



SNIPPETS

Winter 2012

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The Maleny Garden Club extends a warm invitation to all members and visitors to attend the monthly general meetings held on the last Tuesday of each month, as per program for the year.

From the GOE Convener

We should be very happy with the number of people who attended with weather conditions which could only be described as less than average. Never the less they came in numbers and from all accounts enjoyed themselves, telling us that our hospitality, food, which was so well provided by the Maleny Hospital Auxiliary and the Country Women's Assoc. and not least our gardens, made for a wonderful visit to Maleny.

It seems that our Gardening on the Edge event is not so much about perfect gardens but more about, the atmosphere that comes from visiting a small town and meeting the people who live here and sharing for a day, something very pleasurable. The comments that came from people who enjoyed visiting a home by a lake, showcasing fine works of art by very talented people, or a massive undertaking by someone with a vision on a grand scale or a cottage garden with wonderful treasures to be found, a bower bird lair, or the handing out of poetry by homeowners. Someone's passion to build perfect hedges behind rows of beautiful roses, It's not all about gardening, but sharing your garden with someone who may find some pleasure in what you are trying to achieve, whatever the weather. Of course this does not happen without the help of a devoted group of people.

The quality of the plant stall this year, both in variety and plants with good growth, shows that a lot of care was taken in preparation. The produce stall also reflected the ability of our members to come forward and prepare jams, cakes and biscuits that were snapped up by the visitors. The most noticeable change in the hall this year, was the beautiful arrangements, placed to make a statement by Merrill and Norma. All exhibitors who were invited, attended, and are asking to be included for next year, so this tells us that they had a successful two days.

This is now an event on the calender in South East Queensland, and it is because of the effort that you as a Club have worked hard to produce.

It does not go without notice that the setup and cleanup at the end is done quickly and efficiently, when everyone is a little tired. It was mentioned that assistance from our

Club, and the friendship shown is all part of what makes them want to attend next year.

In closing, it will be, without doubt, a topic of discussion, that because of the weather conditions, we should consider another month to hold this event. If we do change, we would not have a breathtaking display of camellias in the hall. With fine weather and after the number of phone calls taken this year, asking about the event, we would have a crowd like no other.

It is not the intention to make this event bigger than Ben Hur, but produce something that we did this year, and in the past a feel good outing, with people going home saying that they will come again.

Thankyou very much for your enthusiastic assistance.

Marnie Trass

Le Langage des Fleurs

Most flowers have their own personal meaning. Widely used in Victorian times, the language of flowers became popular in France at the "Belle Epoque". Two individuals are credited with introducing the language of flowers to Europe: Seigneur Aubry de la Mottraye and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, in the XVIIIth century.

The language of flowers is based on a combination of folklore, literature (Shakespeare), mythology, ancient symbolic associations from Chinese, Japanese, Middle Eastern, religion, the Turkish language of flowers and objects as well as the physical characteristics of the plant.

Sunflowers: Adoration, haughtines, devotion. All this because it follows the sun!

Roses: Love, passion, perfection.. Associated with the fifteenth wedding anniversary. It is also known as the birth flower of June.

Carnation: Fascination, distinction, divine love, woman, yes. Also the birth flower for January.

Fleur-de-lys: Flame. Associated with the French monarchy but also found on many other European coats of arms.

Poppies: Eternal sleep, oblivion, imagination.

Associated with ninth wedding anniversary.

Orange blossoms: Purity, innocence, eternal love, marriage, and fruitfulness, fertility, pure loveliness, chastity.

Lavender: Devotion, ardent attachment, happiness, success, luck, distrust.

Daisy: Innocence, loyal love, I'll never tell, purity, love that conquers all, beauty, simplicity.

Associated with the 5th wedding anniversary.

Mimosa: Sensitivity

Edelweiss: Daring & Noble Courage

Sorry if your favourite flower is not on the list, more info on the meaning of flowers in this website:

<http://www.iflorist.com/t-aning.aspx>

Unknown contributor

Taiwan Garden Club Trip.

