

## **WFGC PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018**

Presented to the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

The objectives of Wentworth Falls Garden Club are found in the Constitution and state that we are an "organisation for the promotion of gardening and member education in various aspects of gardening and environmental care." It has been a busy twelve months for the club as we worked towards fulfilling those requirements and my thanks go to the hardworking committee members who are indeed committed to achieving these outcomes.

Our first task was to develop a Privacy Statement as required by Garden Clubs of Australia, under whose umbrella our club operates. This can be found on the club website and shows how we protect the information you give us when you become a member. Three copies are available here if you don't have internet access to them.

Special thanks go to Narelle who has been our Publicity Officer for the last six years. She has made sure advance notices of meetings go in the Gazette the week before each General Meeting. This has encouraged visitors, many of whom have eventually joined the club. Narelle has put together the monthly newsletter and also done the maps for garden rambles as well as presenting articles of interest for the newsletter for a number of years.

Gai Horrocks has been an outstanding Secretary with great organisational skills. She always has agendas and minutes ready in good time and deals efficiently with correspondence.

Henry Nelson as Treasurer has firm control of our finances and we continue to be in a healthy financial position. He has also been managing our website correspondence and posting newsletters and General Meeting minutes. Sed Mayne has been responsible for organizing the hall set-up/pull down roster, proofreading and getting all our printing done. He has shared web management with Henry and reorganised our website so it is much easier to navigate.

Barry Butler continues to manage Membership and noted that our numbers had increased this year to 133 members at June 2018. Barry has also acted as Assistant Treasurer. Vic Tuite has mastered the vagaries of our temperamental audio-visual equipment, much to

the relief of committee and membership alike, and it has been running smoothly at each meeting.

Rhona Tuite has been capably managing catering for our outstanding Morning Teas, ably assisted by her band of helpers. Tea and cake are a great accompaniment to catching up with friends or making new ones. Marilyn Shields has made many new book and DVD purchases throughout the year to widen the knowledge base in our library. She has also been inundated with book donations and run several silent auctions to raise funds for further purchases. The library is well used and a great asset to the club.

Sharon Phillips continues to find special gardens for us to visit further afield, ably assisted by Lynton as driver. She has also encouraged members to invite the club membership to their own gardens on rambles. We have seen gardens in different seasons and gained ideas for own gardens. The mid-year TAFE luncheon was a great success as was the Christmas lunch, both wonderful opportunities for members to socialize.

Anne Peebles and I have been working on obtaining speakers to address a wide range of garden and environmental topics of interest to members. Members' suggestions are always welcome and in the past year we have covered subjects including garden design and bee-friendly gardens, native plants, perennials, bulbs and seeds, bonsai, environmental issues, the effects of climate change on our gardening practices and beautiful gardens to inspire us.

Visiting speakers and members have contributed to the "What's Happening in my Garden" and "Q&A" segments of the meetings. Many other members have volunteered to go on the Welcome Desk, set up/pull down tables in the hall, provide and serve morning teas, assist in the library and on the plant stall and cover Welfare issues. We could not run the club successfully without your contribution.

Let me finish with a quote from Marcel Proust: "Let us be grateful to people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Thank you for a happy year, all you charming gardeners out there, and I look forward to us all having another year of learning and friendship in gardening as we prepare for our thirtieth anniversary.

Carol Conway

