



NEWSLETTER



January 2021

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:

AGM Notice and Office Bearer Nomination Form
Renewal of Membership and Fees Form
Changes to the Register

Deadline for Next Issue: 25 March 2021

President's Report

Phil Adam

I am sure that it has been said many times that 2020 was a year most of us would like to forget in many ways. Most, if not all, clubs and societies found that their normal activities were constrained. Events were cancelled, some meetings moved on line and many of us found that we missed the joy of interacting with other gardeners in ways to which we had become accustomed. However, there were bright spots. I have had numerous reports of *pandemic projects* being undertaken as we revamped our gardens and refreshed our plantings. I undertook a few of these projects myself and the garden generally is looking better than in recent years. It would be so much better with a bit of rain.

It was also a year in which many people developed a renewed interest in their gardens. At times it was difficult to obtain mature seedlings from the nurseries, such was the demand. It will be interesting to see how much of this activity will be maintained once the COVID crisis recedes.

QCGC is planning for all of our usual events to proceed as normal in 2021. Planning is under way for the Presidents' Morning Tea and A Garden A-Fair along with some preliminary planning for Friendship Day and the Fashion Parade. Given that we cannot predict when or to what extent the COVID restrictions will continue to apply, planning for these events will inevitably involve some changes in format and procedures. We will keep you informed as fully and as soon as possible of any specific requirements. At the same time, however, I would encourage you to participate in all of the planned events. They provide a great opportunity for club members to meet with others and to exchange ideas in a friendly welcoming atmosphere. The success of an event like A Garden A-Fair depends to a large extent on clubs promoting it amongst their membership.

In the past Delegates and Committee meetings have taken place on the first Monday of the month. This will change in 2021 because the normal venue at the Botanic Gardens is not available. We expect to be holding meetings in the Auditorium but to do this we will have to meet on different dates. Please make a note of the dates as there will be less consistency than normal this year. Again I would remind everyone that each club is entitled to send 2 delegates to the monthly meetings. The delegates meetings provide a forum for clubs to seek information and to exchange ideas with other clubs so I would like to encourage clubs to attend.

There are also opportunities on the committee. We need a minute secretary to assist our Secretary. It would be a great help if we could find someone to help in this specific way. We would also like to find a regular contributor as an environment reporter. This does not have to be a committee position. A single page report on a current environmental matter for each meeting would be much appreciated.

Work is under way to revamp the QCGC website. We hope to have this up and running early in 2021. At the moment this newsletter is our chief means of communicating with member clubs. It is always interesting to receive reports and photographs of club activities. You might be surprised how many people enjoy reading about the activities of other clubs and how many times good ideas are circulated in this way.

I have had some concern that some of our regional clubs and societies don't have the same opportunities as clubs in the south east to attend Friendship Days or to access the full range of guest speakers. This is not an easy matter to overcome but I would like to suggest two possibilities. We would encourage guest speakers to develop an electronic version of their presentations which could be made available to clubs. Where the technology exists this could include real time demonstrations using something like Zoom etc. Secondly, I wonder if some clubs in the south east might consider making contact with one of the regional clubs with a view to establishing a kind of twinning arrangement where there might be an exchange of newsletters, photographs etc.

Finally, let us all look forward to a brighter year. I wish you all well with your gardening activities and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year.

Happy gardening.

Phil Adam

Vine Arbour - Brisbane Botanic Gardens
Dale Arvidsson - Curator



The Vine Arbour at the Mt Coot-ha Visitor Information Centre at Brisbane Botanic Gardens has been completed .

The vines themselves are still to grow up and over (they are growing well with the rain, humidity and surprisingly mild weather), however the structure looks very impressive.

QCGC donated \$10,000 towards this structure in 2019.

