



NEWSLETTER



September 2020

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS INC

Established: 3 April 1967

OBJECTS

- (a) To broaden the scope of member clubs in their activities by combining together as a Council.
- (b) To promote the development of horticultural knowledge and interests among member clubs and the wider community.
- (c) To promote the enjoyment of gardening and friendship among member clubs.
- (d) To encourage an understanding of conservation of our national and natural heritage.
- (e) To participate in community events and projects that contribute to the beautification of our natural and built environment through enhancements to public parks, gardens and like facilities.

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Enclosures:

Guest Speaker Booklet
Excursions Booklet
Register of Members changes
Show details form

Deadline for January Issue: 30 November 2020

Front cover *Collarette dahlia*

Photo by Elizabeth Parkinson

Back cover *Maryborough open gardens*

Photos by Joy Duke

President's Report

Phil Adam

As I sit down to write this report the spectre of COVID19 seems to be raising its ugly head once again. I hope that you are all keeping safe and that this continues to be the case as we work our way through the current situation.

Just when it looked as if the situation was beginning to settle down, we are once more faced with restrictions on public gatherings which will affect the plans some clubs have for resuming some of their activities. How long this situation will last is open to speculation and with luck and the goodwill of the gardening gods it will be over before this newsletter reaches you.

QCGC has decided to abandon all of our public events for 2020. This now includes the Christmas function and the biennial awards. The committee took this decision given the restriction on numbers allowed in the Auditorium at the Botanic Gardens, the fact that most clubs have not been able to resume normal meetings, and the high degree of uncertainty regarding the availability of alternative venues.

We are, however, planning to resume Delegates' Meetings in October with a view to putting plans in place for a resumption of normal activities next year. All member clubs are entitled to send 2 delegates and it would be nice to see as many of you as possible at the October meeting. On that note we will be planning for all events to go ahead next year, bearing in mind, of course, that should a further significant outbreak of the virus occur then plans will have to change.

As I have said before, gardeners by their very nature are optimistic people so we remain hopeful that all will be well next year, even if we have to modify our events in some way. It is important that club committees remain cognizant of current government restrictions and orders. This is both for the safety of members and for the security of the club. As community organisations we don't want to run the risk of being in breach of the regulations and orders.

On a lighter note many of our gardens are benefitting from the extra attention we have been able to give them at this time. Spring, however short, is such a lovely time in the garden. It will be interesting to see how many people who have only recently taken up gardening will maintain their connection once the COVID crisis is finally over. Hopefully they will see and feel the benefit of getting their hands in the soil. Even if people only maintain a small area of flowering plants once they return to their normal busy lifestyles it will be a great benefit to themselves, the neighbourhood and the environment generally. There is little that makes a city more liveable than well tended gardens with shrubs and other flowering plants.

Once again I would like to remind clubs that QCGC exists for the benefit of clubs and societies. One of our aims is to help promote gardening in general and the activities of clubs and societies in particular. We appreciate the opportunity to visit clubs during the year. While this has not

been possible this year we would like to resume such visits next year. In addition, we would love to receive reports and photographs of your activities for publication in the quarterly newsletter. These reports are of interest to members and often contain useful ideas that other clubs can adapt to enhance their own activities.

Finally, do take care. Stay healthy, and enjoy your gardens.

Phil

Information Update

- **Delegates' meetings** are held on the first Monday of each month, February to November, in the Seminar Room at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-Tha. In May and October where the first Monday is a public holiday the meeting will be held on the Public Holiday in the Auditorium at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens.
- **New members** Welcome to the Subtropical Garden Club, formerly the International Tropical Foliage and Garden Society Sunshine Coast Branch and Wondai Garden Expo. Their contact details are on the enclosed Register of Members changes.
- **Biennial Awards** As a result of COVID-19 the Biennial Awards have been cancelled for 2020 and will now be held in 2021.
- **Register of Members** A separate sheet listing a change of contact details for some clubs is enclosed. Please attach this to your Register of Members.
- **Show or event details form** please complete and return this form so that your event can be listed in the Newsletter and on the website.

Guest Speakers

The committee members have contacted most of entries in the booklet, however, if you find anyone with incorrect details or wishes to be deleted or you have someone you would recommend be added, please send TOPIC, NAME and CONTACT details to the secretary by post or email. See page 10 for addresses.

Excursions

Please let the secretary know of any changes to destinations in the booklet.



GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND

Message from the Governor of Queensland

It is my great pleasure, as Governor and Patron, to write this message of support for the Queensland Council of Garden Clubs.

