

**PAGG December
CHRISTMAS LUNCH MEETING
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
11 December 2018**

PAGG Christmas Lunch was held this year at the Hunter Regional Botanic Gardens with 55 members attending. President Janie welcomed everyone and congratulated all on their contribution to an outstanding year for PAGG.

Janie then introduced Ken Page, chairman of the Botanic Gardens. Ken explained that the gardens were 33 years old and planting and developing had been going on all that time. There are 200 volunteers who help keep the gardens running and are responsible for maintenance.

The focus of the gardens is growing Australian plants, particularly those of the Hunter region, while some ornamentals that have special interest for locals, are also grown. Sharing knowledge of, and a passion for, plants is a high priority. The

gardens also encourage feedback from visitors and have had continuous support from garden clubs.

Liz made a presentation to two gentlemen who have made a particularly outstanding contribution to the running of PAGG. Robert and Steve have been a constant back-up to all our activities and each received a gardening hat with "CAPTAIN PAGG" for Steve and "SAFETY PAGG" for Robert embroidered on the band, let's hope it doesn't go to their heads!

Members were invited to wander the gardens and they purchased enthusiastically from the plant stall prior to sharing a very enjoyable lunch, six raffles were drawn – with special thanks to Shirley N for her beautiful bonsai (won by Shirley H) and to Penny K for the night for 2 at Yeranda (won by Gary). The day finished with the exchange of Christmas gifts.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on 19 March, 2019

Photos: Mark and Christine

