



# SNIPPETS

Spring 2013

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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 President

This will be my final message to you as President as I will be standing down at this year's Annual General Meeting after two hectic years. I have to say I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the helm and I feel we have made some progress as a Club in several ways but the most important factor for me which makes this club special is the friendship and comradery of a group of people of like mind with the garden as their objective. It has been my pleasure to get to know long standing Club members better, as well as welcoming many new members during this time.

I wrote at the beginning of the year that we had a lot to look forward to in 2013 and I'm sure you will agree that we haven't been disappointed. We have had some excellent speakers at our monthly meetings thanks to Harvey, covering a whole range of garden related topics. Garden Club trips have been well supported and, as well as the great trip to Tasmania in April, we have been out and about visiting some beautiful gardens during the year. I am particularly looking forward to our visit to Toowoomba later this month for their Carnival of Flowers. Thank you Nancy.

The Annual General Meeting is an opportunity to refresh and rejuvenate the Club with new thoughts and ideas and I would urge you all to consider seeking nomination to serve on the Executive Committee, as the more Committee members the better. I particularly bear in mind the fact that the majority of members of the Club are retirees and in their previous lives many of them held highly responsible positions and some of their expertise would be welcome at the executive level. There would be no need to do a job just the involvement would be enough.

**John Long**

## Quiz Questions

1. In which year was the book 'A Christmas Carol' printed?
2. What three colours epitomise Provencale style
3. In the 1920's which plant was used to change the colour of hair?

## Rose Fertiliser



*John Dale's recipe for rose fertilizer*

- 8 parts of blood and bone
- 4 parts of sulphate of potash
- 2 parts of super phosphate
- 1 part of epsom salts

*From RHSQ August edition*



## Our Resident Bowerbirds

Some people think the bower is used for nesting but it is for the courting display and copulation only. Following this the female departs to construct a nest, incubate and raise the brood all alone while the promiscuous male quite oblivious to domestic chores, remains totally absorbed in his bower to keep it in tip top condition to attract another female.

Australia has ten species of Bowerbirds, including two species of Catbird which do not build a bower. Apart from the Western Bowerbird, Queensland has the full quota of bowerbirds present in different parts of the state. The Satin Bowerbird's territory has the greatest range extending as far south as Victoria.

In the Sunshine Coast region we have two resident species - the Regent and Satin

Bowerbirds which without a doubt are the most colourful of the bowerbirds. The two males build similar bowers with the Regent's being smaller. The bower which is built on the ground consists of an avenue of fine upright twigs stabilised by the bird's saliva which acts like a glue. Both bowers have decorations placed usually in front of the bower with objects like flowers, berries, land snails shells and cicada cases. Ofcourse the Satin likes to include as many blue objects as he can find which often includes man-made objects like pegs, plastics, broken china etc. These are carefully arranged to impress the females.

Satin Bowerbirds were very common in the 1950's and 1960's and although their populations have declined they still seem to be in good numbers in the elevated forests of the Blackall and Conondale ranges.

*Sunshine Coast Council Bush hands Winter 2013*

#### Herb File for Pets and Pest

Most gardens are unfenced allowing unruly dogs easy entry, with a high possibility of damage to our precious plants. By cultivating the very attractive, low growing Dogbane in sunny positions you will repel unwanted dogs and cats. A hardy winter flowering perennial, from the mint family with rosette type grey green foliage and lavender, lavender like flowers which stand above the low growing foliage. This plant is a welcome addition to any garden.

Penny royal grown on paths or between blocks when walked on releases a pleasant aroma.

Place a few sprigs of penny royal in your pets bed to repel flees.

Catnip a perennial grey green bush to 1 meter can be a joy to some cats.

Not all cats give catnip their attention. Cats may love it but mosquitoes and cockroaches are repelled by this plant.

A good reason to grow it in a tub near your outdoor living area.

*Pat Powell*

#### Thoughts on a Tasmanian Experience

Autumn leaves, red, yellow and gold,  
Beautiful gardens, big and small,  
Historic houses, a view in the past,  
Twisting roads and country lanes,  
Misty mountains and rolling valleys,  
Roaring rivers and convict ruins

Panoramic views, old buildings,

Aerial rides, rambling walks,  
Tall timbers, rain forests,  
Tunnels underground,  
Towns of murals,  
Roses and topiary.

