



SNIPPETS

Summer 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.

Hello from Marnie, your new President,

I am looking forward to a very interesting and eventful New Year.

Harvey, I'm sure will have a line up of guest speakers who will keep us informed and entertained.

We are hoping to have some meetings outside of our regular venue and I look forward to letting you know where they will be.

I must thank all of our members who generously offered their gardens for Sip and Snip this year, we enjoy our wander and cuppa, it is a very social time.

I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Xmas from Arthur and myself, and in closing leave you with my Mum (Thora's) recipe for

Tomato and Onion Gravy,

Ripe Tomatoes, the more ripe the better, chopped,
Onions, chopped,

Cook over heat in a saucepan, don't add any liquid.

When they have cooked down add enough Gravox to colour and small amount of Sugar.

Yummy on sausages on the BBQ.

See you all at the Xmas Party.

Marnie

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Quick Quiz

1. What colour is the 'S' on superman's suit?
2. What are Brussels sprouts called in Belgium?
3. What is the one word anagram of the opposite description moon starrer?

See back page for answers

Thought for the Month

The only way of finding the limit of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.

Arthur C. Clark

Chelsea Flower Show 2013

A visit to Chelsea Flower Show was on our list of 'things to do' during our visit to the UK this year, especially as 2013 was the centenary year.

The show covers 11 acres in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and included more than 500 exhibitors from around the world. There were 15 Show gardens, 11 Fresh gardens, 8 Artisan gardens and, to celebrate the centenary, 4 Generation gardens. The Grand Pavilion was enormous with 150 exhibits - David Austin's roses, tunnel of various clematis, banks of fuschias, peonies – so much colour, scent and beautiful flowers to see.

Where to start? Well of course it had to be the award winning Aussie exhibit – Phil Johnson's 'Trailfinders Garden'. You could imagine yourself back in Australia with a billabong fed by waterfalls, surrounded by giant boulders (the only things sourced in the UK), tree ferns and palms. Native plants were used throughout, meadows of kangaroo paws and straw flowers, grass trees and bottle trees overlooked by a studio in the shape of a waratah. It was quite spectacular and well justified in winning a gold medal and 'Best in Show'.

Prince Harry's 'Forget-me-not Garden' was inspired by the charity Sentebale which helps vulnerable children in Lesotho, Africa. The garden showed off the mountains, round houses and intricate designs that are the country's national costume. The Japanese 'An Alcove (Tokonoma) Garden' was a delight to the senses, a water pond surrounded by rocks, moss, acers and bamboo. Many of the gardens were designed for people with disabilities, the 'See Ability Garden', 'Arthritis Garden' and 'First Touch Garden' being examples.

To mark the show's centenary a gnome amnesty was called for the first time ever. Stars such as Dame Maggie Smith were invited to decorate their own gnomes and these were auctioned off in aid of the Royal Horticultural Society's Campaign for School Gardening. A novel idea but not likely to happen again for another 100 years.

What lovely memories we have of a special day.

Babs Groves



The Blessing of Sharing

What pleasure is there greater than to go round one's garden with a fellow enthusiast and to sing that cheery Litany which runs....'Oh, wouldn't you like a bit of this?'....'And I could send you a bulb of that'. Down delves the glad trowel into a clump and it is halved--like mercy, blessing him that gives and him who takes.

R.J.Farrer, In a Yorkshire Garden 1909

Life is Like That

I used to buy haute couture clothing but what with the recession, I now wear 'off the peg'. At least I did until my neighbours started taking in their washing at night.

The cyclone in our area caused an unheard amount of rain and as a result, incalculable property damage. While most people spent the following days digging out, one man in my town - who lived at the bottom of a hill - couldn't face the task of removing the tremendous pile of mud and debris that blocked his driveway.

Ever hopeful, he placed a sign on the heap that read, 'Owners please claim your topsoil'.

Reader's Digest.

Herb File

Cat's Whiskers Java Tea. *Orthosiphon aristatus*. Grows between half to one metre.

Are you familiar with the native plant Cat's Whiskers? Attractive, easy to grow and propagate from root or stem cuttings, self seeding, quick to flower for many month in sun or semi shade. It is also a native to Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. Stems carry white whorled, double-lipped flowers with whisker like purple stamens. Hence the name.

