

**The Minutes of the General Meeting of The Gap Garden Club Inc
held at the Rivercity Church on Tuesday 22 June 2021**

Meeting: Our President, Judy Dittman opened the meeting at 9.30am with 110 members and guests present.

Welcome to Visitors and New Members: Carmel Silva, Sue Bray, Mary Brezac, Jean Taylor and Janet Millman as guests. Sabina Li, Patricia McMorrine, Jeanette Freeman, Vivianne Young, Colleen Carmody, Pat Vaughan and Julie Southgate as members.

Judy also welcomed our Judge Noel Prior and our Guest Speaker Ian Whittle.

Apologies: As per the Attendance Book.

Minutes: The Minutes of the May 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 be endorsed. Seconded: Tom Hayes.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Karen Curtis presented the financial report for the Club's working account for the month of May 2021. The opening cash book balance was \$11,482.36 with total income of \$2,261.40 and total expenses of \$1,633.15 resulting in a Closing Balance of \$12,110.61. Unpresented cheques amounted to \$1,263.15. The balance of the No2 Account remains at \$49.08 and the Petty Cash balance confirmed at \$64.10. Karen moved that the financial reports be accepted and the accounts passed for payment. Seconded: Elwyn Radcliffe.

Field Trips: The last Field Trip was on Tuesday 8 June 2021 and left Rivercity Church at 8.30am and proceeded to Queen's Park Ipswich for morning tea and then on to the Little Pee Dee Nursery, 342 Obum Obum Road, Kalbar. Lunch followed at Boonah with the members free to have lunch at an eatery of their choice and browse in the shops. A visit to the Oxley Nursery, 174 Dowding Street, Oxley followed with three plants purchased as raffle prizes. The lucky winners were Judith Hyde, Ruth Ernst and Jo Ranson. A great day in the country was enjoyed by 43 members with arrival back at The Gap almost on time.

The next Field Trip is to the Nambour Garden Expo on Friday 9 July 2021 with those attending to be at Rivercity Church by 8.15am for 8.30am departure. Cost of entry to the Expo is \$18 and the total cost for the day Field Trip would be \$45. Parking at Rivercity Church is \$2.00. Tickets for this Field Trip are on sale today.

Clinic Report: Judith Hyde confirmed that the fourth Clinic for 2021 was held on Tuesday 1 June at the home of Odette McAuliffe, 3 Woodrose Court, Ferny Hills. 36 members attended to enjoy Odette's very inspirational cottage style garden for the last time as she will be moving in the near future. Thank you to Odette for hosting the morning and her wonderful hospitality together with the amazing garden she has loved and created.

The next Clinic will be held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 commencing at 10am at the home of Jan Stevenson, 92 Cobalt Street, Keperra. Please bring your cup and chair with coffee, tea and packaged biscuits provided. Come along and see this productive garden which will inspire those who love to grow their own fruit and vegetables – a true kitchen garden on a suburban patch surrounded with shrubs, natives, bromeliads and many other interesting plants to discover. There is easy parking on Cobalt Street as it is long and flat.

Vice President: On behalf of Sue Thornton, Judy Dittman discussed details of the upcoming Spring Affair (Bring and Buy) to be held at the September General Meeting. It is the major fund-raiser for the year for the Club. Judy commented on the type of goods to be sold and in view of the upcoming lifting of COVID restrictions this Friday (including the recommencement of Buffets) it is reasonable to accept that home-baked goods could be included. Judy mentioned that Sue Thornton is heading up the Sub-committee and is looking for two helpers to assist with the organisation and selling on the day and asked that anyone interested should see Sue at Morning Tea.

Membership: Membership currently stands at 144 financial members and Judy Dittman handed out badges to the recent new members together with a Club Calendar. On behalf of Annette Morgan our Membership Convenor, Judy commented that Annette has now cleared the previous waiting list and anyone wishing to join the Club should contact Annette to confirm attendance at the General Meeting. Judy thanked Members for their patience in working through the waiting list and clarified the reason for a waiting list in the first instance.

QCGC: Tom Hayes, our Club Delegate and Vice President of QCGC provided an update on upcoming events for the QCGC. The QCGC Friendship Day is scheduled for Wednesday 30 June 2021 where members will compete for the Wendy Wragge Trophy. Tom has arranged for a team of 6 members from The Gap Garden Club to attend the event. Historically The Gap Garden Club has performed well with a sound knowledge on gardening/horticultural topics. On 25 August 2021, the Fashion Parade will be held at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and models are still required for this event.

Tom also mentioned that the QCGC is looking for people to help man the display at the upcoming EKKA in August. Two people are needed for shifts of 3.5 hours at a time and you get free entry to the EKKA if working on the stall. Trish, a QCGC Representative is at the meeting today to take names of anyone interested. There has been an update to the Guest Speaker list and this has been sent to our Secretary.

Tom also mentioned the upcoming QCGC Biennial Awards with nominations required by the end of October and encouraged the Club to consider any possible nominees. The following categories will apply:

- Most contribution by and Individual to the Club;
- Most contribution by and Individual to the Community;
- Most contribution by a Club to the Community;
- Most contribution by an Individual to Horticulture.

Bench Report: Julie Ledden announced the bench results and thanked the members for the number of exhibits on the bench. The Judge, Noel Prior commented that the Camellias are presently a lovely display and reminded members how to present their exhibits. Suggestions were provided on how to place the plug in the bottle ie. beside the stem of the flower and not put the stem in the middle of the plug. The exhibit must have the “look at me” presence.

