

**Wentworthville Community Garden
Secretary's Report
2015 Annual General Meeting**

This year has once again been a successful year for the Garden. We have welcomed more new members this year, with our **membership growing to over 100 during 2015**. We welcomed two new groups this year:

- Holroyd Council Family Day Care Educators and their children (15 – 20 at a time) visit regularly on a Monday. I get regular emails from Gabrielle who co-ordinates the visits about how much the pre-schoolers and their carers enjoy discovering new things in the Garden.
- Northside West Clinic that provides programs for people with addictions and mood or eating disorders. Thanks to Ingrid, Jennifer and Frank for helping to open the Garden on Wednesday mornings to allow the two groups from the clinic to access the Garden.

Kerryn, the Horticultural Therapist that co-ordinates the visits has provided some very positive feedback following their visits to the Garden. She has also provided some information that I will leave for you that outlines the ideas behind horticultural therapy.

Currently we have a **high demand on individual garden plots** and have a waiting list for garden. Please consider carefully when renewal time comes around in April 2016 if you have the time to maintain a garden of your own next year. Membership does not require you to have an individual garden – so you can be a member and come along and help with the many other activities at the Garden.

This year's **Easter Show** saw us win for a fifth year in a row the Community Garden section and receive an extraordinary number of additional first places, two Champion ribbons and Supreme Champion Vegetable Exhibit. Planning needs to start now for next year's entry – space is needed to grow produce and help is needed to look after seedlings in the green house and shared gardens.

We also received a certificate for being a finalist in the **Annual Holroyd Garden Awards**.

Open Day this year saw a few changes with live music and stalls in different places. Thanks to Helen Lu for recommending the Ceilidh Collective – we have only received positive feedback about their performance. Another suggestion was to invite a local bee-keeper to have a display and do a talk. Thanks to Maureen and Frank for their help in organising Open Day this year.

Thanks to the majority of members, over 75, who helped on the day. The number of visitors was down a little with about 900 attending but overall Open Day was still a success. Generous support for Open Day also came from Community Greening and local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle and from Holroyd City Council who provided 100 plants to give away, pop up shades, garbage bins, raffle prizes, a face painter, children's activity and Poppy the Possum!

During 2015 we also had a stall at the **Our Lady Queen of Peace Craft Fair** who raised money to support Guide Dogs NSW

Special thanks to Brad who has maintained the website this year and for publishing the Newsletter to keep members up to date with news about the Garden and Committee decisions.

Thanks to all the members for their participation in maintaining the Garden and especially to the Garden Committee - Paul, Ted, Maureen, Brad, Frank, Ingrid, Kevin and Councillor Lisa Lake who have displayed thoughtfulness and care when we need to make decisions to improve the Garden and to ensure it is managed effectively.

Robyn Main
Secretary