

NEWSLETTER (February 2024)



Elected AGM	1 1 March 2 0 2 3
Office Bearers 2 0 2 4:	
President:	Sandra Logue 0411 066 787
Vice President:	Ashley Haag
Vice President:	(2 positions to fill)
Treasurer:	Patrick Smith
Secretary:	Helen Farley
Committee:	Lenora Neuendorff, Helen Murray, Tina Holland
Assistant and Points Secretary:	Helen Murray (Temporary) (Position Vacant)
Stewards:	Ashley Haag Patrick Smith
Librarian:	Anita Dwyer
Raffle Convenor:	Patrick Smith
Afternoon Tea Convenor:	Veronika King

Welcome to the February 2024 Newsletter

Dates for your Diary:

09.03.2024	IHSI – Next Meeting & AGM
16 – 17 March	Dahlia Show at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium
6 – 7 April	Ipswich Orchid Society Autumn Show Silkstone State School
6 – 7 April	QCGC Plant & Floral Spectacular (Auditorium Mt Coot-tha)
04.05.2024	IHSI Autumn Show & Market Day
15 June 2024	Esk Garden Fair
6 – 8 September	Laidley Spring Festival
12 October 2024	Marburg Garden & Outdoor Expo
18 – 20 October	Buderim Garden Festival

welcome

1. We welcomed Rob Wison (MM) to our first meeting for 2024 as an Honorary Member. Rob will be our guest speaker in September this year (Sub-Tropical & Rainforest Plants).

2. **Lucky Door/Raffle Winners for February 2024**

Lucky Door: Veronika King

Raffle: Barbara Cush; Margaret Kennedy

Congratulations to these members.

Lucky Door Roster

Helen Farley to bring the Lucky Door prize for March. The following month we have Michelle Brewer and thereafter the list is empty. If you would like to volunteer a month to bring lucky door, please let me know. We'd like volunteers for June, July, August, September and November. Hopefully I'll remember to bring the roster to the next meeting.

3. The Winners for our February Show Bench were:

Best Miscellaneous Flower: **Brian & Lyn (Foxglove)**

Best Cut Flower: **Brian & Lyn (Dahlia)**

Best Exhibit of Show: **Glenda (Orchid).**



COMMENTS

Helen Murray was our Judge – Helen told the group that no stakes were allowed for support and plants therefore they must be planted deep enough in the pot to support themselves/hold themselves upright. Also exhibits must be properly supported in an appropriate bottle of water and supported to make them suitable for the benches.

Helen (M) helpfully has prepared an updated “Benching Hints” document that was passed around to members at the meeting. If you couldn't make the meeting, or don't have one, let me know and I'll bring one along to next meeting for you.

Floral Art for March will be:

- Vase of Flowers
- Driftwood & Flowers
- As you like it
- Design depicting St Patrick's Day

4. Our Judge for the March meeting will be Ann Baster.

5. Our Guest speaker will be Bronwyn Holm – Founder of Earth Food (product available for sale)

6. **Report on Ashley's Progress**

Sandra reported she had spoken to Ashley who is making steady progress and that he sounded quite bright. We all continue to wish Ashley well and hope to see him return as soon as possible. Our Fruit and Vegetable show table was sorely lacking Ashley's entries.

7. To our other members who were not able to attend due to being unwell, we wish you a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you back with us soon.
8. **Annual General Meeting** – This will be held at the beginning of the next meeting (9 March). Jim Madden will Chair the AGM. If you were not at the last meeting and would like a nomination form to fill in or you'd like to nominate for a position – please let me know, I will email you one, or I can fill it in for you and bring it along. All positions to be declared vacant. Unavoidably, our President can't make the AGM – although she's happy to renominate for President. Therefore, the honours are up to me. Membership fees are due – eftpos or cash to the Treasurer please (\$15.00). Reminder, you have to be financial to vote at the AGM.
9. **Autumn Show & Market Day – 4 May 2024**

4 May – set up the afternoon before in the Hall. Our Judges to be Meryl Windsor and Amanda Mead. Members to start potting to make for a successful plant market day (and all things garden) please. This year with two Judges for our Autumn and Spring Shows as well as increasing what our club pays judges/guest speakers for travel costs – we have added costs to cover, and these two events (Autumn & Spring Shows) are our main fund raisers for the year. I will begin organising the raffle in March.

10. **Guest Speaker**

Our guest speaker was Rod Nicholls (capably assisted by Kylie). Rod gave a comprehensive talk on his propagating methods and what he uses for his method. Briefly, Rod grows everything from cuttings. Rod says the main reason plants die is OVERWATERING. Rod finds gerberas grow better in pots – better drainage - (pots can be moved out of too much rain). He grows his doubles from seed. He feeds with blood & bone and potash (liquid) for flowering. When the pot is quite “full” of lots of crowns – it's time to break up the plant to make more gerberas. Rod recommends spraying with Mancozeb Plus but to spray under the leaves as well as the tops of the leaves. Rod himself, in a bad infestation uses a systemic bug killer which is not available from the big green warehouse but places such as Farmcraft. He gave us some helpful tips on preparing plants for shows/ judging with a few little tricks that the Judges may not notice. Rod likes to strike his rose cuttings in sharp sand (also known as grit and river sand) with hormone powder (and he prefers power over gel). Rod showed us an example of how he takes multiple cuttings from a cordyline. Very informative and interesting speaker. Rod had plants to sell as well. Thank you so much for taking the time to travel down and speak with us Rod and Kylie.



11. **Show Bench Schedule**

President mentioned to keep up with the changing times and trends it had become popular for people to grown plants in Leca (marble sized clay balls) in water and/or plants in water. There is no class for these in our schedule. Further discussions needed to include these and perhaps other plants that don't quite have a category into our show schedule.

12. **Pots**

A large number of pots have been donated to our Club.



all brand new – 100 ml pots and 140 ml pots. As we need to increase revenue this year to cover increased costs, it has been decided to offer them to members in exchange for a donation to the Club. There were well in excess of 400 of the larger size and 640 of the smaller size. Some pots were at the meeting last week. To members of the IHSI - the pots are to be sold at a very cheap price of small pots – 10 pots for \$1.00 donation to our Club, the larger size, 3 pots for \$1.00 donation to our Club. A large number of the pots have already been claimed by a member for a donation to our Club – that leaves us with about 100 of the larger pots and about 140 of the smaller pots, give or take. If you want some of the pots, or more of the pots – please let me know, you can collect from my place or I can bring them to the meeting for you – as I said a very generous donation from a lovely young lady who was moving house and they had belonged to her father. If there are pots remaining at the time of our Autumn Show/Market Day, they will be bundled up for sale but won't be sold as cheaply. There's a little photo of the pots below.

13. Happy Birthday Wishes – To members having a birthday in February - your birth flowers are Violet Iris and Primrose and in March your birth flowers are Daffodil and Jonquil.
14. Newsletter - If you have anything of interest you'd like to share with members, or an event is happening you'd like to share, please let me know.
15. I didn't know:



I read interestingly in the latest Organic Gardener Mag that not only is the watermelon fruit edible but so is the “rind”. I've never seen a recipe using watermelon rind. Also, our daylilies are a versatile edible – they can be stuffed and battered like zucchini flowers or tossed through salad (remove the stamens) and when dormant the tubers can be harvested like a potato. Apparently the young shoots are delicious steamed or blanched! I'd rather enjoy them in the garden (many lilies are toxic so need to be correctly identified).

And let's all hope we have seen the back end of the horrendous heat and humidity this summer. It's been difficult to cope with.

Happy Gardening (& Potting).

Helen.





The winning entries.