

**PRESIDENTS REPORT 2020
THE GAP GARDEN CLUB
AGM 23 MARCH 2021**

HIGHLIGHTS

2020 proved to be both an interesting and challenging year for the first year of my Gap Garden Club presidency. The challenge, as we had identified by September 2020, was how were we going to raise the money required to be able to provide for the extra costs to meet Covid 19 requirements so that we could hold our meetings without eroding the bank balance. To add to our challenges all of our previous methods of raising additional funds to support the running of our meetings no longer were available due to Covid 19. What a dilemma! When we first recommenced in August we were limited to having only 60 members attend and we were unable to have bus trips, hold our trade table and provide our library. We identified that we would require an extra \$3,000 over and above our normal yearly running expenses to cover our additional Covid 19 costs. Fortunately I am blessed by having a very clever and supportive committee who came up with some brilliant ideas as to how we could possibly raise this money. We are also blessed with very generous members who were able to attend late last year, who helped us achieve an almost neutral balance sheet which I feel under the circumstances is quite remarkable. Thank you very much to our Treasurer Karen and our Minute Secretary Jill, who with her financial background, has helped us to attain this outcome. On behalf of our committee I sincerely thank you all for what you have done for the ongoing support of our club in very unusual times.

FUN & FRIENDSHIP – EVENTS & OUTINGS

AUGUST – Our first meeting once we were able to recommence our meetings in August 2020 was our AGM where we thanked our outgoing committee and welcomed our new committee. A great opportunity to thank Rae and the outgoing committee for all their hard work and dedication over the previous two years. We were lucky to have many new faces on our 2020 committee as well as some familiar faces and it has been an honor for me to work with and get to know these amazing ladies so much better. They have been a great source of inspiration and support while we have had to work through the challenges we all had ahead of us. We had a wonderful guest speaker, Barbara Beerling, who's talk was about "Composting Made Easy". A number of our members were familiar with Barbara from her time at Nova Nursery and Perrots Nursery which are now unfortunately closed so it was a great opportunity to catch up with an old friend or familiar face.

SEPTEMBER – Unfortunately due to Covid 19 we were unfortunate that we were not able to resume our very popular bus trips and our planned Clinic morning at Odette McAuliffe's beautiful garden also had to be cancelled due to limited numbers allowed. Our members were very appreciative that they could join us at our September meeting even though we were still limited to being able to only have 78 members attend. Our guest speaker at this meeting was our own committee member and Trade Table Convenor Glenys Gillespie. Glenys gave a very informative and fun talk on "Potting for the Seasons". There was much audience participation and prizes as well. We also discussed the possibility that we may have to apply a \$5 meeting fee to cover the additional cost of running meetings under Covid 19 requirements. We had a lively discussion with many important issues raised for consideration by our members but support

for this initiative was shown by the majority of our members. Another challenge raised in an unusual and difficult year.

OCTOBER - By October we were starting to adjust to the new Covid normal and were able to have our first Garden Clinic since recommencing our meetings. We were able to visit Judith Hyde's garden but needed to limit our number of visitors to 10 to meet Covid requirements. Our very inventive committee came up with the idea of having 3 sessions during the day that allowed 30 of our members to attend. It was a very intimate but wonderful day. Our guest speaker at our monthly meeting was Peter Storer an active member of Native Plants Queensland and Bird Queensland. Peter gave us a very informative talk on how to attract birdlife into our gardens by planting native plants. The talk was very much enjoyed by our members with many questions for Peter at the end of his presentation. An ordinary resolution was proposed to the members at the meeting to apply the \$5 meeting fee to cover the additional cost of running meetings under Covid 19 requirements for as long as it was required. This resolution was passed by 90% of the attending members.

NOVEMBER – We started our month with our Melbourne Cup Party held at St Marks' Church Hall. We had our lunch catered for us as we were not able to share plates and our boxed lunch was enjoyed by all. Thank you very much to Di Ward for organizing our catering for both our Melbourne Cup and Christmas Party and Helen Page and Jo Ranson for their help with running our cup sweeps.

We finished our year with a wonderful Christmas Party that was held at Rivercity due to non availability of our normal venue. The room was decorated beautifully by our committee members and helpers and looked very festive. I think the smiles all around the room was a very good indicator of how much we were all enjoying ourselves. Our guest speaker was Danny from Buderim Bromeliads who spoke about tropical and subtropical foliage plants. Lyndsay and Danny brought with them an amazing range of plants and were very informative. I think many of our members are still enjoying their purchases from the day. We finished a very unusual year on a high note with great hopes for a better 2021.

FEBRUARY 2021 - We resumed our monthly meetings in February. Our numbers were still restricted to 100 but that did not affect the excitement of being back. The noise level in the room was testimony to that and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying each others company again. Lots of catching up to be done. Andrew Michel was our guest speaker and he presented a very informative talk on "Lawn Care". He gave us all a lot of valuable information and tips on how to look after our now flourishing lawns after all the rain. A great but anything but normal year.

THANKS ALL ROUND

In closing I would really like to thank our 2020 committee who are a wonderful group of ladies. Thank you to Karen Curtis, Cathy Schofield, Jill Davies, Di Ward, Sue Thornton, Annette Morgan, Bernadette Murray, Judith Hyde, Trish Renton, Glenys Gillespie, Julie Ledden. I have really enjoyed your company and support in a most unusual year. We all have a lot of fun together planning outings, speakers and garden clinics that we all hope you will enjoy.

Being on the committee with these ladies is a privilege for me and their dedication and enthusiasm every month inspires me. I would also like to thank all of our many helpers, Tom Hayes our QCGC delegate, Julie McCarthy and Wendy Hillhecker who assist Glenys on the trade table, Pat Dargusch, Doris Meier and Sandra Gahan on the sign in table, Maxine Silvestro and Lyn Crandell for looking after our morning teas, Suzanne Murphy who assists Trish with the library, our hostesses throughout the year Leah McCallum, Narelle Richter and Leonie Christie who assist Julie Ledden on the bench, Robyn Porter who assists Bernadette with our Bus Trips, Jan Stevenson, our wonderful raffle Co-ordinator and her assistants Margaret Dawson & Ruth Ernst, Joan Carey and Janelle Young who have been assisting Annette with collecting the membership fees, Peter McCallum for doing such a great job over the years looking after our PA system, Bob Richter for looking after our website with the able assistance of Narelle who is our official photographer, Facebook master and Calendar co-ordinator. Thank you to Wendy Hillhecker for very kindly providing all of our meeting printing at no charge. Please forgive me if I have missed anyone. It is the members who make a great club and I think it is understandable why the Gap Garden Club is known as such a great club to be a part of. Thank you all for the opportunity to be your President for the next 12 months.