BUDERIM GARDEN CLUB INC. (BGC)

Report to committee and members on the Buderim Garden Festival Held on weekend of October 17th - 19th 2025

The 2025 Garden Festival was an outstanding success. The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive; visitors all thought the open gardens & flower/floral/photography shows were great. We were very fortunate this year to have had wonderful weather (storm when around Buderim).

The 2025 Flower and Photography Shows have been acknowledged as being greatly successful shows again this year. Entry numbers were down slightly, but the quality of entries and the manner in which the entries were displayed was outstanding. The photographic visitor's choice was very popular again this year.

The new format and display for the Floral Art show being staged on the hall stage was outstanding, visitors had nothing but praise for the display. Most visitors did go onto the stage with no safety problems, and the People's Choice selection was very popular.

This year we again held twilight Quality Plant Markets, from 3pm-7:00 pm on Friday**,** which were well attended on the Friday**,** then all the 15 stalls operated on Saturday and Sunday AM, with most reporting good sales. The Buderim Garden Club stall had good sales all weekend. The Hall was opened from 4.30 to 7pm for visitors & ticket sales.

There were 6 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 & Sunday 9am-4pm. Great feedback was given by visitors on the Gardens style, diversity and features. A new feature this year was a drive thru night garden on Friday & Saturday nights, feedback was very positive.

SPONSORSHIP

This year we were fortunate to have six major sponsors. Manawee Garden Centre sponsored the club by covering the cost of producing the tickets for the festival ($1,595). They also supported the club by suppling plants for display in the hall the and in photography display area, and allowed BGC to pre-sale raffle tickets at Manawee. BGC thanks Manawee for their consistent and continued support.

Also, councillor Ted Hungerford, our Buderim SCC councillor gave the BGC a grant of $2500. Our local member for Buderim, Brent Mickelberg sponsored the Flower & Floral Art shows with $2500 sponsorship. We also received sponsorship from the Buderim Bendigo Community Bank, with a sponsorship of $2,000 which the BGC used to

offsetting the cost of the shuttle buses, no Sunday shuttle bus this year due to cost and poor patronage. The Saturday shuttle bus continues to be a success in the morning trips, but Sat. afternoon trips not supported and will be reduced in 2026. Many thanks to BGC “bus conductor” Jenni Campbell for organising the bus trips.

We are extremely grateful to councillor Ted, Local Member Brent and the bank for their support of this community event. This year the BGC again had belle property Buderim (former TM Estate agents), which supported the Photographic competition/display with a $1,000 sponsorship. We thank Tania Mungomery for this generous donation. The BGC again had sponsorship from Gregory Ward Team from Ray White of Buderim, with a sponsorship of $500. We also thank Greg for his generous donation.

The BGC is very fortuned to receive these grant/sponsorships to help offset the running cost of the festival and to allow us to make profits from the festival to go towards the beautification of Buderim. Total Grant/Sponsorships received - $10,095.

PROMOTION AND ADVERTISING/DISPLAYS

We have received excellent coverage in the media this year especially from 104.9 FM and 7 Local news. The event was advertised widely via social media outlets; our own Web and Facebook pages were used. We have Michelle Smytheman from Reflected Image Productions to thank for arranging the publicity for the BGC.

The Buderim Garden Festival was well advertised at the Memorial Hall signage. Our festival poster was on display in the Old Post Office, and at the Bendigo Community Bank Plant display for 10 weeks promoting the Festival and I thank Steve Wikman, who readily helped set up, as well Steve, Ken Evans and Teddy Gove who supplied plants for the display.

At the Nambour Qld Garden Show, and at the renewed Buderim Street party over 3,000 flyers were handed out, and at various other locations such as local businesses in the months prior to the festival.

FINANCIALS

Treasurer Carol, assisted by Anne & John Leach will give full report on festival finances when all invoice/payments have been received.

