



SNIPPETS

Winter 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.

A big 'Thank You' from the President

We certainly had mixed blessings as far as the weather was concerned for this year's Gardening on the Edge, a glorious Saturday and definitely a mediocore Sunday. But once again come rain hail or shine our wonderful members turned out in force to man and support the event.

As I looked down from the High School stage, I realised how much interest in the event has increased over the years with the varied specialist stalls, and our own floral arrangements by the wonderful Norma Macleod & co. really creating an exceptional venue. I know our new Club Patron, Councillor Jenny McKay, was impressed and enjoyed officially opening our 9th year's event and I'm sure she'll be back next year to celebrate the 10th anniversary.

Despite the inclement weather, a healthy number of visitors came along and, although we have no final figures, Jim assures me that a good return is expected. This will fortify the Club once again, hopefully giving us an electricity supply to the Club's shed, but also enabling us to make contribution to the Maleny community as a whole.

My sincere thanks go to all Club members and garden owners who participated this year, without whom Gardening on the Edge could not happen, but particularly huge thanks go to Marnie, our Convenor, a fantastic lady, what more can I say!

John Long

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Quick Quiz?

1. What fragrant shrub is grown in the South of France?
2. Who wrote 'A Year in Province'?
3. How many rolls of turf were used to lay the field area of the recent London Olympic stadium?

Did You Know!

Bill McCoy was a famed rum runner in the US during prohibition. He was popular as he never watered down the liquor - this is how the phrase 'The Real McCoy' is thought to have originated.

Thank You from Lee Moles.

Many thanks to the contributions of Susan Myring, Arthur and Audrey Brown and Cherry O'Neill for their contributions to my garden. Dietes and Cannas are growing like there's no tomorrow now that we have had rain. Even the neighbours have commented! Many thanks to Rosemary Twidle for her friendship and contributions to the garden too.

I had the good fortune to be in Longreach when a garden tour had been organised by the Longreach Garden Club to go and view the DPI nursery. I happened to overhear a couple of the ladies discussing it. I mentioned I was with the Maleny Garden Club and was INSTANTLY [literally invited to join them. They had a little tussle over who's guest I was going to be!

Unfortunately events transpired to keep me away from the tour but a reciprocal invitation was issued and funnily enough we may now have a tour organised from the LGC to the MGC for a visit. What a lovely group of ladies I met. So very friendly. And they have similar challenges. Damned hot in summer. Excessive rains. Bloody cold in winter. Poor soils seems to be the big difference along with that low humidity.

I hope all is going well and I'll see you at the next general meeting having missed SNS for this month [I only arrived home yesterday].

Regards, Lee

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Colin Campbell on Black Spot , 31/03/2007

Roses are the world's favourite flower, and black spot is the scourge of **rose** growers. Black spot is a fungal disease and it thrives in warm humid climates. It starts off as a black spot in the leaf and then it turns yellow and eventually the leaf falls off, and if it's really bad, the plant can die.

The first thing to do is to open up the **rose** bush to create more air movement through the middle and that minimises the risk of humidity.

Watering the **rose** foliage creates the right environment for the proliferation of the disease, so never water the foliage. Always water around the roots of the **rose** and give it a good soaking.

Plants are no different to people - the better fed they are, the more likely they are to resist disease. And that's also true with **roses** and black spot so that means give your **roses** a good feed every six to eight weeks through the growing season with an organically based **rose** fertiliser.

When the black spot spore lands on the leaf, it germinates and sends its little root system through the cell wall into the sap stream below and it proliferates. If you thicken that cell wall, the spore lands on the top, the root system germinates and it goes halfway through and then fizzles out, and so you get less black spot. But how do you thicken that cell wall? It's easy - just use sulphate of potash and give them about 100 to 150 grams per bush about four times a year – this should guarantee a lot less black spot.

Even after attending to the nutritional needs of **roses**, there will still be a need to spray. There are plenty of safe and organic ways to treat black spot. Try using two teaspoons of bicarb soda in 5 litres of water, add a couple of drops of detergent or a couple of drops of seaweed extract. This makes an excellent and inexpensive fungicide. Or use Bordeaux mixture or one of the other copper based fungicides.

