

SNIPPETS

from Here and There



Spring 2016

President	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer	Editor
Marnie Trass 5435 8406	Marie Hegarty 5494 4404	Anne Boyle 5499 9238	Margaret Owens 5429 6789
Mailing Address: The Secretary, P.O. Box 563, Maleny Qld 4552			
Website www.malenygardenclub.org			

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 must send out to all our members, who have been unwell, we wish you a speedy recovery, as we have had many of you away over the last few months.

It may be an unusual way to start my chat, on a down note, but Marie has been busy sending get well notes to all who have been away and we miss the happy faces of our members when you are not with us.

Spring - is here and don't we notice the change in our gardens, one minute a deciduous bush is looking very unhappy and then the sign of new shoots and it is flush with foliage in no time.

My wisteria over the back pergola was sticks a few weeks ago and now it is covered in bloom.

Again over the past few months our speakers have been varied and very interesting, thanks to Harvey's effort in finding a wide range of guest speakers. Well done Harvey.

From the proceeds of GOE, we have been able to purchase a trolley to carry our tables and all that we need under the school, down to the meeting area with a lot less effort than before. We notice that each month everything seems to get a little bit heavier, so the trolley is a blessing. Shelving and slight re-arrange in the shed will make everything more accessible.

I have to share a wonderful surprise in my garden when hosing recently, a noisy 'Pitta'. My bird book tells me he is colourful, but not too timid. I haven't seen him before in the nine years we have lived in Maleny. The bird-life up here adds to the enjoyment of our gardens.

Our AGM rolls around this month, how fast the time goes for us on the committee, and I

would like to express my gratitude to the Executive for their support and friendship over the last twelve months. Enjoy these next few months in your garden as I will,

Quick Quiz;

1. What in Cornwall is the most Southerly point in mainland Britain?
2. Which 17th century explorer was buried with a pipe and a box of tobacco?
3. In knitting, what is meant by the initials 'pssso'?
4. What have been cooked in syrup and glazed to make sweetened Marrons Glace?
5. At which battle of 1314 did Robert The Bruce defeat the English forces?
6. What is an infant whale commonly called?

Answers on back page

Water;

How many folks do you know who say they don't want to drink anything before going to bed because they'll have to get up during the night?

Something else I didn't know ... I asked my Doctor why do people need to urinate so much at night time?

Answers from my Cardiac Doctor:

Gravity holds water in the lower part of your body when you are upright (legs swell).

When you lie down and the lower body (legs, etc.) is level with the kidneys, it is then that the kidneys remove the water because it is easier.

This then ties in with the last statement! You need your minimum water to help flush the toxins out of your body, but this was news to me.

Correct time to drink water... Very Important.

From A Cardiac Specialist!

Drinking water at a certain time maximises its effectiveness on the body:

2 glasses of water after waking up - helps activate internal organs

1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal - helps digestion

1 glass of water before taking a bath - helps lower blood pressure (who knew???)

1 glass of water before going to bed - avoids stroke or heart attack (good to know!)

I can also add to this... My Physician told me that water at bed time will also help prevent night time leg cramps. Your leg muscles are seeking hydration when they cramp and wake you up with a Charlie Horse. (this I know for sure) (Someone sent it to me by email).

.....
Travelogue

Gail and I have just returned from a French River Cruise. We arrived in Nice a day early for two reasons: to recover from jetlag and to have a buffer in case the flight was delayed causing us to miss the start of the cruise.

This cruise started in Arles on the Rhone river and ended in Lyon. Once a provincial capital of ancient Rome, Arles is also known for many remains from that era, including Arles Roman Amphitheatre, now hosting plays and concerts. The city was at various times occupied by the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Barbarians, the Moors and finally the Franks.

The Dutch post-Impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh lived in Arles from 1888 to 1889 and produced over 300 paintings and drawings during his time there.

Before leaving Arles we went on a shore excursion to "Les Baux de Provence", an historic village, officially labelled as "one of the most beautiful villages in France". In 1821 a French geologist discovered a new ore nearby. It was named bauxite after the village.

The following day we visited Avignon. It is now best known as the medieval residence of several popes before they returned to Rome. There we saw some wonderful Roman and medieval architecture. The Rhone Valley is famous for the Mistral wind which averages 25k/h at times reaching 90k/h and can last for several days.

The following day we visited the town of Viviers. The town suffered greatly during the 100 year's war between the French and the English. The area is famous for lavender fields but it was a bit too early to enjoy the spectacle of the colours but we did enjoy a visit to a truffle farm and sampled this delicacy with a glass of wine. The owner of the farm uses two Labrador dogs to locate the truffles.

The truffles can range in size from a marble to cricket ball size.