Salmon ponds, albino salmon,  
Old convict bridge, miniature Hobart town,  
Inverawe Gardens, sculptures, paper daisies,  
Cradle Mountain swaddled in fog, Hell's Gates,  
Roaring Forties

Japanese gardens, colourful beauty, Hobart,  
Emu Valley

Greg Duncan's Wall, huon pine carvings,  
Mt Wellington, howling gale, wind blowing us  
sideways,

Allendale Gardens, peacocks, silkies, little dogs,  
exquisite gardens,

Underground mine, hurtling monsters, dark  
foreboding tunnels,

Rosedown Cottage Gardens, a thousand roses,  
Stunning Wychwood, ornamental grape vines  
sublime,

Wind farm at Woolworth, breaths of pure air,  
Stanley, the Nut, beautiful scenery.

How wonderful to experience  
This little isle of ours,  
The slow pace of life,  
The taste of produce,  
The wind on our faces,  
The rocky crags and raging rivers,  
The tranquility of the forests.

New friends and old,  
Interesting folk with tales to tell,  
Local crafts and craftsmen,  
Sunrises and sunsets,  
The beauty everywhere,  
What a treasure it is to share,  
This Tasmania of pure joy.

*Helen Muir April 2013*

#### HINT

To kill ticks use Listerine. It will kill them and disinfect the wound.

#### From South to North

Most of us Grey Nomads from the Gardening Club love to travel! As a gardener who is passionate about colour and beauty, I enjoy discovering more of God's beautiful creation. Recently, Harvey and I set out with our best friends from Buderim, for a nine day holiday starting in stately Adelaide and ending in vibrant Darwin.

#### Kangaroo Island

We spent our first day on a 10-day bus and ferry trip (6.30am - 10.30pm) to Australia's third largest island, Kangaroo Island, which is one of the world's great pristine nature-based destinations. We were greeted by gentle-eyed

sea-lions basking on unspoiled white beaches, koalas dozing in tall eucalypts, playful fur seals clambering over slippery, steep rocks in the grandeur of Admirals Arch, a gourmet meal at stunning Vivonne Bay (voted by some as "Australia's Best Beach"), and across this wildly gorgeous island we were almost blown away by cold Antarctic winds. It was a memorable day!

#### **The Ghan**

After two days exploring the gracious but very dry city of Adelaide, we excitedly boarded the historic Ghan for a three day journey into the heart and soul of Australia. While travelling through barren, isolated landscapes we savoured the train's comfort, style, excellent dining experiences and the joy of making new friends. At the famous "Alice" we visited lots of iconic sites such as the Royal Flying Doctor's Base, the Reptile Centre, the Alice Springs Telegraph Centre and took stunning photos of the Alice atop ANZAC Hill. At Katherine we cruised down the Katherine River inspired with rugged landscapes, dramatic waterfalls and lush gorges, followed by a delicious luncheon of modern bush tucker with a glass of champagne - all served by the local indigenous people.

#### **Darwin**

We loved our time in clean, colourful, friendly, laid-back Darwin with its elegant buildings, bustling markets, magnificent harbour, historic museums, tropical parks and gardens and, of course, its heat (36degrees each day).

#### **Home**

We so love our holidays, but how special it is, to come home to Maleny's vivid green rolling hills dotted with contented cattle and feel the earthy sense of belonging as you wander around your own garden!

*Bette Weston*

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#### **Re Snippets Winter 2013**

and Col Campbell's wonderful article on black spot (31/03/2007).

Could I most humbly add a little to Col's article? All of the advice is ofcourse 'spot' on but my small contribution is to grow the varieties of roses more suited to our sub tropical climate.

The old fashioned or heritage rose families offer us plants that are more resistant to fungal attack for our area. There are many roses in these families including the Tea Roses, China Roses, Musk Roses, Noisette Roses and the Polyanthas. I know many of you grow the Montville Rose (Duchess de Brabant) which is a Tea Rose. I am positive you all will agree it is a fabulous rose and one that I encourage all gardeners to grow to avoid the need to spray for Black Spot.

