

President's Report March 2020

Another productive year has passed for the committee with a number of projects successfully completed.

As part of our outreach to the wider community we hosted a special speaker, Claire Bickle last April and enjoyed entertaining other community members whilst introducing them to the garden club. The attendance figure was 170 which was very pleasing.

The garden club has updated its website. Thank you to Dave Webb and Lyndall Bryant who have put in so much time and effort setting up the new site and working on the layout. It is streets ahead of our previous website and we are lucky to have Lyndall as our new website person. She is doing an excellent job.

A change of venue for our Christmas lunch proved very popular and we will return to Flaxton Gardens in December.

Our lunch-goers raised \$700 that day for drought relief, what a great effort!

Anne Boyle suggested providing a lunch for our life members who are so treasured by us all. The committee enthusiastically catered for the event and much time was spent reminiscing and learning from them a little more about the history (and a few juicy asides) of the club.

Brian Robertson was able to add a few more valuable details to the history he is writing. A big Thank You to Brian for an amazing effort in creating such an interesting document.

The Camellia Grove, as part of the greater Settlers Green community project, is largely completed. Thanks to the sub-committee who worked on this, but particularly to Bill Henman and Ron Tincknell who did the lions' share of the work. Ron's expertise with Camellias was especially valuable in selecting and sourcing the heritage varieties.

A major focus for me this year was to promote interaction with other garden clubs in the area. Mt Mee garden club made us very welcome when we visited them in September, and we welcomed an invitation to visit gardens of the Eumundi/Cooroy Garden Club. Members enjoyed hosting visits from other clubs too, Townsville in July and Banksia in September. Pete and I also visited Maryborough in September and were made very welcome. Jan and I have enjoyed a good relationship with Buderim Garden Club regarding running of events. Friendship day visits were also made to other clubs by various members, I feel it is a good thing to give our members an opportunity to represent our club on visits like these.

Nancy Baker is a hard act to follow, especially after the wonderful trip to Chinchilla but our bus trips continue.

The first effort was a visit to Leonie Kearney's garden in Samsonvale with stops at Woodford and Mt Mee.

The mystery trip for March, which was cancelled because of the virus, followed up on the theme of visiting gardens of other clubs – I am not saying where that was, but in better times we shall make that visit.

One of our regular club activities is Sip'n'Snip which is a wonderful social morning all important is that time to have a relaxed chat over a cuppa. A walk around the garden is a

bonus, I love these mornings. Our garden enjoys so many lovely plants that have come as cuttings from Sip'n'Snip days.

The flower competition is increasingly popular with some splendid entries from new members. It's a pleasure and so interesting to see all the entries each month and there will be a trophy for each category in December.

GOE - Jan Maguire has done a wonderful job convening our special fundraising event over the last few years.

She has refined the existing documentation for the event to enable other people to go forward and take over the convenor's role. Jan also surmounted a difficult and arduous task in sorting out a solution to the traffic management problem

that the council left us with.

The GOE committee is pretty special too, a smaller committee, Anne, Dave, Ian, Marnie, Toni, myself and Kaye, close in friendship and dedication.

It is interesting to note that these sub-committees provide a great opportunity for more members to become involved in club activities.

Anne Boyle is stepping down as treasurer this year but will continue on the executive.

She has been a very valuable member of the committee, dedicated to the club and to her role, willingly taking on

the added jobs of insurance, risk management and catering.

She has managed the accounts and presented reports in a totally professional manner.

It is also to be noted that Anne is always ahead of the game; she sees the road ahead and foresees the consequences of our actions before anyone else. I have very much enjoyed working with her. Thank you, Anne, for your support and help.

Carolyn is also stepping down as our newsletter editor and librarian. Carolyn has managed the important task of keeping members informed of a multitude of things. She is always on the ball and has been a valuable contact for our members. Carolyn and I have been putting our heads together to think of a way to keep members in touch with each other through the COVID-19 situation.

Carolyn and Peter came up with the great idea of the virtual garden tour, written by Carolyn and photographed by Peter.

Many thanks to you both.

I would like to welcome two new members to the committee. Wendy Reilly who will look after the newsletter and Marg Trigger who will be our new treasurer. Thank you for offering to volunteer your time and interest, it is so important to keep having new people on the committee.

I have been privileged to enjoy my time as GOE convenor for four years and president for three years.

Always a lovely memory is the fun we all have in the hall together and my involvement with the stall holders who love coming to GOE because of the relaxed atmosphere we offer.

Thank you to the executive committee for their continued support and to our army of enthusiastic helpers, Brian, Marion, Annette, Paula, Carol, Lynda, Norma, Bev, Mike, Harvey, Bette, Graham, Richard, Margaret, Lyndall, Peter - there are so many people who give their time so generously and make the club the friendly place it is.

We are a country club, founded on love of gardening and the friendship we all enjoy, we have a rich tradition of maintaining this club character in a relaxed atmosphere.

Thank you to all the club members, you have given me splendid support and friendship, I am looking forward to spending more time with you.

Dot Jupp – President 2019-2020