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*Everything grows better with TLC*

## NEWSLETTER - JULY 2013



### OUR NEW DEMONSTRATION GARDEN



Julie Antill (with the help of others), has been very professionally coordinating the landscapers relative to the work in our new Demonstration Garden.

Council are bearing the cost of this work and we will soon have:

- 6 new raised beds of varying heights, to allow for utilisation by handicapped members
- a paved brick pathway joining this area to the existing concrete path to Hillview
- the opportunity to demonstrate crop rotation and the growing of various crops
- a new entry point to the Garden that we can work on developing and enhancing further
- and perhaps a completely different perspective now to the overall Garden

As soon as the landscapers are finished we will need to import appropriate soil etc. to fill the 6 bins and also decide on how we wish to plant out the remaining area of the garden surrounding the new work.





Member  
of the  
Month

## MARGARET PRATT



Margaret was born in Broken Hill, the eldest of 4 siblings. Her father was a Minister in Broken Hill and Sydney, a High School teacher (English and History) and a Secretary of the Wheatgrowers Association in Wagga Wagga and Parkes. Her mother taught Maths and Science.

After finishing school, Margaret was running the household for the family and then worked in about 20 different jobs, including 3 Nurseries at Parkes, Wentworth Falls and Terrey Hills.

She used to play Tennis, Basketball, Hockey, Table-Tennis and was very involved in running and swimming.

Margaret with her niece Wendy and grandniece Keely.  
Behind them Margarets "walled" garden that she keeps in beautiful shape.

She lived at Lindfield for 16 years and now 14 years at Northaven in Turramura during which time she joined TLCG.



## VISITORS FROM THE CHINESE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Tina, Sebastian and John hosted the Chinese Environment Group, from Hornsby, for some 2 hours at the Garden this month.

They were a really interested group and had a lot of fun looking around (with 2 interpreters).



## NEW PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN

The Australian Plant Society (North Shore Group) recently donated five bush tucker plants to the garden:

*Mentha australis* - Australian Mint,  
*Mentha diemica* - Australian Mint,  
*Oreomyrrhis eripoda* - Native Caraway,  
*Diploglottis campbellii* - Native Tamarind.

Of the mints about twenty-five species of *Mentha* are distributed throughout the world, six being endemic to Australia. Seven exotic species have naturalised. All plants have aromatic foliage which is a characteristic of the Lamiaceae family, to which they belong.

In the garden we have a few mint varieties growing, common mint, spearmint, peppermint and Vietnamese mint, most of these can be found on the berm. This location is ideal as these plants grow quickly and can be quite invasive if left unchecked as they have wide-spreading underground and overground stolons.



A few other tasty mints are available which we have yet to introduce. These are: Chocolate mint, Orange mint, Apple mint and Sweet mint.

*Mentha australis* is known by the common names of River mint, native mint or native peppermint. It is a native of eastern Australia, occurring in every state and territory except Western Australia

- Flowering Period: November - December
- Edible parts: Fresh or dried leaves
- Maximum height: 30cm
- Maximum spread: 3m
- Preferred aspect: Full sun to light shade.
- Comments: Foliage has a minty aroma and a spicy mint flavour. It is ideal in drinks, tea and cooking.

*Mentha diemenica* (*diemenica* translated means of Tasmania known earlier as Van Diemen's Land)

This plant is known by the common name Wild mint or Slender mint. It occurs in grassland and forest habitats from the Mt Lofty Ranges in South Australia, throughout Victoria and Tasmania, and north to the Blue Mountains of New South Wales. In cultivation, *M. diemenica* grows well in a slightly damp site in either reasonably heavy shade or full sun.



Propagation of both these plants is easy from cuttings taken at any time when the plant is growing vigorously, or by division when rooted

pieces may be removed and re-established in a situation. These new plants must be kept moist after transplanting. Great plants for our seedling sales both dried and potted up.

Mint is a herb for all season in summer it freshens brightens, cools, and refreshes everything from salads to cocktails. In winter it is used with roast and veggies, now, with more mint varieties and flavours to choose from, the options for mint virtually never end.

