



# SNIPPETS

Autumn 2015

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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.

Hi All,

I am looking forward to our first, away, meeting of the Club at John and Andrea's home on Maleny Kenilworth Road.

For our newer members, this will be a special treat as it is always enjoyable to visit a member's garden for a meeting. Both John and Andrea have hosted many a get together at their home and we appreciate the opportunity to visit again. Thankyou to you both.

It's with great anticipation that we see buds on our camellias and signs of the change of seasons. The ups and downs of the weather sometimes has me wondering whether I was meant to take on a fast growing garden in Maleny. I came home after two weeks in Brisbane after my husband Arthur had surgery to find the weeds had taken over, the house was in there amongst them somewhere.

A very large carpet snake had taken up residence in our garage, resting after consuming a couple of possums that were causing a few problems, I was so glad that I asked Arthur to take it for a holiday before he was admitted to hospital as I don't think I could have dealt with such a large fellow around to deal with myself.

Our guest speaker this month, Steve, from the Maleny Ambulance Centre, will be of great interest to all of us I'm sure, as he will give us a good deal of information, relative to our lifestyle, and dare I say our age group. It is very satisfying to see so many of our members attending each month, bringing a great array of plants and vegies for our Competition Table, and generally enjoying one another's company. We have so many very competent gardeners amongst us and we can learn so much from one another.

We head into the busy time of the year soon, preparing for the Gardening on the Edge,

I look forward to our Sip and Snip days and the enjoyment that being a member of this Club gives me, and if there is ever anything that you feel we can change or do to improve the formula please don't hesitate to tell me or one of our Committee members as we welcome any suggestions that can make a good Club better.

See you in the garden, Marnie

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## Growing Roses from Cuttings

Did you know that you can grow roses from cuttings?

Simply cut healthy stems, place them in large potatoes, and then bury them 3-4 inches deep in a healthy soil mixture of peat moss and top soil. The potatoes keep the stems moist and help develop the root systems. It's a perfectly simple way to multiply your rose garden without spending lots of \$\$\$.



Sonia Douglas

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## Dead Funny

WILSON, Arthur. On July 24th in his 88th year. Father of Gladys and Richard and grandfather of Jeremy, Tracy, Ann and Sally. PEACE AT LAST.

### Former Kinlochbervie Minister Dead.

The Rev. John Macaskill, who was Church of Scotland minister at Kinlochbervie, North-West Sutherland for 50 years, died yesterday at his home aged 88yrs. A native of Harris, he went to Kinlochbervie as an assistant. He is survived by his wife and one son.

SARAH HALL. To the memory of a young maiden, who was accidentally drowned December 24 1796. *By her Lover.*

In the memory of JOHN MAGHI  
An incomparable boy,  
Who through the unskilfulness of the midwife,  
On the 21st day of December, 1532  
Was translated from womb to tomb



### Herb File

Yarrow (Achillea millefolium)

A furry leafed ground cover with dainty daisy-like flowers held on a stem 30 - 60cm tall, in red or white and (now due to cultivars) many other colours. Grown in full or part sun to hold the soil when established. Grows under fruit trees and tolerates being trampled on.

Can be used for companion planting, is an insect repellent rich in minerals and a few of its leaves in the layers of the compost is an additional bonus.

Grown near outdoor living areas the mosquitoes are repelled. Use as an ointment or strong infusion by combining 2tsp of crushed leaf to 1/4cup boiling water, cooled then refrigerated. Dab on the skin (test on a small area of skin first, to test for an allergic reaction). Break a leaf off, crush, then apply to insect bite. This is handy when gardening.

At the first sign of flu or fever, make a tea using 3tsp of fresh or 1 of dried leaf to 1cup boiling water and sweeten with honey. Sip to relieve congestion and stimulate blood flow to help remove toxins.

A compress over a wound will stem the flow of blood. Many of the wounded, bleeding soldiers in the first World War were treated this way.

The leaves are astringent, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory. This is only a few uses for which this ancient herb was used. For more information refer to Isabelle Shipard book on "Herbs in my Daily life" from our library

Pat Powell

### The True Meaning of Sharing

An old married couple went into a hamburger restaurant.

He ordered one hamburger, one order of French fries and one drink. The old man unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half. He placed one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the french fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife.

He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them kept looking over and whispering. You could tell they were thinking, "That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them."

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table. He politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said they were just fine - They were used to sharing everything.

The surrounding people noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said "No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything."

As the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked "What is it you are waiting for?" She answered:

"THE TEETH".

### For the Gardeners Amongst Us.

The pinks along my garden walks  
Have all shot forth their summer stalks,  
Thronging their buds 'mong tulips hot,  
And blue forget-me-nots.

Their dazzling snows forth-bursting soon  
Will lade the idle breath of June;  
And waken thro' fragrant night  
To steal the pale moon light.

The nightingale at end of May  
Lingers each year for their display;  
Till when he sees their blossoms blown,  
He knows that spring is flown.

June's birth, they greet, and when their bloom  
Dislustres, withering on his tomb,  
Then summer hath a shortened day;  
And steps slow to decay.

*Robert Bridges, 'Pinks', nineteenth century*

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**You and Me.**



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## Shorebirds.

Each year there are amazing migrations of birds from the northern hemisphere to Australia. Australia provides critical habitat for millions of these migratory birds. About 40,000 shorebirds of the 34 species migrate from their breeding grounds in China, Mongolia, Siberia and Alaska to Moreton Bay in Queensland each year when their breeding season during June and July is over.

