



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

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

2020-2021 has certainly been a year of *uncertainties*. Running an organisation such as the garden club could be challenging even under normal circumstances, but in such an unsettling time as the COVID-19 pandemic, we are grateful for the collective ability and cohesiveness of the Wentworth Falls Garden Club Committee that has kept the club viable and relevant. Their spontaneity and leadership in overcoming difficulties as COVID-19 persists in the community, expanded the value of this organisation and its outreach to the general public. The ability of each, to undertake his/her responsibility has made my job as President much easier than I anticipated. I thank them all.

In spite of COVID, the Committee has managed a high degree of quiet functionality. During the first four months of 2021 when we were able to hold general meetings, a COVID-19 safety plan was discussed and organised by a sub-committee, submitted to and approved by BMCC, and implemented with calm alacrity. Without much ado Duncan Leys, the club's technical whizz, organised the NSW Govt. QR code. The club's most valuable resource is the website that is maintained and updated by Sed Mayne who has also been responsible for informing members of general developments, all the while keeping the monthly newsletter rolling off the press. Husband and wife teams Susan and Kevin Hummel and Henry and Lea Nelson along with other duties, have ensured Membership and Treasury respectively are in good shape. Speakers have been ably organised by past president Carol Conway, who has served WFGC for many years and been on the Committee for as long as I can remember. What would we do without the library? Thanks go to Marilyn Shields who is constantly on the look-out for new material to add to the club's substantial collection, all the while maintaining the quality of the library and its contents.

It's impossible to mention all who are involved in the running of a general meeting, but without them it would be *impossible to run a general meeting*. However, two members deserve a mention. Ronah Tuite, who has organised the morning tea for four years, has stepped aside but will remain on the Committee to assist with events and rambles, and thanks must go to Secretary Gai Horrocks, now in her seventh year of keeping tabs on everything including the Committee. She is a fount of information, both past and present, and works tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of committee and general meetings.

Snow is always a beautiful and welcome sight in winter but what a surprise when it turned up late autumn creating a scramble to notify members of the cancellation of the June general meeting. Thanks go to members of the Committee who braved the elements and manned the hall to turn away the few hopefuls who turned up; and COVID dampened the enthusiasm of all of us as we went into lockdown a couple of weeks before the July general meeting when the AGM was due to be held. As I write this, the club is still in lockdown and it's anticipated general meetings will not resume for the foreseeable future, and perhaps not until 2022.

While events and rambles were limited due to COVID restrictions, this was overcome by offering local excursions that allowed us to meet socially and to feed our love of gardening. To this end, the membership enjoyed five garden rambles, one of which included a delightful morning tea, a Christmas lunch warmly hosted by Mountain Heritage Restaurant, and a lunch held at the University of Western Sydney, TAFE. All events were well attended by members.

It has been eight years since subscriptions have been raised, but even so, the Committee reluctantly has increased membership subscription for 2021 as it became apparent that available funds for contingencies and technical equipment upgrades may not be sufficient in the near future.

Wentworth Falls Garden Club is one of the largest clubs in the Blue Mountains region. At present the membership is 115 but I am optimistic that once COVID is no longer a source of irritation, the membership will increase quite quickly. The club is also an affiliated member of Garden Clubs of Australia and on 29th September 2020, the Committee attended the Annual General Meeting of GCA successfully realised over Zoom. The quality of audio and screen sharing was impeccable with one member from the Committee, Sed Mayne, allocated as spokesperson. This is indeed a quality medium that is user friendly and provides videotelephony and online chat services through a cloud-based peer to peer platform. I was impressed!

Over the past 18 months the pandemic has curtailed approximately eight meetings and a number of planned activities; its impact has been keenly felt by the Committee that has had to be inventive and sensitive to the memberships' need to meet as a group. To that end the Committee is looking forward to putting the pandemic behind us and resuming meetings as normal in 2022.

I thank you all for your patience.

Janice

Janice Light
President