



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

11th April 2024: Edition No 378

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

A letter to garden lovers

I see the signs we are in Autumn starting to show, the Plane trees in Falls Road are starting to turn a golden yellow, although the maximum temperatures during the day still feel like summer.



The man who has looked after my trees for over 25 years has retired & his son has taken his place. I was pleased to find the son has taken after the father. I had a major limb come of my Liquidambar & like his father his mindset is to save the tree if possible. So, he has reshaped the crown of the tree & fingers crossed it will reform the crown & live on. It was also a pleasure to find his team had a love of trees & they commented that they had not come across a couple of my trees before. The *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood) & *Populus grandidentata* (Aspen Bigtooth).

Autumn in the **Blue Mountains** offers a delightful opportunity for garden lovers: planting & transplanting, pruning & maintenance, & leaf management. Please no one tell me they put their Autumn leaves in their green bin.

Remember to take leisurely walks, breathe in the crisp mountain air, and savour the magic of Autumn in the Blue Mountains!

Here are some gardening tasks to consider during this season:

1. Planting and Transplanting:

- **Cool-Climate Plants:** Autumn is an excellent time to plant or transplant cool-climate species. Consider adding rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and other flowering plants to your garden.
- **Bulbs:** Plant spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. They'll lie dormant during winter and bloom beautifully in spring.

2. Pruning and Maintenance:

- **Deadheading:** Remove spent flowers from perennials and annuals to encourage new growth
- **Trimming and Shaping:** Prune shrubs and trees to maintain their shape and remove any dead or diseased branches.
- **Mulching:** Apply a layer of organic mulch around plants to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.

3. Leaf Management:

- **Leaf Cleanup:** As leaves fall, rake them up and add them to your compost pile. Fallen leaves can also be used as mulch.
- **Leaf Mould:** Create leaf mould by allowing leaves to decompose in a separate pile. It's a fantastic soil conditioner.

Remember to embrace the beauty of Autumn in the Blue Mountains and savour the seasonal transformations.

Duncan Leys

Events to look forward to

When	What	How Much?
Wednesday, 8 th May 2024 9:15 departure	Maple Springs Nursery & Gory'u Japanese Gardens, and Hartvale Garden	SOLD OUT!
Thursday, 20 th June 2024 12:00	Lunch at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls	\$30.00 per person.

Today's Speaker is Richard Johnstone from the Blue Mountains Wildplant Rescue Service.

Richard Johnstone was a technical officer at Mt Annan Botanic Garden for 30 years, initially in plant records, then 16 years as the seed collector. He retired from there in March 2017, and has been working as a volunteer at Blue Mountains Wildplant Rescue Service since then. He collects seeds and cuttings for the nursery to help provide a wide range of local native species for home gardeners, council, revegetation work etc. Richard's specialty is plant identification and seed collecting and he is familiar with most plants in the Blue Mountains area.

Richard will talk about growing plants to attract birds and he'll cover the different reasons why birds use various plants, food, shelter, and nesting habitat etc., and he will recommend some of the plants, that Wildplant Rescue is growing, that are useful for attracting birds to the garden.

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:

- Guest Speaker Coordinator
- Tours and Functions Coordinator
- Website Manager
- Newsletter Writer
- Welfare Coordinator



These activities are vital to the existence of the club. 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.

May 2024 General Meeting

35th Anniversary!

9th May 2024

Guest speaker: Judy Horton MAIH, HMA, OA,
Horticulturist, Media Personality and Our
Gardens GCA Magazine Editor with give us
the History of the Backyard

Hall set-up: Vic Tuite
Sed Mayne

Hall pull-down: Vic Tuite
Sed Mayne

Morning Tea – bring a plate.
Janice Light
Ruth Lawson
Bronwyn Hay

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