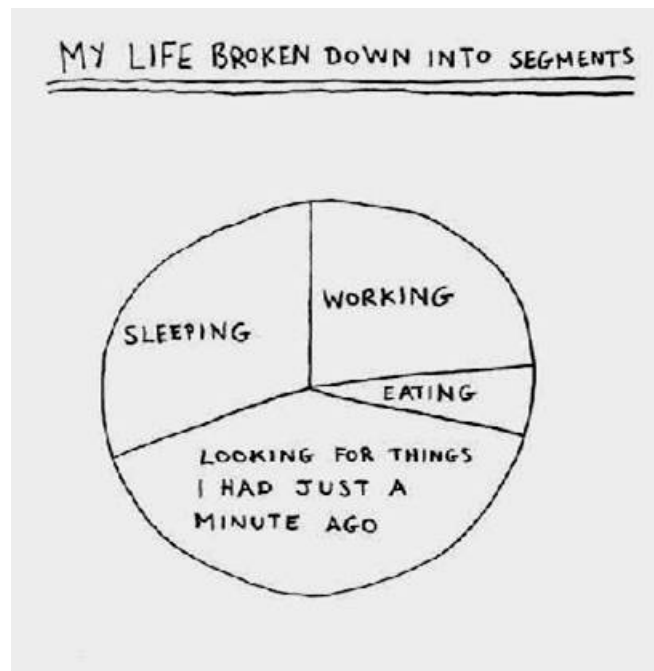
The leaves, rich in potassium, when dried and stored in a cool dry conditions retain their active ingredients for several years.

Tea made from fresh or dried leaves help relieve urinary tract diseases and urinary stones. Combined with turmeric, garlic and water a tea may be made to drink twice daily for gallstones.

.Indonesia annually export to Europe over 10.000 tons of dried leaf for medical use.

For more information consult Isabell Shipards publication on "How can I use Herbs in my daily Life"

Pat Powell.



Toowoomba Garden Festival

Wednesday September 25th saw 29 of our members up early ready to depart by 7.30 a.m. for our two day visit to the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers. We warmly welcomed 11 members joining us from the Tewantin-Noosa Garden Club.

Esk was our morning tea stop with very yummy leftovers from our annual general meeting the day before!

Our route took us across to Gatton and up the range. Millions of dollars are being spent on this highway and it was amazing to look behind us as we climbed upwards to see the new network of road and stabilization being done.

Picnic Point gave us a taste for all the annual blooms we were about to see and admire.

St Luke's "Circle of Life" and Decorated Church was of great interest. Many purchases were made from the many stalls.

A slight change in our itinerary was made after much 'arm twisting' and we were able to visit Coroneos Nursery . Specific purchases were made and a lot of happy and satisfied members climbed back on the bus.

The two Parks we visited were outstanding having had thousands of seedlings planted all now blooming exquisitely. Laurel Banks theme was early historical floral and it was interesting to see how many of us could pick what the display represented. Queens Park was ablaze with colour and very precisely co-ordinated. The amazing thing for me was how curly leafed parsley was used in many of the display beds.

Our lunches were at the Orchid Club and the Cobb and Co. all very enjoyable. Many hours could be spent looking at our early mode of transport – maybe a visit next time?

I could write on and on about all the beautiful gardens we visited. Nancy had done an excellent job selecting various different and diverse gardens. These included cottage/good neighbours/novice/veterans and acreage. One outstanding one was a green garden – it comprised of many standard weeping acacias, maples, grevilleas and ornamental conifers.

All agreed with the winner of the champion garden. The diverse range of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals was abundantly clear. We were still talking about the size of the clematis flowers an hour later – they were as big as a bread and butter plate! The exhibition garden next door was also outstanding, they certainly complemented each other. Our final two gardens were in Highfields and then it was time for us to head for home

A wonderful two days was had by all. Thank you Nancy and thank you Helen, our driver, for a safe trip.
Margaret Seidler

Plant With a Story.

The Poppy.

Every November in Britain, paper and silk poppies are placed at the bases of Cenotaphs and war memorials all over the country in remembrance of the dead from world wars.

One of the dead from World War 1 was a Canadian Medical Officer Dr. John McRae who was responsible for the Corn Poppy as a symbol of remembrance for the fallen.

In 1915 Macrae was serving at a field hospital near Ypres, tending the wounded and dying. Outside the windows he saw the red Corn Poppies growing in profusion over the graves and between the trenches. He remembered the Greek legend that the poppy was created by the god of sleep and

to McRae this weed symbolised the rest of the fallen.

