

HISTORY OF KARANA DOWNS GARDEN CLUB INC.



Karana Downs is a leafy suburb to the north east of Ipswich, bordered by the Brisbane River to the south and east and Mount Crosby Road to the north and west. It was developed from sections of Kholo, Lake Manchester and Mount Crosby with 5 square kilometres being divided in 1973. The name of Karana Downs was proposed by the developer. It has been suggested that “Karana” is an aboriginal word meaning “quiet place”. Karana Downs was originally part of the Shire of Moreton and then later part of the City of Ipswich. In 2000, it was transferred together with Kholo and Mount Crosby to the City of Brisbane.

The Beginning

In 1987, as the population of Karana Downs was increasing, people needed a way to get to know each other. Most of the new residents were building their own homes and their houses were surrounded by bare soil. From this bleak environment, the idea of a garden club was born. Joanne Chaplin, a young mother, wanting to extend her life beyond playgroup, read about garden clubs in a Queensland Gardening Magazine. She contacted the Queensland Council of Garden Clubs and, through Bernice Brown of Indooroopilly and Kenmore Garden Clubs, was put in touch with Carole Scheinpflug and her mother, Myrtle Halford. Carole and Myrtle were active members of the Kenmore Garden Club. They were also new residents of Karana Downs and welcomed Joanne’s idea of establishing a garden club in the area.

During 1988, get-togethers were held at the homes of Joanne and Carole as ideas were shared and advice sought. The Kenmore Garden Club provided encouragement and their members offered suggestions about setting up a club.

On February 7th 1989, the inaugural meeting of the Karana Downs Garden Club (KDGC) was held at the Scheinpflug home. There were thirteen people present and two apologies. Carole Scheinpflug became the president; Joanne Chaplin was secretary and Rae Coutts the treasurer. It was decided to model the club’s activities on the Kenmore Garden Club with “friendship through gardens” as its quest. The club had \$14 in the kitty from earlier coffee and tea sales; annual membership was set at \$3 with 40 cents being charged for beverages. The first talk in March 1989 was on “The Making of Compost” and was given by the President of Kenmore Garden Club, June Trudgian. From the outset, KDGC became affiliated with the Queensland Council of Garden Clubs (QCGC).

By the end of the year, there were 25 members. During 1990, membership doubled to 58 and in 1994 KDGC became incorporated. Since 2010, the club has had over 100 members. In 2016, the club’s original constitution was revised to bring it up-to-date with the current rules for incorporated associations.



A Kookaburra with a sprig of wattle was adopted as the KDGC emblem. In 1989, it was hand coloured on the name tags (see left); we have long since resorted to plastic badges. The Kookaburra is also portrayed on our club banner (see above). In 2020, a digital logo was designed for our website and club documents (see right).



Our Presidents

The following members have been President of the club:

1989 - 1991	Carole Scheinpflug	2004 - 2005	Raema McCoy
1992 - 1993	Alison Page	2006 - 2007	Kath Stumer
1994	Fiona Bergmans	2008 - 2009	Jan Flanigan
1995	Sheila Warner	2010 - 2011	Sue Lees
1996 - 1997	Susan Stewart	2012 - 2013	Kath Stumer
1998	Alan Ward	2014 - 2016	Hazel Newman
1999 - 2001	Carole Scheinpflug	2017	Kath Stumer
2002	Judy Camplin	2018 - 2020	Cecelia Jackson
2003	Sheila Warner		

Other Office Bearers are recorded in a separate section on the website.

Meeting Locations

In February 1989, the first meeting of KDGC was held at Carole and John Scheinpflug’s house. The following month the meeting was held at the Karana Downs Golf Club. Since then the club has met at a variety of locations depending on venue availability, cost and capacity as the club grew.

Dates	Venue
Feb 1989	Scheinpflug Home
Mar – Jun 1989	Karana Downs Golf Club
Jul – Oct 1989	Scheinpflug Home
1990	Mount Crosby Hall
1991- Oct 1999	Karana Downs Golf Club
Nov 1999	Scheinpflug Home
2000 – Mar 2016	Mount Crosby Bowls Club
Apr 2016 - 2019	Karana Downs Golf Club (later known as Brisbane River Golf Club)
2020	The Brassall Centre (no meetings since April due to pandemic)

Display Table and Photo Competitions



Myrtle Halford

In 1990, a small monthly competition of “best flower” and “best pot plant” was introduced. Over the years, this “display table” competition has increased to the 11 categories that we have today. In 1992, Myrtle Halford, one of the founding members of the club, passed away. A perpetual trophy was established in her memory to be awarded to the club member who accumulated the most display table points in a given year. As several of the club members, including Myrtle, were keen needlewomen, a cross-stitch tapestry was suggested for the trophy. Myrtle’s daughter, Carole Scheinpflug worked a Graham Ross orchid design and it has been presented since 1992. The first winner was Helen Hepburn. A full list of the subsequent winners is

presented separately on the website.



