

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc on Thursday 9th July, 2015.

When I sat down to write this report I stopped to think about what The Wentworth Falls Garden Club is. Many people ask me what we do, so this report is a good time to reflect.

We have a strong social component with our regular monthly meetings. They provide a chance for friends to mingle, and newcomers to the mountains to begin the process of fitting in to a new community. We have the chance to chat over morning tea, and also to go a little further afield on a regular basis when there are trips, garden rambles and garden visits on offer. Our Christmas lunch is an important social part of our Club year and last year was attended by more than half our members. We welcomed visitors for the first time, which enabled partners to be brought along.

We have serious long-time gardeners amongst us and beginners who need to find out how to garden in the climate of the mountains. To achieve this we have a fantastic newsletter with gardening advice and tips. We have a constantly updated website to inform those members who are unable to attend meetings. This year we have introduced a five-minute garden clinic that is held most months. It is presented by one of our members who has some knowledge they are willing to share on a particular subject. A couple of our more expert members always willingly help out by answering questions in our Q & A segment. Members are able to borrow any number of books and DVDs from our constantly updated library, which cover broad and very specific garden topics. Each month the committee finds a guest speaker who comes with experience, knowledge and enthusiasm about their particular field of interest.

I often get feedback (not from our members but the wider community) that it is always a few people who do all of the work in any Club. I make no apology when I insist that is not the case for us here at Wentworth Falls. We have an extremely hard-working committee who all equally share a load that is increasing with our increase in membership. They also do lots behind the scenes such as representing us at Zone and Australia-wide Garden Clubs of Australia meetings. There is a much wider group of members who also contribute to the running of the club by setting up and providing our monthly morning teas; a rotation of at least 12 members who help to set the hall up each month for the meeting; someone to purchase the beautiful lucky-door prizes each month; one co-ordinator and at least four others who sell plants at the plant stall not to mention the many who donate the cuttings and plants in the first place; two members who drive the bus for our trips, four regulars who man the library, but a few others who

help out when needed; and a wonderful meet and greet team at the front door each month. Our Council representative, Karen Ives, continues to help and support us in many ways. I will not name names as there are seriously too many of you. If I included all of the people who have contributed in some way in the past years then I may as well just hand you the list of members, as this club is a product of everyone who is a member.

When we introduced the \$5 meeting fee a few years ago we were concerned that some members would not agree and therefore leave us. Our membership has now grown to a healthy 135. This means that your contribution each month allows us to have up-to date equipment for our speaker's presentations....essential if we continue to attract top-notch presenters; to offer a lovely morning tea, such an important part of our meetings, to continually revitalise the library, and to purchase a cupboard for the Hall, in an effort to lighten the load of the committee, who each month cart all sorts of equipment back and forwards.

I thank all of you for making this another happy and successful Club year, but I especially would like to acknowledge our committee, and in particular Lynton Phillips who steps down today after nine years. I wish the incoming committee every success.

Celeste Shadie