He turned this image into the poem "In Flanders Fields" which ended;

"If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders Fields".

The need for remembrance of the dead and the symbolism of the poppy stayed with him, and when dying of pneumonia in 1918 he asked for these flowers to be strewn on his grave. Every year a wreath of poppies is placed on his tombstone in France and since 1921 the British Legion has sold artificial poppies in paper and silk in aid of ex-servicemen and their families.

Dr. D.G. Hessayon. "The Armchair Book of the Garden. page 180,

Peter Owens

Garden Lovers Quotation.

'Long experience has taught me that whereas people will take advice about love, and about money and about nearly all the problems which beset us in life, they will scarcely ever take advice about their gardens.

Well.....it may not matter much, so long as
they love them
Beverly Nicholls

Harvest of Good Fruit

Mango

The narrow dark green leaves on this beautiful tall tree form a dense foliage which casts much needed shade in hot climates. Fruit should be allowed to ripen on the tree and this happens with most varieties in mid-summer. Ripe mangoes are so delicious they are generally best left well alone but slightly under-ripe and unripe green mangoes put in an appearance in fruit markets in November and this is the time to make jams, marmalades and chutneys.

Sweet Spicy Mango Chutney

*8 large unripe mangoes
150ml water
salt to taste*

2 bay leaves
 150ml malt vinegar
 500g sugar
 1/4 tsp ground cloves
 1 tsp chilli powder
 1/4 tsp crushed peppercorns
 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
 1/2 tsp ground mace
 1/4 tsp ground cardamom
 60g raisins
 60g shelled pistachio nuts
 1 tbsp fresh lime or lemon juice

Peel and slice mangoes and place in a large enamel or stainless pan with water, salt and bay leaves. Cover and simmer over a low heat until mangoes begin to soften. Add malt vinegar, sugar and spices and bring back to boil. Simmer uncovered until mixture begins to thicken. Add raisins, pistachio nuts and lime or lemon juice and continue cooking until thick and syrupy. Pour into hot sterilised jars and seal.

Some Hints on the Making of Chutneys

First the fruit must be simmered to soften it and to extract the pectin. Pectin is a natural gum-like substance found in most fruits. It forms a gel when heated with fruit acid (which helps to extract it) and sugar. Those fruits high in pectin and acid will set more easily. Pectin levels vary according to the age of the fruit. Fruit which are under-ripe contain more pectin and have higher acid levels than ripe fruit while acid levels can easily be raised in ripe fruit by the addition of lemon juice.

Added sugar should be allowed to dissolve before boiling as otherwise it may crystallize. Sugar may also be heated in a low oven, so that when added to the fruit the temperature will not drop. Rapid boiling then causes the sugar and pectin to set.

The pan should never be filled more than half-way as the mixture has to be boiled rapidly and you don't want it boiling over or burning your hands. Use a long handled wooden spoon when stirring to prevent this from happening.

Emily Jeffery

Show Stoppers for Spring/Summer

The new crop of spring/summer plants has hit the nurseries around the country and this year sees a fabulously colourful and diverse range. So if you're looking for something to brighten your garden scape, check out these two in a larger range of gorgeous groundcovers, shrubs and flowers.

1 The NSW Christmas bush is a spectacular plant but at 6m tall is too large for a small garden. The release of *Ceratopetalum* 'Johanna's Christmas'-a compact form of the bush. Growing to around 1m high, its drought tolerant and smothers itself in in bright red bracts from December to February. Great for summer gardens in frost free areas.(released in 2012).

2 *Euphorbia* 'Lipstick' is a stunning combination of tropical foliage and pink flowers on a compact, drought tolerant shrub. Flowering from late winter, throughout spring and summer. Keep dr-ish in winter and protected from frosts. Growing to 1m high it's ideal for planting in pots or garden beds in warmer climates.

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Editor's Comments.

Sincere thanks to Pat Powell, Marnie Trass, Peter Owens, Emily Jeffery and Margaret Seidler who have contributed to this quarter's newsletter.

I appreciate articles that are sent to me. If you would like to write a few words about your trip or an article you find that would interest the reader, please remember Snippets.

May I wish each of you a happy and safe festive season.

Quiz answers

1. Red.
2. choux de Bruxelles.
3. Astronomer.

Better Homes and Gardens

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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