



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

AGM July 2023
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my final report as President and I'd like to express my thanks to all those who contributed to making the past 3 years such a friendly and pleasurable time as I served the club in this capacity. I feel sure, the incoming President is more than up to the challenge and will enjoy the position as much as I did. With Covid firmly behind us and general meetings gathering pace, we can all look forward to social friendship and interesting months ahead. At present there are 102 financial members with 13 who either resigned, moved or did not renew in 2022-23 and the mean-average at monthly meetings was 55. The club is affiliated with Gardening Clubs of Australia (GCA). There are approximately 760 clubs from all over Australia in this organisation and these are split into zones. WFGC is in the Blue Mountains Zone, with 13 clubs covering the area from Oberon to Lithgow to Blaxland in the lower Blue Mountains. Zone Meetings are held 3 times per year to share points of interests and resolve matters of concern. The most pressing question that rose during my tenure is how to encourage members to stand for positions on club Committees. Clubs are not permitted to operate without a President, and an Executive Committee along with a general committee is the very heart of a smooth execution of duties. At the March Zone Meeting, a sub-committee was formed to discuss and find resolution to many outstanding concerns. I feel confident that the incoming President of WFGC will find the zone meetings have much merit and lots to offer.

Another question that came up more than once, is the matter of non-member family and friends attending club events. This appears resolved in that there are two insurance policies, one that provides all GCA members, benefits in the event of death or incapacity of a member resulting from an accident during a meeting or function primarily a club event, and a Public Liability policy that indemnifies the club against negligence and claims brought against the club by third parties for personal injury or property damage as a direct result of the club's activities. Further to this, there is always a duty of care in any organisation and to that end, Emergency Contact Details are now recorded on the club's Membership Application Form, and all present members are asked to supply details on the form provided, commencing this financial year.

As ever, the Committee worked to ensure the viability of the club as we slowly emerged from COVID. Excellent speakers of a high calibre were engaged and to jog our memory, a wide range of gardening related subjects were covered from symbiotic relations between plants and fungi; how to grow daffodils successfully; everything you wanted to know about fuchsias; what bulbs and seeds to plant in autumn; tools to make gardening easier and educational presentations that covered "Moth" the lost David Austen rose and the Chelsea Flower Show. Several members stepped up to the microphone for "My garden, not my garden" segment with presentations that spoke of recent visitations to show gardens and

properties, and Japan and its' magnificent Maples. Q&A was as popular as ever in solving our garden related issues and it's gratifying to note there are willing members who, at a moments' notice, assist when a committee member becomes indisposed or unavailable and our heartfelt thanks go to those who obliged and kept the club operating.

The WFGC website has a vast amount of data including the Constitution, great gardening tips and a wonderful Gallery of past and present members' gardens. It's all there! Do avail yourselves of it and submit items. The plant stall is thriving as is the wonderful library and the introduction of second-hand books looks promising as an adjunct to raising revenue. The newsletter is the first point of contact with the membership each month and I urge you to read it to remain up to date with club events. Mayfield bus trip held in September, and Nooroo and Wildwood held April 2023, along with the Collectors Plant Fair were well attended, this augers well for future bus trips that the WFGC sub-committee are organising towards spring this year.

In June 2022, the sudden passing of Karen Ives who served the Blue Mountains City Council for 52 years, was keenly felt by all those in WFGC who worked with her in the management of hall bookings, bus trips and anything to do with council matters. It was thought she would be hard to replace but thankfully equally capable people have taken over her duties and, for the most part, liaison with the council is trouble free.

This report would not be complete without a mention of the excellent Committee that serves the members of the club. They are, without exception, capable, reliable and very talented. Every member brings an enthusiastic commitment to the position held and executes it with a good heart. We are indeed very fortunate to have such a team and I do urge you to step up and take a turn on the committee to enjoy, first-hand the wheels of operation, to help make decisions and to share in the many achievements.

Thank you for your attention.

Janice Light

President