

TOPIC: "ORGANIC GARDEN PRODUCTS"

GUEST SPEAKER : JONATHAN DRURY – ROCKY POINT MULCHING

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 31 MAY, 2016

Jonathan commenced his address with a quote from English poet Alfred Austin who was appointed Poet Laureate in 1896 – 'The glory of gardening : hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body but the soul'. Jonathan was a former Business Development Manager with ING Bank which he left in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis. He took up landscaping and battled bush turkeys destroying his work – (a MGC member revealed that cayenne pepper sprinkled about the garden is a good deterrent.) The role of landscaping and mulching introduced Jonathan to Rocky Point Mulching where he was asked during a job interview what he knew about the growing media. He replied that TV and newspapers were increasing their influence. After that was sorted he got the job.

- RP Mulching is a privately owned Australian company manufacturing 40 products
- The Company started in 1949 as a sugarcane mulching farm at Jacob's Well and is now industry state of the art and backbone of RPM business. The Company is the largest supplier of dustless sugarcane mulch on the market
- Sugarcane mulch came about by accident. It was originally mixed with oats as cattle food but one consignment got wet and could not be used for cattle. It was spread around avocado trees on the adjoining farm's orchard where it suppressed weeds and retained soil moisture
- 6 years ago RPM purchased a company called Green Fingers which produced growing media on a commercial scale
- RPM has since won the National Growing Media Award for three consecutive years for producing the best growing media
- As well as sugarcane mulch, lucerne and pea and cypress mulches are produced
- RPM's biggest success is Active 8 soil improver available in 30L and 60L bags. Can plant straight into it as it doesn't burn seedlings. It has gypsum and live microbiological activity – worms love it – is not potting mix but can be used in it. Spread over garden and seal with sugarcane mulch or lucerne mulch. Interact sugarcane mulch with compost heap
- Products are available at Mooloolah Produce and Stockfeeds; Maleny Landscaping Supplies; Maleny Town and Country Supplies; Maleny Farm Supplies; Feed and Fodder Beerwah; Beerwah Feed Barn
- RPM Premium Potting Mix – 60L and 30L bags – wins awards as best on market – feeds plants up to 9 months – priced between \$8 to \$11 and \$11 to \$13
- Sugarcane mulch is prescreened to remove dust in a double dedusting process. RPM is the only company to do this
- Coco Pro has been used by commercial growers for 40 years. It is comprised of coconut husks and coconut fibre and approximately 66% less bark than other products on the market. It is very versatile and anything will grow in it. Professional grade costs 20% more than Premium Potting Mix. Has received National Awards for Growing Media

Jonathan finished with a quote from American Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson 1803 – 1882 :
"What is a weed ? A plant whose virtues have yet to be discovered".

Further information is available on RPM's website <rpmulching.com.au>