Just a bit of a summary of Taiwan first. 36,000 square kilometres, 23 million population, Capital Taipei, language Mandarin/Taiwanese/Hakka, 2 hours behind Australia, AUD\$1 = NTD\$30. It was wet and quite cool the whole trip except for the last couple of days. People were very gentle, respectful and helpful. How to tell you about our trip in a few words.

We were a wee bit early for the blossoms but saw many lovely gardens, they are not as fussy as us about weeds, edging and lawns but never the less have some wonderful displays and terrific trees. If Sheila couldn't track me down she knew I would be out somewhere photographing the trees. Their religion is interesting with everyone having strong beliefs. We visited lots of temples/shrines and pagodas. We went to an Orchid Expo which was breath taking, the displays were amazing and a huge variety of different orchids. The guide told us about 50,000 people were expected that day so was a bit of a crush but people quite considerate of us mad photographers. We visited the National Palace Museum with 5000 years of Chinese Imperial Arts and Jade Collections, amazing. Also the National Museum of Prehistory, they had excavated a burial site with slate coffins and remains and artifacts etc. The Aboriginal people are fiercely protective of their culture. The West Coast is heavily populated and quite industrial in amongst the paddy fields of rice and vegetables compared the East Coast which is more rural and agricultural and appeared more prosperous. The high light for me though was the Taroka Gorge which a river had created by eroding mountains of solid marble, sheer cliffs and huge boulders of marble, an incredible experience to see. A hair raising ride in the bus through the mountains and along the coast, I happily sat in the aisle seat. Traffic in the Taipei was mostly motor bikes or scooters, just thousands of them. Very clean as the rubbish is collected every day. Not being much of a shopper I didn't indulge but many of the group bought lots

of 'bargains' as the prices were so reasonable. All our hotels were very plush with huge rooms, food was the whole spectrum of great to ok. We travelled on the high speed train to Kaohsiung, 293kms per hour, rode the elevator in the 101 building in Taipei 37 seconds from the 5th to 89th floor, 1010 meters a minute, 2nd tallest building in the world.

So we had a wonderful varied experience which this really hasn't done justice to but will give you some idea of the great time we had, Nancy is to be congratulated for her wonderful organising, tolerance and incredible patience, we are so lucky to have her in our club.

Unknown contributor.



For Cut Flowers to Last Longer.

Flower	Preparation	Add to Vase
Azaleas	Place stems in boiling water 2-3mins	Cold water only
Begonias	Pick and arrange	1tbsp salt to 1.2lt water
Fern (maidenhair)	Never pick until seed pods on back of leaves are brown. Sear ends over flame and submerge in cold water 12hrs	Cold water only
Iris	Pick when just opening. Cut above white stem base under water. Dip in boiling water 1min, place in deep water	3 drops peppermint to 1.2lt water
Lillies	Cut stems on slant to prevent curling	½ cup vinegar to 2.4lt water
Leaves (Magnolia, Beech etc)	Submerge overnight and leaves will be firm and stronger. Condy's crystals in water will brighten colour	Preserve in 1 part glycerine to 2 parts water for 3 weeks.
Dahlias	Place stems in 5-8cms boiling water 1min, then immediately into cold water. When in vase change water daily	5tbsp medical alcohol to 1ltre water

Cucumbers.

What a little gem the Cucumber is. I will look at it differently now!.

1. Cucumbers contain most of the vitamins you need Every day, just one cucumber contains Vitamin

B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Folic Acid, Vitamin C, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium and Zinc.

2. Feeling tired in the afternoon,
Put down the caffeinated soda and pick up a Cucumber. Cucumbers are a good source of B Vitamins and Carbohydrates that can provide that Quick pick-me-up that can last for Hours.