Kaye and I are fortunate to live amongst the fourteen hectares of remnant Australian bushland and formal gardens which comprise the Government House estate. This is an incredibly rich and biodiverse parcel of land which, like any garden, changes and grows in its own way.

Visitors have started returning to the estate since COVID-19 restrictions eased. They are enlivened to take a walk through the grounds, eager to learn of new growth, hear various birds and wildlife, and witness flowers that seemingly spring up overnight. It is both relaxing and exciting for them – and us – to observe the ebb and flow of nature in this manner.

The pace of nature is a delightful counterpoint to the fast pace many of us live in this modern world. This year has been a difficult one for many.

Certainly, the restrictions on our social movements has been one of the greatest challenges. I know the Council, and many clubs, have been unable to hold their usual events. And while we have found new ways to connect – which is to be applauded, for some there may never be an adequate digital or virtual replacement for walking or sitting or pottering around in one's garden.

Still, we will, as a community, get through it! Kaye and I send our best regards to all members. We have you in our thoughts, and we look forward to further interaction with this remarkable organisation of which I am so very proud to be Patron.

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland

Maryborough Horticultural Society

Joy Duke

Maryborough Open Gardens 2020

The heritage city of Maryborough, situated on the Mary River, greeted visitors from afar for the sixth year of the Maryborough Open Gardens annual event.

With so many COVID19 restrictions and processes in place to keep our visitors and garden participants safe, at times it was quite challenging, but well worth it. This year the event was moved forward on our calendar to the 29th and 30th of August as in past years we clashed with the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers. We realised too, of course, that due to the global climate change we don't have and enjoy the traditional Spring weather conditions to show off flowers, bulbs, shrubs and green lawns.

On the Saturday the city gardens showcased eight gardens. Five of these lovely gardens were new to our event. Three country gardens were open to the public on the Sunday including a permaculture garden.

Each garden was quite different ranging from the very formal traditional garden to the cottage and quirky. Plants, pottery, garden art, refreshments and helpful garden tips added to the festivities of a very successful event.

Garden visitors were very patient as only 30 people were allowed in the



gardens at the one time. After signing in and hand sanitising procedures visitors were mindful that others were waiting on the footpaths for their turn to see the gardens. I can report that most gardens had between 500 and 670 pass through their garden gates.

This event is one to put on your gardening calendar for 2021 and is proudly sponsored by the Fraser Coast Regional Council and the Maryborough Horticultural Society Inc.

Left to right Joy Duke - President MHS, Dulcie Adam, Phil Adam - President QCGC, and Desma Smith – Life Member of MHS, at Stirling house.

Olive Trevor OAM

Bek Trevor

On the 7th of June 2020, Olive Trevor was presented with an Order of Australia Award, recognising her incredible service to horticulture through her cultivation of bromeliads. Olive has been a member of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland since the late '70s, after a display of beautiful bromeliads at the Brisbane Ekka caught her eye. It was her husband, Len, who was originally drawn to bromeliads, but Olive became hooked too and they began collecting and growing as many varieties as they could find.



In 1981 Olive and Len opened their Bromeliad Nursery, The Olive Branch, in Upper Kedron and over the next 39 years that nursery would grow into the largest speciality bromeliad nursery in Australia.

Olive has landscaped gardens at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, the original Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Roma Street Parklands, Queen Street Mall and the Governors residence – many of these gardens are still looking stunning.

Plants have always been a passion for Olive. Her love of bromeliads doesn't stop at growing or collecting them but includes educating and encouraging plant enthusiasts on their plant journey. Floral art has always been an interest to Olive and she regularly creates gorgeous arrangements showcasing all of her favourite flowers.

As committed Bromeliad enthusiast Olive and Len have hardly missed an Australasian or International Bromeliad Conference, traveling around the world to connect with other Bromeliad collectors. At these Conferences, Olive attended Judging Schools, through which she received her International Judges Accreditation and went on to become Australia's Head Judge. Olive was instrumental in the training of Australia's current accredited judges, hosting and facilitating training schools

Olive and Len have been active and valued members of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland since joining; contributing to competitions, speaking at meetings, hosting study groups, judges training days, committee meetings and field days - to name a few. Olive was regularly invited to talk to garden clubs inspiring many to include some bromeliads in their gardens.

ED I am sure all member clubs would join with the QCGC committee in congratulating Olive on her award and we thank her for generously giving her tie to share her knowledge through talks at our clubs.

Stafford Garden Club
Sue Colquhoun

We've been keeping in touch with monthly newsletters, and a Members Facebook page. We have been able to email newsletters to most members and snail mail the others.

Our public FB page was created last year and featured club news, events and photos of past events. "Stafford Garden Club Brisbane". When we were all in isolation the "Members only" page was created. It has about 20 members and has been a great platform to share garden delights, and seek advice.

