

Wadestown Wilton Horticultural Society President's Annual Report 2017/18

As our financial reporting year is from 31 March to 31 March, I am going to bring our President's Report cycle into line with this, so this year's report will cover the period of 1/1/17 to 31/3/18. Future reports will cover from 1 April to 31 March

2017/18, with 2018 being our 100th year, was another great year for the Wadestown Wilton Horticultural Society.

Our membership currently stands at 45 members, of whom 8 are life members. While we have gained some new members this year, it is a drop from last year. This drop of membership has resulted from resignations due to leaving the area and, also, we have removed a few members from the list who are no longer active, have not kept their membership current and have been contacted.

Our meetings covered a wide range of topics for members to think about, discuss and get ideas from. Once again the afternoon meetings in June and July were very successful so for 2018 we will be extending afternoon meetings to include the August meeting as well. Our meetings in 2017 continued to open with a "problem solving session" where members share any gardening problems with the other members present and this was then followed by

- "Flower Arranging" led by Bethney McLennan and Ann Farrand
- "Planting Bulbs" with speaker Lynne Lesley
- "Photographing, Flowers, Gardens & Nature" with speaker Blair McLaren
- "Carry on Gardening" with Gym Instructor Mark Anderson
- "What to Do with Green Smart Pots", presentation by Bill McAulay
- "Planting Baskets & Containers" with Sarah Hooker
- "Worm Farms" with Graeme Schofield
- "Christmas Wreath Making" with Ann Farrand followed by a party supper
- "Daffodils", a talk by Wilf Hall from the National Daffodil Society of NZ

Thanks to all our speakers/leader

We have tried to get a balance in our programme between practical activities in which members can participate and also presentations.

Our annual outing was a visit to members' gardens from as far north as Tawa through to Karori. This was a very good opportunity for members to see various styles of city gardens grown in a similar climate to their own, even though all the gardens had their own microclimate.

Morning tea was in Ann & Paul Farrand's garden and afternoon tea in Mary and John Stevens' garden. Thanks to them for hosting in such lovely settings. Lunch was a picnic at Philip Meyers Park (the Village Green) and was a good opportunity to see, at close hand, the great work that has been done by the Village Green Trust.

Transport was arranged using private cars as a bus in some of Wadestown's streets would have been interesting, to say the least! Many thanks to those who volunteered their cars.

Our three 2017 annual shows, Summer Show in February, Spring Flower Show in September and Rose Show in November, were all very well supported with a large array of entries.

Our 2018 Centennial Summer Show in February was a very successful celebration of our Society's 100 years, with invitations sent out inviting local MP's and Councillors to attend and also take part in the formal proceedings. At the end of the day, the Centenary Cake was cut by Past-President Peter Fabian who also, as a Past-President, cut the 85th Jubilee cake in 2003. The size of the show was such that it was necessary to use the St Lukes Centre cloister in addition to the main hall.

We keep a close eye on the entries for each show and continue to refine our entry schedule for the following year accordingly. While there were many changes to the entry schedule to reflect changing garden practices etc., the biggest and most obvious change to the schedule for the 2018 Summer Show was the replacement of the Junior Sand Saucer section with a Junior Floral Arrangement section using a small container with floral foam to hold the flowers rather than wet sand in a saucer. This change was welcomed by students, teachers and also those who have to transport the arrangements from the schools to the St Lukes Centre.

Once again, thanks to our guest judges, some of whom travel a fair distance to be there to help us.

I would also like to thank both Wadestown and Otari Schools for their continued support of our Summer Shows. The students and their teachers put a lot of time, thought and care into the material they contribute and it is great to see the students proudly showing parents their work when the show is open for viewing.

Sadly, Cardinal McKeefrey School have decided not to participate in the children's section of our Summer Show, to alleviate some of the pressure on the school from community activities.

On a brighter note, Crofton Downs School was invited to participate in our Summer Shows and was very keen to do so, however the school's 2017 starting date was too late to allow their students to participate in the 2017 Summer Show. An earlier school starting date in 2018 had the Crofton Downs Year 1 students (and teachers) keenly entering in the Junior Floral arrangement section.

In addition to the advertising of our events around the local community, our secretary, Ann, has also, where possible, listed many of our events in local and national publications and notification of our meetings is posted on the website "Neighbourly". The WWHS also has a Facebook page and a website (www.wwhortsoc.nz) and I would encourage you to visit both of these. Thanks to Peter Milne for maintaining the website.

Following our successful participation in a gardening expo at Crofton Downs Mitre 10 in 2016 we participated once again in 2017; this time demonstrating how a worm farm works, showing some different types of worm farms and answering questions about gardening and also who the Wadestown Wilton Horticultural Society is. This was great advertising for the society as many people there had no idea that we existed and took away our promotional material.

Participation in this event also works well as a form of partnership as Crofton Downs Mitre 10 is always happy to support us with raffle prizes.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the committee and their families for their contribution and support during the year, working away in the background. Unfortunately Del Wray, Gwyne Bright and Geoff Leggett will be standing down from the committee and I would like to thank them for their efforts on the Society's behalf over their time on the committee. It should be noted that Del's membership on the committee over the last two years has been in addition to the time that she spent on the committee some years ago.

A special thanks must go to Ann, our secretary, and Colleen, our treasurer - they are the two people whose tireless efforts keep everything running smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you, all, for your continued support of our Society.

Graeme Schofield
President WWHS

April 2018