

SNIPPETS from Here and There



Winter 2016

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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,

I write this at the end of another very successful weekend, presenting Gardening on the Edge to our many visitors. What a group of people you are, there has to be an organiser and our thanks must go to Dot who has again, rain hail or no voice, worked so hard to make sure everything ran so smoothly.

It is a wonderful thing that we all take part in, I know it goes beyond the norm of a garden club, but we all get to spend time with one another, either on a gate or in the hall, and the end result is we can help some really worthy groups in our community.

To everyone in the Club, thank you for all your contributions and effort and I know that all who came must have gone away having had a great day in our town.

To the committee, I would like say a special thank you, the GOE does take a number of us to support our Convenor and everyone works together so well, I must say and I know some would agree each year the tables get heavier, I don't know why that is? The hall was tidied and everything ready to go back to the shed in just over an hour, again with the help of our club members, and a big Thankyou goes to Norma and Marie, the stage was such a wonderful added attraction, which was kindly left intact, for all to see over the weekend, a great deal of work goes into the display and it adds a colourful touch to the hall.

Our advertising guru, Brian, I must not forget to give a big thank you to you, and to all our partners who quietly tolerate the temporary disruption to normal home life, it's only for one weekend and what a weekend hey,
Yours in the garden
Marnie

Quick Quiz;

1. Which of the following is not an Australian innovation? a) Chiko Roll b) Lawn Sprinkler c) Plastic bank notes d) Dual flush toilet e) Wine Cask?
2. How many ships were in the First Fleet?
3. What was Sir Donald Bradman's batting average?

Answers back page.

Age Old Deficiency.

It's about time the authorities did something about older drivers on our roads.

For far too long older drivers have caused havoc as they hog the left lane, stick to the speed limits (even the road work limits) and stop at 'Stop' signs, causing great inconvenience and often preventing others from doing whatever they like.

Another major concern is that by avoiding fines and demerit points, they are not doing their bit for the revenue for our state and are therefore placing a further burden on younger drivers.

Until older drivers can prove that they are proficient at weaving in and out of traffic, driving while texting, tailgating, using drugs or doing burnouts, they must be banned from holding a licence.

Doug Money, Sydney Morning Herald.

Herb File;

Fennel- *Foeniculum vulgare*.

Valued by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans for it's medicinal properties to aid digestion, cure flatulence in adults and colic in babies.

This herb is easy to grow in well composted friable slightly limy soil in a sunny position. In our mild climate sowings are successful all the year round. Tender fennel should be grown quickly with ample water once the bulb starts to form. If the plants are sown close together the ferny tops will keep the bulb pale. This is the way commercial growers plant. The bulb will be mature when it is the size of a large fist.

Allow some to flower for the seeds which are edible when young and green or when they mature and brown later. Harvest and store in an airtight container to retain the volatile oils. The flowers are formed on umbels and are bright yellow in colour.

As for its culinary uses, all parts of the plant can be used. Traditionally it is served with fish so try stuffing fish with the stems and leaves. It is also nice added to sauces for lamb, pork and beef.

Slice fennel stems, steam for 2 mins, add a knob of butter and garnish with some fronds.

Try an orange, mandarin or carrot salad tossed with a yogurt dressing containing fennel cut stems.

Add to soups, dips, tabouleh, rice dishes, sauces, batters, stewed and baked apples, fruit salad, breads and scones and my favourite - very fine slices through coleslaw.

Dried seeds can be added to muesli or sultana and seed snack. The oil extracted from the seed is used in confectionary, cordials and liqueurs.

A face pack made from the seeds, honey, yogurt and fuller's earth is said to soften yet tighten the skin,

The flowers attract bees to your garden.

Next time you expect to experience motion sickness, take a few fennel seeds to chew.

Fennel and Tomato Soup--

(quick and easy)

2tbsp olive oil

1 large chopped fennel bulb

3 crushed cloves garlic

6 chopped tomatoes (roma are the best)

1 litre chicken or vegetable stock

haloumi cheese

basil

Heat the 2tbsp oil in medium-hot fry pan

Add chopped fennel and crushed garlic and cook until fennel is soft.

Add tomatoes and stock and simmer approximately 10mins until a little thicker.

Cool and blend well.

Use 1 tbsp oil to fry haloumi which needs to be chopped into 'croutons'.

Serve with chopped basil leaves.

Pat Powell

Gardens by the Bay,

We visited these marvellous gardens when we were in Singapore last October. I would suggest that any person visiting Singapore put this on the top of things to do while there, but allow at least one whole day, preferably two.

Gardens by the Bay is a nature park covering 101 hectares of reclaimed land in central Singapore, adjacent to the Marina Bay Sands Hotel. The park consists of three waterfront gardens: Bay South Garden, Bay East Garden and Bay Central Garden.