The Draft figure has BGC making around **$11,500 profit**, an increase on previous few years, a great outcome due to all the hard work our BGC volunteers have carried out over the weekend and leading up to the festival.

Another area that helped with our financial control at the festival was again the use of Square and TYRO electronic devices (Card/Credit payments). I’d like to thank Treasurer Carol and Anne & John Leach for all their hard work managing our cash and electronic receipts and payments.

SPRING FLOWER SHOW (refer to full report from Steve Wikman - Chief Show Steward)

The number of entries received this year was slightly down over the number received in the 2024 show, mainly due to the very hot October leading up to this year's festival but the quality and display of all the flower sections was again outstanding.

The Children's display this year in the Hall was once again splendid in its colour and the quality, many thanks to the Milford Lodge's children taking part again this year.

Our Chief Steward and Assistant Chief Steward - Steve Wikman and Eunice Worden have done a wonderful job with this year's show. Thank you, Steve & Eunice and all who helped as stewards etc. during the weekend.

NEW FLORAL ART SHOW (staged on the Hall Stage) (refer to full report from Bev Schouten – Floral Art Convenor)

This year, the BGC included a New Floral Art Show. The new format and display for the Floral Art show being staged on the hall stage was outstanding, visitors had nothing but praise for this magnificent display of 60 entries on the Hall stage. Beautifully staged with the lighting and sculpture. Congrats to Bev for promoting this new category. The Floral Art show was a great success, no problems being on stage, no safety issues and size of show could not have been anywhere else in hall.

Bev is to be congratulated on all her hard work and organisation of the Floral Art Show, and her helpers have done a wonderful job helping to arrange and managing the display.

Special note:

Prize Money for Flower and Floral Art & Photography shows was increased for the first time in 10 years, thanks to Brent Mickelberg for has donation towards this, total of $2,580 awarded to Class/section/trophy winners.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY (refer to full report from Mike Sax – Photographic Convenor)

This year the Photography Exhibition was again located in the hall foyer with specially arranged display boards, The quality & standard of the photographs were excellent, the entries were down on 2024 by BGC members, 25% entered by non-members, and we thank them for their support.

Our Convenor Mike Sax and his helpers have done a wonderful job arranging and managing the display. Thank you, Mike.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening of the festival and the presentation of trophies was held again this year at 11am on the Saturday, our patron Marjorie Van Roy officially opened the event.

Marjorie, and Buderim's Local Councillor Ted Hungerford along with State Member for Buderim Mr Brent Mickelberg and new Bendigo Bank Manger Darryl Stephenson awarded trophies to the winners of the various sections.

OPEN GARDENS

The 2025 BGC Garden Festival featured 6 Open Gardens with a special night drive through garden. The Open Gardens where selected to showcase the diversity in size and style of gardening in our area.

BGC and the owners received great praise for the quality/display and diversity of the gardens. The BGC wish to thank very much the owners for opening their gardens on behalf of the BGC. The club donated $300 to each garden to help in preparing a colourful display, which was most appreciated by the owners.

Attendance at gardens:

1. **Rosemary & David Simmons (BGC member) –** 30 Tindale Avenue **(Had 460 visitors)**
2. **Debbie & Glen Kassuke -** 6 Chadwick Street **(Had 460 visitors)**
3. **Pioneer Cottage -** 5 Pioneer Cres **(Had 320 visitors)**
4. **Bloomhill Cancer Care Centre -** 58 Ballinger Rd **(Had 420 visitors)**
5. **Laura & Reyno Terry (BGC member)** - 25 Dixon Road Buderim **(Had 370 visitors)**
6. **Paul and Carmen Wests Eden of Lights -** 347 Chevallum Road, Chevallum **(visitor numbers NA)**

Note – The general numbers of visitors were up a little on average from last year, due to a fine weekend, over the years average number visitors have been around the 500 prior to COVID, since COVID average numbers about 400/450? Some of our garden sitters commented that younger visitors (25 to 40 age group with children) seemed to be lower now – Just a cost-of-living thing, or hot/wet weather? Ticket cost increased after COVID from $15 to $20 (first increase in 7 years), a factor?