3. Tired of your bathroom mirror
Fogging up after a shower? Try rubbing a Cucumber slice along the mirror, it will Eliminate the fog and provide a soothing, Spa-like fragrance.

4. Are grubs and Slugs ruining your planting beds? Place a few Slices in a small pie tin and your garden will Be free of pests all season long. The chemicals In the cucumber react with the aluminium to give Off a scent undetectable to humans but drive Garden pests crazy and make them flee the area.

5. Want to avoid a hangover or a terrible headache?
Eat a few cucumber slices before going to bed and wake up refreshed and headache free.
Cucumbers contain enough sugar, B vitamins and electrolytes to replenish essential nutrients the body lost, keeping everything in equilibrium, avoiding both a hangover and headache!!

Contributed by Anne Siemon

Vegetables – a Different Way

Most of us would have tried growing a tomato plant from seeds of a particularly delicious tomato. Perhaps you may like to experiment further along these lines. Apart from tomatoes, chillis and cucumbers are easily grown from seeds collected and planted in pots or the vegie garden.

Try looking though the kitchen cupboards or the supermarket shelves for interesting dried beans such as borlotti or chick peas to try in the vegie patch. You may be surprised at how well these grow and being legumes, if they aren't a success you can always say "Well, of course I'm just growing them as a green manure crop". Chick peas grow easily but are tedious to pod, however there is great satisfaction in making hummus from your very own chick peas, or minestrone soup using your borlotti beans.

A piece of sweet potato from the supermarket or greengrocer will produce a huge crop if you allow it plenty of room and have no bandicoots. Similarly, buy pieces of fresh ginger and turmeric root and plant for year round fresh ingredients for stir fries or curries.

Coriander seeds from the supermarket will grow easily and provide you with a continuous supply when you let

those plants go to seed, although this summer the coriander plants failed to grow with all the rain and lack of sun.

Finally, when we moved here I thought, we're near Kingaroy so maybe peanuts will grow. I bought a handful of raw peanuts from the supermarket and for two years had really successful crops until the bandicoots got the taste for them. Even so, a few peanut plants still magically appear in the vegetable patch each year and I live in hope of once again eating my own home grown freshly roasted peanuts.

Look around, use your imagination, and you will be surprised at just what foods you can grow at home.

Pam Linnett

Edible Ginger (zingiber officinate)

As winter is ginger harvest time now is a very good time to find a piece of ginger in the greengrocers or from a friends garden, which can be stored until early spring, when you will grow it.

The situation should be open to light shade with space to spread. Place root section horizontally about 4cm deep. Regular watering is necessary. Harvest after flowering the following autumn to winter but leave a few pieces for the next year crop.

Once ginger marketed in Australia was sugar coated, ground for use in ginger cakes or bread and ginger beer. Now the media cooks are demonstrating how to use it minced, sliced and ground for savoury food. A piece of unpeeled washed ginger added to tea is most refreshing and can make you feel warm.

Capsules or fresh ginger is a great health benefit for the properties which lowers cholesterol, helps relieve headache, sinus, morning and motion sickness. It has been used in India to treat arthritis with half to one teaspoon per day. Large doses should not be consumed by people with diabetes, heart problems or bleeding

Pat Powell

Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington

Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, KG, GCB, PC, FRS (1 May 1769 – 14 Sept 1852) was a British soldier and statesman, a native of Ireland from the Anglo-Irish Ascendancy and one of the leading military and political figures of the 19th century.

Wellesley was commissioned as an ensign in the British Army in 1787. Serving in Ireland as aide-de-camp to two successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland, he was also elected as a Member of Parliament in the Irish House of Commons. A colonel by 1796, Wellesley saw action in the Netherlands and later in India where he fought in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War at the Battle of Seringapatam. He was appointed governor of Seringapatam and Mysore in 1799 and as newly

appointed major-general won a decisive victory over the Maratha Confederacy at the Battle of Assaye in 1803,

Wellesley rose to prominence as a general during the Peninsular campaign of the Napoleonic Wars and was promoted to the rank of field marshal after leading the allied forces to victory against the French at the Battle of Vitoria in 1813. Following Napoleon's exile in 1814, he served as the ambassador to France and was granted a dukedom. During the Hundred Days in 1815, he commanded the allied army which together with the Prussian army under Blucher, defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. Wellesley's battle record is exemplary, ultimately participating in some 60 battles throughout his military career.

