

PRESIDENTS REPORT: 10 October 2016

Since the last meeting I have had the pleasure of representing the GCA at a numbers of meetings and club gatherings, particularly Zone Friendship days. In late August I attended the Rededication of the Sir Roden Cutler VC Interchange & Rest Area, located at Preston on the outskirts of Sydney, one of 23 rest areas, situated between Sydney and Canberra, along the route of the Remembrance Driveway. Immediate past president Ken Bradley, who is also the GCA representative on the Remembrance Driveway Committee attended, with His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales, officially rededicating the site.



In late August I also attended a very enjoyable Friendship Day hosted by the Wauchope GC, with interesting guest speakers, plant stalls, mountains of food and good company – this set the scene for the next few months. Walcha GC also hosted a great Friendship Day with the very entertaining Phil Dudman as guest speaker.



Continuing with the 'W' themed hosts, I headed over to Whyalla, this year's hosts of the biennial South Australian State Rally. David Lambert and I represented the GCA and were warmly welcomed, giving a few presentations over the two days and I even filled in as after dinner entertainment. This was also a good opportunity to catch up with the two SA Zone Coordinators in attendance John Jonkers and Dean Roberts.



George at Whyalla

A few days later David Lambert, Jeanette Chown and I attended a very productive Convention Committee meeting in Ulladulla. It was a great opportunity to resolve and clarify any outstanding issues and progress the planning of next year's convention. We also took the opportunity to check out accommodation and meeting venues. The following day David and I attended the local South Coast Zone Friendship Day hosted by Berry & District GC, held in a lovely old hall, bursting at the seams with over 200 gardeners in attendance.

A week later I was in the Hunter at the Regional Botanic Gardens wearing two hats as both Zone Coordinator Hunter North & GCA President. I, along with Hunter North Assistant ZC, Jackie Battaglini and Hunter South ZC Geoff Hicks, organized a very successful combined Friendship Day for club members from both zones, with 120 members in attendance representing 12 clubs.

A number of certificates were sent to clubs acknowledging anniversaries and much time was spent on numerous emails and phone calls, discussing a variety of issues with Committee members, Zone Coordinators and club members, in particular of late, preparation for the AGM.

Next visits:

18/10/16 Ashlea Town & Country GC 20th Birthday

George Hoad



Gumnut Blossoms