Helen Hepburn receiving the inaugural Myrtle Halford Trophy at the Christmas Party Nov 1992

A monthly competition of garden photos was initiated in 2012 with the winning photo of the year used as the cover for the next year's programme. In 2017, Dr Marcelle Stirling, a local botanical artist donated a watercolour to the club. This became the trophy for the photo competition and the inaugural winner was Sue Wilson.

Other Annual Awards



Jarvis Nye Trophy

In 2003, QCGC entrusted the club with a Jarvis Nye Trophy. We award this trophy annually to a member who has made an exceptional contribution to the club. The first winners were Marge and Jack Harvey. A full list of the winners is presented separately on the website.

No club would survive without the quiet helpers working away in the background. In 2018, our President, Cecelia Jackson, decided to acknowledge these contributors with the President's Quiet Achiever award. The inaugural winner was Alethea Hubley. In July 2019, Life Member and past president Sheila Warner passed away. Her family gave the club a donation in her memory and this was used to endow the Sheila Warner Quiet Achiever Award which is in the gift of the President. The first recipient was Sue Dwan.

Other Club Activities

Plant Stall

Since its beginning, KDGC has run a plant stall at its monthly meetings whereby members can share and purchase plants and cuttings. In 2015, we added a seed bank to the stall which is curated by Lorraine Pitcairn.

Come and Share Garden Visits

From the outset, visits to members' gardens have been an integral part of the club's activities. They provide a chance to see what grows locally as well as being pleasant social occasions. Since 2007, we have visited one member's garden a month as part of our "Come and Share" programme. From 2014, these friendly occasions have been recorded for the host in a photo book.

Library



Hilda Groenenberg in 2019

In 1989, the fledgling library was boosted by gifts of books from some Kenmore members and a \$50 donation from their club. No history of KDGC would be complete without mentioning our long serving librarian, Hilda Groenenberg, who looked after the club's books for 17 years. With increasing access to digital sources, the patronage of the library gradually diminished. At the beginning of 2020, a move to a new venue without suitable book storage resulted in the library's closure but not without the sharing of its content with members.



Sue Wilson wins the Dr Marcelle Stirling Photography Award again in 2019



Sue Dwan – Inaugural Winner of the Sheila Warner Quiet Achiever Award 2019

Donations to the McIntyre Centre

Over the years, KDGC has been an active contributor to charity. In 2007, we began donations to the McIntyre Centre in Pinjarra Hills, which provides equestrian programmes for children with a disability. From 2011 to 2019, we sponsored a pony, Neon, through monthly raffles of beautiful handicraft made by long-standing club member, Ilse McDowell. In 2015, Ilse was recognised by the Toowong Rotary Club for her outstanding fundraising efforts. At the beginning of 2020, Ilse retired from her sewing duties but through her work, the club raised \$ 12,290 for Neon.

Bus Trips and Travels

In the early years, Kenmore Garden Club continued to provide support, supplying speakers and sharing club trips. In October 1990, KDGC chartered its own 19 seat minibus to attend a QCGC day in Toowoomba. This was followed by a minibus trip to Fairhill Native Plant Nursery near Yandina the following August. In 1992, KDGC undertook its first full size bus trip to Mount Tamborine. Bus trips and car-pooling visits have now become a monthly feature of our club.

In March 2015, 23 members, spouses and friends travelled to Victoria for a memorable weeklong tour organised by club member and then president, Hazel Newman. This trip included the Melbourne International Flower Show, 15 diverse gardens and other places of interest. This was the start of something new for KDGC. In the subsequent years, members have travelled to other locations within Australia and even ventured overseas to New Zealand and South Africa.

Date	Destination	Tour Leaders
Mar 2015	Victoria	Hazel Newman
Mar 2016	Scenic Rim and Granite Belt	Alison Alexander
Oct 2016	Tasmania	Jan Flanigan
Nov 2017	New Zealand	Jan Flanigan
Oct 2018	Adelaide and Kangaroo Island	Jan Flanigan
Nov 2018	South Africa	Jan Flanigan
Apr 2019	Tenterfield, Goondiwindi, Pittsworth and Hampton	Hazel Newman and Alison Alexander
Oct 2019	Perth	Jan Flanigan

Melbourne Cup Lunch

The club's first Melbourne Cup lunch was held at Carole Scheinpflug's home in 1999 with husband John in charge of the sausage sizzle. It was such a success that the lunch has continued ever since. It has mainly been held at a member's home but in 2020 due to Covid 19 constraints, it was held at the Karalee Tavern. As well as sweepstakes, a raffle and themed attire, competitions have included Best Dressed, Best Hat, Best Novelty Hat and in 2020, Best Mask.