He was twice prime minister under the Tory party and oversaw the passage of the Catholic Relief Act 1829. He was prime minister from 1828-30 and served briefly in 1934. He was unable to prevent the passage of the Reform Act 1832 and continued as one of the leading figures in the House of Lords until his retirement. He remained Commander-in-Chief of the British Army until his death.

Contributed by Kath Marshall

Saying of the Month;

Sometimes we stare too long at a door that is closing that we see to late the one that is opening.

Alexander Graham Bell

Travelogue

It was with great excitement that we boarded the Pacific Dawn for an 11 night cruise to New Caledonia and Vanuatu early last month. We took our 3 grandchildren and our daughter and son-in-law to make a party of 7. Having experienced a short cruise 2 yrs previously we were all waiting enthusiastically for this one. I have to say that the experience proved quite addictive. We compensated for the regular and plentiful food consumed by attending the Gym each day as well as using the stairs and not the lift. As a result we completed the holiday not having put on any extra kilos.

On the second day who should we come across but Harvey and Bette Weston. They were as surprised to see us as we were to see them. It goes to prove that no matter where you go there will always be someone who will see what you are up to.

While the seas were choppy and weather unpredictable on the way to Noumea, the weather improved as we travelled to various ports in Vanuatu. Temps were around 32° and at long last we were warm.

It was interesting to compare the living stands of the people in Vanutau and those of us onboard. The native

people especially the children were curious, polite, shy, unsophisticated and poor by our standards while their income seems to come from the sale of fresh produce such as bananas, coconuts, yams, avocados, passion fruit, fish, seafood and chicken at the local markets as well as a plentiful supply of other fresh fruit and vegetables with which I was unfamiliar. The enormous size of their fruit and vegetables fascinated me. Unemployment appears to be high so tourism, I imagine is a vital means of support for their meager economy.

Champagne Bay was voted by many as the highlight of their visit. The weather was fine, hot and the sea temperature around 23-24°C. The water was very clear and most inviting.

Cruising is certainly a nice way to travel as it caters for most tastes, we can't wait to go again.

Margaret Owens

Health Matters

Anger can hamper memory by triggering high levels of the stress hormone cortisol.

- Angry people are at greater risk of heart disease due to adrenaline that can spike blood pressure.
- Being in constant 'fight or flight' mode can depress the immune system.
- Repressed anger can cause bruxism (teeth grinding) in sleep that can lead to jaw problems.
- Anger can spark ocular migraines (painless, short-lived migraines). They may result in constricted blood vessels in the brain causing visual disturbances, flashing lights or wiggly lines.

Women's Day

Editor's Comments;

Special thanks for those who have contributed to this Autumn Snippets. They are; Pam Linnett, Marnie Trass, Pat Powell, Kath Marshall, Anne Siemon. Apologies to those who contributed but their names were misplaced or lost.

Please don't forget to write a contribution for your Snippets if you visit a garden, travel overseas or go on a bus trips. It doesn't have to be a lengthy article, 100-250 words is long enough. I would love to hear from you. Remember this is your Snippets, so without your contributions this quarterly newsletter wouldn't happen.

The Club's Objectives are:

- To further knowledge and enjoyment of horticulture.
- To raise awareness in the club and community of local environment and to encourage planting of local indigenous species.
- To enjoy social interaction between members of this and similar clubs.

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Disclaimer

Articles contributed to this newsletter are published as a service to members and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the club.

