

**The Minutes of the General Meeting of The Gap Garden Club Inc
held at the Rivercity Church on Tuesday 27 April 2021.**

Meeting: Our President, Judy Dittman opened the meeting at 9.30am with 103 members and visitors present.

Welcome to Visitors and New Members: Ian Hamilton, Dell Walker, Barbara Schofield, Orima Lewis, Susan O'Halloran, Daphne Swain, Pat Vaughan, Alan Ponting, Lynette Johnson and Natalie Long.

Judy also welcomed the Judges, Daphne Low and Kevin Hammett.

Apologies: Karen Curtis.

Minutes: The Minutes of the March Annual General Meeting and March General Meeting were tabled by the Minutes Secretary who moved that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings. Seconded: Glenys Gillespie.

The Minutes Secretary, Jill Davies also thanked Karen Curtis for filling the role of Minutes Secretary at the March Meeting as Jill was not able to be present on the day.

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

Friendship Day Invitation: An invitation was received from the Stafford Garden Club for two of our members to attend their next meeting on 13 May 2021 in lieu of a formal Friendship Day event. John and Angela Leak have nominated to attend.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer Karen Curtis was unfortunately absent at the meeting. A Financial Report was presented on Karen's behalf by the President Judy Dittman for the combined months of February and March 2021. The opening cash book balance was \$9,716.96 with total income of \$4,407.65 and total expenses of \$3,719.55 resulting in a Closing Balance of \$10,405.06. The balance as per the Bank Statement is \$12,081.66 less unrepresented cheques of \$1,676.60 confirming the Closing Cash Book Balance of \$10,405.06. The balance of the No2 Account remains at \$49.08 and Petty Cash balance confirmed at \$337.85. Full details of the Petty Cash will be provided at the next General Meeting. Judy moved that the financial position be accepted and the accounts passed for payment. Seconded: Tom Hayes.

Field Trips: The April Field Trip was held on Tuesday 13 April 2021 with visits to Samford, Rosevale Homestead, Samsonvale (Leonie Kearney), Redcliffe for lunch and the Plant Shack at Deception Bay. The Plant Shack donated 3 lovely plants for our raffle on the return trip and were won by Narelle Richter (Orchid), Angela Leak (Anthurium) and Val Reville (Dianthus).

The next Field Trip will be on Tuesday 11 May 2021 visiting Buderim. Members are requested to arrive at Rivercity Church by 8.15am for departure at 8.30am. The cost is \$35 and a \$2 parking fee for Rivercity Church. Morning Tea will be in a park at Buderim followed by a visit to Buderim Bromeliads (Danny) and then on to lunch at the Buderim Tavern. Lunch preference can be pre ordered at the time of buying tickets. After lunch more plant therapy will be enjoyed at Manawee Nursery before heading back to Brisbane.

Members are requested to ensure they have downloaded the QR Code App to their phone to streamline entry to the restaurant. Bernadette and Robyn are working on the Field Trip for June. Originally it was planned to go to Maleny Gardening on the Edge. However as the Maleny Garden Club has not been able to secure sufficient stall holders for the Hall at the Showground, together with a concern over COVID19, the event has been cancelled with the possibility of a smaller event in September 2021.

The Field Trip for July will be on Friday 9 July to the Nambour Garden Expo. Final pricing is still being calculated as the cost will include entry to the Expo. Expressions of interests are sought today for the Nambour Garden Expo trip in July and the Carnival of Flowers trip in September.

Clinic Report: The second Clinic for 2021 was to be held on Tuesday 6 April 2021 commencing at 10am at the home of Bernadette Murray at 14 Bonros Place, The Gap. However due to the inclement weather conditions, it was postponed until the following Saturday, 10 April 2021. There were 18 members in attendance and they all enjoyed spending time in Bernadette's traditional style garden and the lovely sunny weather on the day.

