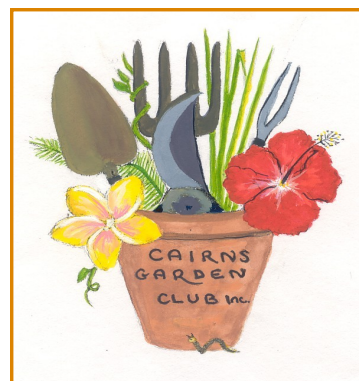


# Cairns Garden Club Inc Newsletter



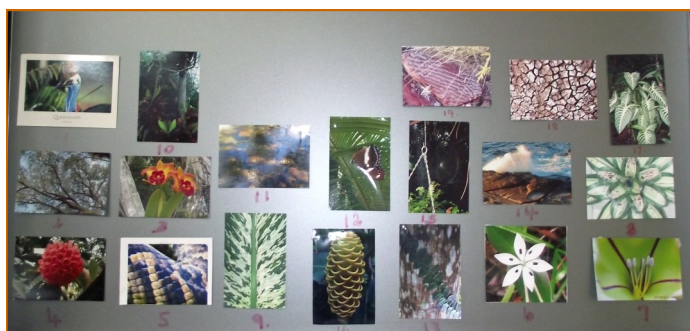
Volume 10. No 3 October 2014

Edited by Sheena Phillips and Carolyn Emslie

## General Meeting — Saturday 26 July 2014 In the meeting room of the Stratford Library

At this meeting we held the Plant Auction which had been postponed from April. Our auctioneer, John Hay of Cooktown assisted by grandson Carmelo conducted proceedings with great energy and enthusiasm and members opened their wallets in appreciation of the array of plants on offer. It was all great fun and there was a lot of laughter throughout the afternoon.

Our thanks to John for once again helping with this event. It was also very nice to have the company of our Patron Kim Morris at this meeting.



There were two competitions today, the first – a cut croton was won by Eva Bastowski with Travis Teske second and the photo competition to illustrate “Patterns in Nature” which attracted some very imaginative entries was won by Karen Lynch with Travis once again second.

Last October, in our station sedan loaded with bare rooted plants tightly wrapped in newspaper and packed into broccoli boxes, the computer, a few clothes and two cats, we left for South East Queensland. We had a comfy space at the back of the vehicle with pillows etc. for the cats. They decided that they didn't need to see where we were going, so they spent the entire 1700 km trip on the floor in the front, behind our heels. This was, at times, less than convenient. They coped with our two overnight stops, one in a motel and the other with friends. Since having been here, they have, fortunately, not tried to return to Cairns and have settled in well.

After looking around the Gold Coast area, near where our son and his family live (our move was being made for baby sitting purposes), we couldn't find anything we liked so we moved about 40 kms south of the border to Ocean Shores, a pretty little town just north of Brunswick Heads, surrounded by beautiful sub tropical countryside.

We are surprised at how much tropical vegetation is here. Our garden, which had been established about 15 years ago, had about 10 mature Golden Cane palms and about 15 Durantas, (which had all been neatly pruned). Realising what a problem these were going to be and how much room their roots were taking up, we had a bobcat in to remove them and a few other undesirables. We left the beautiful parrot's beak Heliconias, the Strelitzias, Hibiscus, citrus trees, tree ferns, other palms, Ixoras, Cordylines, Dracaenas etc. and are now busy filling in the gaps with things we couldn't grow in Cairns such as roses and flowering shrubs.

One area on a slope has been made into a rockery and all the Agaves, Aloes, Sansevieria and other succulents have been planted here and seem to be doing well. Most of them are fairly small, as we could bring only offsets with us because of the space taken up by the cats' bedding (!)

Our timing wasn't too good. We thought our house in Cairns would take longer to sell than it did, so we had booked a couple of trips overseas. We also didn't expect to find a suitable house here so soon, so we had no option but to go away just after we had bought here (too expensive to cancel). Settling in became rather protracted.

When we arrived back, we discovered varieties of weed we had not seen before and many we knew well, colonising the bare areas we had created. We have no travel plans for the near future but there is plenty to do down here (apart from weeding). Markets all over the place every weekend and we went to the Nambour garden fair which was extensive and worth a visit. Byron Bay, Ballina, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads are all close by. Brisbane is 150 kms. Winter is far too cold for our liking. Days 18 – 20 degrees, dropping to about 12 degrees at night. We have bought an electric blanket!

Thank you for sending the newsletter. It is lovely to keep in touch with what the club is doing. We do miss the tropics and the Cairns Botanics and the Garden Club. Best wishes to everyone.

Bev and Mike Vallentine

***We will continue the story of Bev and Mike's travels in the next newsletter***

## Cairns Show — 2014



As usual our members manned the display of Cut Shrubs and Cut Flowers in the Horticulture section and many of our members also exhibited very successfully.

Lennette won with several entries including the champion vine, Gloria mainly entered pot culture and won four firsts, and seven seconds.

Carolyn won the best pansy and Peter Cousens won six firsts, three seconds and a third. Peter Everist won a first for a maidenhair fern and a cordyline and a trophy from the Cordyline Society.

Thanks to all the volunteers and congratulations to all who exhibited, once again we must stress how important it is for our input to continue, without it the Horticulture Section of the Show will simply not exist.