Guest Speaker: Judy Dittman introduced Ian Whittle, our Guest Speaker for the morning. Ian presented a slide show of “Aroids In Colour In The Giving Garden”. Ian mentioned that Aroids include Anthurium, Dieffenbachia, Monstera, Philodendron and Syngonium. Ian had a photograph of an Amorphophallus Titanum which is the plant that has a giant, very smelly flower and only blooms for a day and discussed a wide range he has growing in his garden.

Ian showed photographs of plants from his garden including various Anthuriums, Caladiums, Dieffenbachia, Philodendron, Monstera, Alocasia, Colocasia and Syngonium. Ian commented that Organic Link Fertiliser is good for Anthuriums and some Dieffenbachias and Philodendrons can be very expensive.

Ian mentioned that colour in his garden comes from planting Blood Lilies, Allamanda, Cassia, Clivea, Golden Candle, Agapanthus Queen Mum, Hoya, Coleus, Ginger Non Nooch Vine. Ian also showed overhead views of the garden and reminded members that he is involved with Open Gardens Scheme, hosting Bus Tours and Garden Club Meetings. He and his wife raised \$60,000 in 2017 for charity and was awarded the Gardening Australia Golden Trowel in 2019. Ian answered some questions from members. A range of plants were also for sale to members.

John Leak moved a vote of thanks to Ian for his very interesting presentation and thanked him for the visits the Garden Club has had to his home in the past.

General Business:

- **Tribute to Lynda Corcoran:** Narelle Richter gave a tribute to our dear Member, Lynda Corcoran who recently passed away. Lynda joined the Garden Club in 2014 and held two Clinics in her lovely garden. Lynda was an active member in the Club and Narelle shared several “memorable moments” of her time in the Garden Club. Lynda assisted on the Bench and being a keen photographer, production of the annual Calendar.
- **Proposal 2022 "Away Trip":** Jill Davies gave an update on the proposed itinerary for the two-night trip in September 2022 to Toowoomba and the Carnival of Flowers. Due to the positive response at the last General Meeting, bookings for the Motel accommodation and Coach hire have been secured. Although it is still a while away, to secure the bookings a deposit will need to be paid. Carnival of Flowers is a very busy time of year in Toowoomba. Therefore at the July General Meeting, names of those interested in travelling will be taken and a deposit of \$30 will need to be paid. It is proposed that 28 members will travel with a total approx. cost at this stage of \$630 for a Single and \$510 for a Twin Share accommodation. Jill reiterated the summary of the trip and emphasised that the cost will be fully inclusive of garden entries, coach travel, accommodation, breakfasts, dinners, morning teas and lunches.
- **Plant of the Month:** Judy Dittman selected a Tuberous Begonia from the raffle prizes purchased by Odette McAuliffe as the “Plant of the Month”. Judy commented that they are hybrids and as their origin is in the Andes they therefore prefer cool conditions. Ideal local locations in Queensland would be Toowoomba and Maleny or a very protected position on a balcony. They are long flowering and grow well in hanging baskets. The two that Odette purchased for the raffle had a stunning display of pink and yellow blooms. Thank you, Odette.
- **Procedure for Refund of Field Trip Tickets:** Judy Dittman reminded members that if they have purchased a ticket for the monthly Field Trip and they are unable to attend they must advise the Field Trip Convenors no later than the night before to be able to obtain a full refund or monies utilised for a future Field Trip. If it is left to the morning of the Field Trip a refund is not possible and it will be considered as a donation to the Club.
- **Review of the Last Nine Months of Club Membership:** Judy Dittman took the opportunity to thank all the Club members for their patience and support over the last 9 months due to the impact of COVID19 and the restrictions that were placed on how the Club was run. The Club went into “hibernation” for 5 months and then there were severe restrictions on the number of members that could be accommodated at a meeting at Rivercity Church when we recommenced in August 2021. Initially we were allowed 62 members and it was necessary to RSVP to every meeting invitation and as a result it was not possible to have new members or guests as priority was given to existing members who wished to attend. The Committee endeavoured to continue with the Melbourne Cup function and Christmas Luncheon and in line with COVID requirements they were catered by boxed lunches. By the time Christmas was coming Arana Leagues advised they could accommodate 60 persons, however the Committee felt it was more appropriate to have the Christmas Luncheon at Rivercity Church where we could invite 84 members. Both these events were run as best we could under the circumstances. Judy reflected on where the Club has come from this time last year and again thanked all members for their patience and support during this time and appreciated the way the Club has returned to all its usual General Meeting facilities including the Bench, Raffle, Trade Table, Library, Clinic, Morning Tea and Field Trips. As a result of this support, the Club is in a sound financial position and it has not been necessary to implement the \$5 COVID Meeting Fee. It is the view that the Club will be financially in a position to give back to the members by firstly subsidising the July Field Trip and also considering other future opportunities during the year.

Raffle: The raffle was drawn with several potted plants as prizes purchased by Odette McAuliffe. Thank you to Odette for the purchases and other Members who donated prizes. Sue Thornton offered to buy the prizes for the July General Meeting.

Judy announced that the Guest Speakers for the July General Meeting would be Noel and Heather Prior. Judy thanked all who had assisted in running of Today's Meeting including those who assisted with the Raffle, Morning Tea, Hostesses, Trade Table Assistants, Pat and the Attendance Book Assistant, our Judge Noel Prior and Guest Speaker, Ian Whintle.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 12.00pm.