

ITEM MAYORAL MINUTE - CONCORD GARDEN CLUB 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I would like to draw Council's attention to the 65th anniversary of the Concord Garden Club.

Concord Garden Club commenced in March 1953 in a nursery in Burwood Road, opposite Concord Public School. Mr Eric Leggett decided to hold a rose pruning demonstration and invited all interested to come along, and many came. Eric suggested a Garden Club in Concord and before he knew what hit him he was the President of the Concord Horticultural and Home Gardening Society forming committee, with Mr Val Stanley as Secretary/Treasurer. The name later changed to Concord Garden Club.

The first meetings were held under the Pavilion in the Sports Ground at the corner of Parramatta Road and Loftus Street (now replaced by the modern stand at St Lukes Oval). Later they moved to a building on the grounds of Concord Council where Concord Library now stands. Today the Concord Community Centre is the proud home of the Garden Club.

A number of presidents have come and gone - Mr G Elliott, Mr Vane and Mr Norman Spearman. Following Mr Spearman's long reign in this position Alderman Geoff Payne took over as President). Geoff brought a great deal of humour to the position, but most importantly he cemented the ties between Concord Council and the Garden Club.

The first show was held in March 1954 and since then many Autumn and Spring shows have been held with varying amounts of success. In this time Council and many local businesses have given a great deal of support, which has been of assistance in so many ways.

Concord Garden Club is a great example of the importance of community groups in our area; they not only provide a great source of friendship, collaboration and sense of community, but they are an important link to the heritage and flora of our City. Concord Garden Club is also our Arts and Culture Citizen of the Year for 2017.

In honouring the 65th Anniversary of the Concord Garden Club we look forward to many more years of fruit, vegetable and flower growing and exhibiting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive and note this report.

