

**COAL RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB 30TH ANNIVERSARY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to celebrate your Coal River Valley Garden Club's 30th anniversary.

Firstly, may I acknowledge that today is a sad day for your Club due to the news about your much-loved President. I pass on my condolences.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

I know many of you are familiar with our gardens here at Government House and have visited as part of our popular tours program¹. Tonight, you can enjoy some of the produce of our gardens in the floral arrangements throughout the House and in some of the produce you will be tasting.

Tonight, we mark 30 years since your Club was established in January 1995.² I understand that we are joined by several original members of the Club, as well as, I believe, Ginny Ralph who delivered the first presentation to members in 1995.

Over the years, your Coal River Valley Garden Club has been a much-loved meeting place for gardeners and others interested in gardening. Members gather to learn about a variety of gardening topics, visit many public and private gardens and nurseries, and gain more knowledge and understanding of gardening.

¹ Email from Club member Sue Harmsen to GH, 15 July 2024

² Information provided to SMCO by Sue Harmsen, 9 January 2025

Your Club also promotes a range of plant and garden displays, encourages the protection of native flora, and works to encourage an interest in plants and gardening amongst local young people.

You have raised over \$17,000 for local community groups and organisations and provided many volunteer hours to numerous community gardening projects in and around the Coal River Valley. I am sure the trees, plants and garden benches you have donated to various groups and over the years have also been warmly received.

You encourage strong connections within your local community. Your club's goal to promote "friendship through gardening" perfectly sums this up. We all know the many health and wellbeing benefits of spending time in the garden.

I hope some of you return to Government House to enjoy our summer gardens when we host Lunch on the Lawns later this month on 31 January.

May I congratulate you once again on your Club's 30th anniversary. Here's to another thirty years – and more – of friendship through gardening.

Please enjoy your reception and please enjoy our State Rooms.