I was leaving, I ran into a woman & her husband who were looking for the unmarked grave of their son. They were 15 & 16 years of age when their son was born & he died shortly after birth & that was 35 years ago. They had not forgotten him & wanted to have him disinterred & reburied with other family members who are resting in another section of the cemetery.

So, the message is clear; if you want to get out & meet interesting people, put your hand up to join the Committee as the Tours & Functions Coordinator or the Guest Speaker Coordinator.

Duncan Leys

The Wentworth Falls Garden Club, your club, needs your help.

This July we will be electing a new committee. As it is every year, all committee positions become vacant at the AGM and any member can nominate for a position on the committee. This year, we have several committee members stepping away from their positions on the committee.

We need members to join the committee and engage in the following activities:

- Treasurer (and Public Officer),
- Guest Speaker Coordinator,
- Tours and Functions Coordinator,
- Website Manager
- Newsletter Writer.
- Welfare Coordinator



These activities are vital to the existence of the club. **If we don't have a treasurer the club must close.** We have received some nominations for the committee. This year, we invite you to step up and volunteer to assist in the management and operation of the club.

Speak to any committee member for more information.

Today's Speakers are Linda and Steve McCulloch from Lithgow Valley Mushrooms



Hi, my name is Steven McCulloch and I grow Oyster Mushrooms. My background was as a Production Engineer in Boeing. I have found that growing mushrooms really ticks all my boxes as it is very much system-based, and you must adhere to processes vigorously or the mushrooms will soon let you know they are not happy.

I started in roughly 2021 (yes, a lock down project) by enrolling in a course and then watching as much YouTube as I could. Trust me, they don't tell you everything you need to know. There are many pitfalls that you discover from experience. I have had quite a few crop failures as it is not an easy crop to grow.

I have also put my engineering background to work and have built the infrastructure to ensure an optimal growing environment. I am also working hard to be as sustainable as possible, using the sawdust waste product from our local sawmill and making the waste mushroom compost available to other growers.

I look forward to sharing my experience in growing Oyster Mushrooms with the Garden Club members.

Contact details are Lithgow Valley Mushrooms, Like us on Facebook, Compost available from 72 Inch Street Lithgow – Honesty box system 50c per grow bag – just swing by and pick up any time. Ph 0402 212 624

Remember! Linda and Steve will start their talk at 9:45am.

Events to look forward to

When	What	How Much?
Monday, 8 th April 2020 8:30 departure	The Gardens of Rookwood Cemetery	1 seat available. \$40.00 per person
Wednesday, 8 th May 2024 9:15 departure	Maple Springs Nursery & Gory'u Japanese Gardens, and Hartvale Garden	\$50.00 per person
Thursday, 20 th June 2024 12:00	Lunch at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls	\$30.00 per person.

April 2024 General Meeting

11th April 2024

Guest speakers: Volunteers from the Katoomba Wild Flower Rescue Nursery will tell us about their work and native plants for your garden.

Hall set-up: Caroline Gardner
Les Allen

Hall pull-down: Carla Toscano
Les Allen

Morning Tea – bring a plate.
Bette Portch
Sharon Phillips
Ronah Tuite

Plates should be ready to serve.

Club Information

All members and visitors are asked to sign in upon arrival. Members should wear their club name badges to all club meetings, events and rambles. To take part in club events you must be a *bona fide* club member. General Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, from January to November, at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts Theatre, Adele Ave (cnr Great Western Hwy), Wentworth Falls. Check-in at 9.30 am for a 9.45 am start and finish around noon. The library and the plant stall are open before the meeting and at morning tea. \$5 entry fee.

The joining fee is \$35. Thereafter, an **annual subscription is \$25, due in July** each year. Payments can be by direct debit to Wentworth Falls Garden Club Account: BSB: 062-559; Acct: 28003852.

Ensure your **name** is included with your remittance.

Wentworth Falls Garden Club contact details:

Email: wentworthfallsgardenclub@gmail.com

Website: www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com

For Club Welfare matters, please contact Lea Nelson
Ph 4784 1101 or email leanelson2780@gmail.com