



WENTWORTH FALLS
Chamber of Commerce and Community (Inc.)

PO Box 51 Wentworth Falls 2782 ABN 68 127 530 898

President's Report 2017-18

The year 2017/2018 has been an extremely challenging year for the Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce and Community Inc (WFCC&C Inc).

Continued advocacy for business, tourism and the Community

The WFCCC has continued to make submissions regarding smaller subdivisions and provision of aged housing in close proximity to the village. It is considered that this is a sound ecologically, economically and socially desirable outcome.

Given the LGA has one of the higher percentages of persons exceeding 65 years there is a pressing need for aged care and affordable housing in close proximity to all Blue Mountains towns and villages.

Submissions were also made regarding the Commission of Inquiry into BMCC through the Mountains Combined Chambers and Community (MCCC). Unfortunately the appointed Commissioner has interpreted the Terms of reference for the Inquiry to relate solely to the Management of Asbestos Issue. The MCCC has decided that the twenty odd submissions expressing concerns over governance, transparency and consultation, financial accountability, and issues of public safety and due diligence will be referred to the Department of local Government to investigate.

WFCC&C Inc has continued to advocate the need to recognise the impact of growing tourist numbers and the implications of Sydney's Western Airport and the provision of tourism infrastructure in the Blue Mountains.

The WFCC&C Inc has strongly advocated for improved safety provisions for pedestrians and vehicles on Wentworth Falls Station Street rail bridge along the recommendations of the BMCC commissioned report into the safety of rail vehicle overpass bridges in the Blue Mountains. Council has refused to act on these recommendations which according to the report is required to ensure the safety of all those using the bridge and trains passing beneath. A letter of protest was sent to Council concerning the lack of community consultation and the scale and form of the amenities building at Wentworth Falls Lake. A Village Master Plan which should lay the foundation for future planning in the development of the village is well overdue. It is anticipated that BMCC will instigate this master plan in 2019.

BMCC is currently seeking input to develop a 20-year planning vision for land use in the Blue Mountains. WFCC&C Inc will be making a submission.

WFCC&C Inc is a member of the Mountains Combined Chambers and Community Inc which liaises with government and other bodies to generate better outcomes for Blue Mountains Communities. WFCC&C Inc will also be making contributions to MCCC submissions to the 'Planning Vision'.

CCTV in Wentworth Falls Village

CCTV has been determined a success based on the resolution of a number of issues which have arisen involving the range from missing elderly persons, theft and to other instances of crime.

There are obvious advantages associated with a functioning CCTV system of high calibre resolution in the village. It is disappointing however that when non members of the WFCCC were approached to assist with ongoing maintenance costs of the system, which provides obvious benefits to all businesses, only one was willing to make a contribution. The cost of maintenance of the CCTV facility is of continuing concern.

The work of Bill McCabe in retrieval of information for police and maintenance of the system should be acknowledged as well as the business which houses the mainframe facility. The village is indebted to you both and we thank you.

Remembrance Services and maintenance of Coronation Park

The WFCCC through our subcommittees provide the Remembrance Day services on 25th April and 11th November each year and maintain and refurbish the gardens at Coronation Park. We are indebted to Reverends Jon Guyer and Robert Coleman and to Eric Moore, Graeme Hudson and Grahame Edwards respectively for their contributions. I would like to thank all our volunteers at the services and in the gardens who contribute so much to the maintenance and improvement of the village and community fabric of Wentworth Falls. I also acknowledge the contributions of Trevor Barman, former headmaster of Blue Mountains Grammar and Ley Wighton, Relieving Principal at Wentworth Falls Primary School to the Commemorative Services. Both will be leaving Wentworth Falls at the end of 2018 and will be sorely missed. We wish both well in future endeavours. The contribution of teachers and students to these services is greatly appreciated.

We however always need more feet on the ground for these activities and desperately need more volunteers to assist if these activities are to be maintained.

They are important to maintain as they bond the community together.

WFCCC Newsletter

The newsletter, composed by Eric Moore from the minutes of meetings has been significant in raising the profile and contributions of the WFCCC and for increasing communication within the village community. Thanks to Eric Moore for this significant contribution and for keeping the flags flying in the village.

Executive Members

I also thank members of the executive, our Secretary, Judy McDougal, Treasurer Bill McCabe, Vice President, Jason Cronshaw and members of the Committee and Subcommittees and all our volunteers for their work and support throughout the year.

Future Challenges for WFCCC

Major challenges involve the maintenance of the CCTV system, the lack of support at Council level for urban consolidation around the village particularly with respect to affordable and aged housing, the implications of an increase in tourism numbers without supporting tourism infrastructure and the impending master plan for Wentworth Falls

village. Lack of Council support for improved safety on Wentworth Falls Rail bridge and lack of provision of a bus shelter on the western side of Station St.

However a more significant issue for the WFCCC in the short to medium term is that every organisation can only achieve on the basis of their membership and what their members are willing to contribute. We do need more business and community input and greater member involvement in WFCC.

This is a dilemma for many community organisations and the solution is not readily apparent. I do however express my appreciation to all our members for their continued membership and support through 2017-2018.

I feel honoured to have worked with so many fine people who have contributed so much to community and environment of Wentworth Falls and the Blue Mountains.



Lew Hird, President