Information Update

- **AGM** is on Thursday 11 March. All the information is included with this Newsletter. Nominations forms can be emailed.
- **Committee nominations** are particularly sought for Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Environment Reporter and Newsletter Editor. Perhaps there is someone in your club who could take on a role and help ease the pressure on the Secretary. Committee meetings are held on the same day as the Delegates meeting each month. Contact the President or Secretary for more information about any position.
- **Renewal of Membership.** Please complete the form and return by the due date. The information will be used to complete the Register of Members sent to members in April.
- **Delegate's meetings** will continue to be held in the Auditorium at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha. Every effort has been made to keep them on the same day of the month, however, with other groups having booked last year, this is not possible. An email will be sent as soon as the days have been confirmed, so please pass this information on to your Delegate.
- **A Garden A-Fair** planning is proceeding in the expectation that the event will be able to be held.
- **Website** is currently undergoing maintenance. Thank you for your patience while this is happening.
- **Law changes for incorporated associations** were “..introduced [by Queensland Parliament] to reduce red tape and improve internal governances ..” Some changes started on 22 June 2020 and others will come into effect in 2021 and 2022. They can be found on the following web page.
<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/associations-charities-and-non-for-profits/incorporated-associations/new-laws>
For the Act go to this website.
Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020.
(<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/asmade/act-2020-017>.)
- **Society Shows and Garden Shows** please check their website or contact to confirm whether the event will go ahead.
- **Pine Rivers Garden and Plant Expo** is on in May this year. QCGC will be hosting the Plant Crèche again and volunteers will be needed to assist.

Publicity

Club and Society Brochures and Show Flyers wanted for **A Garden A-Fair** where they will be prominently displayed. They are invaluable for visitors looking for a garden club close to them or a plant society of interest to them.

Please contact Elizabeth Parkinson to check the numbers of brochures from your club that are currently held in stock.

Guest Speakers

Thank you to those who advised these changes. Please send in any new suggestions and the names of those who no longer wish to speak at clubs.

DELETE

P5 **Foliage Plants** Ann Blundell

P5 **Geraniums & Pelargoniums** Wendy Skelton

ADD

P4 **Bromeliads**

Viola Hamilton, Bahrs Scrub Email:nha1@bigpond.com 0497 145 203

P5 **Cottage Gardening**

Viola Hamilton, Bahrs Scrub Email:nha1@bigpond.com 0497 145 203

P5 **Herbaceous perennials**

Viola Hamilton, Bahrs Scrub Email:nha1@bigpond.com 0497 145 203

P6 **General Gardening - People**

Bruce Ham, Email: bruceham@optusnet.com.au 0435 916 577

Topics - organic gardening, unusual edibles, plant culture, water management, geology as it affects soil & plants, organic plant nutrition

Jankees van der Have, Email: havejankees@gmail.com

The Fascinating World of Aromatic Compounds in Plants

P6 **Salvias**

Viola Hamilton, Bahrs Scrub Email:nha1@bigpond.com 0497 145 203

P7 **General Gardening -Topics**

Organic Gardening

Bruce Ham, Email: bruceham@optusnet.com.au 0435 916 577

Propagating

Viola Hamilton, Bahrs Scrub Email:nha1@bigpond.com 0497 145 203

Excursions

ADD

P7 Fernvale SpurTopia Sustainable Living Story, 8 Osmund Ct, \$,
mob 0434 824 870 E: Spurtopia@gmail.com

P7 Just Geraniums Wendy Skelton, 39 Berlin Rd, Mt Berryman
mob 0411 662 782 E: wendyskelton@live.com.au

Gardening is a medicine that does not need a prescription and has no limit on the dosage.

Caboolture & Districts Bromeliad Society

Jim Lowe

The first weekend in October is the date set aside for the Caboolture & District Bromeliad Society's Frenzy. The frenzy is a two day sale of bromeliads and other foliage plants and has become a regular event for locals and enthusiasts from further afield. Thanks to Covid-19 and the restrictions on the movement and gathering of large groups of people there were times when it looked like the 2020 frenzy would not be possible.



As a committee however we were determined to hold the event if at all possible under the applicable regulations. Even as close as a fortnight before the event we were still debating whether or not we could tick all the boxes on our covid-safe check list and safely hold the 2020 Frenzy. We decided to go ahead and the result was an outstanding success for the club, its members and everyone that attended.



Much of the discussion beforehand centred on how we would handle patrons that did not stick to the regulations – we need not have worried. Even though queues and waiting times were long at the start of the first morning, the patience and good humour of all those waiting to get in to the hall was outstanding. It seemed that our fellow enthusiasts were starved of gardening events and many travelled significant distances to attend.

