

SNIPPETS from Here and There



Spring 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.

A Note from Marnie

Well, I visited my sister in Townsville for ten days leaving my flowering peach with a few blooms. Attached and came home to the tree in full bloom. What a difference a few days make.

Apart from the fun of looking forward to our coming to life in spring, the club looks forward to, a new Committee to take over next month.

We say a very big thanks to Jan and Glenys For the time and effort they have given to our Club over the past few years.

Lee whilst not officially a committee member has done a great job with the labelling for GOE and we thank you also for your work.

It was so lovely to receive a note from Clint Kenny to say how much he enjoyed coming over from Warwick to spend time at our meeting and he felt right at home with everyone treating him as an old friend. Mind you some of our ladies said he was a Great eye candy, what on earth do they mean?

Please make sure you attend in September if you can as we will have our usual picnic lunch, weather permitting and it is a nice time to spend catching up with one another.

Sip n Snip will be here at home in September and I hope that my roses will be blooming As I think I may have cut them back a little late. Never mind it's not so much about the garden as the get together and I hope as many of you can come as possible.

We have had some very enjoyable outings this Year to our member's homes and it is just a shame in some ways that our club has grown to a stage where general meetings are hard to organise in members gardens because a lot of

us just don't have the room for the number attending.

Keep well,

Yours in the garden, Marnie

A Riot of Rhododendrons

Azaleas and their big brothers, the rhododendrons are amongst the most floriferous shrubs to grow in our gardens. Many gardeners do not realise that botanically, azaleas are the same as rhododendrons. This means that they need similar soils and conditions to grow successfully.

Azaleas are undoubtedly more popular with most home gardeners and the beautiful rhododendrons have been largely ignored, except in very cold districts where their hardiness is appreciated.

These plants need slightly acid soils with plenty of humus in the form of leaf mould and compost. Fresh manure and lime should never be used near these plants. Good drainage is important as they will not tolerate wet or waterlogged soil. But they do need regular watering and a layer of mulch over the root areas to prevent the shallow and fibrous root system from drying out.

In areas where soil is heavy clay or very alkaline, azaleas and rhododendrons will survive better in tubs filled with a suitable potting mix.

The rhododendron family is a native of woodland areas and thrives in the filtered sunlight of taller trees. In home gardens they will also be happy in partial shade. The tall, single azaleas can even be grown in full sun if given plenty of summer watering.

The rhododendrons most familiar to gardeners originated mainly in the Himalayan region and North America and were hybridised for the different conditions in Britain, Europe and the United States. They do best in cool to temperate hilly areas.

