

Maleny Garden Club Inc.

President's Report 2023/2024

The Maleny Garden Club motto "Friendship through Gardening" has been evident throughout the year as members have participated in Meetings, Sip n Snips, Trips, the Spring Fair, the Mad Hatters' Morning Tea and the Christmas Luncheon

Meetings have included a variety of Guest Speakers who have shared their passion and knowledge of their chosen topic. The Competition Flower Table has been a delight to behold. Thank you to Jude Seaboyer, Lynda Reynolds and Anita Fatcher for their commitment to the setting up and running of the Flower Competition over several years. Welcome to Kate Durham, Susan Bailey and Lyndell Burns who have volunteered to coordinate the running of the competition table this year.

Thank you to all the members who have supported the Competition Table with your many entries. We encourage new members to participate in the Competition each month. The Guidelines for the Competition have recently been reviewed and you would have received the updated guidelines with recent correspondence. New members may not be aware that points are tallied, and the winners, seconds and thirds are acknowledged at the Christmas Function.

Thank you to the members who regularly arrive early to assist with the set up for the meetings, to Annette Lees for the Morning Tea coordination, to Sue & John Cotterell, Carole Webb and Lyn Mihalic for the clean up after the meetings. To Dave Webb our IT Guru and Helen Cartwright who assists Dave with all things technical.

Sip n Snips have been held at a variety of members gardens, and these mornings have given new members the opportunity to get to know their fellow members. Thank you to those members who have generously offered their gardens throughout the year and thank you to Diana Begbie for sourcing the gardens for Sip n Snip.

Over the past 12 months the MGC Trips included the Wondai Autumn Fair on Saturday 15th April, the Mystery Day Trip on Tuesday 9 May visiting a variety of gardens on the Sunshine Coast and the 2 Day Maryborough Festival on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th August. In addition to the above

members also enjoyed a wonderful Mystery Trip on Tuesday 5th March this year. All the trips have been enjoyable and educational. Andrew of Mystic Mountain Tours is always given a challenge when it comes to packing all the plant purchases into the coach locker with the overload going on to the back seats. Great trips and special thanks go to Diana Begbie for researching, planning and making these very enjoyable trips possible. Thank you, Gemma Tonkin, for supporting Diana with the trip planning this year.

The Spring Fair on the 7th October last year saw a record number of stall holders, with many participating for the first time, Our thanks go to Anita and Matt Gary, Robyn and Murray Robertson, and Carol and Rob Wilkes for offering their gardens for the event. It was wonderful to have 3 very different gardens to offer and to showcase to the many visitors who attended the Spring Fair.

An event such as this does not happen without the cooperation and assistance from you, the members who willingly volunteered your time to make the event the great success that it was. Special Thanks go to the Events Committee, Plant Stalls, and Produce Stall Coordinators, and the Finance Team and Ticket Stall volunteers who managed the money. It would be remiss of me not to mention the members who put out all the signs in advance and those who helped with the set up and set down for the event.

Inviting Rotary to manage the parking proved to be very effective as it streamlined the movement and parking of vehicles on the day. We will invite Rotary to join us again this year. The MGC donated \$500 to Rotary as a Thank You for supporting the event.

Financially the event was a great success, resulting in a profit of \$10,301.00 This enabled the club to donate equipment such as Chainsaws and accompanying Batteries to the value of \$2,000 to the RFS and \$2,000 to the SES. A further \$3,000 has been placed in a Term Deposit for the Maleny Hospital Auxiliary to be used to purchase equipment for the Palliative Care Rooms at the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital once the renovations have been completed. The balance of the monies was used to purchase 3 Laptops, one for each Office Bearer so that all MGC Documentation can be stored, viewed and archived in the one central location. At the same time

the Email addresses for the club were reviewed of which there are 6. These being:

President, Secretary, Treasurer, Web Admin, Trips and Speakers

Working Bees have been undertaken at the Camellia Walk on Settlers Green, Pattemore House and in the Maleny Hospital Grounds. An Activity Sheet will be circulated at the next meeting to encourage members to become more involved as working bees are required.

The Digital History of the Maleny Garden Club on the MGC Website was established in October 2022 when the Club celebrated it's 70th Birthday. Chris Skrzecynski continues to manage the MGC digital history and is constantly updating the information. Our thanks go to Chris for her dedication to this ongoing project.

The Lease for the MGC Shed located on the OWS Grounds has been extended to 31 July 2026. The OWS are very appreciative for being able to store their Mowing Equipment in the MGC Shed.

After eight months of continuous negotiations with Suncorp and the Australian Financial Complaints Authority in regard to the Suncorp Scam in October 2022, the Committee was successful in recovering \$11,965 53.

While there have been many highlights throughout the year there has also been much sadness with the passing of Joyce Butterfield, Wendy Reilly and Mollie Cock. Wonderful ladies who had all contributed greatly to the running of the MGC,

The Christmas Party at Flaxton Gardens was a wonderful way to round off the year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Diana Begbie and Susan Myring for their valuable contribution and support to the management committee over the past 3 years. Diana and Susan are stepping down to pursue other interests.

In closing I would like to thank all the Management Committee:

Helen Cartwright, Sue Cotterell, Dennis Doble, Leigh Josey, Lance Lewis, Leanne McKeague, and Carolyn Willadsen who have all contributed greatly to the running of the MGC.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, fellow garden club members for your support in making this club a great club to be part of.

Thank You & Happy Gardening

Jan Maguire

President MGC 2023/24