Standing in line was a small price to pay.

When the doors opened and the first group entered, the benches and all available space beneath them were stacked with colourful, quality plants. By late morning there were many empty spaces and my mid-afternoon we were left with only a few plants for sale. Dedicated club members spent much of Saturday night cleaning, tagging and pricing more plants so that Sunday morning again saw the benches covered. By the close of the event on Sunday nearly all were gone again.

Interestingly some things forced on us due to the covid restrictions proved to be highly successful and with a few changes (isn't hindsight and experience wonderful)



Secretary Robynne and President Jim with a young enthusiast.

will be incorporated into future events.

Thanks to the organising committee, club members and most importantly the many bromeliad enthusiasts that supported the event Frenzy 2020 was an outstanding success. While "Covid normal" behaviours will be with us for some time we look forward to seeing everyone again on the first weekend in October 2021.

Toowoomba Bromeliad & Succulent Society

Anita Ryle

Wow, what a weekend!

Toowoomba Bromeliad & Succulent Society Inc (formerly Toowoomba & Districts Bromeliad Society Inc) was pleased to go ahead with their Spring Show & Sale in September 2020. As you can imagine, COVID restrictions made the planning and execution of this event just that much harder than past years. However, the end result was an event we could only have imagined and made the work all worthwhile. We combined with Toowoomba Clivia Society as they were unable to use their normal venue and this worked out wonderfully for both clubs.



Kay Gunn being presented Grand Champion Bromeliad by Cr Geoff McDonald & Lisa McDonald.

Show entries were slightly lower than previous years, but not the quality. Congratulations to our Grand Champion Bromeliad, Neoregelia Hot Embers, owned by Kay Gunn, and Grand Champion Cacti or Succulent Exhibit for a Succulent Garden owned by Valda Reeves. Special mention to Bernie Polzin with 24 places across the Show.

Visitor numbers and sales were way up on previous years, probably due to the reduced events on offer and the growing focus on home gardens that COVID has allowed. Most of Saturday & Sunday morning we had to restrict numbers in the hall, and appreciated the patience of the waiting public. Some people came from quite a distance, others from just up the road, but very few left without new treasures to take home. The Sales section was restocked each day, and we thank Talbot Lodge Bromeliads & Cut Above Tools for the quality of the plants & tools that they bring to our event.

It was certainly worth a trip to Toowoomba with the beautiful parks & gardens to visit while in town, and we hope to welcome just as many back again for our 24 April 2021 Sale or 19-21 Sept 2021 Show & Sale. See www.bromeliadstoowoomba.com.au for full details.

Maryborough Horticultural Society

Joy Duke

Elizabeth Park Rose Gardens

Have you visited the Elizabeth Park Rose Gardens in Maryborough? The park has a very interesting history, just as many of our lovely buildings, historical sites and landmarks do. Hence the proud title of 'Maryborough the Heritage City'.

The park was established in 1921 and has had a variety of name changes over the years. It was finally re-named Elizabeth Park Rose Gardens in 1961. Prior to the park becoming a rose garden it was a cemetery, the setting and original site of pioneer graves. In 1873 a new cemetery was created and the headstones and graves removed to their final resting place.

Today a rotunda sits proudly in the middle of the rose gardens with some seating, information about the park, a plan and index of the grave sites from the old cemetery.



The park boasts over 4,000 rose bushes. Every rose bed has the name of the rose. Each year the Maryborough Horticultural Society Inc. sponsors and financially supports a horticultural Community Project. The Club sponsored and donated 25 'Governor Macquarie' rose plants to the Rose Gardens in July 2019. Members of the club were invited to plant a rose, and this year members are thrilled to see large sweet smelling mid-

pink blooms.

The club also commissioned a garden seat for the Rose Gardens so community members can sit and enjoy the spectacular and colourful display of roses. Until Covid 19, members volunteered one day a week to prune, dead head, water and assist the Fraser Coast Regional Council Parks and Garden team.

