

## **Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc – Minutes – General Meeting**

**35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. 9 May 2024**

**Wentworth Falls School of Arts Hall 9.45am**

### **President Duncan Leys welcomed:**

- WFGC members
- New WFGC members: Ghumra Van Den Berg and Marie Armstrong.
- Six visitors to WFGC.
- **Special Guests – Past Presidents, Committee Members, Office Bearer.**
  - Warwick Wilson      Past President
  - Celeste Shadie      Past President
  - Carol Conway.      Past President and present WFGC Committee.
  - Barry Butler.
  - Margaret Ball
  - Maunie Kwok
  - Bev Plaizier
- **Special thanks to past WFGC Committee/present members for ongoing support:**
  - Kevin Craze
  - Blue Phillips
  - Sharon Phillips
  - Ronah Tuite
  - Vic Tuite
  - Merilyn Shields
  - Anne Peebles
  - Michelle Funnell

**Secretary – Gai Horrocks read Apologies. Ref. Separate attachment.**

### **Founder Members:**

#### **Dorothy Davis (Email)**

“Happy Birthday Wentworth Falls Garden Club. I can’t believe that from an idea after an Autumn Festival we have such a strong Garden Club. Sadly, Lyle and Gordon Smith are no longer with us and today I am in Port Fairy, Victoria, thus unable to share the celebrations. May the club continue to play such an important role in our Blue Mountains Community, giving us the opportunity to learn about gardens, plants and our environment as well as providing a social platform for our wonderful members. Best wishes.”

Florence Baker

Kathy Manning

### **Past Presidents**

Barbara Bailey

Henry Nelson

Janice Light

## **Committee**

Marli Davies

Susan Hummel

### **Michelle Funnell (Card)**

“With Thoughts of the Club.

This 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is such a worthy celebration and tribute to the ongoing commitment of the Garden Club committee and many others working behind the scenes to make their monthly gatherings so enjoyable here in the heart of our beautiful Blue Mountains. Unfortunately, I will be unable to join you on this occasion.”

Karen Handicott

Narelle Nolan

### **President Leys welcomed and introduced:**

- GCA John Parsonage. Director of Marketing and Blue Mountains Zone Coordinator. John congratulated WFGC on their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### **President Leys advised Modified May GM to allow for 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.**

- **Financial Report. Apologies Henry Nelson. Prepared by Martin Vaughan. Presented Duncan Leys.** Modified report. Hard copy available if required.  
As per Statement of Accounts: 1 April – 30 April 2024  
Total Funds: Cash Book Balance 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024: \$7,841.07  
Income: \$983.59 Expenditure: \$629.18  
Cash Book Balance as @ 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024: \$8,195.48  
Available Funds: \$5,315.48
- **Welfare.** Cards have been sent to Sheena Simpson and Julie Allen.
- **Membership - Apologies from Kevin Hummel. Numbers presented by Di Jones.**
  - Membership 104
  - Members attending today 63
  - Visitors from local community 6
- **Library - Belinda Coates**
  - Books displayed.
  - Advised members' requested books are available.
- **Event – Belinda Coates**  
Short Report on Hartley Vale Bus Trip 8 May:  
Guided tour of Gory'u Japanese Garden. Lunch at Hampton Halfway Hotel.  
Introduction, tour and wander at Hartvale Garden.  
Participating members invited to comment.

## **Special 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - GM 9 May 2024.**

**Cutting of the Cake.** Past Presidents Warwick Wilson and Celeste Shadie.

Photographs by Sed Mayne.

### **Reminiscences by Special Guests:**

- Warwick Wilson – President 2008 – 2011

Warwick is insistent on the value of volunteering to the club, and to the person who volunteers as well. The social aspect is so important. He urged everyone to consider what they could contribute to WFGC. He is proud that the club is continuing and strong.

Warwick noted he was President, but it is his wife, Elaine, who is the gardener. He spoke fondly of the committee team including Maunie Kwok and Barbara Bailey.

- Celeste Shadie – President 2014 – 2017

Celeste stated, “I am just going to repeat what Warwick said.” The club is strong because of the volunteers. The volunteers keep the Club strong!

Celeste noted the importance of the contribution of all. The committee brought things together and the rest flowed from there.

### **Drawing of Raffle. *A Vase of Flowers* by celebrated artist Sylvia Beresford**

“This artwork was created specifically to celebrate the thirty fifth (35<sup>th</sup>) year of the Wentworth Falls Garden Club and its members – past and present who shared their landscape environments, species of interest and their passion for plants. This is my personal bouquet of thanks.” Sylvia Beresford Botanical artist and WFGC member.

### **Winner of Sylvia Beresford’s *A Vase of Flowers* - Margaret Kennedy.**

- **Reminiscence by “Blue” Phillips. Committee 2008 – 2015.**

Blue stressed that the people in the club were the most important. He believes anyone can get gardening information on Google but the people he and Sharon have met through the club were the most important. The relationships which they had formed were the biggest support during their dark times. He expressed their heartfelt thanks for the support the Club showed in the loss of his and Sharon’s (adult) son.

### **MORNING TEA**

**Carol Conway introduced Guest Speaker Judy Horton:** Golden Wattle Award. Allan Seale Award. OAM for her work in horticulture and promotion of gardening.

For twenty-two years Judy was Yates Communication Manager. One of Judy’s responsibilities was to look after the Company’s archives. These provide a wonderful overview of gardening in Australia, particularly during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Judy’s talk today “**The History of the Backyard**” draws upon these archives and other resources to outline the trends, world events and social changes that have affected our gardens in that time with particular emphasis on the ubiquitous quarter-acre Aussie backyard.

**GM closed: 12.00.**

**Next GM: 13 June 2024**