

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BANGALOW & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB  
WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at the MOLLER PAVILION**

- Present: There were 78 members in attendance along with Joe Gullison and Peter Bradridge from the Men's Shed who organised the pavilion
- Apologies: Nerida Newland
- General & Welcome: Vice-President Karen Bono (KB) welcomed all to the meeting and life members, committee members and new members.
- KB hoped that all present were enjoying the cooler nights. KB talked about how she phased out from working at the nursery to retirement, which included advising her employers she would retire in a year reducing the number of days a week she worked, training her replacement and then giving 4 weeks written notice. Since retirement KB has tried many new hobbies and has taken up embroidery and felting which she loves. KB displayed samples of her work including embroidery on her shirt.
- Co-President Diana Sharpe (DS) thanked all those who attended the propagation and floral design workshops during April. All the attendees showed enthusiasm, so much so that further workshops are proposed e.g., Cyanotype – a type of printing with leaves, chemicals and patience.
- Co-President Rosemary Edwards (RE) told the meeting that the plaque unveiling ceremony had occurred just prior to the meeting. Two members Wayne Fernance and Bruce Tom had restored the park bench in Shultz Park. As well as a new BCG plaque, two memorial plaques were unveiled – for Daisy Dare and Sandra Mankowsky. Robyn Armstrong and Margaret Bruce said shared some memories about Daisy and Liz Hind and Sue Brennan said some lovely words about Sandra.
- RE thanked Liz Hind and team for organizing today's unveiling.
- Lucky Door Prize: Won by Bruce Tom.
- Minutes: Diana had circulated the minutes.  
Moved: Adelina Linardon      Seconded: Margaret Bruce
- Correspondence: Diocesan Fund bank statement
- Publicity: What's on notice in Bangalow Herald
- Treasurer's Report: Liz Hind reported that the balance at the end of April 24 is \$3,686.07  
Moved: Carole Gamble      Seconded: Karen Bono
- Membership Report: Sue Brenan welcomed our visitors today. No new members. New members have green stickers on their nametags so afternoon tea please make new members welcome.

Communication Report: Adelina Linardon (AL) told meeting website is working well. AL explained that the Facebook page is for financial members (and ex members). Please be patient if joining FB until AL confirms your membership status.

Garden Visit: Lauren Julian advised that the garden visit will occur the following Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at Gretel Farm, 134 Springvale Road, Eureka. Please don't take cuttings.

Catering: Joelle Baker thanked those who had brought afternoon tea. Joelle passed the roster around for June and July.

Bus Trip Co-Ordinator: Stephen Stocker advised the meeting that the bus trip will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September to Queensland Government House and garden and then to Mt Coo-tha Botanic Gardens where a guide will show us the highlights. Cost \$35.00. Pay by cash at meetings or online – numbers restricted to 50 people.

Q & A: Julia asked about a colourful beetle – a Hibiscus Beetle – commonly seen on Norfolk Island Hibiscus, Hibiscus and Brachychiton. Our guest speaker Phil Dudman advised picking up fallen buds as the beetles lay eggs in buds, squashing or drowning the bugs in a bucket of soapy water.

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

- Steven Wedd – Pink, white and mauve Chrysanthemums.
- Julia Bambery – A Vanda orchid – native to the Philippines'. Likes temps above 20degrees C. Flowers last a long time on the plant. Grown in glass house.

Announcements: None

Guest speaker: Karen Bono introduced our speaker, Phil Dudman of North Coast ABC Saturday morning show, garden writer, workshop and garden tour leader. Phil gave us a Master Class on Pruning.

