2026 President’s Report – Buderim Garden Club, Inc.

As president of the Buderim Garden Club, I would like to welcome our members to this 79th Annual General Meeting of the Buderim Garden Club, and I present the Annual General Report of the Management Committee for 2025. The year began with over 100 members attending the February AGM, and monthly meetings were well attended throughout the year.

2026 will see Buderim Garden Club celebrating its 80th Anniversary

Membership

This year, the Buderim Garden Club welcomed 29 new members. The current membership on December 31 was 18 life members and 203 ordinary members, totalling 221 members. It has been wonderful to see so many new members join our club during this period, with 12 attending the New Members' Morning Tea at Maroochy Botanic Gardens in March.

Sadly, 3 long term members of club passed away during year. Lois Evens. David Simons (former member in nursing home) and Allan Waldron.
BGC members are sadden and sorry for their family & friends.

Committee & Co-Opted Members

The Buderim Garden Club Management Committee for 2025 has done a wonderful job, and I especially would like to thank all the committee members on behalf of the club for their service and dedication during the year, with very special thanks to retiring members, Liz Ritchie, secretary Monika Stinton and treasurer, Carol Marks.

Again, all the co-opted members of the club have done an excellent job during the year where required. Many thanks for your work and dedication to the Buderim Garden Club.

Guest Speakers

The high-profile guest speakers have been interesting, with lots of enthusiasm and goodies to share with BGC members or offer for sale.

The “Members' Tips” talks have all been well received and interesting. I’d like to thank all the members that have given talks this year, with special thanks to Monika Stinton for organising the fantastic array of guest speakers & members tips.

Garden Shedders and OPO Garden Groups

The "Garden Shedders" work on the gardens adjacent to the Buderim Memorial Hall on the fourth Friday of each month. I thank Teddy Gove, who has been the coordinator of the group again this year, and many thanks to all the volunteer shedders for keeping the Hall gardens looking great.

The "OPO Gardens Group” meets on the third Monday of each month. The group maintains the gardens of the Old Post Office. I thank Margaret Heindrich the coordinator for OPO volunteers, and thanks to all the volunteers who have worked on the above gardens during the year.

Monthly Flower Competition

The monthly flower competition has been a great success in 2025. The competition has improved significantly this year, thanks to some education to raise the standard of judging entries. Steve and other experienced members have made some headway here in helping new and past members present their items. The quality of the entrants' exhibits has also improved and is becoming very competitive.

I especially thank Eunice Worden for her coordination role again this year, and helpers Pam Sheahan, Lyn Valentine and Pam Linnett for all their assistance on the flower table, special thanks to Maureen Irvine for helping Steve in members preparation of exhibits and Steve for announcing the winners.

2026 will see a new separate **Floral Art monthly competition**.

Monthly Photographic Competition

Our online monthly photographic competition was a great success again this year. The quality and presentation of the members' photographs were outstanding. Our judge commented on the pleasing improvement in photos as the year progressed.

I'd like to thank all the members who took part in the competition, with special thanks to Mike Sax, the new coordinator this year. I want to thank Mike for all his hard work in making the competition work so well, especially the way he presented the results and issued certificates to winners and those members who received highly commended results from the judge.

Bus Tours

This year, the BGC organised Wondai Garden Expo Trip.
Two other trips had to be counselled due lack numbers & weather conditions, being Coucals Garden Mt Crosby and Roma Street Gardens.
Special thanks to our Bus Coordinator Jenny Campbell for organising these trips.

Seedbank

Ken Evans has continued his seed bank this year. Many members have benefited from the seeds that Ken and others have gathered and shared. Thank you, Ken.

Library

Helen Wallace has continued to run the BGC library, allowing members to borrow gardening books and magazines. Helen has had a few medical problems at the end year, BGC wishes Helen well for 2026, again many Thanks, Helen.