Located near the Supertrees on the bay, the architectural design of this venue is astounding. With no internal supports, the interior is filled to capacity with flowers & plant life from all places on the globe. Even the temperature is regulated by the design of the building. From plants you might never have seen before to fragrances that permeate your senses.

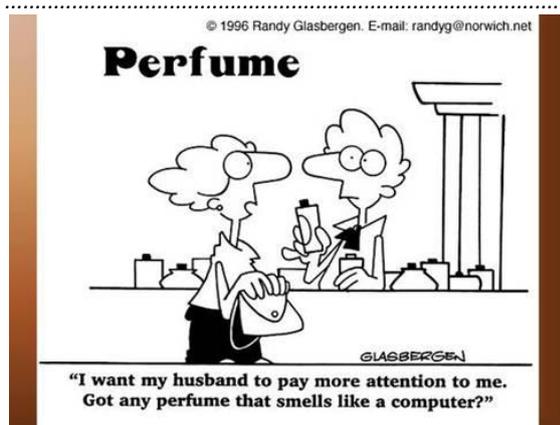
Unfortunately we had time only to visit the Cloud and Flower domes but would love to have had more time to see much more.

The Cloud Forest Dome is higher but slightly smaller than the Flower Dome. It simulates the cool moist conditions found in tropical mountain regions between 1,000 to 3,500 metre above sea level, found in South-East Asia, Middle and South America. It features a 42-metre high "Cloud Mountain", accessible by an elevator while visitors are able to descend the mountain by a circular path where a 35-metre waterfall provides them with refreshing cool air.

The "Cloud mountain" itself is an interesting structure completely covered in epiphytes such as orchids, ferns, numerous varieties of mosses, bromeliads and anthuriums. It consists of a number of levels, each with a different theme.

The Flower Dome is the larger of the two, at 1.2 hectares in area, it offers a welcome respite from the heat outside by replicating a mild, dry climate and features plants found in the Mediterranean and other semi-arid tropical regions (e.g. parts of Australia, South America, South Africa). The Flower Dome is 38 metres high and maintains a temperature between 23°C and 25°C, slightly lower at night. It also features seven different "gardens" as well as an olive grove with a bistro and a central changing area to enable flower shows and displays. The flower displays are changed each season. When we were there the display was all about chrysanthemums. Every different shade, size and variety available was on show. All were arranged according to colour and variety for an amazing visual display. I imagine spring would see a different array of perhaps tulips and other spring flowers. If you can manage a stopover in Singapore and visit Garden By the Bay I can assure you, that you will not be disappointed.

Margaret Owens



Caterpillars on Roses

I've grown hundreds of roses throughout during the past 50 years, and many more clivias than that during the past 20 years, and have never seen caterpillars that recently attacked my plants.

Firstly the clivia caterpillars which I'd never seen before. It's the moth caterpillar about 25mm long which attacked all of the 6 potted clivias of one cultivar. By the time I spotted the disfigured foliage they had chewed half way down of each leaf. It's a mystery why they targeted just the one cultivar because there were plenty of others nearby to feast on.

The last week I was wondering why SEDUCTION, one of my most favourite roses, was not flowering. It took awhile to find the culprit - a 50mm cream coloured caterpillar feasting on the buds about to open. The 5 other roses in other parts of my small garden had also been attached.

I tried PermaGuard, Diatomaceous Earth on the clivias and the roses and was pleased with the speedy results but sad that the autumn flush of blooms had been affected, and the pastel clivia is looking very unattractive.

A quote from the web . . .

Diatomaceous earth is another natural insecticide that may be used on a variety of insects. Diatomaceous earth is a fine powder that feels like talc, but it is actually the fossilized skeletal remains of small aquatic critters called diatoms. It is completely harmless to people and pets, but when soft-bodied insects come in contact with it, the tiny sharp edges of the diatoms lacerate the insects, making them dehydrate and perish.

Outdoor insects affected by Diatomaceous Earth include:-

ants, caterpillars, cut worms, fleas, ticks, cockroaches, snails, slugs, spiders, termites, silver fish, lice, mites, flies, centipedes, earwigs, aphids, beetles, fruit flies, lemon tree borer, borers, thrips, psyllid etc..

Scott Alexander

Gone to the Dogs.

There's lots of dogs around our town
Whose ownership is vague;
And when they travel in a pack,
They become a blooming plague.

The local Mayor, so I've just heard,
Has sent every dog a note;
To stay within their fence line,
Or he'll have 'em by the throat.

Now when every dog goes walking,
Whether leashed or loose and on the prowl;
Could the loose one's wear their panties
And the leashed ones take a trowel.