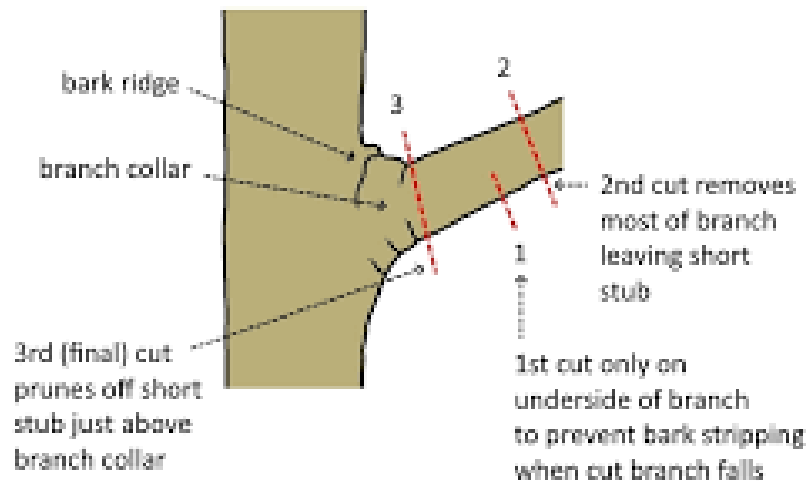
**Why do we prune** – train and shape plant, restrict growth, maintain plant health, improve flowering and fruiting.

**What happens if plants pruned incorrectly** – they may look ugly, plant may not grow back vigorously or may not grow back at all.

**Basic requirements** – right tools for the job, good quality tools, clean cuts, cut to nodes, be safe. Only use chainsaws when on the ground. Climbing trees for experts. Don't use ladders. Phil carries his secateurs in a pouch so he doesn't rip his pockets. He also likes his folding pruning saw.

**Pruning heavy limbs** – use 3 cut method – 1 undercut ½ way along branch, 2 Top cut further out on branch (controls where branch drops) – can be done in stages so you have easy pieces to handle, 3 Prune to branch collar, so tree heals over cut – don't cut flush with trunk and don't leave stumps (prone to die back, fungal attack).

## Three-Cut Method for Pruning Branches with a Saw



### Pruning Roses

Prune of Roses in July. Remove dead wood. Remove  $\frac{1}{2}$  last year's growth. Remove internal and crossing branches. Remove sucker growth from root stock.

Aim is to have a frame work of 3-5 main stems of vigorous growth. Old grey wood is not as productive. Phil sometimes stabs the graft with his secateurs to promote new growth.

Follow up in Summer with a clean up prune cutting back by  $\frac{1}{2}$  in early February. Roses will flower in April – May. Cycle of feed, water, flower, prune.

Prune to outward facing buds. Keeps air flow in centre of shrub. Angled cuts shed water.

### Pruning winter/spring flowering plants

Camellia – prune to shape.

Azalea – The shrubs usually have a good shape. To remove lace bug prune off worst affected growth. Lace bug are sap sucking insects under the leaves – treat with oil-based sprays – Pyrethrum, Neem Oil – spray under leaves.

Poinsettia – Prune hard

May Bush (and Abelia) – cane shrubs become congested and require thinning. Remove the oldest stems at ground level. Prune out  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> of stems in random pattern starting with damaged and diseased wood. Cut back unwieldy stems. Result loosely open shrub which will flower well.

Grevillea – can get shabby over time. Prune annually in November. If left until plant is mature and woody it may not grow back.

Cut back to 3 main leaders and smaller branches to form a framework. Only remove last year's growth.

### **Fruit Trees**

Citrus trees don't need to be pruned as they flower and fruit on the outer edge of the tree. But they can get too large. An annual prune controls size. If hard pruned exposed trunks will get sunburn, so paint with lime solution or diluted 50:50 acrylic paint.

Phill suggested removing lower growth – skirt lifting. Take off taller growth and long side growth. Prune once a year with a light prune - no more than 20% of canopy each year. Do this in Spring so you can see where fruit is forming. Remove dead wood and crossing branches

Remove stems with gall wasps OR shave galls with potato peeler to expose and kill larvae.

**Passionfruit** - Vines can last 4-5 years

Prune in August before Spring. Passionfruit fruits from new growth. Remove stems to 1 ½ metres from main stem. Thin older growth. Feed a ½ metre radius from the main stem.

### **Bougainvillea**

Phil explained that if hard pruned Bougainvillea respond with vigorous, thorny growth as it is trying to climb a tree. But, by pruning with a light trim regularly you get smaller, finer, less thorny growth and constant flowering, so much easier to control and work with.

Phil finished his talk with promotion of his workshops and garden tours.

See Phil's website [growyourfood.com.au](http://growyourfood.com.au) for more info.

### Auction:

The auction was conducted by Steven Wedd Meeting ended at 4.00pm.