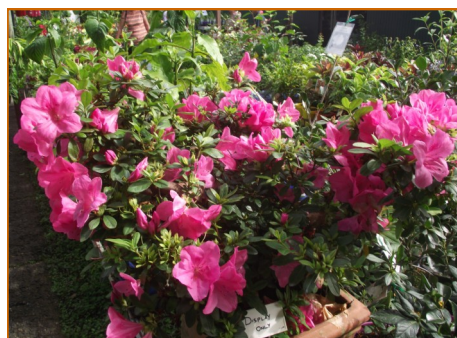
## AGM and General Meeting — Saturday 16 August 2014 QCWA Hall, Kamerunga Road, Freshwater

At the AGM which preceded this General meeting, Annual Reports were duly presented and the election of office bearers brought no surprises with the existing committee members elected un-opposed.

A special presentation was made to Gloria Melvin for her long service as our Chief Steward at the Cairns Show—thank you Gloria .

At the conclusion of the business meeting we then wandered across to the beautiful Limberlost Nursery for a very informative and enjoyable tour conducted by garden guru extraordinaire Neil Hughes.

Questions were asked and answered, purchases made, and an enjoyable time was spent wandering around this very well managed nursery. Then back to the charming old QCWA Hall for afternoon tea. The optional tour of the Freshwater Station did not happen as most members were quite content with the days activities. Perhaps this will be an something to enjoy in the future.



## A Garden Glimpse

from Carolyn

### **Fran's Garden**



As I walked along Fran Lindsay's driveway, I passed the delicate mauve flowers of the Garlic Vine (*Mansoa alliacea*), the deep crimson flowers of the Cardinal Vine (*Ipomoea horsfalliae*) and the bright orange flowers of the Bauhinia Kockiana vine. In the middle of her back yard there is a tropical fruit tree, the Keppel Tree (*Stelechocarpus burahol*) covered in a flush of pretty pink new leaves. Hanging from a tree branch is a cute, clay flying fox and hiding in the bushes a cheeky, rainbow-colored rooster. A dark yellow gardenia, Soleil D'or, or Golden Sun, had a delightful fragrance as did a lovely yellowy-green orchid with a purple throat.



Fran's Zygocactus had just come into flower and I caught glimpses of the maroon and yellow Ladies' Slipper Vine (*Thunbergia Mysorensis*) flowering high up in the trees. Fran has tomatoes and snake beans growing on a trellis, with a ladder handy nearby to help with the picking. Fran's garden is a mix of brightly colored flowers, shrubs and vines, set against a background of the rich greens of bushes, grass and trees, making a restful and energizing environment to relax and enjoy.





The Butchart Gardens are a group of floral display gardens near Victoria, on Vancouver Island. Victoria is the capital of British Columbia. They have been designated a National Historic Site of Canada due to their international renown.

Jennie Butchart and her husband owned a limestone quarry here but in 1909 the limestone was exhausted so they turned this into a sunken garden. In 1926 they replaced their tennis courts with an Italian garden and in 1929 they replaced their kitchen garden with a large rose garden. The gardens continued to grow over the years but remained the property of the Butchart Family. The gardens receive more than a million visitors a year.



## 20 September 2014 — General Meeting at the garden of Joy and Colin Laird at Meringa

PATRON: Kim Morris  
PRESIDENT: Travis Teske  
4056 1761  
VICE PRESIDENT:  
Fran Lindsay  
SECRETARY (Minutes):  
Carolyn Emslie  
4056 6501  
SECRETARY (Correspondence):  
Fran Lindsay  
0407 695 891  
TREASURER: Susan Bennetts  
4033 7885  
COMMITTEE:  
Gloria Melvin  
4051 6774  
Sheena Phillips  
4039 2447  
Joy Laird  
4056 2358  
Lennette Townson  
4056 1562  
LIBRARIAN:  
Averil Cadogan  
4059 0600  
PUBLICITY  
Susan Bennetts  
CATERING CO-ORDINATOR  
June Donnelly 4055 5088  
Mail: PO Box 503  
Cairns Qld 4870  
Internet:  
[www.cairnsgardenclub.org.au](http://www.cairnsgardenclub.org.au)  
Email: Fran Lindsay  
[frantastic10@bigpond.com](mailto:frantastic10@bigpond.com)

This garden is always a delight to visit and our September meeting was very well attended. Graeme Byrne, our guest speaker, as usual, gave a lively and entertaining talk which everyone enjoyed .



He also cheerfully agreed to act as a guinea pig for a trial run of our new lapel microphone . Graeme spoke about his Garden Shows on ABC Radio on Friday and Saturday mornings. He does a lot of scientific research preparing these programs, and also uses peoples' comments to help select topics for discussion.

He answered many questions concerning pumpkin, hibiscus, gardening without chemicals, and mulching. After discussing the benefits of using Diatomaceous Earth, a food grade fossil shell powder, to help plants stay healthy, he also stressed the importance of maintaining a healthy ph level (6 - 6.5) of the soil as this can prevent many problems in the garden.



There is quite a lot going on in the Club at the present time. Tickets have been distributed for the Christmas Hamper Raffle, and there is also a special raffle for a night for two at the Hilton Hotel, which includes breakfast. This will be drawn at our Combined Northern Garden Clubs Meeting on Sunday 26 October in the RSL Hall at Gordonvale. This will be a big day for us and we do ask all members to help as much as possible with catering, donations of plants to the raffle table, or in any way that you can. And a reminder that some membership subscriptions are still outstanding so please see Sue as soon as possible if you have not yet paid.