



Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce and Community (Inc)

ABN 68 127 530 898

PO Box 51
WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782

President's Report 2016

Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce and Community Inc.



Since the expansion of The Chamber to include community members in 2015, numbers have grown by eight to a total of 29.

Although membership is still relatively low, The Chamber maintains a high profile as a representative voice of the community to Council and Governments on issues affecting all of us. Our input is further enhanced by our membership with the MCCC (Mountains Combined Chambers and Community) which addresses issues affecting the entire Blue Mountains.

The maintenance of the Memorial Gardens in the Wentworth Falls Village remains a major focus of the of the Chamber's responsibilities along with the staging of Anzac and Remembrance Day services.

The Chamber's involvement and sponsorship of other events and activities over the last twelve months have been impactful and successful and we are grateful to all those who assisted in bringing them to fruition.

- ***CCTV for the village of Wentworth Falls***

On the 7th June 2016 the installation of the CCTV network, comprising 17 cameras was commissioned and officially opened at a ceremony attended by Louise Markus MP and Council representatives.

The cameras have been fully operational since, providing imagery to the police when required. This will serve to make the Village a much safer place to visit and conduct business.

The funding of this project, provided through the Attorney General's Dept. covered the cost of installation but not any ongoing and maintenance costs. This will need to be covered by The Chamber. Another reason why extended community membership and involvement is vital.



- ***Village Master Plans***

Continuing to lobby Council (with the MCCC) for village master plans to be completed, focusing on development for affordable housing, opportunities for business and tourism, will also remain a focus for The Chamber.

As reported last year, Council has agreed to a review of the Residential Planning Strategy although no timeline for this study appears to have been set.

- ***Bus Shelters***

A bus shelter was eventually provided by Council and erected on the eastern side of Station Street. While this was welcomed by The Chamber, there still remains a need for another shelter on the western side of Station Street at the bus stop. We will continue to lobby for this second shelter.

- ***Traffic Light Phasing***

We had submitted a request to the Minister for Road to investigate the traffic light phasing problems between Pritchard St. and Dalrymple Ave. where the traffic congestion is a concern at peak times. While no change is imminent, we will be monitoring the situation and, if necessary submit a further request for change.

- ***Wentworth Falls Village Events***

The Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services, held in the Memorial Gardens are such important events involving the whole community. They are extremely well attended thanks to the mighty effort of John Bushell and his band of helpers who not only co-ordinate and stage the events but prepare all year organising and fund raising. Enhancing the impact of the events is the involvement of both Wentworth Falls Public and Grammar Schools, also organised by John.

We are ever grateful for your efforts.

A sub-committee report follows:-

Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce & Community Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Grand View Hotel, Monday 7th November 2016

Annual Report: Coronation Park & War Memorial Sub-Committee

The Commemorative Services activities of the sub-committee in 2016 again comprised the organisation of an Anzac Day Service, and a Remembrance Day Service to be held on Friday this week.

Even though 2016 is not as significant as '14 and '15 in terms of Centenary, our Anzac Day was well attended by the community. Strong support from local elected officials, school groups, and other local organisations continues, and the Headquarters RAAF Base Glenbrook once more contributed with a guest speaker.

The Commemorative Services group benefits from having individual volunteers regularly lending a hand. These people include Messrs Murray Patterson, Eric Moore, Bob Izzard, and Malcolm Fletcher. As well, members of the Chamber's executive, Lew Hird, Bill McCabe, and Bruce Christmas contribute strongly to the workload. Not all of these people are available on every occasion, however the efforts of those who are, lends a seamless appearance to these events. Of note, is the loss this year of one of our most diligent volunteers, Bob Izzard. Bob has moved to Blackheath.

Over the past few years, the sale of merchandise in the lead-up to Anzac Day and Remembrance Day has meant that the sub committee now has funds in the order of \$5,800 on hand. Our group receives particularly strong sales support from the Public School, as well as our Chemist, Hotel Grand View, Country Club, and outstanding funds at Mountain High Pies. Letters of appreciation have been sent from the Chamber to these supporters. Of all the sources, our street stall contributes the most. A special note also is made of the efforts from Ward 2 Councilors Chris Van der Kley and Romola Hollywood for arranging supplementary contributions from Council of \$200 and \$100 respectively.

