

Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc. – Minutes – General Meeting – 11 Jan 2024

Wentworth Falls School of Arts Hall 9.45am.

- Morning Tea Coordinator Barbara Fox called for MT helpers.
- Secretary passed Q&A book and Hall Set Up roster.

President Duncan Leys:

- Addressed membership. Welcomed members to the New Year.
- Welcomed 9 visitors.
- Advised 8 apologies.
- Advised Corrie Kennedy would answer Q&A questions. Book passed.
- Asked members to consider propagating a plant from their garden for Plant Stall. Thank You to Daniel Murphy and Kerrie Lee for their work on stall.
- Geraldine Sternberg displayed her hydrangea peniculata. Mentioned possible allergic contact dermatitis.

Secretary – Gai Horrocks

Advised members and drew attention to Noticeboard:

- Guest Speaker Jan – June 2024 Schedule, GM and CM 2024 dates, Hall Set Up roster. New lightweight tables.
- Housekeeping:
 - Orange safety cones in hallway near stairs. BMCC assessing safety aspect of evacuation stairs and possible action.
 - A reminder of Public Library parking spots. Please don't use.
- A Special Thank You:
 - New member Stephen Ingram – photos taken at EOY function.
 - Sandie Cleaver. Mt Annan bus trip write up and photos.

Do check the January Newsletter and WFGC webpage for Sandie's write up and the photos by Sandie, Stephen and Sed Mayne.

Treasurer – Henry Nelson

Treasurer Henry Nelson advised the report two months 1 Nov 2023 to 31 Dec 2023.

Cash Book Balance as @ 1st November 2023: \$8,938.78

Income: \$2,176.45. Expenditure: \$4,812.81

Available Funds: \$3,802.42

Moved: Henry Nelson.

Seconded: Janice Light

Welfare – Lea Nelson

Lea advised messages and thoughts sent to:

Tricia Miskovic, Merylyn Shields, Yvonne Mayne, Les Allen, Barbara Wakefield and Janice Light.

Membership – Kevin Hummel

65 attending the January 2024 meeting. This includes:

3 making membership application, 9 visitors.

6 apologies received.

Library – Belinda Coates

Belinda displayed a selection of books from WFGC library and invited members to visit the library if possible before the meeting or before their Morning Tea. She also noted that members are welcome to browse in the open storage cabinet.

Events – President Duncan Leys

Duncan advised committee pleased that WFGC is moving towards resumption of normal activities with Tours, Functions and Guest Speakers.

Duncan advised the EOY function at Palais Royale was particularly pleasing and exceeded committee expectations with a delightful venue and delicious meal.

We look forward to returning to Palais Royale for an event in 2024.

Committee plans for 2024 include two outings in Autumn, two in Spring and an EOY function.

WFGC will also be celebrating our 35th Anniversary at the 9th May General Meetings.

Our speaker will be Judy Horton MAIH, HMA, OA. Horticulturist, Media Personality, Our Gardens GCA Magazine Editor. Her May presentation, *History of the Backyard*.

Guest Speaker coordinator – Carol Conway advised:

- Guest Speaker Schedule January – June 2024 on WFGC website.
- February Speakers - Bush Tucker Babies. Talking and tasting Bush Tucker Plants.
- March Guest Speakers will be first item on the March GM.

After a short greeting by President Duncan Leys the meeting will commence with Guest Speakers, Lithgow Valley Mushrooms.

Morning Tea will be earlier 10.45 – 11.15.

Green Hoppers – Duncan Leys

President Duncan Leys presented an AV follow up to a member's previous query.

Thank you to Geraldine Sternberg for her research.

Q&A – Corrie Kennedy

Thank You to Corrie who gave such a comprehensive overview to the Q&A questions.

Corrie advised that most of the problems noted this month need to be considered in relation to our ongoing and out of season excess rains.

Morning Tea

Guest Speaker –Fiona Hasselman Fifi’s Bees. 🐝

A wonderful start to the year. An excellent turnout of members and visitors for Fiona’s presentation.

Fiona’s Fifi’s Bees is based in Katoomba and hives are at various locations through through the mountains. Beekeepers are classified as Landless Farmers.

Fiona has hives at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre located off to one side of the viewing deck.

Afternoon Tea with the Bees. Check Fiona’s FB page, Fifi’s Bees, for future opportunity to “suit up” and learn about bees.

Two varieties of bees: European Bees and Native Bees. Fiona does not work with Native Bees. These do not breed above Hazelbrook.

Pollination. Bees pollinate our food and keep the ecosystem in balance.

A video made in China gave members insight to the necessity of pollination.

Chemicals have had a devastating effect on bees. Bees are leased to pollinate trees.

The very poor hand pollinate.

Helping Bees in Our Gardens

Create a mixed source of pollen for bees with a variety of plantings.

Don’t use chemicals.

Control European Wasps which eat bees. (Wasp Trapping with the Laurie Lure)

Create a Native Bee Hotel.

Varroa Mite – A Bee Parasite.

The Varroa Mite attaches to bee larvae and sucks fat/energy from bees. This impacts the brain of the bees and subsequently impacts their ability to navigate. The damaged bees leave the hive early and cannot find their way back.

Varroa Mite first detected in Australia in 2022. Hopes of eradication have been given up. Aim now is management of the bee parasite.

Honeys available from the various Blue Mountain village areas.

Lucky Door prizes drawn by Fiona.

Meeting closed: 12.00.

Next GM: 8 Feb 2024