

# GALSTON DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

The Galston District Garden Club meet regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Galston Community Hall, 37 Arcadia Rd, Galston. We welcome new members and visitors.

Planning is underway for the **OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND** to be held this year on the **20th-22nd October**. Please mark your calendars, come, and view eight wonderful local gardens.

The guest speaker at our May meeting was Robyn Bible of Geranium Nursery at North Richmond. Robyn brought along a variety of Geraniums giving a short explanation of the plants on display. She also gave the members tips on caring and propagating Geraniums.

Geraniums and pelargoniums are tough and very easy to grow. Towards the end of summer, when the flowering is finishing, it is a great idea to give them a hard prune to stop them from becoming too leggy. It is recommended to prune geraniums back by between one third to one half during March or April. Come spring, the plants will rocket away, bush up beautifully and give a lovely flush of flowers. When pruning, do not throw the cuttings away – they are great



for propagating. Trim them down to 10cm in length, snip off lower leaves leaving a few on the top. Robyn suggests dipping the ends in Methyated Spirits, potting them up and by spring you will have some beautiful new plants for your place. Geraniums need a sunny spot but also as if being shaded from temperatures over 30 degrees. The best spot for them is a well-drained garden bed. They grow well in pots or in hanging baskets. It can be hard to tell if geraniums need water, as their leaves will not wilt like other plants. Geraniums like moist soil but it is also important to let the

soil dry out between watering... Best to water the soil not the foliage. Healthy geraniums need regular fertilising. The best fertilisers are either a controlled-release fertiliser when planting or a water-soluble fertiliser every third time you water.

## RAMBLES:

During May, the member of our club enjoyed two garden rambles. We visited Warrah Farm at Dural where Steve showed us around the market garden answering all our questions. It was very interesting. The Farm and Farm Shop is part of Warrah, a not for profit organization providing services for adults and children with disabilities. The farm and shop engage people with disabilities through volunteering and work experience. The profits from the farm shop go towards Warrah's disability service.

The other ramble was through one of our member's gardens in Gribbenmount Rd, Galston. This garden has been open for the Open Garden Weekend in 2019 and 2022. It was different seeing their garden in another season and what the owners have been doing in their garden. The members in the sunshine of an approaching winter season enjoyed the morning tea, scones and slices.

## FREE TREES FOR WEEDS

Once again, our generous donor Michael King has provided more funds to enable Landcare to extend its Trees for Weeds programme. We offer free local native plants to landowners who live in Hornsby Council's rural area, or in Hills Shire along or near Old Northern Road.

We want the plants to go to people who have cleared privet or lantana or other weeds and who wish to revegetate with native plants. As well, those who want to revegetate their roadside nature strip, or create a wildlife corridor or a similar activity.

If that sounds like you, contact Nick on 9653 2056. We will help you work out what plants would suit your property from those available at several native Nurseries. Plants can include trees, shrubs or groundcovers. Trays and tubes are to be returned when you have finished with them.

You cannot buy local native plants from retail nurseries, so this is a special opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you.

For more information about our Landcare group, go to [stillcreeklandcare.com.au](http://stillcreeklandcare.com.au) or Facebook.



## DIAMOND PYTHON

Steven Pringle of Galston sent in this photo of a Diamond Python (he thinks) taken in his front yard in early June. Has anyone else seen snakes out at this time of year?

