



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

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2023: Edition No 368**

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of this land: the Darug and Gundungurra people.

*A message from the President.....*

Autumn is such a lovely time of year. The Blue Mountains hosts many visitors who come specifically to take in the spectacular colour changes along the highway through the many villages that make up this heritage listed area. As the season changes, the temperature drops, days get shorter with less direct sunlight; this causes the chlorophyll in the leaves to break down which in turn reveals yellow and orange pigments that were already in the leaves, but was masked during the warmer months. When autumn arrives time seems to slow down, allowing a moment to reflect on the garden tasks that can now wait till the return of spring. Autumn can be the harbinger of change and transformation, resetting our inner clock, inspiring us to evaluate our lives. It can herald a time to reflect, to enjoy the rustle of leaves under foot and to breathe in the crisp, fresh air of this pristine region that stretches over 11,400 square kilometres of mountain tops, sandstone cliffs, and abundant forest filled valleys with cascading waterfalls, vast lookouts, and an assortment of indigenous wildlife that has made the Blue Mountains home. We are so fortunate to live in such a unique area.

And talking about wildlife and something not so unique- have you had trouble with birds specifically the sulphur crested cockatoos destroying plants? I have a palm tree that has more than once been totally demolished by these unerring persistent pests. Beautiful as the cockatoo may be, they can destroy in minutes months of hard work. I googled some ideas on what to do about them. A child's windmill costing \$2.00 with lots of bright colours and sparkling blades has been erected and, to my delight, has done the trick. There are a few easy solutions on the internet for getting control over most annoying garden problems. It's not only birds, but hailstorms, strong wind, persistent rain and hotter than normal summer days that can discourage any enthusiastic gardener. But we keep at it because we love the results even if for only a few days.

For those who went on the bus trip to the Collectors' Plant Fair, I'm told the day was enlightening with a vast array of stalls and gave insight into the number of plants that can be cultivated in this region. Please share your experience with us at a general meeting to let members know what took your fancy, what you found interesting and what new plant you discovered. Those members who went enjoyed a wonderful time together, and the day evolved without disruption. The Nooroo, Wildwood excursion, May 4, is shaping up to be equally as stimulating and restful. Nothing to think about, but to be driven to two lovely gardens, have lunch and take in the wonder of someone else's hard work.

I'll see you all on 11<sup>th</sup> May at the General Meeting; in the meantime, stay well and enjoy what's left of autumn.

Until we meet again

*Janice Light*





## Today's Speaker is Lis Bastian – BMCC Program Lead, Planetary Health Initiative



Lis Bastian is the Senior Lead for Blue Mountains City Council's Planetary Health Initiative, and she will be speaking about the Planetary Health Precinct Plan at the old Katoomba Golf Course, as well as the Initiative's city-wide program to strengthen community, heal Country and restore the health of our planet.

Before taking on this position, Lis had a long career spanning the arts, community development and environment. She has been an art teacher in schools and TAFE as well as an Education Officer at the AGNSW, curator of Orange Regional Gallery, CEO of Arts OutWest and Varuna, the Writers House, and she ran a gallery in Blackheath called "Stop Laughing this is Serious". She trained with Al Gore as a Climate Ambassador, founded the Blue Mountains Permaculture Institute with Rowe Morrow, and wrote a Regional Resilience Strategy for Central NSW when she was Centroc's Climate Adaptation Officer. She also founded the local Charity, The Big Fix Ltd, which shares solutions media and runs Blackheath Community Farm. She is a passionate gardener.

Lis will tell us about the Planetary Health Initiative's Draft Precinct Plan for the old Katoomba Golf Course.

### **ALL Executive and Committee positions become vacant at the AGM in July 2023. All positions are open for nomination.**

This year, Janice is stepping down as president as required by the club's constitution. Ronah and Marilyn are not standing for re-election to the Committee.

We must have a President for the club to exist. We need club members to manage the library and arrange for speakers at our meetings. Someone arranges the morning tea at every meeting. Someone needs to arrange for members to talk about their gardens or a garden they have visited. Someone needs to manage membership, and someone must produce this newsletter. We can't operate without a secretary or a treasurer. Someone must set up the projector, screen, computer, and sound system at each meeting. You expect all these things to happen, and they do, but they need someone to do them.

***Maybe, this year, that Someone is you!***

The club needs members to join our committee to contribute further to the effective operation of the club; you are invited to nominate for either an Executive or Committee position.

The Committee members meet once a month to review and discuss the club's operation, future functions, speakers, finance and how we can best serve the club members. We invite you to consider how you could join the Committee and help your club.

**Please see Gai for a nomination form or any enquiries.**

### **June General Meeting** **8th June 2023**

**Guest speaker:** Tony Matson of CutAbove  
Tools will give us essential pruning tool tips.

**Hall set-up:** Martin Vaughan  
Daniel Murphy

**Pull down:** Martin Vaughan  
Daniel Murphy

**Morning Tea – bring a plate.**  
Sandie Cleaver  
Merilyn Shields  
Bronwyn Hay

***Plates should be ready to serve.***

### **Club Information**

All members and visitors are asked to sign in upon arrival. Members should wear their club name badges to all club meetings, events and rambles. To take part in club events and rambles you must be a *bona fide* club member. General Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, from January to November, at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts Theatre, Adele Ave (cnr Great Western Hwy), Wentworth Falls. Check-in at 9.30 am for a 9.45 am start and finish around noon. The library and the plant stall are open before the meeting and at morning tea. \$5 entry fee.

The joining fee is \$35. Thereafter, an **annual subscription is \$25 due in July** each year. Payments can be by direct debit to Wentworth Falls Garden Club Account: BSB: 062-559; Acct: 28003852.

Ensure your **name** is included with your remittance.

**Wentworth Falls Garden Club contact details:**

Email: [wentworthfallsgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:wentworthfallsgardenclub@gmail.com)

Website: [www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com](http://www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com)

**For Club Welfare matters**, please contact Trish Fewer  
Ph 4784 2570 or email [treab2@bigpond.com](mailto:treab2@bigpond.com)