Nutrition and spraying will control most black spot but from time to time some bushes will be chronically affected. The only thing to do is to rip these out so they don't infect any of the others.

Remember, garden hygiene is of vital importance. Go round on a regular basis and pick off any black spot affected leaves, put them in a plastic bag and tie the top tightly. Then leave it out in the sun to cook and that will kill the spores. Don't put them in the compost heap, instead put them in the bin. When you control black spot, you can have some beautiful roses.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE. SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

~Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!

~You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!
~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything.... especially golf.
~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".
~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..
~You tend to use more 4 letter words ...
"what?"..."when?"... ???
~Now that you can afford expensive jewellery, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!
~Everybody whispers.
~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear again.

Anon



"Wake up. The cat's got your teeth."

Time in Melbourne

Recently Peter and I took a flight to Melbourne to see whether much had changed since we were there 30years ago.

We booked an apartment in the centre of Melbourne and walked out the door of the hotel across the lane into Myers and David Jones. What bliss! But there wasn't much time for shopping as there is so much to do and see.

Our first exploration was to the Hollywood Fashion exhibition which was much more extensive than I could have imagined. Actual clothes from well know films such as; The Wizard of Oz, Dick Tracy, Elizabeth 1, played at various times by the 3 actresses, Flora Robson, Judi Dench and Kate Blanchett. Other films too many to mention but clothes worn by lead actors in Gone With the Wind. was of much interest as was the famous dress worn

by Marilyn Monroe in 'Some Like it Hot'. Marilyn's dress was the only one behind locked glass doors, all the others were open to view. A most interesting morning well spent.

The parks, gardens and water fountains in Melbourne impressed us along with the lovely old buildings that have been maintained while others have been carefully restored.

Dinner on the Restaurant tram was lots of fun and one that we would like to experience again. Walks in the early evening revealed numerous eateries which seemed to be packed with couples and families. Obviously eating out is a popular pastime in Melbourne.

We simply didn't have time to see the opera 'Aida' but we did manage high tea at the Windsor in Spring St. plus a visit to the Melbourne Museum to see the Afghanistan exhibition containing artefacts discovered in recent times, most dating back 2-2500 yrs. Many of Afghanistan's treasures have been either destroyed by the Taliban or sold on the black market, so it was a privilege to view this amazing collection.

Then there was the Victorian Gallery of Art, that is another story that will make this article too long.

Without offending anyone I felt Melbourne had come of age and we hope we don't wait so long to visit again.

Margaret Owens



THE ROTHSCHILDS

A Family of Wealth and Green Fingers.

The Rothchild saga is one of power together with philanthropy on a grand scale. The name is also synonymous with banking. Baron Nathan Rothschilds raised the money which enabled Wellington to defeat Napoleon and Lionel lent Disraeli £4 million so that the British Government could pay for the Suez Canal.

The first British Rothschilds were also involved with gardening which again they did on a grand scale. Alfred de Rothchild with the aid of 60 gardeners built up the gardens at Halton Mansion in Buckinghamshire. Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild with guidance from a French landscape gardener built Waddesdon Manor gardens in the 1880s. Waddesdon Manor Gardens were bequeath to the National Trust in 1957.

Leopold de Rothschild (1845-1917) created a famous fruit collection at Gunnersbury House in London and planed a 30 acre garden at Ascot

in Buckinghamshire, one of the finest examples of late Victorian gardens in existence. The garden is an opulent extravaganza planted with trees and shrubs, and includes the Dutch garden, the Madeira Walk, the Venus garden, the topiary sundial with Roman numerals that are planted in box, also two fountains created by Thomas Waldo Story.

Baron Lionel Walter Rothschild, a distinguished zoologist created the superb gardens around his home in Tring Park and Lionel Nathan de Rothschild in 1919 began his work on a 200 acre garden at Exbury with the aid of 200 labourers and gardeners. Lionel became a world authority on rhododendrons and orchids and introduced the Exbury strain of deciduous azaleas to the world. A visitor once described Exbury as "Heaven with the gates open." It is a garden for people young and old, horticulturalist or enthusiastic gardener, or just a lover of beautiful places even though it was severely damage in the storm of 1987.