For more information on these roses I can be contacted at "Rosevale Homestead", 922 Mt Samson Rd.

Samsonvale Q'ld. Ph; 3289 9250. or at 'Gardening on the Edge' 2014 in the hall.

*Submitted by Leonie Kearney*

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### **Tips for Growing Vegetables**

*As many Maleny Garden Club members would know, we grow most of our own vegetables chez Linnett. Most of us have large gardens but in so many cases vegetables seem to be relegated to a small corner, instead of taking pride of place. Here in Maleny it is so easy to get vegetables going and I would like to suggest a few of the more successful ones I have been growing over the years.*

**Lettuces.** *Cut and come again varieties are a doddle. Just scatter some seeds around and water in. Let some of the plants go to seed and you will have lettuces forever more. They won't be in tidy rows, but let them grow where they want to and they will be happy.*

**Tomatoes.** *Smaller types have been more successful for us, they have relatively thicker skins and being smaller, take less time to colour, so are less likely to be attacked before you want to pick them. I cover tomatoes with small bags I make from pieces of vege net (from Green Harvest).*

**Spring onions.** *Buy seedlings as you get about 100 plants to a punnet. They grow quickly and are ideal for salads, stir fries, soups etc. I grow successive crops of spring onions.*

**Beans.** *Everyone knows that I'm a great fan of Purple King climbing beans. They crop heavily, grow quickly and don't get as tough as other beans when they get a little older. The leaves can get a nasty fungus, but spraying with sulphur spray helps and Uncle Google assures me that the soil is not affected by the fungus.*

**Silverbeet.** *Plant a few seeds and you'll have silverbeet for months. Another great crop where you pick just the leaves you want for dinner and the plant responds by giving you more and more leaves over a long period of time. Seems to be relatively pest free.*

**Rocket.** *Well named. Plant a few seeds and before long you'll have plenty to add to the*

salad bowl. Leave them to go to seed and you'll have rocket forever. Also letting them flower attracts lots of pollinators such as bees - both native and honey, as well as hoverflies.

**Cucumber.** Plant a few seeds or seedlings and just let them grow between everything else. They grow well here in Maleny.

**Ginger.** Buy a piece from the greengrocer, put in a corner of the vegetable garden and it will grow. I have had ginger in for years, and all I do is pick a bit when I need it. The same goes for Turmeric root.

In this article I haven't mentioned soils, fertilisers etc. As good gardeners you all know that healthy soil means healthy plants. Compost heaps and worm farms are essential to the gardener, especially for healthy, tasty vegetables. This is just a suggestion for a few of the easiest plants to have in a vegetable garden in our area.

Pam Linnett

### To Think On

I was visiting my parents with my new husband, a navy frogman when he drew me aside and said "I don't think your mother likes me. I told her that I can't wear my wedding ring when I dive as barracudas are attracted to shiny things and might bite off my finger." Your mother replied, "Well can't you wear it on a chain around your neck?"

Reader's Digest

### One for the Ladies.

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**"I'm going to order a broiled skinless chicken breast, but I want you to bring me lasagna and garlic bread by mistake."**

### Trivia.

\*American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in 1<sup>st</sup> class.

\*Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise, (since Venus is normally associated with women, what does that tell you!)

\*Apples not caffeine are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

\*Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.

\*the liquid inside young coconuts can be used in place of blood plasma.

\*You use more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

\*The first owner of the Marlboro Tobacco Company died of lung cancer, so did the first 'Marlboro Man'.

\*The three most valuable brands on earth are: Marlboro, Coca Cola and Budweiser in that order.

\*A ducks quack doesn't echo and no one knows why.

\*Pearls melt in vinegar. Anon

### Editor's Note;

Thank you all those who kindly contributed to this Spring's Snippets newsletter. They are; Pam Linnett, Pat Powell, Leonie Kearney, Helen Muir and Bette Weston.

### Quiz Question answers

- 1.1843
2. Pink, Teal and Blue
- 3.Henna.

Better Homes & Garden March 2013 & Dec 2009.

### 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.