

Chief Steward's Report 2022 BGC Flower Show

The 2022 Flower Show has been acknowledged as being one of our best shows of recent years with regards to entry numbers, quality of entries and the manner in which the entries were displayed. Unfortunately despite the significant planning and effort put in by many members the weather gods were not kind and the rain significantly impacted numbers attending the Festival.

I would like to express sincere thanks to the many members who volunteered in any way with the running of the show and/or to those who submitted entries in the show. Without your valued input and support we would not be able to put on such a great show.

The number of entries received this year (746) was a 30% increase over the number received in the 2021 show. Two sections, Section 1 Cut Flowers and Section 10 Garden Photography recorded the highest growth in numbers. A breakdown of the entries received by Section is included as table 1.

Section	Number of Entries 2021	Number of Entries 2022
1 - Cut Flowers	112	183
2 - Flowers from Exotics	17	40
3 - Flowers from Natives	9	11
4 - Foliage Collection	24	56
5 - Bonsai	9	4
6 - Plants in Standing Pots	36	59
7 - Hanging Baskets/Pots/Plants	14	25
8 - Novelty Arrangement	14	21
9 - Fruit, Vegetables and Herbs	9	35
10 - Children Small World Potted Plant	69	64
11 - Garden Photography	255	348
Total	568	746

Table 1 - Comparison of Flower Show Entry Numbers by Section 2021 / 2022

Our judges for Sections 1- 9, Heather and Noel Prior were complimentary on the overall quality of flowers, cuttings, arrangements and plants entered with a special mention on the quality of the hibiscus flowers this year. The judges suggested that BGC consider allowing members to use their own green bottles to display their entries in Sections 1- 4 as this change was being introduced by a number of clubs in south-east Queensland. This enables members to prepare their entries at home and makes it easier to transport entries to the show.

Consideration should be given to changing the Show rules to enable the use of green bottles other than those provided by BGC, to display entries in Sections 1- 4.

There were again a few opportunities for improvement identified with the staging of entries, these were:
entries placed in the wrong class;
entries not prepared correctly e.g. class required 3 stems however 3 stems were not clearly visible at the neck of the bottle

Consideration be given to having at least two “competent” Preparation/Hall Steward Assistants available during the acceptance of entry window 9am - 2pm to validate the correct class assignment on prepared entries before they are placed on a “ready for staging” table on the verandah and then to stage the entries in the hall to minimise the risk of entries ending up in the wrong class.

Consideration be given to holding a session at the October BGC monthly meeting on the preparation of flower show entries and the creation of recognised volunteer positions and their training thereof (e.g. Competition Flower Show Assistant) to oversee the correct preparation of entries for the monthly flower competition.

There were also a few additional minor changes suggested for the Show Schedule which will be made to the 2023 Show Schedule to provide greater clarity e.g. allowance of staking for orchids

Congratulations go to all members who submitted entries and had a go, I am sure that you enjoyed the experience of competing.

In particular I would like to congratulate our 2022 major trophy/prize winners:

Champion Rose – Marie Gibson
Champion Bloom other than a Rose - Rod Nicholls
Champion Flowers from Exotics – Elizabeth Hales
Champion Flowers From Natives – Cassie Burlington
Champion Foliage Collection – Sylvia Pope
Champion Bonsai – Tom Crerar
Champion Plant in a Standing Pot – Rod Nicholls
Champion Hanging Basket – Teddy Gove
Champion Fruit, Vegetables and Herbs – Ken Evans

Champion Garden Photography Exhibit – Mike Sax
Encouragement Award – Mike Sax
Most Points Section 1 Cut Flowers – Ken Evans
Most Points Sections 6 and 7 Standing Pots/Hanging Baskets – Rod Nicholls
Most Points in Show Champion Member – Ken Evans

As mentioned previously the number of entries in the Garden Photography section increased again this year with 348 entries received across the five classes. It was pleasing to see both members and non-members sharing the 5 class winners this year. The improvement in the quality of entries received this year by members was very noticeable which in part I believe stems from the informal training that has been provided throughout the year. I suggest that this training be continued with possibly a “field workshop” being run on Flower Photography in 2023.

It would be remiss of me to not include special thanks to Marion Upston for the fantastic effort that she put into the staging of the Photography section of the show. I would also like to thank John Leach for his efforts in developing the online entry portal for the electronic submission of entries which worked very well and facilitated a level playing field for the judging of entries. Further detail on the Photography Section will be provided by Marion.

Consideration should be given to continuing the training of members in garden photography including holding a field workshop

Only the Milford Lodge childcare centre participated in the Children’s Section this year and 64 entries were received. Little Village had some administrative issues which prevented their participation however they have indicated that they will be back for the 2023 show. This section always receives good feedback and the quality of entries received this year was very good.

The preparation of the First and Second place winner certificates had some problems again this year and the major cause of these problems stems from the tight timeline involved with their preparation. John Leach has suggested that we modify our process in future by reverting back to the manual recording of winners during the judging process and then having an additional volunteer on hand to validate the correct recording of winners and to then input the data electronically. This will enable the preparation of certificates to commence straight after judging has been completed and will reduce the likelihood of error. Additional help is also required with the preparation of the certificates. This change should also assist with the preparation of prize money envelopes which is carried out by our Club Treasurer Anne Leach. Anne did a great job in preparing the prize monies this year including sorting out some problems with the incorrect allocation of recipients.

Consideration should be given to modifying the preparation of the winner certificates inline with the process outlined above including having two additional volunteers involved with the process to record and prepare the winner certificates.

The Friday show set-up commenced at 7am with a good number of enthusiastic members helping out and by 8:10am the hall was ready to accept entries. It was a pleasure to watch the transformation with such a great team in action. The set-up was followed by a welcomed breakfast. Entries were accepted from 9:00am and by 2:00pm the hall was looking and smelling wonderful. Judging commenced at 2:00pm and was finished by 4:15pm and the Hall was then opened to the public. The preparation and placement of prize winner certificates was completed by 11:00am on Saturday.

Over the week-end our volunteers maintained the show exhibits in a great condition for the benefit of our visitors. Some members went to the effort of bringing in fresh flowers on Saturday and Sunday to replace the wilting entries staged on Friday. It was very pleasing to hear the many positive comments from our visitors who were suitably impressed with the quality of our Show. This is something that our club should be justly proud of.

The official opening of the Show and presentation of trophies was held at 11:00 am on Saturday which was a departure from the commencement time of 2:00pm in previous years. This does place additional pressure on having everything in place for the Opening however it was achieved this year and there were a number of visitors and members present in the hall to witness the opening. The State Member for Buderim Mr. Brent Mickelberg, Marjorie Van Roy, our patron and major sponsor (Manawee), Peter McDonnell (Buderim Bendigo Community Bank) our other major sponsor, Glenys Bruin GCA and Councillor Ted Hungerford participated in the opening. Ms Bruin presented BGC with the GCA Community Award as part of the Opening Ceremony.

Consideration should be given to the purchase of a Trophy for the Novelty Section as this is the only Section (other than Children) that does have a trophy.

The show closure and dismantle again went off well due to the willing volunteers in attendance. The cleanup finished earlier this year due to the early closure of the Open Gardens due to the heavy rain.

The Show debrief was deferred to the Monday and was held during the Management Committee meeting at the BWMCA Hall.

In conclusion I would like to sincerely thank again those who submitted entries and to the army of volunteers that assisted in any way with the running of what was a very successful 2022 Spring Flower Show.

John Sargaison
Chief Show Steward