*'Cause however they are classified,
What they leave behind is foul.*

Lisa Plucknett

In The Beginning

While the quote from Lewis Carroll might just be taken out of context it is appropriate to tell the Maleny Garden Club people story from that basis. "Begin at the beginning," the King said, very gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop." Somewhere is the beginning of Maleny's love affair with horticulture, this dated 5th October 1928.

Brian Robertson

Maleny Flower Show.

Profusion of Exhibits

The fruit and home industrial show arranged by the Maleny Ladies Progress Association was a huge success, both from the view of quality and number of exhibits and the patronage accorded by the public. The most striking feature was the display of flowers, for there was a large array of roses, annuals, ferns, pot plants and prominent above all others, specimens of rare orchids. The judge (Mr S. A. Hansen), the well known florist of Birkedale, characterised the show as one of the finest combinations of horticulture he had seen in many parts of Queensland.

In the needlework and cookery sections the entries for each section were large and kept the judges occupied for the greater part of the day.

Tribute to Ladies Progress Association.

Mr W. L. Grinstonein opening the show, said 'the men of Maleny had reason to be proud of what was being accomplished by the Ladies Progress Association. As a body they were a unique organisation and performed work which was of

inestimable value in the town and district. In all work undertaken they gave consideration to all affairs of the town and only asked as a reward that the men should give help'.
The profusion of flowers proved that Maleny did not appear to be suffering from the affects of what we were now calling a drought
Domestic Science Classes. (Brian Robertson)

To Melbourne with Nancy

On Thursday 17th March, 38 were up at the crack of dawn, in order to connect with their flight to Melbourne for 5 days of Gardens and fun.

After meeting our Coach driver Brad and loading our luggage we were off to to South Bank to have a quick lunch and join the Yarra ferry for a tour up the river. The commentator was most informative about the history of Melbourne on the banks of the river as well as the very ornate bridges.

As tomorrow was to be a busy day, dinner was at our very comfortable accommodation before retiring.

Friday saw us all up bright (maybe) and early to board the coach and head off to enjoy the highlight of our trip – Melbourne International Flower Show. The pouring rain which greeted us on our arrival at the Exhibition Hall did not dampen our enthusiasm and off we explored this wonderful show. Bulbs were purchased, gardening gloves, plants and seeds were all part of the purchases. The displays by Floral Artists were superb and the rain decided to leave us alone for most of the day.

On the Friday evening half the group were booked on the tramway restaurant which was a highlight. Delicious food, all that one could drink, with none abusing this offer. The rest of the group went on Sunday.

Unfortunately the reputation of the Melbourne weather did not abate, with our day commencing at Coomb – Dame Nellie Melba 's home, now open to the public, provided a delicious morning tea and then a guided walk around the gardens, which on a sunny day would have looked superb; with arches, roses and vegetable gardens.

We then headed north-east to the Dandenong Ranges with our first stop, to view the sights of Melbourne from Sky High; though the fog blanketing the total vista. However, there were other interesting spots to investigate. One, the Australia Tree – was a beautiful trunk carved with all the native fauna of Australia, including snakes, lizards, koalas, kangaroos, etc. A Tree with a hole in its trunk was preserved as the

story goes that a father was looking for his son, and he was found hiding in the hole of this tree.

We were let loose at the village of Sassafras – a tourist village – providing those shoppers amongst us, with good retail therapy as well as having lunch, if one had time.

The highlight of the afternoon was the journey on the Puffing Billy from Lakeside to Belgrave

Sunday was more retail therapy at the wonderful Queen Victoria Markets – as well as clothes – the Food Court was well worth a visit.

The afternoon was spent at the Cranbourne Native Botanical Gardens which was an eye opener to us all. The brilliant red soil for the man-made hills – representing Central Australia - was locally sourced. There must have been thousands of native plants through the gardens, and ponds and all named. A stunning garden and very interesting to all – needed more than an afternoon to see it all.

The morning of our last day was spent at the Ceres Community Environment Park at Brunswick East. We arrived home early that evening in absolutely drenching rain, but even wet clothes both on and in the cases, did not deter from the wonderful experience we had all enjoyed!

Thank you to Nancy for her, as usual, perfect organisation, and our coach Driver Extraordinaire Brad. *Susan Myring*

Editor's Note

A special thanks to those who contributed to this season's Snippets. I enjoy reading your articles, and then placing them here. So I appreciate your thinking of me as I sit at the computer. Thank you to; Pat Powell, Scott Alexander, Lisa Plucknett, Brian Robertson, Susan Myring, Lisa Plucknett and as always- Marnie Trass.

Quick Quiz Answers;

- | |
|-----------------------|
| 1. B - Lawn Sprinkler |
| 2. 11 |
| 3. 99.94 |

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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