Most of our plans for meetings going forward are designed to space folk out and avoid close contact and crowded areas.

We previously had 8 tables for the show bench competition. The most we can fit now is 3 tables to allow for spaced seating in the main hall. For the foreseeable future competition is suspended and those 3 tables are for showing Floral Art, beautiful blooms, or any plant etc of interest.

Bromeliad Society of Queensland

No general meetings will be held for the foreseeable future, because of pandemic restrictions. The committee are exploring alternative methods for holding meetings, such as a Webinar, or live streaming through Facebook. The Popular Vote Competition recommenced in August, and members are taking a keen interest and entering photos.

They have also produced fortnightly communications for members.

Bayside Garden Club
Jillian Mahoney

With some easing of restrictions, our Bayside Garden Club committee has stopped Zoom meetings and we are now meeting face to face in a local park, all seated at a respectful and socially acceptable distance from each other!!

Many of our garden club members have been wonderful emailing photos of their gardens and jokes. I then compile their news plus other interesting articles in regular emails to all our online members. A few have started email accounts as a result!

Like many people, we are looking forward to when we can greet each other again at regular meetings.

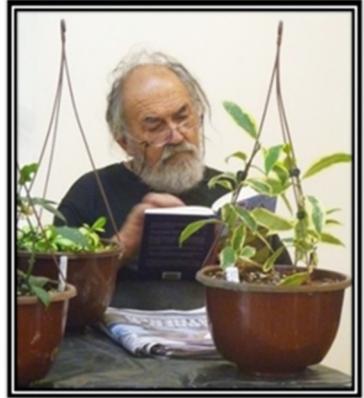
Vale John Catlan

Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society

John Catlan, a founding and life member of the Gold Coast Succulent & Bromeliad Society, passed away on Friday 10 April 2020.

Not only was John a pioneer in bromeliad growing and hybridising in Australia, he was also a collector of highly unusual plants generally. The *Amorphophallus titanum* that he had grown flowered in 2012 after 8 years and drew widespread media coverage.

His horticultural knowledge was vast, and he freely shared his time and knowledge with many, including south east Queensland garden clubs as a guest speaker. A true Aussie character who possessed a tremendous sense of humour and who loved telling a yarn or seven.



Spring-Dale Garden Club

Ros Smith

A plant sale at a member's home went exceptionally well. Club members were given a time to visit and we all followed the Covid-19 recommendations. Some members contributed plants but the majority had been potted and prepared at a working bee by the 'Plant Sales Coordinator' and some assistants. It was a really enjoyable time and produced the incredible total of \$421.

A large number of our members gathered at Daisy Hill Koala Centre for a social morning. We again followed Covid regulations and even though



we were outdoors, the joy, friendship and happiness that is the essence of our club was still present. A multi prize raffle was well supported and a highlight of the morning was a visit from one of our co-patrons, Lisa Bradley.

DATE CLAIMERS

QCGC EVENTS 2021

March	31 Wednesday	Presidents' Morning Tea
April	10-11 Sat & Sun	A Garden A-Fair
June	30 Wednesday	Friendship Day
August	25 Wednesday	Fashion Parade
November	24 Wednesday	Christmas Luncheon & Biennial Awards

SHOWS AND EVENTS by member societies

Please refer to the Society website or Facebook page to find out when their events will resume.

Please advise Secretary of any shows in February, March, April and May 2021 to be included for January issue. A Show Details form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

To nurture the garden is to feed not just the body but the soul.

Rose "Queensland Gold"

In 2017 QCGC released a rose bred by Paul Hains in Brisbane to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of QCGC. It has been planted at Government House and in many garden club members' gardens.

A Garden A-Fair has a special class for this rose. Why not contact Donelle's Gift Garden and Florist to get your own plant and grow it on for the show next April.

Shop and nursery is located at 37 Crossacres St, Doolandella.
Phone: 3278 8540, email: shop7529interfloraflorist.com.au

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS INC

Patron: His Excellency, the Honourable Paul de Jersey A.C.
Governor of Queensland

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Incorporation Number IA 09679

Meetings

Meetings are held on the *first* Monday of the month - February to November in the *Seminar Room*, Administration Centre of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha. If the first Monday happens to be a public holiday then the meeting is held in the *Auditorium* at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha. Contact Secretary for details. Each member club is entitled and encouraged to have two delegates attend.

Bank details

Account name Queensland Council of Garden Clubs Inc
Bank West Pac
BSB 034 063
Account number 238783
Reference your club name + reason

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Maryborough Open Gardens



Heritage climbing rose
possibly "Buff Beauty"