Not bad for a family that started in the ghetto at Frankfurt in 1744.

Additional information about these gardens can be viewed on the internet

"The Armchair Book of the Garden" Dr. D. G. Heyesson. Century Publishing London. 1983.

Peter Owens

An ABC in our Garden of Eden

Prelude

*Roses are red,
Violets are blue;
Our garden stinks
From organic chicken pooh

*We've got azaleas and abutilons
But never artichokes
I'm so lucky that I share my life
With an ardent garden bloke
He's ardent in the garden bed
He's ardent everywhere
And eat your heart out ladies
Cause I'm not about to share*

*We've got begonias, bromeliads,
Blooming neath the trees,
I love crawling round the garden
With mud upon my knees*

*We've also got some bindii
A bandicoot or two,
A bleeding greeny told us
"they've got more rights than you,*

*you know that they are territorial.”
We said “Well so are we”
But the buggers are protected
So they dig our lawn with glee*

*Our sweet peas need a trellis
But a cake rake had to do
We’ve propagated salvia
In every shade and hue*

*We’ve grown a heap of spinach
Enough for Pop-eye and for us
We love to go a-touring
On the happy Garden Bus*

*There’s camellias and cordyline
And fluttering cabbage moths
The crows and caterpillars
Make Kevin wrath and froth*

*We have a picket courtyard
Painted jacaranda blue
It has an archway entrance
Through which one must walk through*

*The dahlias are delirious
As big as dinner plates
I’m so lucky I’ve got Kevin
As an ever-loving mate
(except he will not dance with me
so with the broom I must gyrate)*

*I’d love a frangipanni
That Kev could fertilize;
Though undiluted urine
He says - is not that wise.*

*Now come on boys – admit it,
You all have a private pee;
Behind the bushes where you hope
The neighbours cannot see.*

*I wish I had a wishing well
In which I’d keep a wizard
We might have draughts and cyclones
But we never have a blizzard*

*We really don’t do zinnias
But we garden with great zest
And we thank you all for coming
And we wish you all the best
You’ve come up to our plateau
Seen our cottages and chateaux
And soon we’ll cut the birthday cake
And share a piece of gateau*

*Now you’ve heard the alphabet of gardening
The Mountain Maiden Way*

*And there is nothing like the feeling
Of a Garden Friendship Day
Lisa Plucknett*

Herb Tea.

Before ingesting any herb, if you are on medication make sure there are no side effects. Warm beverages are a welcome addition to our winter diet, giving us a reason to be adventurous with the ingredients from our garden without searching the supermarket shelves.

Method.

1 warm a ceramic tea pot, boiling water, grater or chopping board. 3or 4 cm of washed turmeric root grated, 2or 3 slices washed ginger root, 1 tea spoon of sting nettle, herb robert, rosemary for am and lavender flower for pm, 2 leaves of Lemon Myrtle.

Place turmeric and ginger into warmed pot and boiling water, leave for 1 minute then add remaining ingredients. Stand for 4 or 5 minutes then pour. No milk is added.

If this tea is not "your cup of tea" try adding some of the above herbs to your regular cup of tea. Reason for choice of herbs- Turmeric- digestive track. Ginger -blood circulation. Sting nettle- hay fever and immune system. Herb Robert-a powerful antioxidant. Lemon Myrtle-well being, pain relief. Rosemary-stimulates. Lavender-relaxing.

Pat Powell

Editor's Note.

May I thank those who have contributed to this season's Snippets.

Those members are; Pat Powell, Peter Owens, Lisa Plucknett, Lee Moles and our President–John Long.,

Without our contributors this newsletter wouldn't happen. For those who have not yet contributed I would love to hear from you. For those who travel or visit a garden, please don't forget me–write a few words about your trip away or gardening experiences.

Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1. Lavender.**
- 2. Peter Mayle.**
- 3. 360. It was grown in Scunthorpe, UK, and covered 9000 square metres.** *Better Homes & Garden*

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.