Unfortunately, due to the high water on the French rivers the boat was unable to go up the Saone River so we moored in the city of Lyon. APT still fulfilled their commitment to visit the vineyards or sample some of the French culinary delicacies. Gail and I opted for the latter. We sampled "Escargots" (snails) and "Cuisses de Grenouille" (frog legs). We didn't care for the snails as they tasted like rubber with a garlic sauce. The snails themselves don't seem to have any flavour. We have enjoyed frog legs in the past but these had very little meat on them.

The following day, whilst moored in Lyon we did a city coach tour and a walking tour. The city has become famous for its "trompe l'oeil" painted walls created by artists from the workshop "Cité de la Création". The wall paintings create a 3D illusion. There are also many interesting museums well worth a visit but time prevented us from visiting them.

We ended our tour with a visit to Paris. There we visited Montmartre, a 130m high hill in Paris. It is a historic part with shops, restaurants, a market and the beautiful "Basilica de Sacré-Cœur". It owes its name to the martyrdom of Saint Denis,^[4] who was decapitated on the hill around 250 AD. Denis was the Bishop of Paris. Legend has it that he collected his head under his arm and walked to the top of the hill before he died.

We also visited the Eifel Tower and enjoyed a dinner show at the Moulin Rouge. In one way we were fortunate that the European Cup soccer was taking place because there was a heightened security presence. The Police Nationale, regular police and the Gendarmerie Nationale, military police, were in full evidence everywhere carrying automatic weapons.

John & Gail Gyzemyter

.....
I'm a Senior Citizen.

I'm the life of the party, Even if it lasts until 8 p.m.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps... with a hammer.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place, somewhere.

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.

I'm beginning to realize that ageing is not for wimps.

Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I am having the time of my life!

Anon

.....

The Powerful Owl.

The Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) is the largest nocturnal bird in Australian owl species. It is native to south-eastern and eastern Australia, and is found mainly in coastal areas on the eastern side of, the Great Dividing Range rarely more than 200km (120mi) inland

The Powerful Owl has a relatively small head with a short and hook-like bill and with a rounded tail has a more hawk-like appearance than any other large owl. The protruding bill and distinct brow ridges enhance the hawk-like appearance of the species. The facial disc is ill-defined.

Its staring yellow eyes contrast dramatically with dark, greyish-brown plumage on its upper body, speckled with cream coloured bars. Its underbody is white with dark V-shaped markings. Its head is covered with distinctive white or pale brown plumage, with dark brown patches above the eyes. The juvenile Powerful Owls wear a beautiful white 'crown', with white plumage streaked with brown on their breast and belly.

Adult Powerful Owls reach up to 60cm in length, with a wingspan of 140cm. They can weigh up to 1.45kg.

The Powerful Owl is the only owl that actually hoots, rather than screeches. One may hear the Powerful Owl calling at any time of the year with a deep, resonant 'woo woo' or 'wu whoo', but especially so in March and April as their winter breeding season approaches. They will always give a double hoot, with the female owl's voice at a higher pitch. But the male is the one who hoots more frequently; he is defending his territory from other owl pairs!

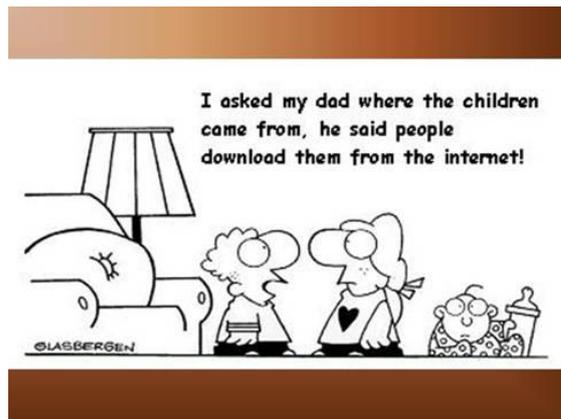
During the day, the Powerful Owl seeks refuge in dense vegetation. Its favourite roost trees have a thick canopy, such as turpentine, she-oaks and rainforest trees. Preferably these roosts will be in a secluded gully, rather than on a high ridge.

The Powerful Owl is a strong and skilful hunter. By night, it swoops silently between the trees, seeking out medium sized, tree-dwelling marsupials such as the common ringtail possum, followed by gliders, flying-foxes, terrestrial mammals, birds and insects.

Once a pair of Powerful Owls have bonded, they will be mates for life. They will stay within their large home range territory, repeatedly using their favourite hollow nesting trees from late autumn to mid-winter. The male owl roosts in a grove of around 20-30 trees. He stays a few hundred metres from the nesting tree, where the female sits on a clutch of two dull white eggs. Just over a month later, the eggs will hatch.