Fifteen species of shorebird are resident in Australia. One visitor, the double-banded plover, comes from the South Island of New Zealand. It breeds in the summer months from September to March, and then flies trans-Tasman to spend the southern winter in the comparatively warm conditions of Australia's east coast. It arrives in

Queensland in March/April when all other migratory shorebirds are leaving for the northern hemisphere, and leaves in August/September when the others are returning.

Shorebirds, are also known as waders. They gather in intertidal areas or on the fringes of freshwater wetlands. They generally have long legs in relation to their body size, no webbing on their feet and they don't swim. The shape and size of their bill gives a clue to their preferred diet and habitat. For example, the long, probing bill of the eastern curlew is ideal for fishing out worms and crustaceans from deep mud, whereas the short, stubby bill of the ruddy turnstone can flip aside stones and shells on a rocky foreshore.

Some shorebirds weighing as little as 30 grams may migrate 25,000 km annually. Some species may fly more than 6,000 km non-stop. They use favourable weather patterns when they can, but even so will commonly lose 40 per cent of their bodyweight, flying at more than 60 km/hr, non-stop for three days and nights. Shorebirds make the journey in several weeks, stopping two or three times along the way. When they stop, they must 'refuel': they feed and rest to build up energy reserves. At these times they may increase their body weight by more than 70 per cent before undertaking the next marathon stage of their journey.

Migrating shorebirds need huge amounts of energy to complete this perilous journey. One of the best-studied species, the eastern curlew, dramatically builds up its body weight just before migration. During its flight from Siberia to Australia, it will burn off 40 per cent of this weight to fuel its 13,000 km journey. This is like an 80 kg person running 16 million kilometres almost non-stop and losing 32 kg, twice a year!

Each year about 15 per cent of the migrating shorebirds that visit Moreton Bay in the summer stay for the whole year. These include birds that are too young to breed or adults that are not strong enough for the journey north.

These migrants fly through wind and storm, enduring unbearably hot days and freezing nights, avoiding waiting hunters. The shorebirds miraculously navigate along a precious chain of wetlands, including

Moreton Bay, to complete their global journey.

*Submitted by Peter Owens. Adapted from the Queensland Government Dept. of Environment and Heritage article.*

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**The Ringling Estate in Sarasota, Florida, USA**

Following a visit to Venice, Jennifer and I travelled to Sarasota where she attended a conference and where we discovered the amazing Ringling Estate with a sense of déjà vu. Established by John and Mable Ringling in 1911 when they purchased their first 20 acres of waterfront property, it is now 66 acres of beautifully designed vistas of trees and gardens lapped by the waters of Sarasota Bay.

They went to Florida to escape the bitter winters in the north and decided to make it the winter headquarters of Ringling Brothers Circus. They travelled regularly to Europe and were particularly enamoured of Venice, so when they planned their mansion it was modelled on the Doge's Palace and called Ca'd'Zan ( House of John in Venetian dialect ). Built in 1923 with 41 rooms and 15 bathrooms, wide marble steps led down from the terrace to the Bay which became Mable's Grand Canal, where gondolas would deliver guests who had parked their vehicles further along the shore.

Mable oversaw all construction of the mansion and she designed much of the original landscaping including her magnificent Rose Garden of 1200 plants in an Italian inspired circular pattern spanning 27,225 square feet. When the estate fell into disrepair during the 1930s and 40s the garden was one of the victims and none of the original roses survived. During refurbishment programs, many of the same varieties that Mable planted have been used and a rose dedicated to her is featured.

She also created her Secret Garden with plants given to her by friends and neighbours during her winters at Ca'd'Zan. Mable, John and his only sister Ida Ringling North are buried in this pretty garden of violets, bromeliads and bougainvillea. She also had a vision for a variety of trees throughout the estate and many of these survive. The 14 Banyan Trees are the largest in Florida.

In addition to the mansion, John built a museum modelled on the Florentine Uffizi Gallery to house his extensive collection of Old Masters. He opened it to the public in 1931, two years after Mable's death. Upon his death in 1936 he bequeathed the estate to the people of Florida. After years of neglect a restoration program commenced with government and mostly private funding. Ringling memorabilia was used to open the first Circus Museum and an ornate theatre, built in 1798 in the castle of Queen Caterina Cornaro (wife of the King of Cyprus) in the town of Asolo near Venice, was purchased and relocated to the Ringling estate. This was felt to be in keeping with John and Mable's love of Italy and the arts. The theatre opened to the public in 1957. In 2000 the State transferred care and operation of the estate to Florida State University together with \$43million to fund all 4 buildings – Museum of Art, Ca'd'Zan, Circus Museum, and Historic Asolo Theatre. Sarasota Garden Club members assist in the care and maintenance of the extensive, fragrant gardens.

All work to date and future planning fulfils the Ringling's dream of a great cultural centre on Florida's west coast. It is a fascinating place now known as 'The Ringling' and well worth a visit.  
*Kevin Radbourne.*

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**Editor's note.**

*Thank you so much to following members who graciously contributed to this edition of Snippets;*

*Kevin Radbourne, Pat Powell, Peter Owens, Sonia Douglas and Marnie Trass.*

*Please don't forget me should you travel, or if you have an interesting article, we would love to hear from you.*

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**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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