

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc
on Thursday 10th May 2012.

During 2011 and into 2012, Wentworth Falls Garden Club has confirmed its position as one of the most active clubs in the Blue Mountains Zone, an accomplishment for which we can continue to be very proud. This has been achieved while at the same time meeting the objectives of the club as set out in the Constitution.

During the year your committee has carefully revised the Membership List and now have 154 members listed, of which some 121 are fully paid up. Average attendance at meetings has been 58 members. Some 13 new members joined during 2011, and by the end of March, a further 10 new members had joined, or rejoined, the club in 2012.

At the last AGM, Jane Blackshaw joined the committee as Assistant Secretary, with the key role of arranging speakers for each meeting. This coordinating role has not always been easy, with more than one speaker dropping out and alternative speakers having to be arranged at short notice, one within 24 hours of the time of the meeting. I think that we have all enjoyed the speakers and learned something of value at each meeting. Congratulations, Jane, on a difficult job well-done!

Our intrepid Tours and Functions coordinators, Lynton and Sharon, have continued their well-researched roles, and delivered activities which have been enjoyable to all who attended. Probably the highlight was the 3 day visit to the Festival of Gardens at Griffith in October, but the visits to Eryldene at Gordon and to Mt Victoria and Clarence in April, as well as the various garden rambles have been actively supported. As always, they are preparing for future tours during 2012, and we look forward to these. The Christmas function at Wentworth Falls Country Club was also well attended, so much so that we have already rebooked the venue for 2012. Heartfelt thanks for a job well-done, Sharon and Lynton.

As well as our usual contribution to the Leura Gardens Festival, 2011 saw additional participation by members in the Annual Convention of Garden Clubs of Australia held in our area in the Upper Blue Mountains. Thanks to those members who opened their gardens for inspection, as well as those who assisted in providing afternoon tea and towards the smooth running of the Convention. A number of members attended the AGM at which the guest speaker was Jerry Coleby-Williams, whose address was both entertaining and, at the same time, challenging to those present.

I'd like to especially thank Janice, our Secretary, Michael, our Treasurer, and Michelle, our Publicity Officer, for the time and effort that they put into the club, and without which there would be no club to attend month by month. For those who play a key role in setting up the hall, the library, morning tea, garden stall, raffles etc, too many to name, I say a special Thank You. Without these largely unseen helpers, we would be lost!

We were sorry to see Marlene and Martin retire from their role in serving Morning Tea, which they have performed so well over the last 4-5 years. However, I would like to highlight our appreciation for all that they have done for us during this time.

During this year I have spoken on a number of occasions about the need for us to have a "community spirit" among our members and urge you all to keep committee members aware of those who are ill or indisposed, or who are unable to attend for other reasons. We would like to ensure that we do all that we can to support our members when they need help.

During the last 12 months, our website, www.wentworthfallsgardenclub.com, has come online, and is not only available to those who may be seeking out a garden club in the area, but is also a useful site for members to get information about the club activities. Please remember that even when you are unable to attend, a copy of the newsletter for that month is published on the website and you can keep up with the details of that meeting and, indeed, for several months prior.

As reported to the February meeting, it has been necessary to increase our membership fees from May 2012 in order to cover the costs of maintaining the high standard of meetings to which we are accustomed. An application has been made to obtain public funds which, if successful, will allow us to purchase our own data projector and associated equipment, which we have had to borrow in the past when speakers have not been able to provide their own.

I am thankful that Jane McKanna, (who took up the previously unfilled Vice- President position during 2011), has been able to step into my shoes while I am away. Additionally, Narelle has picked up the publicity role during Michelle's absence. How fortunate we are that there are these people available to take charge when required!

Thanks again to everybody for their contribution in 2011, and I look forward to maintaining the smooth operation of our club in 2012 as we all work together for the common good.

Henry Nelson
President 2011/12