A final note, the sub committee could not conduct our events without the support received from the commander of Local 495 NSW Fire & Rescue, Mr Laurence McCracken. It is a requirement for

our Event Application that we have both Traffic Management and First Aid resources in situ, which 495 generously provide.

John Bushell
Leader

3rd November 2016

Coronation Park & War Memorial Sub Committee
Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce & Community Inc.

- ***Memorial Gardens***

The gardens for our events are maintained in beautiful condition by Graeme Hudson and his team of volunteers. Graeme's enthusiasm is acknowledged by not only us, but by the number of visitors commenting on the lovely garden area adjacent to the station. It's a credit to Graeme and his wonderful team of 'greenthumbers'. We thank you.

A memorial garden report from Graeme follows:



Coronation Park and Memorial Gardens, Wentworth Falls
Garden volunteer group
Report for BMCCC, AGM, 2016

It has been a good year for the garden.

We have maintained the upkeep with our small group of gardening volunteers and watering volunteers. And attendance at the irregular 'working bees' are a great boost to the regulars. Thanks are due to Paul Kwok for organising the watering team; John Bushell for mustering CC members to support the regular volunteers.

Longview Garden Centre, Wentworth Falls and Bill's Baytree Nursery, Mount Victoria, have been very generous with discounts for plants and supplies.

BM City Council's input is greatly appreciated. They provided new surface for the walking areas earlier in the year; maintenance of Park 'furniture' is regular, keeping graffiti on tables, etc. to a minimum; they have kept the grass areas neatly mown.

Work by State Rail has, thankfully, had little impact on the garden. We anticipate that these improvements will attract a lot more travellers to use Wentworth Falls and the Park. We welcome them all.

The installation of the Wentworth bust has been very complementary to the Park. Many locals and visitors stop to appreciate the sculpture and to read the plaques.

There is hardly a time when workers are toiling in the garden, that visitors don't make the effort to comment on how nice the gardens look, ask questions about the bust and congratulate the volunteers for their time.

We look forward to the new bronze plaque being installed. It will better reflect current input to the Park.

Expenditure has been minimal and should remain so, as regular maintenance keeps the garden in good nick, now that it is quite established.

We look forward to a good 2017.

Graeme Hudson
Garden and volunteers co-ordinator.
October 2016

- ***William Charles Wentworth Bust***

May 23rd saw the unveiling of the bust of William Charles Wentworth, created by Terrance Plowright.

A ceremony for the unveiling by Louise Markus MP was hosted by Lew Hird on behalf of The Chamber and attended by descendants of William Charles Wentworth and major sponsors Tom Colless and Phil Hammon together with representatives of the Blue Mountains City Council.

The bust is a magnificent reminder of our history and stands prominently proud in gardens.



- ***Station Lifts and Upgrade***

After years of lobbying the minister for transport for disabled access at Wentworth Falls Station, the project, including the station upgrade is now due for completion in 2017.

I'm sure that the community will be most pleased with the result.

- ***Grammar School Logo Competition***

During the year and with the help of Trevor Barman and Michael Laws from the Blue Mountains Grammar School, we invited years 9 & 10 students to design a new logo for The Chamber. Submissions have already been received with the winners being awarded prizes at the school's presentation night at the end of the year.

A worthwhile initiative, involving the youth of our community.

- ***Wentworth Falls Lake and Picnic Ground Upgrade***

A development plan has been submitted for this upgrade to be partly funded by the federal government.

The upgrade is to include a walkway, boardwalk viewing platform and amenities block.

Completion date is scheduled for February 2018.

A wonderful enhancement to our leisure ground area.

- ***Youth Congress - Project Now***

Sponsored by the BMCC, this 3 day congress was held in September with the youth from the Blue Mountains involved in the development of community projects on sustainability and social justice. This culminated in a presentation night on September 24th, acknowledging the winning projects.

The Chamber was represented on the selection committee for this most worthwhile project.

The year has been particularly active with a host of projects coming to fruition.

I thank The Chamber members for their considerable contribution. In particular, I thank the executive members, Lew Hird, Bill McCabe and John Bushell for their ongoing commitment to the community and the Chamber.

Their contribution is unknown by most but benefits all.

In my last year with the Chamber, I would like to say what an absolute pleasure it has been to work with such a dedicated and professional group.

I believe that Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce and Community deserve the financial and moral support of the entire community.

Bruce Christmas

President

Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce & Community Inc.