

**Wentworth Falls Garden Club – Minutes – General Meeting – 9.45am 14 September 2023
Wentworth Falls School of Arts Hall.**

President – Duncan Leys:

Addressed membership:

- Welcomed members.
- Welcomed two visitors.
- Expressed pleasure in response to his Garden Ramble 10 August. Encouraged others.
- Encouraged members to participate in new Show and Tell activity.
- Invited expression of interest for WFGC committee. We have one space.

Introduced Sed Mayne – Communications Officer

- Sed advised he will be standing down from his position as of AGM July 2024.
- There are two aspects of his position:
 - Publish Newsletter – Words skills
 - Publish WFGC website.
- Invited member/s who have interest to speak to him.

Secretary – Gai Horrocks

Advised members and drew attention to Noticeboard:

- Hall Set Up. Roster filled to March 2024. Thank You Susan Susan Hummel and Members.
- GCA 2024 calendars have been ordered. Expected for October GM.
- Open Gardens notices displayed: Leura Garden Festival, Little Hartley.
- Garden Rambles. Saturday 16 September. Lower BM Garden Club.

Morning Tea – Barbara Fox

- Barbara asked for volunteers to assist with Morning Tea. Barbara and husband, Nick, are hosting today's Garden Ramble.
- Thank You to Carol who will assist with pack up and take Jocelyn to the Ramble.

Financial Report – Henry Nelson

Cash Balance as @ 1st August 2023: \$5,645.76

Income: \$3,417.50. Expenditure: \$261.15

Cash Book Balance as @ 31 August: \$8,802.11

Available Funds: \$5,922.11

Move acceptance of Financial Report: Henry.

Seconded: Janice Light.

Welfare Report – Lea Nelson

- Card of Condolence - Maureen January.
- Thinking of You – Lizzie Bond.

Membership – Kevin Hummel

- Membership
 - 83 financial members.
 - 43 members in attendance, 9 apologies and 2 visitors.
- Wentworth Falls School of Arts Hall Risk Assessment.
 - The committee is updating the Risk Assessment overview for School of Arts Hall.
 - Assessment Format displayed on Noticeboard.
 - Risk Assessment comment sheet displayed. Members' comments invited.
- Hall exits noted for members.

Library – Belinda Coates

- Acknowledgement of Country.
- Display of books which may interest members.
- Advised the library as always is open before the GM. Do come and browse.
- Handed out survey: What Do you Want from our library?
- October GM Silent Auction. Limited number of library books out during Silent Auction.

Events

- Gai Horrocks
 - Bus Trips: Parramatta **FULL**. Mt Annan **Three spaces**.
 - Christmas Lunch. 14 December.
 - Gai taking payments Sept and Oct GMs at Morning Tea.
 - Please advise. Dietary requirements: Gluten Free. Lactose Free.
- Duncan Leys. Parramatta Bus Trip. Our Guides:
 - Michael Lehany is one of Australia's foremost landscape historians:
 - His method of recovering historic gardens involves detailed historic research and an informed reading of the extant physical evidence of remnant landscape combined with a deep understanding of context.
 - His work for private clients includes the garden of Raheen in Kew Melbourne.
 - He advised on the garden of Swifts at Darling Point, Sydney.
 - Michael worked on the analysis and conservation of the garden at Elizabeth Farm after it was acquired by NSW government.
 - Michael assisted the National Trust with the recovery and recreation of Experiment Farm Cottage in 2000.
 - Ian Stephenson is an historic place curator:
 - He was Senior Curator of the National Trust (NSW), Director Historic Places (ACT) and CEO of the National Trust for South Australia.
 - He has a strong interest in Parramatta, particularly the planning challenges and opportunities arising from its significant early colonial landscapes and buildings coupled with its development as Sydney's second CBD.
 - He initiated the Centenary of Federation project to recover the setting of Experiment Farm Cottage.
 - He was closely involved with the reinterpretation of Old Government House Parramatta.

Guest Speakers – Carol Conway

- Rambles. Members are advised Rambles will be held today and after the Oct and Nov GMs.
- Carol advised she will be handing over her Guest Speakers role as of AGM July 2024.
- She invited member/s to take on her position and commence working with her this year.
- Guest Speakers October – November 2023 and Jan – June 2024 are in place. An interested member could work with Carol to compile the second half of 2024.

My Garden – Barbara Fox. Tusculum

Barbara presented an AV overview of the garden which Nick and Barbara Fox, purchased in July 2017. Camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and roses were favourites of previous owners.

2017 saw the refining of the garden. 21 conifers were removed. 2019 saw the start of landscaping with the construction of a new stream and pond. A landscape plan was drawn up with new paths in 2022 followed by planting of both native and exotic species. A focal point in the front garden is a plinth topped by a sculpture made by Nick. The gabion wall was built by Nick and planted with local and imported grass species. Work on the garden is ongoing.

Barbara and Nick invited WFGC to a Ramble of their garden following the 14 September GM.

Morning Tea

Lucky Door prize.

Guest Speaker – Bryn Hutchinson from Fridays Gardens

Bryn has been practising horticulture since 2009 working in the public, private and community sectors including as Senior Horticulturalist at Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah. He has a passion for horticultural science with a particular interest in ecological garden approaches and sustainable management of soils.

He is also active in the field of social and therapeutic horticulture with a focus on community development through gardens.

Bryn currently runs *Firdaus Gardens*, a Blue Mountains horticultural consultancy, garden design and garden care service.

Today's talk was about Trial Gardens. Trial Gardens are research gardens that road-test plants for their garden worthiness. Bryn previously managed the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Trial Garden.

Meeting closed: 12.00.

Next GM: 12 October 2023