

2022 President's Report Buderim Garden Club, Inc.

As president of the Buderim Garden Club, I would like to welcome our members to this 76th Annual General Meeting of the Buderim Garden Club, and I present the Annual General Report of the Management Committee for 2022.

In 2022, the Buderim Garden Club was again able to hold our monthly meetings without any COVID rules, which allowed club meeting functions to proceed (guest and member speakers, competition table, photography competition, plant sales, raffle, etc.). Afternoon tea has returned to normal (members bring their own plates and cups).

The year began with over 90 members attending the February monthly meetings, and meetings were well attended throughout the year.

Membership

Buderim Garden Club had 22 new members join this year. The current membership on December 31 was 18 life members and 248 ordinary members, for a total of 266. It has been wonderful to see so many new members join our club during this period. During 2022, the Buderim Garden Club allowed members to remain current members at no extra cost due to a rule change that changed the end of the financial year from September to December, a change that allowed the full-year financials for the Garden Festival to be in the current year.

The Buderim Garden Club Management Committee for 2022 has done a wonderful job, and I especially would like to thank all the committee members on behalf of the club for their service and dedication during the year, thanks to three retiring members (Maureen Michael, Lyn Valentine, and V/President and Chief Show Steward John Sargaison). Special thanks to our treasurer, Anne Leach, who had a serious illness during the year but still kept the treasurer's role operating with help from her husband John.

Again, all the co-opted members have done an excellent job during the year where required. Many thanks for your work and dedication to the Buderim Garden Club.

Morning Tea for New Members

We had a great response, with 12 new members accepting our invitation on Thursday, August 12th, to attend a special morning tea. The venue took place in the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens. All new members commented on how enjoyable and informative the morning was.

Guest Speakers

The high-profile guest speakers have been interesting, with lots of enthusiasm and goodies to share with Buderim Garden Club members or offer for sale.

The members' talks have all been well received and interesting, especially the sessions by the Three Amigos (Ken Evans, Robin Porter, and Steve Wikman). I'd like to thank all the members that have given talks this year, with special thanks to Jenni Campbell for organising the fantastic array of guest speakers.

Garden shedders and community/OPO garden groups

The "Garden Shedders" work on the gardens adjacent to the Buderim Memorial Hall on the fourth Friday of each month. I thank Teddy Gove, who has been the coordinator of the group again this year.

The "Community Gardens" group (OPO Gardens) meets on the third Monday of each month. The group now restores and maintains the gardens of the Old Post Office and has recently added a new garden on the left side of the OPO. I thank Mike Kelly, who is the coordinator of this group.

Special Note: I'd like to thank all the volunteers who have worked on the above gardens during the year, and the Buderim Garden Club hopes that more members become interested in volunteering in these areas.

Workshops

On Wednesday, April 27, Buderim Garden Club held a workshop at member Jenny Evens' home at 21 Molokai Drive, Mountain Creek, which was organised by Steve Wikman. Over 40 members attended the workshop.

Workshop subjects included:

Meet & Greet

Welcome, Jenny

Practical Demonstration of Preparing Entries for the Judging Table (Steve)

Morning Tea and Garden Ramble

Many thanks, Steve, for your hard work in organising the workshop. The club made a special presentation to Jenny and David Evans for opening their garden to Buderim Garden Club members.

Monthly flower competition

The monthly flower competition has been a great success in 2022. The competition has improved significantly this year, thanks to some education to raise the standard of judging

entries (a workshop). Steve and other experienced members have made some headway here in helping new and past members present their items. The quality of the entrants' exhibits has also improved and is becoming very competitive. This year, a new class for the monthly flower competition was introduced. "Any potted plant in flower",

I especially thank Eunice Worden in her coordination role again this year, helpers Pam Sheahan, Lyn Valentine, and Joy Fixter for all their assistance on the flower table, and Steve for announcing the winners.

Monthly photographic competition

Our online monthly photographic competition was a great success again this year. The quality and presentation of the members' photographs were outstanding. Our judge commented on the pleasing improvement in photos as the year progressed.

I'd like to thank all the members who took part in the competition, with special thanks to Marion Upston, who served as coordinator again this year. I want to thank Marion for all her hard work in making the competition work so well, especially the way she presented the results and issued certificates to winners and those members that received highly commended results from the judge.

Many thanks to Marion for also producing beautiful cards from the photos; members have loved them and many have purchased them.

Bus Tours

This year Buderim Garden Club could once again have bus tours again without COVID-19 conditions, so our tour coordinator Karen O'Conner organised these great bus trips:

May: Visit Fairhill Native Botanic Gardens and Nursery, and then Fernland with Yandina, followed by lunch at the Palmwoods Hotel and a visit to Collins House, Palmwoods.

July – Visit Twinnies Pelican and Sea Bird Rescue (Buderim Garden Club gave Twinnies a \$500 donation), then visit the production nursery of Forest Heart Eco, then have Christmas Lunch at the Maleny Hotel, and walk to Maleny.

September: Trip to Blackbutt Open Gardens Special thanks to Karen for organising all the bus trips.

