

Meeting held on: Thursday 7 November 2024

at: Soldiers Memorial Hall, Bundanoon

commencing: 10 am

## Welcome

The President, Penny Baker opened the Meeting at 10am acknowledging the Gundungurra people and paying respects to the elders

Last meeting in the hall for 2024.

Penny welcomed 3 new members.

## Apologies

Stella Reuter, Maria Marks,

## Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 3 October 2024 were accepted.

Proposed: Kay Millwood      Seconded: Susy South

## Correspondence:

### In:

- PicRights - 3rd notice of breach of copyright by using 2 photos in newsletters posted on our website
- GCA - request for support of GCA Remembrance Driveway
- Various emails regarding Coach trip:
  - to/from Markdale station
  - to/from Kennedy Coaches
  - to/from members

### Out:

- What's Happening
- Club newsletter

## Treasurer's Report

Balance end of August	\$18,493
Income	\$ 4,762
Expenditure	<u>\$ 456</u>
Balance end of Sept	<u>\$22,799</u>

Notes: Ramble stall raised \$2,371. Key expense was a monthly \$19 phone plan for the Garden Club phone

## President's Report

- Robertson self drive:
  - 2 people join in a misty and 'drippy' morning;
  - Dean Wilson's garden will be open 13 November for a fund raiser. Lemmens Rd
- BGC Ramble Stall
  - thank you to propagators and volunteers on the plant stall
  - comprehensive writeup and recommendations will be in the next club newsletter
- Quest for Life
  - Penny attended opening of their orchard
  - may come to speak at a club meeting
- Bundanoon Garden Ramble
  - thank you to all volunteers and Faye & Tessa
  - it was a marvellous weekend
  - question was asked from the floor about the financial outcome of the Ramble; Tessa responded stating that the BCA event raised \$27,500. About \$2,000 over last year; Tessa thanked ramble treasurer (Lorraine), Robin Coombes, Faye Dillon, John Price-Jones
- Town Gardens
  - small group attended last working bee in Nancy Kingsbury Park
  - pruning volume of 240kg were removed - and this is just the start
  - raised skirts on Rhododendrons so that bottles & rubbish done get left/hidden
  - NEXT WORKING BEE 28 NOV AT 9AM IN Nancy Kingsbury Park
- Friendship gardens - David
  - talked about the 4 gardens which are different and not seen before. Noted that Ron Keir is happy to show inside his house
  - excess ramble stall plants will be available at one of the gardens in Penrose Rd
  - looking for gardens for February and March 2025
- Photo competition
  - mystery adjudicator
  - send best 2 photos by 25 November
  - competition prizes awarded at our Xmas party
- Coach Trip
  - emails being sent by club secretary (Lyn)
  - leaving Bundanoon 8:30 sharp with a pickup in Marulan
  - there is a club phone available to call on the day in the event that you cant make it
  - emergency contact info for attendees is a must
- Xmas party
  - dietary requirements - let us know - email [gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com)

## Q&A

- When to cut dead flowers off Hellebores
  - when you want to
  - some people just mow
  - early spring before new flowers set
- When is the best time to divide peonies
  - peonies don't like division
  - don't divide
- Why are there so many white moths
  - breeding season
  - wallflowers and lavender plants distract
  - land cress will kill some varieties of white moth
- Small elm 14 years old and has been healthy - is now shedding leaves
  - every 2-3 years will have a 'big' shed and then grow vigorously
  - normal for this plant
- All my Iris flowers died at bud stage - what caused this
  - frost
- Suggestions for native ground cover which loves water
  - native violet

## *Morning Tea*

## Guest Speaker

Penny introduced Gerard Oldfields from Highland Dahlias who also contributed a 4th raffle prize

A few key points:

- Dahlias are addictive
- did much exhibition work but now develops for the cut flower industry
- Dahlia came from the hills of Mexico and taken to Europe. Thought to be a food source; some people today dry the tubers and use to make bread and an American scientist has said that dahlias may be a possible cure base for Alzheimers and Cancer
- Dahlias vary in height from 30 cm to 3 metres
- Tree dahlia is a completely difference species
- seeds don't always produce the same colour flower whereas tuber and cuttings will give the same colour flower
- plant 10-15 cm underground - they like root system to be cool
- herbicide in soil is not good for growing dahlias, if your peas/beans grow distorted than good possibility there is herbicide residue in soil; recommends getting soil tested (ST1 test)
- Fertiliser mix he uses is lime - 1 kg/4 sq m + gypsum - 1 kg/2 sq m + blood and bone - 1 kg/10 sq m
- dahlias grow well in clay soil
- pulse watering is recommended; noted that droppers do not save water and will use approx 5 times as much water to gain same moisture content in soil
- uses horizontal mesh to stake dahlias. 12m long x 1m wide with 4 anchor points and 15cm squares; first row 30cm off ground, 2nd row is 90-120cm high depending on variety of dahlia. To buy the mesh - Sage Horticulture online (expensive), Bunnings not too good; can buy from Gerard
- pruning: pinching - need 4 points for growth; take-up and bottom 1 leaves only after 1st round of pinching
- can leave tuber in ground over winter as long as have good drainage
- leafy gaul is a problem but doesn't exist in Australia
- dahlias can be frost tender - plant when frost is over
- Gerard is happy for visitors - but phone first 0412 400 177 (27 Ann St, Mittagong)

## Conclusion

Raffle drawn. Penny noted that the newsletter would like photos of how your prize is going (good or bad)

Meeting closed at 11:55 am

Next meeting: Thursday 6 February 2025 , Soldiers Memorial Hall - 9:30am for 10am start