

**MINUTES OF THE BANGALOW & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2022 at the MOLLER PAVILION**

- Present: There were 58 members in attendance.
- Apologies: Pam Barrett, Zsolt Mankowsky, Carol Lea, Astrid Preston, Mary-Lou Frazer, Rosemary Edwards, Esther & Paul Button, Annie Abbink, Margaret Byrne
- General: Adelina welcomed everyone to the meeting. Adelina explained that our life member Daisy Dare is no longer able to attend meetings.
- Adelina introduced the new committee – Co-presidents Adelina Linardon & Ann Tubridy, Co-Vice Presidents – meet & greet Rosemary Edwards & Helen Barlow, Treasurer Liz Hind, Ass Treasurer Sue Brennan, Secretary Diana Harden, Public Officer Steven Wedd, Catering Officer Patricia Di Tulio, Guest speakers Margaret Bruce & Diana Sharpe, Membership Sue Brennan, Flora of the Month Marie Pfisterer, Auction Steven Wedd.
- Adelina welcomed the new members -Jilly Weir, Bronwyn Thomas, Heather Stokes, Bruce Tom, Jenna Reed Burns, Julie Ross.
- Adelina explained that the garden club members were a friendly bunch with a wide range of plant interests and knowledge which they were happy to share. Adelina hoped that we will have a full year of meetings and activities.
- The proposed welcome back party will be held when possible COVID permitting.
- Reminded all members who were financial in 2021 do not have to pay membership for 2022.
- Minutes: Diana had circulated the minutes. Moved Diana Harden Seconded Adelina Linardon.
- Correspondence: Received bank statements from Summerland and Diocesan Banks. Thank you card from Margaret Byrne, Xmas card from Townsville Convention Committee, Copies of Our Garden magazine. Email forwarded for open garden Crew Garden, Uralba in February
- Treasurer's Report: Liz advised that the club closing balance (Oct – Jan 22) of \$7,579.36. Total income, \$30. Expenses were \$732.72. The treasurer's report was moved by Hazel Sowerby, seconded by Margaret Bruce
Liz asked that those members waiting for a bus trip refund to provide Liz with their bank details.
Liz advised that a daylight projector was being bought so power point and video presentations could be given during the meetings. A custom blackout blind was being ordered for the window.
- Presentation: Margaret Bruce presented a Life Membership to Judy Baker in recognition of her efforts, especially for taking photos which have been used on the website, newsletter, slideshow at Xmas parties etc. since joining in 2005. Judy was the club librarian until the books were sold and donated. From 2009-2013 Judy

was the publicity officer providing notices in the Heartbeat and now the Bangalow Herald. Judy was presented with a stainless-steel trowel and card. Judy thanked the club.

Anne Tubridy took over meeting

Garden Visit: Suzie & Lesley explained to all how the garden visits are organized and that the garden visit information is given at each meeting. If for some reason the garden visit is cancelled, a notice will be put on the website. Suzie has the calendar filled for this year but would always love to hear about gardens for future years. Suzie suggested that people car pool and bring a plate of afternoon tea per car.

Publicity: Diana advised the usual notice about this meeting is in the Bangalow Herald.

Website: Adelina advised that she was now in charge of the website. How to log sheets are available at the door. If by a certain date, members have not logged on it will be done for them and a password emailed to them.

This section is repeated from previous minutes to remind members about how the website works.

You can access it on your phone, your tablet, your laptop or your old computer. Information about the new website is in the handout copies of which were at the door. Members will have to create a log in with a password to use each time they visit the website. This is easy – just click on the “Join Us” button. Members are reminded to always log out. When you access the web page you will get a reminder to pay your membership. Disregard this if you have already paid.

The many features of the website include:

- Private section with access to minutes of meetings and newsletters. For the next two months these will be emailed to members together with the invitation to meetings. After that time, members will have to access this information on the website. This will reduce the number of emails the secretary has to send out. NOTE: Catering - reminders will still be sent out.
- Information about garden visits and special events will be on the website. There will be a location tag for the name and address of open gardens. This is also private.
- Members will be able to update their details, for example their email address and so will not miss out on emails, as some members have mentioned in the past.
- There will also be a pop-up message on the front page if the garden visit is cancelled because of wet weather or the bus trip is delayed or cancelled, or any other urgent notification.
- The history of the garden club will also be accessible on the website.
- A plant index including a drop-down menu of weeds and diseases affecting plants.
- A link to Facebook - just click on the link on the home page.

- Also, members will be able to send emails through the new website.

Facebook:

Adelina explained that the Facebook page is open to financial members. Facebook has been quite active. Please factcheck items before posting as the page has received a community violation.

