

2024 Bus trip to Qld Gov House and the Mt Coot-tha and Botanical



Many thanks to all the members who joined us for the trip. The feedback I received at the end of the day was that it was enjoyed by all. I believe that Government House was a highlight for all and we were blessed with perfect weather to appreciate it.

We arrived to a very formal welcome in the Investiture room where we received a much-welcomed cup of tea and to my amusement a shortbread biscuit in the shape of a map of Queensland.

The gardens were truly remarkable and immaculate. When we arrived, there was a team of gardeners at work ensuring the gardens were ready for any visitors or dignitaries (like ourselves). I counted 3 ride on mowers cutting the lawns that were the greenest and most perfect I have seen. Each garden was a blaze of coloured annuals with some perennials. In the house we were split into 3 groups. My highlights were the 8 metre dining room set for a dinner that evening, the glorious stained glass window of a Scottish soldier in armour and meeting and chatting with the Governor who was making her way down past the stained glass window. She stayed and spoke to my group for at least 10 minutes.

I have asked other members to add to my impressions.

Stephen Stocker

Thank you so kindly for the excellent Annual BGC Bus Trip. Qld Government House; the Brisbane Botanic Gardens were superb and made for a most enjoyable day out. Thanks again

Patricia Di Tullio;

What a great outing!

How wonderful it was to go on our annual bus trip this year. Those of us lucky to secure a seat on the bus were certainly treated to a well organised and interesting visit to Government house in Brisbane.

I always look forward to these bus trips and have never been disappointed.

I found the volunteer guides informative and amusing and how wonderful to hear the history of the building and grounds. The grounds themselves were stunning, as you'd hope with eight full-time Horticulturalists (not ordinary gardeners!) Can't complain about being served tea and biscuits either.

The Mt Coot-Tha Botanical Gardens visit that followed was interesting as well. You certainly must appreciate the work done by volunteer guides. Back on the bus for the return journey, some slept, some chatted but all of us I'm sure felt pleasantly tired and carried away great memories of another Garden Club Day well spent.

Sue Barrett

Government House and gardens were a real treat. The house and gardens were beautifully presented and our guide was both entertaining and informative. For me it was the understated elegance of the décor, the paintings, and the bouquets of flowers that made my heart sing.

The presentation of morning tea on real china and the biscuits shaped like a map of Qld really set the scene. Who doesn't remember Mum's china cabinet in the 1950's? To experience this bygone era, even for one day was a privilege, and for me, a trip down memory lane. Beauty and elegance are in short supply in this chaotic world and I found it heart-warming. To me, it didn't matter that the subjects of the paintings were of a privileged class as this was all part of our history.

The Botanical Gardens were quite a contrast with its tropical and native species and a beautiful Japanese garden with its formal tranquillity. The bonsai collection was quite inspiring with new ideas I had never even thought of.

In hindsight I admit that on such a beautiful day and in these settings, I wish I'd left my backpack at home and taken instead a nice handbag containing cucumber sandwiches. I would have worn a beautiful floral dress more befitting the atmosphere. Few of us got that right.

I believe that even the staunchest republicans amongst us would have enjoyed the rather royal experience of Government House. Thanks, Stephen, for organising this trip.

Maree Pfisterer.

This year's bus trip was a real success- even better than I expected. The tour of Government House was warmly welcoming, informative, and well organised and the larger reception rooms were impressive and elegant but for me, the high spot was the Japanese garden, beautifully maintained and a perfect place for quiet meditation. Thanks also to Stephen, for organising a reserved place for our lunch. It was a pleasant surprise to have delicious food immediately available.

Diana Sharp, Co-President

I would like to thank Stephen Stocker, who with assistance from Diana and Sue, organised a very enjoyable and informative Bus Trip this month. We were made very welcome at both the Governor's House and the Mt Coo-tha gardens. The weather was perfect and the bus ride quite pleasant. My thanks also to Glenda for her wonderful company and conversation.

Karen Bono Vice President

This year's bus trip to Government House Qld and Mt Coot-tha was interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. I love historic houses and the house, the interior decoration, the artwork and the beautiful chandeliers did not disappoint. We even met the governor, Jeanette Young, who was welcoming and delightful. She suggested we see the dining room and the beautiful crystal, crockery, silverware and more lovely chandeliers ready for an important dinner later that night. The gardens around the house were lovely and the gardener who we had the opportunity to question was very informative. Mt Coot-Tha Botanical Gardens did not disappoint the Bonsai House, the Fernery and the Japanese Gardens were beautiful.

Thank you Stephen a well-organised and enjoyable bus trip,

Adelina Linardon