

## Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc. – Minutes – General Meeting – 8 Feb 2024

Wentworth Falls school of Arts Hall 9.45am.

**President Duncan Leys commenced meeting.**

- Morning Tea Coordinator Barbara Fox called for MT helpers.
- Secretary passed Hall Set Up and Morning Tea Bring a Plate rosters.

**President Leys welcomed:**

- Members
- New WFGC members: Lynette Hilton, Sonya Forza and Susan MacDonald.
- Ten visitors.

Reminded members WFGC AGM is in July and some longtime committee members are standing down. It is vital that these positions are filled:

Treasurer (and Public Officer)

Speaker coordinator

Events Manager

Website Manager

Newsletter Writer.

**Secretary – Gai Horrocks**

- Thanked artist and member Sylvia Beresford for her gift *Vase of Flowers*. Sylvia donated the print of her watercolour as a raffle prize to celebrate WFGC 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 9 May GM.
- Thanked Plant Stall volunteers Daniel Murphy and Kerrie Lee. An outstanding income of \$77.80 at January General Meeting.
- Thanked the many members who contribute to the success of our club:
  - Ronah and Vic Tuite. Thank you to Ronah for collecting moneys for bus excursions and raffles. Thank you to Vic for always being there for WFGC.
  - Thank you to those who set up the hall.
  - Thank you to those who help with Morning Tea.
  - Thank you to those who bring in the delicious Morning Tea goodies.
  - Thank you to Diana and Carlene who assist on the Welcome Desk.
  - Thank you to Grant for doing AV.

**Treasurer Henry Nelson**

Treasurer Henry Nelson advised:

Cash Book Balance as @ 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024: \$6,302.42

Income: \$516.09.                      Expenditure: \$519.88

Cash Book Balance as @ 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024: \$6,298.63

Available funds: \$3,798.63

**Move:** Henry Nelson

**Second:** Belinda Coate

Henry thanked Membership Officer Kevin Hummel, Super Shopper Award, finding pouches for WFGC membership badges and lanyards for remarkable price.

## **Welfare – Lea Nelson**

Thinking of You card to Steve Ingram.

## **Membership – Kevin Hummel**

45 members attending February 2024 meeting.

15 members sent apologies.

10 visitors.

## **Library – Belinda Coates**

Belinda displayed a number of books and invited members to visit our WFGC library.

Books displayed:

Climber and Creepers

Composting

Permaculture book by BM's Rosemary Morrow.

Native Plants

## **Events – Overview by Duncan Leys**

President Leys advised committee working on Events for membership. Our aim is to present two Autumn events, one Winter Lunch and two Spring events.

- Rookwood Cemetery, Overview by Duncan. Monday 8 April. \$40. Lunch at members' own expense.
- Conservation Hut lunch. Overview by Susan. Thursday 20 June. \$30.

Ronah took bookings and cash payments at GM. D/D payments to be made to WFGC account. Details on Newsletter under **Club Information**. Include your name!

## **Video. How Flowers talk to Bees. David Attenborough. Introduced by Sed. AV Grant.**

A fascinating followup to last month's Fifi's Bees by Fiona Hasselman.

## **Guest Speaker Coordinator – Carol Conway**

- Members reminded March GM Guest Speakers Steve and Linda McCulloch from Lithgow Valley Mushrooms will be first up commencing the GM at 9.45am.
- March Morning Tea will be earlier. 10.45 – 11.15am.
- Three Lucky Door prizes drawn.

**Morning Tea helpers invited to join Barbara.**

## **Morning Tea**

### **Guest Speakers – Bush Tucker Babies**

A very special treat for WFGC with Guest Speakers Kippy and Jesse, Bush Tucker Babies.

Kipper and Jesse delighted members with their presentation. These two young people are a reassurance and as Guest Speaker Coordinator, Carol Conway, stated in her words of thanks “Our Future is in good hands.” The membership totally agreed!

Kippy and Jesse’s journey began when they noticed that despite increasing awareness of the imminent need to “re-green” the planet, the knowledge of the general population on how to do so while supporting existing ecosystems could be quite hard to access.

Australian food plants have been largely ignored by contemporary society and although there is a recent boom in the promotion of Australian natives, this has resulted in Bushfoods being viewed as almost exotic – with the price tag to match!

Kippy and Jesse showed our members that native and local food plants have a place in every Australian garden and on every Australian table.

What an overview they presented! Tables of plants. Each plant taken around so the members could touch, feel and smell. As Jesse moved around Kippy and Jesse presented a depth of information on each plant noting suitability for BM gardening and nutritional details.

A few examples of the plants presented:

- Mountain Pepper (*Tasmannia lanceolata*) peppery tasting, grind as pepper, hot taste. male and female needed for fruit. Doesn’t take extreme sun.
- Strawberry Gum (*Eucalyptus Olinda*) use as a flavour enhancer, used in perfume industry, can grow metres high, prune as a shrub in the garden.
- Lemon Myrtle Not suitable for BM. Cool tolerant. Use fresh or dried. Infuse in curry, iced teas. Tip prune.
- Desert Limes (*citrus glauca*) finger size fruit displayed on bush, perfect for cookies, iced teas and curries.
- Mountain Devil (*Lambertia Formosa*) flower nectar can be squeezed on pancakes, native bird food. Cold tolerant.
- Bunya Nut. Cold tolerant. 50 nuts in each Bunya, good source of protein.

Bush Tucker Babies website is an easy and informative browse. Includes plants, herbs and freeze -dried fruits.

Kippy and Jesse indeed showed us “native and local food plants have a place in every Australian garden and on every Australian plate.” Well done, Bush Tucker Babies!