Raffle

The raffle sales this year have had a great variety of prizes available for all members, featuring the Manawee plant of the month and a lucky door prize. Thank you to Liz Ritchie for managing the monthly raffle, and thanks to her helper Ruth Croucher. Liz Ritchie will be retiring from role do some travelling in 2026

The Garden Festival raffle was an outstanding success, raising over $4,000. Extra special thanks to Liz Ritchie, our raffle convenor, and thanks to committee members for assisting in obtaining the great prizes, as well as to all the ticket sellers, before and at the festival.

Plant Sales at BGC Meetings

It is sad that the BGC had to say good bye this year to Reg Gibson great plants for sale to members, due too ill health.
BGC Plant Stall has been outstanding again this year. Again, Special thanks Carole Willis, who due to Ill health handed over to Vonnie Young who has managed the members' plant sales table and her assistants Rosemary Simmons, Jonyth Pedersen, Robbie Shaw and Trica McManus this stall is a great service to members with fantastic plants.

Garden Festival

The 2025 Buderim Garden Festival was an outstanding success this year, blessed with great weather all weekend. Again, the 2025 Flower and Photography Shows along with new Floral Art show have been

acknowledged as outstanding shows again this year, especially Floral Art being located on the Hall stage. Entry numbers were down a little on 2024 numbers, but the quality of entries, and how the entries were displayed, were outstanding. The Flower/Floral Shows and the photography exhibition were again open on Friday twilight, Saturday, and Sunday.

The twilight quality plant markets were held from 3 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, and then Saturday 8 to 4pm and Sunday 8 to12am. I especially thank Vonnie Young for managing the plant stall, and all the BGC members who helped out at the plant stall; again, the plant stall was a great success, raising over $2,500.

There were six Exclusive Open Gardens in the Buderim area, selected to showcase the diversity in size and style of gardening in our area. The gardens were open Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. BGC has received great feedback on the quality/designs/layouts presented by the Garden Owners, and on behalf of BGC, I thank the owners for opening their gardens to the public this year.

With all the great weather that the Garden Festival experienced and with all the great work by our members/ volunteers, the Garden Festival raised over $11,500, which was a great effort by all members involved.

Special thanks to our sponsors of the festival – Buderim Bendigo Community Bank ($2000), Manawee Garden Centre (Ticket sponsor), belle property Buderim ($1000 sponsor of Photography), Gregory Ward Team Ray White Buderim ($500), and supported by our local SCC councillor Ted Hungerford with $2,500 grant, and Local member Brent Mickelberg $2500 sponsorship of Flower competition.

Attendance by BGC at Other Events

Other great events attended by the BGC were, Australia Day in the park, Anzac Parade, the Queensland Garden Show at Nambour, Remembrance Day at Foote Sanctuary, and, plus visiting several Garden Clubs friendship days.

Technology and Communications

This year has again seen the BGC continue to use more technology and communications systems to keep members informed and allow easy input for payments and registration for functions, events, and membership. Improved system entries for photographic competition and the Buderim Garden Festival entries and recording of results. The club has purchased square system terminals and now has gained free access to Tyro terminals for easy payments and moved to more online systems for payments and events. The Buderim Garden Festival used online booking and payments, which was very successful.

I would like to thank member John Leach, who has brought his expertise and knowledge to the BGC and has set up many new and easy technologies and communications for members' use and needs and has brought the club into the 21st-century technology functions and systems.

Christmas Lunch

The Buderim Garden Club’s final function for 2025 was our Christmas Lunch on December 13. This year again being held at Headlands Golf Club. A great day and meal were had by all in attendance.

Final Thanks

On behalf of Kathy and myself, I wish all our members good health and happiness for the coming year, which should be a big one.

I want to especially thank the 2025 Committee and Co-Opted Helpers for all your hard work and commitment to the BGC.

I must thank Kathy, my wife, for all her help with BGC items and for putting up with me for all the time I spend on the BGC organisation.

John Lyon
President, BGC.