The Australian Plants Society - North Shore Group meet once a month on a Friday night they have about 200 volunteers dedicated to promoting the appreciation, awareness and propagation of Australian native plants. The Group has been active for 40 years assisting the local Ku-ring-gai Council in enhancing the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and conducting educational programs and bushwalks.

<http://www.blandfordia.org.au/>

by Helen



# A VISIT TO THE WENTWORTHVILLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Five TLCG girls (Sue, Noel, JulieA, Kerry and Tina) visited *Wentworthville Community Garden* on a Saturday morning in early June. Sue contacted the garden primarily to ask if we could view their new greenhouse.

We arrived and were welcomed warmly by Robin who shared an enormous amount of detail about this special place.

The garden was larger than TLC and was completely flat (almost like a bowling green) with raised garden beds (two sleepers high) each separated by tidy green lawns... a sea of 75 garden plots! There were three citrus fruit trees only on the block - a food forest was not a priority.



The garden was completely enclosed by a very strong wire fence and kept locked. The garden had had very little graffiti or damage and only one major theft where the vandals cut the wire fence panel out and stole their lawn mower and edge trimmer and took the wire panel as well!



The local council was extremely supportive and had erected a tool shed, a shelter shed with electricity,

donated a variety of tools and other equipment. Whilst the council assisted with funds and equipment initially, the garden is now totally self sufficient and is run by an elected executive team. However when large projects were planned, an application to council only, would be made.

No other grants were applied for. The garden members would always contribute some funds to the project (however small) and council would meet the bulk of the bill.

Many members shared plots or had an individual plot. Most plots were 3mx2m.



There were thirteen different nationalities among the seventy members and ten percent more women than men - so lots of blokes. Membership was ten dollars per year and a plot was an extra \$40.

There was an incredible uniformity about the entire garden. All necessary items for all plots were supplied by the garden management eg wire and plastic supports, stakes (all the same tall green ones), compost (made in two 4mx4m bays), netting, potting mix etc. No member was able to bring their own version of these items from home and use in their plot - they



all agreed to use the items especially purchased - this gave a very neat appearance to the garden.

The members hold a grand Open Day once per year and last year they made over five thousand dollars. The stalls held on their Open Days included: used clothing, bric a brac, seedlings, herbs, flowering plants, jams and cakes, worm wee, fresh produce from the garden (planted in fifteen empty garden plots) and a huge raffle with goods donated by local businesses. Last year



the queue for entry stretched around the corner and down the street. Council had donated fifty native trees to the first 50 buyers on the day. This gift certainly was an enormous enticement to the public - they arrived in droves!



We were proudly shown their great greenhouse which they had purchased with Open Day funds from last

year. It was a little smaller than we hope to purchase and not yet fully utilised by the gardeners. It was airy and light, built up on double sleepers and had a strong metal

frame. It included vents, double shelving, a sprinkler system, pebble flooring, clear and strong windows and a locked door. It looked very substantial and we knew that it would be filled to the brim with seedlings before long - and we all felt green with envy!

We finished the morning with a welcome cup of tea and exchanged email addresses with the hope of returning their hospitality in the future.

We all felt we had seen a great working community garden, full of enthusiastic members eager to share their stories and mighty proud of their efforts!

*by Tina Howard, Photos: Sue Dailey*



**RAINFALL**



**JUNE: 186mm** (AS AT 9:30AM 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)

Thanks to Janet and Ian Pollock for taking the rainfall readings at the garden!

Doug has organised a new **BBQ** for some amazing sausage sizzles to come!

**THANKS DOUG**



## REMINDER

Please make sure that the shed is locked when you leave.

