

Galston Garden Club

Galston Garden Club has had another interesting and busy month. The beginning of April saw club members boarding a bus to explore two gardens in the Southern Highlands. At the first garden Emery Cottage, we were warmly greeted by the owners with a much needed morning tea, with homemade muffins in a delightful setting. Wandering around this lovely 2 acre garden nestled in the Kangaroo Valley was a real treat. Onto Alan Golding's garden where we were astounded by the work done by the owner on such a steep slope, with a variety of plantings and teeming with bird life, this is a garden under renewal and one to watch. A lovely lunch at "Bistro One46" in the Valley, a wander around Berrima taking in the National Trusts property Harpers Mansion and the gorgeous Berrima nursery completed the day.

Our guest Speaker this month was David Cooper retired rose expert from Swanes who gave an interesting, informative and at times, funny talk on rose care. Thanks to David who willingly shared his knowledge and fielded many questions. Next month's speaker for May is Roslyn French who will be speaking on the care and propagation of Proteas.

Garden Club meets on the 2nd Weds of the month at the Galston Community Centre 37 Arcadia Rd., Galston 8.00pm, new members are warmly welcomed.

Galston Open Gardens -we are still interested in any owner who would like to open their garden for this very popular event in October. All money raised on the day goes towards a number of charities. Last year we raised over \$60,000 that benefitted over 20 charities. Please contact Bill Fleming our Open Gardens Convenor on 96532394 or email: wlfleming@primusonline.com.au if you would like to be a part of this wonderful event.

For other information, visit our website:
www.galstongardenclub.com.au

Cumberland Orchid Circle Inc.

The next meeting of the Cumberland Orchid Circle will be on Wednesday 25th May 2016 in Barton Hall, which is situated in Gough Drive (off David Road), Castle Hill. The meeting will start at 8.00pm and will last approx 2 hours. At the meeting, orchids in bloom will be benched for

a monthly point score competition. The guest speaker for this month is Greg Steenbeeke who will talk about miniature orchids.

At each meeting there is a sales table selling plants brought along by members, in addition to accessories used for orchid culture. During our supper interval, there will be time to "compare notes" and seek advice from other members.

Visitors & new members are always welcome. For more information, contact the Circle's Publicity Officer on 9481 8895.



Dendrobium bigibbum

Where have all the Flowers Gone?

By Barry Lees

This morning I went for a bushwalk. I was looking for flowers that would provide nectar for birds, microbats, gliders, ringtail possums to feed on. I found very few. This will be the case right through Autumn and Winter. Small birds will like your garden if it has native plants that flower during this period, supplying much needed nectar, insects and shelter.



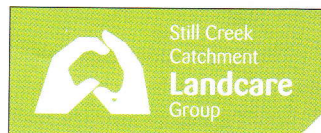
Choose local natives, or nursery cultivars and hybrids that closely resemble them. Have some densely planted areas so that small birds are protected from predators. They can dart out, have a quick nibble and dart back before danger arrives. A shallow bird bath

with clean water will also help.

Big flowering hybrid Grevilleas look good and flower most of the year, but they attract larger birds that are aggressive and territorial. They will chase away small birds. Some people clear shrubs, leaving only large trees and grass. This is an open invitation for aggressive birds like native minors to take over. Smaller birds will avoid the area - there is no protection or food for them.

A small sample of native shrubs that flower in Autumn and Winter include: Banksia, Brachyscome, Bauera rubioides, some Callistemon, Correa, Crowea, Lambertia, Leptospermum squarrosum, Scaevola "Mauve Clusters", native violet, Epacris, Hakea bakeriana and gibbosa, Zieria "Pink Crystals", Acacia terminalis and myrtifolia, and Grevillea mucronulata.

For more information, go to the "Birds in Backyards" website. And visit stillcreeklandcare.com.au.



Pick Your Own Mandarins

Opening Weekend - Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th 2016

Fords Farm will be opening to the public for "Pick Your Own Mandarins" every weekend commencing Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May from 10am until 4pm.

We invite visitors to come to the farm 12.75 km along Singleton Road from Wisemans Ferry where they can experience the taste of fresh mandarins straight from the trees. We have several varieties to try, the most popular with the children being the Satsuma Mandarin; it has no seeds, is easy to peel and has loads of juice. The trees are low to the ground and they are easy for the children to reach and pick their own. We have several other varieties including Imperial and Hickson Mandarins.

Other types of citrus available include Limes, Lemons, Navel Oranges and Kumquats. Our shed is full of produce such as honey, jams, chutneys and infused oils and vinegars for cooking along with many other supplies. We now sell espresso coffee and hot chocolate.

Please note there is a \$5.00 entry fee for your car, thereafter you only pay for what you pick @ \$2.00 per kg.

Open every weekend and public holiday from 10am to 4pm until all the fruit has been sold. Please check our website for up-to-date information on what is available

Contact: Nicky Alexander at Fords Farm
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(via Wisemans Ferry) 2775
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(02) 45663127