Seedbank

Ken Evans has continued his seed bank this year. Many members have benefited from the seeds that Ken and others have gathered and shared. Thank you, Ken.

Library

Helen Wallace has continued to run the Buderim Garden Club library, allowing members to borrow gardening books and magazines. Thank you, Helen.

Raffle

The raffle sales this year have had a great variety of prizes available for all members, featuring the Manawee plant of the month and a lucky door prize. Thank you to Maureen Michael for managing the monthly raffle, and thanks to her team of Gail O'Donohue and Ruth Croucher.

The Garden Festival raffle was an outstanding success, raising over \$4000. Extra special thanks to Maureen Michael, our raffle convenor, and thanks to committee members for assisting in obtaining the great prizes, as well as to all the ticket sellers, before and at the festival.

Plant sales at Buderim Garden Club meetings

I like to thank Reg Gibson for again having his great plants for sale to members.

I'd also like to thank Carole Willis for managing the member's plant sales table; she's another great service member with fantastic plants.

Garden Festival

The 2022 Buderim Garden Festival was shaping up to be the best one to date; however, we were unfortunate with the weather, with around 95 mm of rain falling over Saturday night and into Sunday. On the Wednesday before the festival, we read the report that a "Rain Bomb" was predicted, but rain, hail, or shine, the festival has always proceeded. Gardeners come out when it rains; the weather just affects the general public, who stay home when conditions are bad, We had the good, the bad, and the rain!

However, the 2022 Flower and Photography Shows have been acknowledged as one of our best shows. Entry numbers, quality of entries, and how the entries were displayed were outstanding. The Flower Show and a much-expanded photography exhibition were also opened on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

We held twilight quality plant markets again this year, from 3 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, which was unaffected by the initial rain on Friday. Although we had five stalls cancelled due to the weather forecasts for the weekend, the remaining 12 stalls operated on Saturday, but most stalls pulled out on Sunday due to bad weather Saturday night into Sunday.

There are six Exclusive Open Gardens in the Buderim area, which were selected to showcase the diversity in size and style of gardening in our area. The gardens were open Saturday from 8 a.m.–4 p.m., and due to the inclement weather, Garden #6 had to shut down Sunday morning

(flooded lake), and all other gardens were closed on Sunday from noon on. Visitors were again able to see the Open Gardens without traffic and parking problems via a free shuttle bus service, but due to heavy rain, this service was cancelled for Sunday. Also, a bus coming from the Maryborough area cancelled their visit.

With all the bad weather that the Garden Festival experienced and with all the great work by our members and volunteers, the Garden Festival still raised over \$8,000 (down \$4,000 from last year), which was a great effort considering the bad weather. A full report of the festival can be viewed in the members' section on the Web.

Attendance at Buderim Garden Club Events

Other great events attended by the Buderim Garden Club were the Anzac Parade, the Queensland Garden Expo at Nambour, Remembrance Day at Foote Sanctuary, and Australia Day in the park this year.

Arbour Project

The arbour has now been constructed as a permanent structure in the Buderim Community Park, overlooking the New Children's Playground. The final features to be installed on the arbour are history signs and photos outlining the history of Buderim from its early days to now.

As you will mostly be aware, this arbour was due to be constructed in 2021 (as part of Buderim Garden Club's 75th-anniversary celebrations), and due to COVID's delays, the cost of construction and materials increased by over \$14,000. The initial cost was \$45,000, and the Buderim Garden Club obtained a major grant from the Sunshine Coast Council and a councillor contribution from Ted Hungerford. The Buderim Garden Club members contributed \$10,000 towards the project. The new cost is around \$60,000, for which the Buderim Garden Club members increased our commitment to the project, and the SCC and Councillor Ted Hungerford came to the party with extra funding.

The BWMCA withdrew their commitment to equal funding with Buderim Garden Club due to the SCC not allowing any mention of veterans being placed on Arbour but did make a \$5,000 donation to Buderim Garden Club towards the project.

Technology and Communications

This year has seen the Buderim Garden Club continue to use more technology and communications systems to keep members informed and allow easy input for payments and registration for functions, events, and membership. Improve system entries for photographic completion and the Buderim Garden Festival entries and recording of results. The club has also purchased Square system terminals for easy payments and moved to more online systems for payments and events. The Buderim Garden Festival had online booking and payment, which was very successful.

I would like to thank committee member John Leach, who has brought his expertise and knowledge to the committee and has set up many new and easy technologies and communications for members' use and needs and has brought the club into the 21st-century technology functions and systems.

Christmas Lunch.

The Buderim Garden Club's final function for 2022 was our Christmas Lunch on December 9. This year, we moved from the Buderim Tavern to again being held at Headlands Golf Club.

Final Thanks

On behalf of Kathy and myself, I wish all our members good health and happiness for the coming year, which should be a big one.

I must thank Kathy, my wife, for all her help with Buderim Garden Club items and for putting up with me for all the time I spend on the Buderim Garden Club organisation.

John Lyon

President Buderim Garden Club.