

**Minutes of the General Meeting of The Gap Garden Club Inc held at
Rivercity Church on Tuesday 23 February 2021**

Meeting: Our President, Judy Dittman opened the meeting at 9.45am with 103 members and visitors present.

Welcome to New Member: Judy welcomed Natalie Long as a new member.

Welcome to Visitors: Judy welcomed Gail Smith, Cathy O'Rourke, Val Owen, Daphne Swain, Lynette Johnson and Pat Vaughan.

Minutes: The Minutes of the November General Meeting were tabled by the Minutes Secretary who moved that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings. Seconded: Gabrielle O'Shea.

Correspondence: The Minutes Secretary tabled the correspondence on behalf of the Correspondence Secretary and moved that the incoming correspondence be received and the outgoing endorsed. Seconded: Janet Rodd.

Business From Correspondence: Judy discussed with the members that due to COVID19 it is necessary for email invitations to be sent for attendance to each meeting with RSVP necessary. If any member is not receiving the email please check with the Membership Convenor that the correct Email address has been recorded and all contact details are up to date. In addition at times in transmission of Emails they are sorted into Spam or Junk so please check these folders in case they have been received there. It is proposed that the Email invitation will be sent a week before each meeting so it is necessary to check that you have received the invitation.

As a COVID19 reminder, tape has been placed on the floor with arrows to ensure appropriate queues at the Bench, Trade Table, Morning Tea and Library move in one direction in line with the social distancing requirements.

As there continues to be a limit on numbers to attend our meetings, 100 members can currently be accommodated. As there will be an allowance of 5 guests each month, the member number will be set at 95 with an RSVP necessary each month. The cut off time for the purpose of RSVP will be set at 12 noon on the Saturday before the General Meeting. The Secretary, Cathy Schofield will phone those members who do not have an email address to invite them to each meeting.

Jo Ranson suggested that members register their name at today's meeting for the March General Meeting/AGM and in the event that they are unable to attend they must advise the Secretary prior to the Saturday before the General Meeting. This is necessary otherwise they are excluding a member who wishes to attend. Cathy Schofield as agreed to try this at today's meeting and the procedure will be discussed further at the next Management Committee Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Unfortunately, the Treasurer, Karen Curtis was unable to attend today's meeting due to an unforeseen urgent matter therefore no report was presented. The report will be presented at the March meeting in conjunction with the usual monthly report.

Field Trips: Bernadette Murray gave the report for the first monthly Field Trip which is to be held on Tuesday 9 March 2021 departing Rivercity Church at 8.30am. The cost of the day will be \$35 including garden entry fee. The trip will include visits to Bamboo Downunder Garden Centre, Wongawallen for morning tea, Spectrum Wholesale Nursery Wongawallen and the garden of Jill Dokter (Riverwalk Gardens) at Yatala. Lunch will be available at the Shearers Tavern at Ormeau for the cost of \$15 with meal preferences (fish, steak or chicken) to be given to Bernadette and Robyn when purchasing your ticket. Due to COVID restrictions Brisbane Bus Lines is no longer able to provide hot water so it will be necessary for members to bring their own drink for morning tea with individual packed biscuits being provided. Members will need to bring cash to pay for any plant purchases that are made at the gardens to be visited.

Clinic Report: The President, Judy Dittman announced that the Management Committee Members had accepted the nomination of Judith Hyde to the position of Clinic Co-ordinator due to Bernadette Murray and Robyn Porter moving to Field Trips. This position will be formalised for Judith at the upcoming AGM in March. Bernadette Murray introduced Judith Hyde to the members to present details of the upcoming Clinic. Judith thanked both Bernadette and Robyn for organising the Clinics during their time in the position. Judith then advised that the March Clinic would be held on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 10am at the home of Julie Ledden, 7 Macs Road, Highvale.

Julie has owned her Highvale property for many years and once a working farm has now downsized to 8 acres. The house garden is a wonderful cottage garden filled with salvias, roses, lavenders and an array of lovely trees planted over the years with a beautiful Jacaranda which frames the front of the house. Please bring a chair, cup and some morning tea, although packaged biscuits will also be provided. Julie would like to know how to prune her much loved Tibouchina trees as she has had problems in the past. Travel to the roundabout at Samford and take the Mt Glorious Road to the intersection of Ryder and Macs Road and turn right, with number 7 being the first property on the left.

