

**MINUTES OF THE BANGALOW & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
WEDNESDAY 1st MARCH 2023 at the MOLLER PAVILION**

- Present: There were 73 members in attendance, plus speaker Linda Sparrow and Mark (Koalas) and 2 men's shed set up put away chaps
- Apologies: Mary Hendry, Lyn Gray, Dianne Stuart, Bronwyn Hodge, Pamela Barrett, Janice Loughrey
- General & Welcome: Co-President Rosemary Edwards (RE) welcomed all and asked the life members to stand. Life member Beth Noble advised the meeting she has been attending since the 2nd meeting of the club (when they met at the CWA rooms). RE advised the meeting that the Life Member policy is now on the garden club website for viewing. RE welcomed new members, a few of whom told the meeting a little bit about themselves. RE advised that she will be away for the April meeting.
- RE congratulated Hazel Sowerby Carole Gamble and Diana Harden who have recently sold their homes and have left behind their beautiful gardens.
- Lucky Door Prize: Won by Larry Truesdale
- Minutes: Diana had circulated the minutes. Moved Hazel Sowerby Seconded Denise Willis
- Correspondence: PO Box yearly rental invoice, Diocesan bank statement
- Publicity: Bangalow Herald What's On listing in March issue
- Treasurer's Report: Sue Brennan advised that the closing balance approx. \$2, 441.19. It was noted that the final payment for the Xmas lunch has been paid. A \$200 donation will be made to Bangalow Kolas (today's guest speaker)
Moved Sue Brennan Seconded Margaret Bruce
- Garden Visit: Suzie advised the meeting that this Saturday's garden visit will be to Lesley Player's garden in Tintenbar. Rain is predicted but please come if it is sprinkling.
- The meeting was advised that after reading the insurance policy all garden visit attendees, including friends of garden owners are required to sign in on the day.**
- Suzie reminded the meeting that as Lesley Player is stepping down at the end of 2023 a new garden visit team member to assist Suzie will be required for 2024 so please volunteer.
- Vice President Report: Diana Sharpe asked all to complete the general survey and the Xmas party survey. Copies available at the meeting. The general survey has been emailed previously.

Communications: Adelina advised the meeting that website host is carrying out a data transfer so the website may not be available on 2nd March 2023.

Facebook – Adelina advised meeting of the decision that current members and ex members will have access to the Bangalow Garden Club **Facebook** page

Catering: Our new catering team, Judy and husband Bob (in Jan's absence) handed around the roster and asked for catering volunteers for the year.

Bus Trip Co-ordinator: Our new bus trip organizer Stephen Stocker advised the meeting that trip to Tenterfield will be on 6th May to Glenrock Gardens and Ivy Leaf Chapel. Details of the bus trip have been emailed and copies of the flyer are available on the payment desk. The bus capacity is 54. If closer to the day the bus is not filled then then it will be offered to family and friends. Payments can be made in cash at a meeting or on line.

Announcements: Monica Wilcox told us about the Cancer Council research and marketing and the need for more services in the regional, rural and remote areas.

Flora of the Month: Maree Pfisterer introduced Flora of the Month.

- Carol Lea – *Ficus coronata*, Sand Paper Fig – a locally native tree.
- Steven Wedd – Blue Hippeastrum, *Worlseya procera*, a rare and expensive bulb. From Brazil where it hangs from remote cliffs near waterfalls
- Beth Noble – *Lycoris cvs* – a bulbous perennial
- Fay Bogg – a collection of *Acalypha cvs.* – *A. wilkesiana* with large variegated leaves – green, cream, pink & red, crinkly leaves – lime green leaves, or *A. hispida* with long red tassel flowers. Can grow to 2m+. Can be pruned.
- Ian Lacey – *Hymenocallis* sp. (probably *H. littoralis*) Spider Lily a bulbous perennial. Likes full sun or part shade.
- Margaret Bruce – Beehive Ginger, *Zingiber spectabile*, a clumping plant.
- Julia Bamerry – *Dendrobium magnum*, with pendulous fragrant flowers, native to the Philippines. Julia reminded us when buying orchids find out where they originate and try to replicate those conditions.

Auction: The auction was conducted by Hazel Sowerby.

Guest speaker: Margaret Bruce introduced Linda Sparrow from Bangalow Koalas (started 2016). Linda has recently received an Australian Geographic Conservationist of the Year award for her work.

Tree planting started in 2019 across 6 shires and a number of properties, with 240,000 planted to date. The goal is to have planted 500,000 trees by 2025.

Working with Councils and taking advice from local native nurseries, Landcare community groups, ecologists, environmental scientists etc., to assist with species selection. The aim is to create wildlife corridors by connecting fragmented habitats.

The species vary depending on location. They are grown from seed. They are planted in at random spacing to create a natural looking forest.

The group runs workshops for children, adult and landowner workshops.

Linda told the meeting that the tree planting is the easy part, but the ongoing maintenance is important. During dry spells the new plants are watered twice weekly, weed/grass control, by spraying, around trees is carried out and wallaby guards are used where necessary (these are re-used).

Funding comes from a variety of sources e.g., '1 tree planted' a USA not for profit, Fire and Flood recovery programmes etc.

Mark from Friends of the Koalas displayed a range of native trees and shrubs, e.g., Callistemons, Melaleucas, Casuarinas and Eucalypts etc., which were for sale.

Margaret thanked Linda and donated \$200 to Bangalow Koalas

Meeting ended at 4.00pm.