The next Clinic will be held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 commencing at 10am at the home of Narelle Richter, 1 Quinnia Court, Ferny Hills. There are currently no COVID19 restrictions on numbers that would impact on the clinic at this time. Please bring your cup and chair. Morning tea and packaged biscuits will be provided and come along to enjoy Narelle's diverse variety of beautiful plants lovingly collected over the years she has been gardening and pick up some great tips and ideas with some like-minded friends. Limited parking is available at the top of the driveway for those with mobility difficulties. Street parking is also available.

Judith reminded our members of the general background to hosting Clinic mornings and encouraged our new club members to think of holding one later in the year. There are two spaces left in July and August and Judith is very keen to fill these spots.

In addition it was announced that there are still some Calendars available for purchase today at a reduced price of \$5.

Membership: Membership Convenor, Annette Morgan confirmed that there are 7 new members today and welcomed them to the Club. Judy reminded members that today is the final day for payment of 2021 Membership Fees and those who are presently on the Waiting List will be progressively invited to attend our General Meetings. Judy advised that if anyone else was interested in joining the Club who are not on the Waiting List they would need to contact our Membership Convenor, Annette Morgan to enable their contact details to be recorded. It is intended that they would be invited to attend a future meeting when the current Waiting List is cleared.

Library: Trish Renton advised that there are a variety of magazines and books available to loan to members. There is provision on the website for an Email to be sent to the Convenor requesting a particular book which would be available for collection at the next meeting. Trish also mentioned there are quite a number of books available on roses in line with the last Field Trip and the topic of today's Guest Speaker.

Trade Table: Glenys Gillespie thanked everyone for all the cuttings, pots and produce that were donated by members for sale today. Lemons were donated by Judy and a new member generously brought some apples, oranges and kiwi fruit for sale. Glenys provided an overview of the operations of the Trade Table for the benefit of the new members. Glenys requested that if anyone has some spare plastic pots to please bring them along as the Trade Table Assistants would be able to use them to plant up cuttings etc. for sale at upcoming meetings. A large variety of salvia, iris, bromeliads etc are available for sale today.

QCGC: Tom Hayes, our Club Delegate and Vice President of QCGC provided an update on the Garden-A-Fair that was cancelled for April and has been rescheduled for the 19 and 20 June 2021. The event will be held in the Auditorium of the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. There will be plenty of plants for sale and Bench Exhibits. The Garden Club is not proposing to hold a stall this year. Tom commented that the event may have been better held later in the year around November to assist with climate conditions, floral displays etc. however it was the vote of the QCGC members to reschedule the event in June.

Bench Report: Julie Ledden announced the bench results and thanked the members for the increased number of exhibits on the bench. Both Judges commented on the high quality of the exhibits today and gave general tips on how to best present exhibits. In regard to the produce exhibit it was reminded that stems should be well on the fruit. Floral Art was also well presented.

Judy also thanked members for the increased number of exhibits today and looks forward to this continuing.

Special Guest Speaker: As a special Guest Speaker, Narelle Richter delivered a presentation on how to present your flowers, plants and produce on the Exhibition Bench. Narelle gave many points of assistance for not only flower presentation but also for Floral Art. A copy of Narelle's presentation is available from Narelle for further details. Narelle also reminded Members that we will be printing a Calendar again this year and encouraged Members to start taking suitable photos of their garden. Narelle also had a supply of old photos and welcomed Members to take any they wish otherwise they will be destroyed.

Narelle also reminded members how to log into the website as several members are doing this incorrectly which is causing the website to fail. It was reminded that log on details are also in the Newsletter.

Judy moved a vote of thanks to Narelle and then introduced Odette McAuliffe who wanted to make members aware of a wonderful fertiliser that she has been buying from a distributor at the Rocklea Markets. It is very composted cow manure and if anyone is interested Odette is taking names of those interested in purchasing a bag for the cost of \$8. The supplier will then deliver the bags to the May General Meeting. Please see Odette at morning tea if you wish to order some.

Guest Speaker: Judy Dittman introduced our Guest Speaker, Shirley Dance from the Queensland Rose Society. Shirley spoke on a range of details in regard to growing roses and focussed on the following topics:-

LOCATION

- Roses need 5-6 hours of sunlight each day;
- If you only have shady spots it is best to grow them in pots;
- Best location is a northerly aspect running east to west;
- Best to be away from large trees or metal, west facing walls as they radiate too much heat.