Judy Dittman thanked both Bernadette and Robyn for covering both roles until Judith fills the role of Clinic Co-ordinator.

Membership: Membership Convenor, Annette Morgan confirmed there are currently 126 financial members, 15 unfinancial members, 9 Life members and 30 on the waiting list. Membership fees are due now and must be paid by the end of March. It is necessary for all visitors today to see Annette to complete the appropriate form. Those members who have paid online are able to collect their receipts from Janelle Young who is assisting the Membership Convenor today. If you wish to pay your membership online, Annette has details of the relative bank account into which the funds may be deposited.

Library: Trish Renton thanked her Assistant, Suzanne Murphy and advised that there a number of new edition magazines available today including Gardening Australia, Organic Gardener and Tropical Gardens. There is also a wide range of books available for loan. In conjunction with today's Guest Speaker on Lawn Care, there is a book on Pests and Diseases that might be a good reference. Trish mentioned that there is capacity to order books online at our Web Site and this can be done by email or phone call to Trish and the relative books will be available for your collection at the next meeting. Due to COVID19 please only handle the books you are going to take out and a returns bin is available for those books/magazines as they come back in at the next meeting.

Trade Table: Trade Table Convenor, Glenys Gillespie advised that trade was very brisk and thanked those members who brought cuttings and pots etc and those members who purchased the plants. Glenys also thanked her assistant, Julie McCarthy. Members were reminded only to handle the plants they are intending to purchase.

QCGC: Tom Hayes is our QCGC Representative and is also on the QCGC Committee. Tom reported that the QCGC has good plans for the year ahead and will adapt as required due to any COVID19 restriction changes. The main event coming up is the Garden-A-Fair being held on 10 and 11 April 2021. Tom encouraged members to submit entries to the bench for judging. Tom also mentioned that The Gap Garden Club is held in very high regard by the QCGC.

Bench: Narelle Richter on behalf of Julie Ledden announced the winners of the respective categories and encouraged members to participate in placing items on the bench at future meetings. Noel Prior judged the floral displays and offered some positive points in regard to the presentation of the exhibits. Noel also encouraged our members to bring along exhibits each month for judging. Noel announced a couple of events that are coming up. The first one is for the Queensland Dahlia Society who is holding an event at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Auditorium on 13 and 14 March 2021. Also the Northern Districts Horticultural Society Inc is holding their 25th Anniversary Open Show at the Wavell Heights Community Hall, Wavell Heights on the 6 and 7 March 2021 with a \$4 entry fee payable. Heather Prior judged the Floral Art and although the exhibit numbers were small Heather thought they were well presented.

General Business:

- Some 2021 Calendars are still available for purchase for the cost of \$8 from Narelle Richter. Please see Narelle at morning tea.
- **Introduction of a COVID19 Compliance Meeting Levy:** There was a decision made in October last year to implement the application of a \$5 COVID19 Meeting Fee commencing from the February 2021 General Meeting. Application of this fee was based on the additional cost involved in running our meetings/club events due to COVID19 and also the reduction in member numbers both renewing their membership and attending meetings. Due to the easing of the current restrictions it is encouraging that the Club is presently in a position to reintroduce a number of our activities and have additional members to our monthly meetings. Naturally this position could change at any time and will be reviewed accordingly. However as the situation is at present the Management Committee has voted to defer the introduction of the fee with a further review in April 2021 by which time it is anticipated that the Club's ongoing financial position for the year will be clearer.
- Judy announced that the Committee will be discussing the reintroduction of the issuance of a monthly Newsletter at the next Committee meeting.
- The annual membership fee of \$30 is now due and payable to the Membership Convenor.

Guest Speaker: Sue Thornton introduced our Guest Speaker, Andrew Michell for his presentation on Lawns and Lawn Care. Andrew discussed a range of issues in growing a very healthy lawn and focussed on the following topics:-

- Types of grass;
- Basics of lawn care;
- Dethatching, aerating and top dressing;
- Renovation;
- Common Problems;
- Mowing;
- Seasons for lawns;
- Websites and products.