TICKET SALES

The BGC arranged preselling of tickets from OPO, Manawee Garden Centre, Buderim News and Buderim Community Bank prior to the Festival, as per previous years, these sales were down (mainly due to cash sales only).
But the most successful venture was the selling of tickets on line this year, and proved very popular with customers, purchasing 150 tickets.
Also, pre-sales for visiting bus trips were up with two large buses visiting from Albany Creek Garden Club Inc. and Ormeau and District Garden Club, and mini bus from Maryborough Garden Club Inc, total 91 tickets.

Total takings –

Pre-sales and tickets sold @ Hall, Open Gardens @ festival - $5.000
On-Line sales - $4,140.
Hall entry - $349, remembering that people who purchased full ticket also had entry into hall.

CATERING

This year the Craft Cottage again did catering of Coffee/Cakes/Sandwiches and Lions Club of Buderim did a sausage sizzle Friday, Sat. & Sunday. The Craft Cottage & Lions both did a wonderful job catering for us and the public at the festival. Catering by a few of our fulltime helpers, Carol, Jenni, Kathy, Steve, Mike, Liz and Co also provided for workers with food available in the Hall Kitchen.
Again, the BGC provided breakfast on the Friday morning for all workers that helped with Hall set-up.

RAFFLE

This year we had a total of 20 raffle prizes to the value of over $4,000, due to the great support by mainly Buderim and other Sunshine Coast businesses. And especially major prize of two nights stay **@ INTERCONTINENTAL Brisbane for two ($1500 value) thanks to Liz.** And Mitre 10 Kunda Park and Gregory Ward Team, Whites Real Estate Buderim who sponsored the 2 major raffle prizes, and **1 X Family Day Pass to LONE PINE KOLALA SANCTUARY-(2A & 3C, Value $250), thanks to Cammy and Chris,** and thanks to BGC members in assisting to obtain the great prizes, special mention to Marion Upston who obtained many prizes from the Forest Glen Area

This raffle was an outstanding success, **raising $4,118.**

Extra special thanks to Liz Ritchie our raffle convenor, and all the ticket sellers, prior to and at the festival. This year presales raffle tickets @ Manawee Buderim were very successful. Many thanks to Manawee for allowing the BGC to sell tickets at the Nursery.

Stall Holders & BGC Plant Stall

The lawn 'Green' area between the Hall and the Craft Cottage housed 15 stalls, with one stall on the veranda. 2 stalls cancelled at the last minute due to family illnesses?
BGC was very pleased with the location of stalls and the quality of the different stalls and the general flow of people traffic. Most stall holders were pleased with their location and sales, (the Club receives 10% of the takings, **totalling $1,448**).

Our Club plant stall did well, and we thank all members who donated plants, the number of plant donations were down from last year, mainly due to the hot pre festival weather. The standard and quality of donated plants from our members was very high this year.

We raised $2,600 on plant sales and this surely due to Vonnie, our new plant stall convenor because Mike had to step up to convene the Photography this year.
To Vonnie and her team, many thanks, and thanks to the members who set up the marquee and stands on the Friday.

IN CONCLUSION
I would like to thank all members of the Club who volunteered their time by sitting on gardens, working on the plant stall, selling raffle tickets, organising buses and Open Garden/Hall Tickets sellers, helped to set up for the flower/floral/photographic shows, and take them down again.
I would like to thank the Convenors all of whom did a great job in their area of responsibility and who made my task much easier.

I would like to thank everyone on the committee for the role they played in making this Festival the success it was, especially treasurer Carol Marks who had lots of money & finances to deal with.
I must thank Kathy my wife for great cleaning of hall toilets during the festival, and helping with plant stall and raffles, and for putting up with me during the time I spent on the festival organization.

John Lyon
President & Festival Organiser