The fledgling owls take two years to become fully mature. They often stay with the parent owls until the next breeding season, and they may even delay the pair breeding again.

Peter Owens



Mulberry (*Morus Species*)

Purple tell-tell splashes on your drying washing can be attributed to, at least three plants. In winter, ripe privet berries, autumn ink weed fruit will be the culprit and early summer the birds will have feasted on ripe mulberries.

If you have a mulberry, which bears large juicy berries, unless it is a dwarf form, the birds, you and your neighbours can share the fruit.

When growing a purple mulberry tree, source one which grows in the district in which you live. They grow to be larger in cool districts than the semi-tropics. Sometimes pruning is required to obtain a manageable tree, but as fruit sets on old and new wood, this is not critical.

Tolerating a pH ranging between 5 - 8 and flood or drought, a mulberry is easy to grow if you can find a space.

Harvest the fruit when ripe, one for you, three for the bucket. Remember to place a few pink fruit on top to clean the red stains from your fingers and lips.

To serve- mash or lightly stew. Freeze for later use in your Christmas trifle or serve with yoghurt, cream or ice cream. Great on your cold breakfast cereal. Look on the net for a jam recipe.

The rich purple red fruit falls into the essential "in" food for your health.

The leaves may substitute for the white mulberry leaves used in China to feed silk worms. Do young people ever keep silk worms now??

Pat Powell

On Putting our National Trust Memberships to Good Use.

On a flying 42hour stopover in Kenilworth, Warwickshire to visit a cousin, we enjoyed visiting three properties, two of which were National Trust. Kenilworth Castle (English Heritage) was built over many centuries from early Norman to Tudor and comprises several significant historic buildings set in expansive grounds. The castle played an important part in the Wars of the Roses, hosted Elizabeth I and was later destroyed in the Civil War. The extant buildings and historic displays are well worth a visit. The afternoon we were there a two day medieval fair was in full swing.

Close by is Charlecote Manor, a Tudor residence of the Lucy family for 800 years (one wing still houses the family). It is a delightful property with the magnificent house itself, the gardens landscaped by Capability Brown with herbacious borders, an orangery, a deer park and walks through the meadows beside the Avon as well as informative historical displays. Elizabeth I stayed here too. There is plenty to fill an afternoon. The heir goes by the formidable name of Patrick Samuel Thomas Fulke Cameron-Lucy.

Garden lovers may be familiar with the name Hidcote Manor near Chipping Camden – a very important Arts and Crafts garden created by American Lawrence Johnston after his mother purchased the C17 manor in 1907. Johnston turned the fields into ‘rooms’ linked by hedges with lovely herbaceous borders, fountains and magnificent avenues of trees. Although the abundant use of hedges, clipped tress and topiary give a very formal structure to the garden, the flowers and shrubs are allowed to mix freely creating wonderful vistas. It is regarded as one of the most influential gardens of the C20. I would not like to be the gardener in charge of clipping there!

After the Hebrides, it was down to Edinburgh for a few days where the Scottish National Trust has three small but interesting places to visit. On the way into the city in the suburb of Balerno, we found Malleny Garden, a small walled garden with lovely trees and flowers. It’s possible association with our Maleny made it even more worthwhile.

Right in the centre, on the Lawn Market on the Royal Mile is Gladstone’s Land, the C17 home of a rich merchant. Since being condemned in 1934, two stories of the original six have been beautifully restored. The furnishings and displays are wonderfully evocative of the lives of all the different inhabitants over the centuries.

There was a most intriguing parliament of owls with their handlers outside which drew great interest. What handsome and sombre birds! When the Old Town became too cramped and squalid, the wealthier moved south to the New Town where another SNT property, The Georgian House, can be enjoyed. Built around 1800, this townhouse on Charlotte Square displays the elegant and harmonious architecture of its designer, Robert Adam. Many volunteers act as room guides and are very informative about the New Town, the furnishings and families. The 1805 flushing toilet must have been a most welcome innovation!

Carolyn Willadsen

Answers to Quick Quiz;

1. Lizard Point.
2. Sir Walter Raleigh
3. 'pass slipped stitch over'
4. Sweet chestnuts.
5. Bannockburn
6. Calf.

Editor's Note

A special thanks to those who contributed to this season's Snippets. I enjoy reading your articles, then placing them here. I also appreciate you thinking of me as I sit at the computer. Those who contributed this month are; Carolyn Willadsen, John Gyzemyter, Peter Owens, Pat Powell and as always- Marnie Trass.

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.

All contributions to: Margaret Owens
email: margaret.owens@bigpond.com

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..