

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc on Thursday 13th July, 2017.

My role as President of the Wentworth Falls Garden Club has come to an end after three happy years. The Committee has been a well-oiled machine working together as a team to fulfil the club's aims, as identified in our Constitution, of promoting and educating our members in various aspects of gardening and environmental care. We are a very social club in that at the heart of all of our meetings and activities we aim for friendliness and inclusion, but the underlying theme is gardening. I am not sure if all of you realise that we are actually bound by the Constitution to fulfil these objectives.

Over these last three years we have had to say our final goodbyes to a small handful of members and included in these were the beloved Michael Cooper and John Waldron. Both of these two gentlemen were respected and hardworking members on our committee for more years than many of us have been members.

I would like to thank Jane Blackshaw and Karen Handicott who are both stepping down from the committee today. Jane has been involved for a long time in organising morning teas, guest speakers and anything else that might have been required. Karen joined us a couple of years ago and quickly became one of the friendly faces at the front desk on welcome duties as well as fulfilling a huge gap by organising rosters of helpers for hall set-up and pack-down duties.

Gai Horrocks, as Secretary, has been my right-hand man, so to speak, organising just about everything you could imagine and more. Gai has also been the quiet, calm voice of reason on many occasions.

Our finances have never looked better since Henry Nelson took on the role of Treasurer after stepping down as President. Many of you wouldn't realise that there was a time when we had almost nothing in our coffers, but we now have a healthy bank balance which enables us to keep our club running smoothly with as many benefits as possible going back to our members. We can also be assured that in an emergency we can replace our equipment without panic. Henry is also our web-master and this is a job that is requiring a larger commitment of time as our website and club email become more and more popular.

Carol Conway has been a back-up for me in her role as Vice-President whilst reinvigorating the library with many new purchases throughout the year.

We have had a steady membership of around 135 for the last three years. Barry Butler has the membership files organised so efficiently that we decided to call for an understudy – someone who had the same set of computing skills just in case Barry needed some time off.

Vic Tuite has taken on the responsibility of ensuring our audio-visual setup was working as best as was achievable. It was a task that I dreaded each month but he has it sorted!

Sharon Phillips has given us all the opportunity to visit some wonderful gardens, both close to hand at members' own gardens and much further afield.

Narelle continues to keep all of us informed with the newsletter and other publicity duties, and Marilyn has been our proofreader, printer and library assistant.

I would just like to stress that being President of this club has never been a chore because of the friendly atmosphere amongst all of the members, their willingness to put their hand up at any time to help with lugging heavy tables about, opening their gardens, contributing to morning teas, helping out at the front desk, organising the members' component of our meetings, ensuring we had lovely lucky-door prizes, being attentive listeners to all of our guest speakers, bringing in plants to sell, manning the plant stall, buying the plants, driving the Access bus and welcoming members to our meetings. The list goes on. If I listed everyone past or present who has helped in some way then I should just attach our membership list to this report because all of you contribute when you are able to.

I would like to sincerely thank the committee for being such a happy and easy group of people who all just put their hands up to take on any task that needed to be done. I know every outgoing President is bound to say something similar, but I can't stress enough how sincere I am. Once again, thank you to the members for your support and friendship.

Celeste Shadie