The Elizabeth Park Rose Gardens are situated in Kent Street, Maryborough and well worth a visit from September through to May.



Photos top to bottom.

Mayor George Seymour planting the first of our 25 donated Governor Macquarie roses with Ree Graham. The plaque situated on the Governor Macquarie rose bed. Club member Rose Molyneaux with the first of the blooms.

Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society of Qld

Garden Clubs of Australia 'Young Gardener of the Year 2020'

Rebekah Trevor, pictured with her award, was nominated for 'Outstanding Contribution to Gardening/Horticulture by a Young Gardener' in the 2020 Awards and to everyone's delight, she won.



Rebekah is the owner/operator of The Olive Branch Bromeliad Nursery in Brisbane. She started running it in 2013 and became the owner 3 years ago. She is a member of the Nursery & Garden Industry of Queensland and the International, Queensland, Gold Coast and New Zealand Bromeliad Societies.

Her involvement with gardening started as a toddler and from age 14 ran market stalls independently for her dad. Bek became a qualified International Bromeliad judge at the Sydney Australasian Conference held in 2015.

She has had the incredible privilege of not only supplying plants, but also designing and landscaping the Bromeliad gardens at Roma Street Parklands, Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, the Queensland Governor's Residence, the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens, UQ University, along with numerous schools and private residences.

Ed - Congratulations Bek, well deserved. Read more of Bek's story in the autumn issue of the Garden Clubs of Australia *Our Gardens* magazine.

WONDAL GARDEN EXPO



*Discover the Diversity of Gardening
in Queensland's Best Backyard*

DATE CLAIMER

2021 Autumn Garden Expo
& South Burnett Orchid Society Annual Exhibition
plus

the Regional Art Gallery Showing

Third Weekend in April

SATURDAY 17TH & SUNDAY 18TH

Not just an event - IT'S A DESTINATION

CONTACTS: HELEN 4168 9297
JODI 0413 115 495

Environment Report

Phil Adam

WEATHER, CLIMATE, AND THE GREENHOUSE

Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.

The issue of climate change has been in the news for a number of years now. It is clear that it is a subject that has attracted a great deal of comment accompanied by an equal measure of misinformation and confusion. I thought it might be useful to try to simplify some of the concepts involved.

Weather

Weather is the combination of a number of elements occurring in a specific place at a given point in time. It is changeable. It changes from minute to minute, hour to hour, day to day etc.



The elements that make up the weather are things we can feel and measure. They include, temperature, sunshine, cloud cover, wind strength and direction, precipitation (rain, snow etc), and relative humidity. These are the main ones that affect how we feel at any point in time.

The weather can change quickly but at certain times of the year there are *normal* patterns of weather conditions we would expect to experience. It is wrong to make statements or assumptions about climate change on the basis of variable weather conditions.

Climate

For want of a better simple definition, climate is the average of weather conditions for a particular location as measured over a long period of time e.g. 70 years or more. However, it must be remembered that conditions in any short period are likely to be different from the average e.g. wetter, drier, hotter, colder etc. There is a normal range of variation both above and below the average, and even then there are likely to be occasional extreme outliers.

Climatic conditions do change over time. This is a complex matter but some of the factors that induce climate change include variations in solar radiation, changes in the composition of the atmosphere due to periods of intense volcanic activity etc. We know that there appears to be both long and short cycles of climate change that have been repeated over millions of years. Apart from apparent natural cyclical changes in climate, it is also clear that people can influence climate change through activities such as extensive land clearing resulting in reduced evapotranspiration and large scale erosion. In other words, some human activities can produce deserts.



When we talk about climate change we are talking about changes that are following a trend. Overall temperatures may be increasing in a reasonably consistent way but the trend is not likely to be linear i.e. even while temperatures may be increasing some years may be cooler reflecting changes that may have happened quite some time in the past.

The Greenhouse

The earth's atmosphere is a film of gas surrounding the planet. It is a mixture of gases with the main components being nitrogen and oxygen. It contains a number of gasses that can absorb and trap heat. These are the greenhouse gasses such as carbon dioxide, methane etc.