[www.tlcgarden.org.au](http://www.tlcgarden.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/pages/TLC-Garden/318635698227162](https://www.facebook.com/pages/TLC-Garden/318635698227162)



## FOOD SCRAPS PLEASE



**D**o you know what happens to the contents of your garbage bin? Well, according to the Ku-ring-gai Council website:

“After collection, the garbage trucks deliver their loads to the Clyde Transfer Terminal, where waste is compacted and loaded into shipping containers. Each container can fit about three garbage truck loads full of waste. The waste is then transported by rail to Veolia’s Woodlawn Bioreactor Landfill. The bioreactor landfill speeds up the decomposition process of waste and captures the landfill gases. The gases are then converted into green electricity which is fed back into the power grid”

**W**hile waste material can’t be eliminated the monetary and environmental cost of sending it to Woodlawn near Goulburn focuses on our responsibility to minimize our general waste and to recycle as much as we can.

**I**t’s nice that they capture gas for the power grid but we all know that landfill sites are becoming as rare as hen’s teeth and I’m not happy that my potato peelings travel more than I do. As apartment dwellers with no room for a worm farm or balcony compost, we now bring all our vegetable scraps to the Garden and encourage those who can’t feed worms or compost bins at home, to do the same. No meat of course but crushed egg shells are fine and also hen’s teeth.

**W**e don’t want our wonderful ‘Compostologists’ to be confronted with a smelly mess so please put peelings in a plastic bag and place in the green lidded bin.

**P**lease try not to also deposit seateurs in the bin. Frank and Mark keep finding them when they turn the compost.

*by Janet Pollock*



**Turrumurra Lookout**  
**community garden**

**Get planting for Spring!**  
**SEEDLING SALE**

**Saturday September 7, 9am - 12pm**

**[www.tlcgarden.org.au](http://www.tlcgarden.org.au)**

Due to the GREAT success of the autumn seedling sale we have decided to do it again.

The start of the advertising for the BIG spring seedling sale will start on Saturday (Banner on the left).

Lots of people put up their hands at Saturday’s meeting to help and as the

time gets closer there will be lots of things that members can do to be a part of this great event. The previous seedling sales have been successful because so many people helped. I hope that they enjoyed it and will help again.

*Kerry*

## Elspeth Crawford-Greene ... a sad passing

I was saddened last Saturday to hear that our dear friend, Elspeth from Northaven, had passed away. She was 94!

Elspeth came to the garden primarily to avail herself of some 'fresh greens' for her midday lunch. She loved the freshness of our produce and shared them with some of her friends "just a few leaves each day should do the trick". She would visit my plot every day, undo the difficult locking device and help herself. She found it all too hard with her stick, my lock and dodging the bandicoot holes and moved to an area in one of the community gardens, next to Sebastian's, until finally we offered her a plot of her own.

Well - you would have thought we had given her the perfect gift. She bought some of her own perpetual greens with the aid of her carer and from then on was able to pick her own supplies - even transferred some on to her tiny balcony which thrived there because of the direct sun. This whole saga was assisted by a few sweet hearts at our garden and she was eternally grateful for our kindness, our inclusivity and for the scrumptious morning teas!

She became quite ill a few months back and had to be admitted to the SAN Hospital but finally returned to Northaven to find both her sons, one who lives in the USA and one from Tasmania, there waiting for her. She was elated and spent her final days reliving the tales of her long life's journey. She was so happy!

I shall miss our chats and I know she would love me to truly thank again our special garden community.

*by Tina*

PS: Elspeth favourite plant was the Geranium



July 6th Working Bee

July 13th Working Bee

July 20th Working Bee  
Monthly Garden Talk

July 24th

Presentation to Pennant  
Hills Garden Group

July 27th Working Bee

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR  
ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT!**

### BUSH REGENERATING THE AREA BEHIND THE TLC GARDEN

If anyone would like to join Janet Fairlie-Cunninghame, Judy Moore and Janet Pollock on the 2nd Monday of each month to spend three hours regenerating the bush behind 'The Garden', they would be most welcome. It's a very pleasant way to spend the afternoon and you don't need any experience. If you are interested let Janet FC, Judy or Janet P know.

The next afternoon is  
Monday 8 July at 1pm.