

WFGC PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019

Presented to the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 11th July 2019

Wentworth Falls Garden Club exists “for the promotion of gardening and member education in various aspects of gardening and environmental care.” My thanks go to the hardworking committee and membership who are making this possible.

Gai is an outstanding Secretary with great organizational skills and was instrumental in setting up the Birthday celebrations. She always has agendas and minutes ready in good time and deals efficiently with correspondence.

Sed has been our Publicity Officer this year, placing advance notice of meetings in the Gazette the week before each General Meeting. This has encouraged visitors, many of whom have eventually joined the club. He has put together the monthly newsletter and has upgraded our website. It is now much easier to navigate and is full of interesting photos and articles on many aspects of gardening.

Henry as Treasurer has firm control of our finances and we continue to be in a healthy financial position. We have spent some of our surplus in upgrading our data projector and screen, a birthday gift to the membership in our 30th year. With Sed, Henry has also been managing our website correspondence and posting newsletters and General Meeting minutes.

Susan has been responsible for organizing the hall set-up/pull down roster, proofreading the newsletter and getting all our printing done. Barry continues to manage Membership and noted that our numbers had increased this year to 142 members as at June 2019. We have between 70 and 80 members in attendance at most meetings. Barry has also acted as Assistant Treasurer.

Rhona has been capably managing catering for our outstanding Morning Teas, ably assisted by her band of helpers. Tea and cake are a great accompaniment to catching up with friends or making new ones. Merilyn has made many book and DVD purchases to widen the knowledge base in our library. Silent auctions with donated books have raised funds for further purchases. The library is always well used so, well done!

Three committee members depart today. Vic has nursed our temperamental audio-visual equipment along for three years until the new AV equipment arrived, to his delight. Anne has obtained numerous interesting speakers for our meetings over her two years on the committee. She had to resign due to illness but it is wonderful to see her here today. We are pleased to have Susan in the role now. Over the year we have covered subjects on numerous specific garden and native plants, soil health, garden tools, botanical illustration and inspirational gardens.

Sharon and Lynton have been committee members since 2003 and 2006 respectively and Tours and Functions planners since 2008. What a marvelous record of supporting the club. They step down today with our gratitude for all those trips they have planned and led and the functions they have organized. We have visited special gardens locally and further afield, with Lynton as driver. He volunteered an extra day's driving each trip so we could get the bus at such a reasonable rate. Also thanks to Lynton's suggestion, we now have our new club banner to hang outside the hall each meeting.

Members and speakers have taken part in the "What's Happening in my Garden" and "Q&A" meeting segments. Many other members have volunteered to go on the Welcome Desk, sell raffle tickets, set up/pull down tables in the hall, provide and serve morning teas and assist in the library and on the plant stall. Lea continues to cover Welfare issues with sensitivity. We could not run the club successfully without the contribution of so many members. Thank you everyone.

The highlight of the year was our 30th Birthday celebration meeting in May. Garden Clubs Australia President George Hoad spoke about the foundation of GCA by Margaret Davis after World War 2 and its development up to today. He also showed his photos of wonderful gardens in Europe to inspire us. Over 90 members and invited guests attended and it was a wonderful morning of fellowship. Twenty-two members submitted beautiful garden and plant photos for the 30th Birthday Photo Gallery. They now form the headers for each website page.

Let me finish with a Chinese proverb: "Life begins when you start a garden". Of course you then have to keep it going. Thank you for a happy year of nurturing friendships and gardens in our beautiful Blue Mountains.

Carol Conway (President, WFGC)