The sun does not heat the earth directly. Incoming solar radiation (mainly light) is bounced back from the surface of the earth as heat. Without the greenhouse gasses this heat would be lost to space and the earth would be very cold place indeed. The tilt of the earth's axis, its rotation around the axis (approx. every 24 hours) and its revolution around the sun (365 days) help to distribute the incoming solar radiation more evenly thus rendering more of the earth habitable for plants, animals and people.



The greenhouse effect is a good thing. It is one of the key factors that makes the earth habitable. The issue we are facing is that the increasing use of fossil fuels, coal, oil and gas over the last 250 years has led to an increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere thus contributing to increasing global temperature which in turn is causing disruptions in other natural systems such as ocean currents, the circulation of heat in the atmosphere etc.

The carbon, methane etc. contained in fossil fuels has taken millions of years to accumulate. We have been releasing it quickly resulting in a changing balance of gasses in the atmosphere. Natural systems are adjusting to this. While some areas of the earth may actually benefit from these changes, many others will not. How, for example, will Venice, London, and the Gold Coast canal estates cope with an increase in sea level of even half a metre?

Irrespective of any detrimental effects of climate change it is quite clear that atmospheric pollution in major cities and industrial areas is already dire and getting worse – just look at reports on the television from cities such as New Delhi or Beijing.

Conclusion: Whatever your point of view is on these issues I think it is important to be clear of just what it is we are talking about. Wild claims that this or that event proves or disproves a proposition should be avoided. There is a great deal of careful, accurate data available from reputable sources such as CSIRO or NASA and emotional or politically motivated comment is not helpful.

DATE CLAIMERS

QCGC EVENTS

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

February

27 Qld Begonia Society *BBG (Saturday only)

March

6-7 Northern Districts Hort Soc "25 Anniversary Colour on Parade" Wavell Heights Community Hall, Edinburgh Castle Rd, Wavell Heights

13-14 Qld Dahlia Society Show *BBG

20-21 Bromeliad Society of Qld *BSC www.bromsqueensland.com.au

April

10-11 A Garden A-Fair *BBG

17-18 Wondai Autumn Garden Expo www.wondaigardenexpo.com

May

1-2 Bimer Bonsai Club *BBG Bruce 07 3263 9609

Venues

*BBG *The Auditorium, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha*

**BSC *Belmont Shooting Complex, 1485 Old Cleveland Rd, Belmont*

Please advise Secretary of any shows in June, July and August to be included in the next issue.



**Pine Rivers
Garden & Plant Fair**

"birds and bees"

For garden and plant lovers of all types

Plant sales, garden equipment, ornaments, bees, insect houses, chickens, great guest speakers, plant crèche, food stalls, live music.

Easy access, off street parking, wheel chair friendly venue (ask about parking). Lawnton train station 5 min walk. Dogs on leashes are welcome.

Pine Rivers Show Ring, 757 Gympie Road, Lawnton

Saturday 15 Sunday 16 May 2021

www.pineriversgardenandplantfair.com.au

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS INC

Patron: His Excellency, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland

Mail

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Meetings

Delegates meetings are held in the Auditorium Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha commencing at 10am . The days may vary each month. Each member club is entitled to have two delegates attend.

Committee meetings follow immediately after the Delegates meeting .

Bank details

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

Incorporation Number IA 09679

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort is made to publish accurate information, QCGC accepts no responsibility for statements made, opinions expressed or mention of commercial products by contributors.

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all information in their articles. These articles do not necessarily express the viewpoint of the Editor, Executive Officers or the Committee.

A Garden A-Fair 2021

*Queensland Council of Garden Clubs
presents*

**Sir Joseph Banks: Botanical Endeavours
Celebrating 250 years**

- Hundreds of Magnificent Plants on Display
- Demonstrations
- Clubs and Societies Displays
- Craft Stalls and Plant Sales
- Product Information
- Raffle Prizes
- Refreshments Available

**SATURDAY 10th APRIL: 10am - 3.30pm and
SUNDAY 11th APRIL: 9am to 3.00pm**

**BRISBANE BOTANIC GARDENS, MT COOT-THA AUDITORIUM
ADMISSION \$3 SCHOOL CHILDREN FREE**