Afternoon teas:

Patricia handed around the roster and encouraged all to volunteer for catering to lighten the load for all.

What's Happening in Your Garden:

Combo with Q & A:

Query why Pumpkin was only producing male flowers. Put the cows on them?? No clear answer.

Query why Finger Lime not flowering and fruiting. Mary Hendry explained that they must be grafted onto Trifoliate rootstock for this region.

Adelina's granddaughter, Makayla explained that her family has moved into a new property in Gold Coast hinterland and as they are clearing the weeds, many rarer and interesting plants are being uncovered. Makayla is going into business.

Flora of the Month:

Marie Pfisterer introduced Flora of the Month. Marie explained that there is a cuttings and produce table. Gold coin donation.

- Margaret Bruce – a range of Heliconias
- Steven Wedd – Cactus Dahlia 'Bruce's Indulgence'. Not show quality but they still grow it.
- Beth Noble - Caladium – small cultivar – long lasting cut flower in a vase. Pineapple Lily, *Eucomis autumnalis*? Wait for all the flowers before cutting for a vase.
- Julia Bamberry – *Dendrobium griffithianum*. Native to Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar. Uncommon species. Flowers last 2 weeks on plant.

Guest speaker:

Margaret Bruce thanked Diana Sharpe for stepping up to assist. Margaret outlined who the speakers were for the first few months. March – Robyn Armstrong – dyeing using natural plant based colours. April Lesley Player Roses. May Shirley Boyle – olden days on Bangalow.

Margaret welcomed all to look at or borrow the Garden Clubs of Australia magazine *Our Garden*. Members can subscribe on line if they wish.

A convention is being held in Townsville in September. Book on line.

National Garden Week in October

Margaret introduced Steven Wedd to talk about propagation

Steven described the many forms of propagation and the why do it?

Why propagate – inexpensive, insurance against losing a valuable plant, sell excess to raise funds for organisations, gifts and personal satisfaction.

SEED – Fine seeds. As seed raising mix is expensive Steven $\frac{3}{4}$ fills a pot with potting mix, then adds thin layer seed raising mix, then the seeds (fine vegetable seeds) and then a fine layer of seed raising mix. Give the pot a light water and put in sheltered position.

Larger seeds e.g. *Clivia* – Place directly into potting mix. Push seed partly into mix as the new roots and shoot come from same point.

Some species such as Strelitzia do not cross pollinate so new plant will be same as parent plant but others such as Cordylines, Pumpkin, Dahlia cross pollinate so new plants will vary from parent plant.

Large seeds such as Small Leafed Tamarind, place seed just under surface of mix.

DIVISION – Divide underground rhizomes e.g., Gingers, Agapanthus, day Lilies, Orchids

SOFTWOOD CUTTINGS – e.g., Coleus – remove large and old leaves to reduce transpiration, trim stem. Place in mix at least 1 node deep. Root hormone – not entirely necessary. Place in shaded area and once roots have formed slowly move brighter lit position to acclimatize.

HARDWOOD CUTTINGS – e.g., Hydrangeas – remove flower and large leaves. Place one or two nodes into mix.

HEEL CUTTINGS – e.g., Gardenia - partly cut the section to be removed and pull in a downwards motion, so you have a heel of bark at the base of the cutting (exposes the cambium layer and encourages new root growth. Trim heel as required and place in mix.

LEAF CUTTINGS – e.g., Begonia – trim stem, trim leaf to 5- 8cm width approx. Push into mix until base of leaf touches mix. Begonia leaves can be cut into sections each with a vein and laid vertically in potting mix.

STRIKING IN WATER – Steven strikes Cordylines in buckets of water. Joelle strikes African Violets leaves in water.

BULBS, TUBERS, RHIZOMES - e.g., Dahlias, Caladiums and Hippeastrums – divide of new bulbs or cut sections of rhizomes.

PLANTLETS – e.g., Iris, Kangaroo Paw, Day Lily, Costus, and Bromeliad sometimes produce plantlets on stem. Remove flowers, reduce number of leaves, trim stem and place in mix.

Dieffenbachia – trim stem, remove older leaves and place in mix. Sections of stem laid horizontally partially in mix will shoot from nodes.

Acanthus mollis – root cuttings.

If in doubt GOOGLE IT – time of year, how deep to place seeds etc.

PROPAGATION MIX – For his Dahlias Steven uses 2/3rd Coarse (washed River Sand and 1/3rd perlite.

Steven's regular potting mix is ¼ Perlite, ¼ coarse sand. ½ potting mix.

Seeds don't like to be wet. Perlite holds water, Sand is free draining

Lucky Door Prize: Not held today

Auction: The auction was conducted by Hazel Sowerby.

Meeting ended at 3.30pm.