**Best Mask Competition at Melbourne Cup Lunch 2020.
Winner Ros Lever, second from the left**



**First Melbourne Cup Lunch 1999.
Best Hat Winner Susan Stewart (middle seat)**

Friendship Day

The first KDGC Friendship Day was held in June 1996 at Carol and John Scheinpflug's home. Invitations were extended to representatives from other garden clubs and societies, QCGC and past members. The speaker for the day was John Schluter, Channel 9 Weather presenter.

Life Membership

Joanne Chaplin, the initiator of the Karana Downs Garden Club, moved to Melbourne in 1990. Carole Scheinpflug, the joint founder of the club, served as president six times. She was made the first Life Member of the club in 2002 in honour of her long-lasting commitment. Her husband, John Scheinpflug, was our patron and sadly passed away in 2017. The other life members of the club are Hilda Groenenberg, Sally Shaw, Susan Stewart, Robyn Batton and the late Sheila Warner.



First Friendship Day June 1996. Susan Stewart (President 1996-1997) and John Schluter



John and Carole Scheinpflug in 2012

remained a member until she passed away just after her 100th birthday in 2015. She was an active member who received the Myrtle Halford trophy in 2007 when she was 92. In her later years, she was unable to attend the club meetings but communicated with members via her iPad.

Life Membership was defined in our 2016 Constitution as “an honorary title bestowed on a member for outstanding, loyal service and contribution that has provided measurable benefit to the Association over an extended period”.

Our Centenarian

KDGC must be one of a few garden clubs that can boast about having a centenarian member. Joh Matulich joined the club in 2002 and



Joh Matulich at 92 receiving the Myrtle Halford Trophy

The Digital Age

Like Joh Matulich, KDGC has kept up with the digital age. In 2007, we were one of the first garden clubs to have our own website (<http://www.karanadownsgc.com>). This was thanks to the expertise of its creator, life member Sally Shaw. Website development and maintenance has continued under the care of Hazel Newman and Mieke Harris. In 2020, a revamp of the website is underway thanks to a grant from the Heritage Bank.

In 2016, KDGC entered the world of social media with the establishment of a Facebook group by Hazel Newman and Mieke Harris. Little did we know how this would be a means of keeping in touch during a pandemic.

Anniversaries

In 1999, KDGC celebrated its 10th anniversary twice. The original plan was to visit some members' gardens in February followed by a birthday lunch at Helen Hepburn's garden. It rained so proceedings were postponed until March with the lunch held at Myrtle Neumann's garden. A further

celebration was held at the Friendship Day in June that year with Barry Searle of the then Local Bulletin as the guest speaker.

In February 2009, the 20th anniversary of the club, the minutes of the first meeting were read out to members at the general meeting. A celebration followed in June at the Mount Crosby Bowls Club, in lieu of Friendship Day. It was attended by 65 members and 20 past members as well as other guests.

In 2014, KDGC celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Our celebration was attended by 8 of the 11 past presidents (pictured below with Hazel Newman, President 2014-2016). We also received good wishes from our co-founder, Joanne Chaplin (now Joanne Le Mura). Jan Flanigan spoke about “30 Years of Gardening at Mount Crosby”.



Past Presidents standing from Left to Right – Fiona Bergmans, Susan Stewart, Raema McCoy, Kath Stumer, Sue Lees, Jan Flanigan, Carole Scheinpflug and Hazel Newman; seated Sheila Warner

In June 2019, the club’s 30th Anniversary was celebrated at our Friendship Day in the presence of our founding president, Carol Scheinpflug, who as guest of honour cut the cake. Long standing member and another past president, Sheila Warner, also attended.



Founding President Carole Scheinpflug cuts the cake at the 30th Anniversary



Carole Scheinpflug (second left) with her daughter and son-in-law and current President Cecelia Jackson (far right) at 30th Anniversary Friendship Day

Covid-19

In January 2020, the first case of Covid-19 was diagnosed in Australia. As a result of the pandemic, no general meetings of the club have been held since March. The club has been adaptable though with the Committee meeting via Zoom until face to face gatherings became possible again. The Facebook group has provided a means of communication and exchange of garden photos. With the help of Hazel Newman, we have been able to have our monthly display table and photo competitions and draw the lucky door prize online. Virtual Come and Share garden tours became a feature when restrictions prevented us gathering. We have also held some chat sessions via Zoom and had our first Zoom presentation in September with Emeritus Professor Roly Sussex speaking to us about the "Potting Shed of Language". The long absence of our regular meetings has made us all appreciate the wonderful friendship and support that the club provides. It was a great pleasure when we were finally able to gather together again in the open air on a cold July morning at the Mount Crosby Sports Ground, socially distanced of course.

The KDGC flourishes through drought, flood and now pandemic, and we continue to fulfill our commitment to friendship through gardening as intended at the inaugural meeting in 1989. As Carole Scheinflug, our founding president, said at the 10th Anniversary celebration in June 1999, "Garden clubs grow friends".