LAYOUT AND SOIL PREPARATION

- Check PH soil levels – acidic soils are best with a range of 6.5 to 7;
- A sunny spot with good drainage is ideal.

ROSE VARIETIES

- *Hybrid T's* – traditionally roses that you see in florist shops with long stems, perfumed and large full blooms;
- *Floribunda Roses* – cross bred roses with masses of cluster flowering blooms. Ideal for mass plantings and low hedges and can also be very fragrant. Types include Iceberg, Seduction, Burgundy Iceberg and Apricot Nectar;
- *David Austin* – Roses bred in England with an old-fashioned look and nice perfume. They tend to grow better in cooler conditions in Victoria;
- *Patio or Miniflora* – Very popular with people in apartments or units who have smaller gardens. Angel Face is a popular rose for that location;
- *Miniature Roses* – These roses grow to around 20-40cm tall and there is a large range of colours available;
- *Standard or Weeping Roses* – There is a large range of varieties available and a large garden is best for a nice display.

WHERE TO BUY ROSES

- Nurseries – Roses by Donelles;
- Big W and Bunnings – Bare Root Roses;
- Swaines and Treloar's – Mail Order or Online Ordering.

PLANTING TECHNIQUES

- Bare Root Roses are best planted in Winter and it is recommended to soak overnight in Seasol before planting. A deep hole is required and do not forget to check the PH level first. Ensure that the bud union is 25-50mm above ground level;
- Potted roses can be planted at any time of the year.

CARING FOR ROSES

- Mulch – Sugarcane Mulch is recommended and mulching is undertaken each 6 months commencing after pruning in July;
- If necessary spray with Lime Sulphur after pruning.

WATERING

- Water in the mornings or early afternoon;
- If water remains on the leaves they are prone to black spot which is best treated with Triforine or a pre mixed Rose Spray;
- Roses in the garden need approx. 9 litres of water each week with twice weekly watering recommended in Summer.

FERTILISING

- Various options available – Sudden Impact for Roses (Neutrog product), Black Marvel, Organic Extra, Gogo Juice, Who Flung Dung (Neutrog product to fertilise and mulch);
- Garden – Fertilise every 8 – 10 weeks during Spring, Summer and Autumn. Fertilising programme can be topped up occasionally with Flourish and Liquid Potash;
- Potted Roses – Liquid fertilise once a month with Liquid Potash as this strengthens stems and improves colour.

SPRAYING

- Best to spray sparingly;
- Black Spot – use Triforine or Mancozeb;
- Aphids – hard watering with the hose;
- Grasshoppers – Carbaryl;
- Premixed rose sprays often cover a range of pests etc. and is best used if you only have a few roses.

General questions were taken from the floor and it was suggested that the use of moth balls may help keep possums away from roses. Judy Dittman moved a vote of thanks to Shirley for her very informative presentation. There were four roses for sale to our members.

General Business:

- **Substitution Chair for the May General Meeting:** Our President, Judy Dittman advised that unfortunately she would not be able to chair the General Meeting in May as she would be in hospital undergoing surgery. Judy announced that the Minutes Secretary, Jill Davies would chair the meeting and the Treasurer, Karen Curtis would take the minutes.

Raffle: Lesley Fites drew the raffle with several potted plants as prizes purchased by Judith Hyde. Thank you to Judith for the purchases and other Members who donated prizes. Jo Axten offered to buy the prizes for the May General Meeting and Lorna White generously donated \$20 to also go towards purchase of the raffle prizes for May. Thank you very much to Lorna.

Judy announced that the Guest Speaker for the May General Meeting would be Peter Storer talking on photography in the garden and thanked all who had assisted in running of Today's Meeting. In particular members assisting with the Raffle, Morning Tea, Hostesses, Trade Table Assistants, Pat and the Attendance Book Assistants, our Judges Daphne Ludlow and Kevin Hammett and Guest Speaker, Shirley and Bevan.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 12.05pm.