TYPES OF GRASS

- Buffalo (has Stolon only), Couch, Kikuyu and Zoysia (all have Stolons and Rhizomes);
- Buffalo has a high drought resistance and varieties include Sir Walter, Palmetto and Sapphire;
- Zoysia is slow growing and varieties include Sir Grange, Zoysia Matrella, Zoysia Zeon and Sapyareas;
- Couch requires full sun, is higher maintenance than other varieties and includes Bermuda, Qld Blue, Green, Santana and TifTuf;
- Kikuyu was introduced from Africa, is a very aggressive grass and includes Eureka Kikuyu, and Kik.

BASICS

- Water:- Infrequent deep watering early morning for 45 minutes approx 3 times per week;
- Seaso:- Spray on packs fortnightly and monthly with Powerfeed;
- Soil Wetter:- Gypsum and lime in heavy clay soils;
- Fertiliser:- Many options – ECO88, CK88, Sports Flexx, Lawn Pride's;
- Mowing:- Cut approx 1/3 of the leaf growth each mow.

RENOVATIONS

- Dethatching:- Undertake once a year as thatch suffocates the grass. Can use a rake or hire a dethatcher;
- Aeration:- Use a pitch fork and top dress and fertilise straight after;
- Top Dressing:- Sand is best and use a soil spreader to distribute.

PROBLEMS

- Fungal:- Usually due to low nitrogen in the soil and includes Dollar Spot, Red Thread, Lawn Rust, Brown Patch and Winter Fuserium. Best treated with Mancozeb or Zaleton;

- Insects:- Include Black Beetle, Army Worm and Ants. Best treated with various spray packs or granular options from Bunnings;
- Weeds:- Broadleaf and Grassy Weeds – Bindi, Capeweed, Clover, Mallow, Pearlwort, Crows Foot, Paspalum, Nut Grass, Mullumbimby Couch and Winter grass. Regular mowing stops germination and there is a wide range of sprays available for individual weeds or dig them out. Sprays include Dicamba M, Sledgehammer, Embargo, Spreadmax, Monument and Kempra.

MOWING

- Cut approx 1/3 of leaf growth each mow and ensure the mower blades are sharp. Can use either a cylinder mower or rotary mower (gives a rougher cut).

SEASONS

- Winter:- Lawn is dormant and best to cut higher. Time to get on top of weeds and apply a slow release fertiliser and water as required;
- Spring:- Treat grubs, undertake renovation, fertilise, apply soil wetter and water in the morning;
- Summer:- Apply wetter and a balanced fertiliser. Cut grass lower and treat any fungal issues and water in the morning;
- Autumn:-Pre emergent, apply soil wetter and keep up the watering.

WEBSITES/GROUPS/PRODUCTS

- Lawn Pride;
- Seasol and Powerfeed;
- Australian Lawn Fanatics – Facebook;
- Lawn Rescue Squad;
- Coochie Hydro Lawn Services;
- Plant Doctor.

At the end of his very informative presentation Andrew answered a variety of questions from members.

Sue Thornton moved a vote of thanks to Andrew for his very interesting and informative presentation.

Raffle: Jan Stephenson drew the raffle tickets with several potted plants as prizes. Thank you to Sue Thornton for purchasing the raffle prizes and other club members for their donations.

The next planned meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 23 March 2021 commencing at 9.30am at the Rivercity Church.

Judy thanked all who had assisted in the running of today's meeting.

In conjunction with the closing of the meeting, the Club President, Judy Dittman reiterated to all the members present the following details in regard to the general conduct of today's meeting:-

- Judy confirmed that we had 103 people in attendance which is in excess of the number that is allowed by the Rivercity Church;
- It is of great concern to Judy personally and as President that we are breaching the COVID19 requirements which as a Club we must abide by;
- Judy stressed that it is vitally important for all members to RSVP to Cathy Schofield no later than the Saturday if they are going to attend the General Meeting;
- There are no visitors allowed to attend our March Meeting which is the Annual General Meeting.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 12.15pm.