

2009 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Well summer has certainly arrived with the heat in Queensland and very little rain. Comes up looking like a storm every day but nothing much happens. We had 40 inches of rain up to the end of June and almost nothing since. However, the flowering trees have been putting on a great show – Jacarandas last month, Poincianas and Frangipanis now. On a trip to Brisbane a couple of weeks ago each garden in the old suburbs is flouting a beautiful Frangipani hanging over the front fence. It was mandatory in Brisbane once to have a Frangipani, Mango and Lemon Tree. We had a guest speaker at Nambour Garden Club Inc. on Frangipani this month and it seems that they are coming back into fashion – quite expensive too. Such a great range of colours to choose from and the fragrance is beautiful. My friend, Ida, in Wollongong grows Frangipanis successfully, no frost.

The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. is celebrating its 60th Birthday in April in Sydney. It is hoped that representatives from Zones will attend. Details will be out soon. Our “Sunshine Coast” Zone is hosting a “Friendship Day” at Caboolture on the 13th April to be attended by President, Jeanette, and some members of the Committee. Our Guest Speaker will be John Shadforth who will talk about “Encouragement” which we all need sometimes with our lives and our clubs, also our gardens. I have been thinking about this subject and before an Annual General Meeting we encourage folk to stand for election to the Management Committee and it seems that the minute they are elected we are telling them that you can’t do this and that. Maybe they can, just by handling it differently from their predecessor, have a different personality and ask for more help. So please remember this when a new Committee is setting out to run the Club. They may need your help but not to be discouraged from trying new activities or methods.

I have received a great Christmas present already; my friend of almost 50 years has been suffering from Parkinson’s for some years. She had brain surgery and electrodes inserted on the 25th November and is home, speaking well, no walking aid, no tablets for the condition and is a new woman. She has to keep pinching herself to see if it is for real and enjoying her cups of tea etc. without shaking and spilling the contents and is not afraid of falling over and freezing during outings and in the home. How great is that? Never give up hope.

Our new Computer System is working well under the guidance of Dennis Parker, our Web Master. If you go on line just see all the contents and the additions. All forms are now featured and can be studied. Hope you have your club numbers in for the Insurance so that there will be no delays. You may be able to do this online in the coming years, but not this year. New members have been welcomed onto our Committee, even one from Queensland. Please do not hesitate to contact me; I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope that you and yours have a great Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year with your friends and family, pets too of course.

GLENYS BRUUN – Director of Zones – The Garden Clubs of Aust. Inc. 07 5441 2692 em. gbruun@bigpond.net.au

