



SNIPPETS

Summer 2012

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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.



Editor's Comments.

Well it is that time of the year again and another year has slipped by unnoticed.

Our next event is the Christmas party at Maleny Manor on Tuesday 4th December.

We look forward to seeing you there.

May I take the opportunity to thank all those who faithfully contributed to Snippets through the year and in particular to the following who have sent me interesting articles for inclusion in this summer's edition; Pat Powell, Marnie Trass, Jill Rowland, Babs Groves, Dot Brown, Emily Jeffery and Christine Harris.

60th Anniversary - Friendship Day

We all know that negativity breeds negativity and the power of positive energy can move mountains.

I am proud to say as a member of the Maleny Garden Club, the enthusiasm and positive energy, in the pavilion of the showgrounds on Monday, notwithstanding Tuesday, was nothing short of amazing. You came in numbers and worked so hard to showcase our wonderful Maleny Garden Club, someone even organized to have cows grazing on the hill outside the windows.

We called it a Friendship Day and we showed the visitors friendship, hospitality and shared our love of gardening. The Maleny Hospital Auxiliary, once again, presented food of such a high standard, it was beautiful, and so many of our guests commented on the quality and amount of lovely home cooking. It should be mentioned that a lot of the ladies who work for the Hospital Auxiliary are also garden club members. So they were making food for the day as well as helping in the pavilion on Monday. Very well done!

To Norma Mcleod, we must say thank you, for making the moist and delicious fruit cake as well as icing it so beautifully. —Thankyou Norma.

We had approximately 35 Garden Clubs attend as guests, and almost every member of our club in attendance, with the exception of those who may have been away or unwell, so very pleasing to see.

I know I thanked the girls on the Committee for the 60th on Tuesday, but I have to say that your support was exceptional.

We had our last meeting at my home over lunch a few weeks before the event and it was a lovely afternoon at which we fine-tuned the event.

In closing, as I have said about the Gardening on the Edge, it's not about perfection in the garden that we are showcasing, it's about the people and their love of their garden. I am sure all of our visitors went away on Tuesday, with a feeling that our Garden Club is a friendly, hard working, not to forget clever group of liked minded people.

Thank you very much.

Remarks by Marnie Trass-

on behalf of the Friendship Day Committee - Jan Maguire, Sonia Douglas, Carolyn Willadsen, Norma Mcleod, Andrea Long, Babs Groves, Molly Cock, Emily Jeffrey, Patricia Laundry, Di Hall, Val Bengston, Jill Rowland

Qui ck Qui z .

1. Who was responsible for introducing tweed to high fashion in the 1950s and 1960s?
2. What is the common name of the *Heliconia psittacorum* flower?
3. What is the national flower of Holland and what does its red, variegated and yellow forms symbolise?

The Summit Garden, Vanuatu

We visited the Summit Garden several weeks ago when we were taking a break on Efate, the main island of Vanuatu. Mr Adam Ehlmann, an American landscape architect developed a plan to upgrade (in the "Balinese Style") an existing garden owned by Australians Jim and Lesley Batty. There are eleven named gardens spread over 10 hectares, with the last few still under development, and contain thousand of different species from all over the world. The gardens are at an elevation of 200m and built on the crest of a hill with beautiful views of the bay through to Port Vila. The gardens are beautifully designed and a pleasure to explore with a path that meanders on the side of the hill from garden to garden. There are many types of ginger including the beautiful Tahitian Ginger. We did recognise many of the plants as ones that grow readily on the Range, amongst them

several that would fit into the "less than desirable" category here.

The gardens support a new industry growing Vanuatu Sandalwood (*Santalum austrocaledonicum*), with trees ranging from 6mths to 18 years. These are owned by Australian Investors as unfortunately it was not easy to put money into local hands with most of the accommodation and restaurants and even the buses on the island owned by foreign investors.

The Summit also exports Tahitian limes to New Zealand and is experimenting with commercial quantities of lemongrass and vetiver grass.

Should you ever visit the gardens the Cascades Waterfall nearby are a "must see". After an initial drop of 30m there are a series of delightful cascades which are formed by chemicals in the water overlaying the rock with a smooth coating. It is possible, with suitable footwear, to easily walk up through the stream over the cascades to the foot of the main fall.

Travelling around the island we saw some spectacular Banyan trees and were told the villagers always shelter under them during cyclones as they give much more protection than their houses. It is sad to see that Vanuatu has a major problem with morning glory vine, which covers much of the island and apparently many of the islands in the Pacific. It was brought in during World War 2 by the Americans who grew it over trees and structures as camouflage. Dot Brown

Summer Gardening

is not many gardeners's favourite time of year, so of course, it is best to work in the early morning, or late afternoon – better for you, and the plants !

With the promise of more heavy rain, it is best to not let anything get out of control, as you may not be able to get into the garden for many days – or even weeks !

Have you now trimmed Banksia Rose ? Prune it back hard ! It will forgive you.

Here are a few other chores, that I hope you have done by now – although if you move quickly, things will still be fine :-

**Divide & replant Glivias, Chrysanthemums, & Gerbras*

**Check Dahlias – do they need staking?*

**Check Gardenias – are they looking healthy? Treat with epsom salts & fertilize.*

**Cut back May, Camelias, Azaleas and any other Spring flowering shrubs*

**Prune Pointsettias hard – and take cuttings*

**Cut back all of the leggy shoots from Wisteria – be ruthless ! You will be cutting again during winter – when there are no leaves, so for now, you want to tame this beautiful monster. If you allow too much leaf growth, there will be fewer flowers.*

**Fertilize passionfruit now – it should be growing madly anyway, but they are hungry devils – remember that their roots spread a long way, so put fertilizer well out from trunk.*

**November is a good time to divide potted orchids – they will shoot almost immediately. Also, trim wattles & Ixora. And while you are about it, trim Brunfelsia & Browallia – be ruthless as this will help to keep neat shrub*

**Throughout summer, lightly trim Azaleas - & continue to lightly trim until March – to keep neat and tight. This also keeps them strong – which helps keep them free of red spider mite.*

**Also, lightly trim Pointsettias – to keep neat, and prevent them getting too leggy.*

**Look out for army worms! THAT RUNS NOW.*

**Lift and separate Tris (remove off-shoots to re-plant or pot up for GOS) If they are too dense, you will not get as many flowers when spring comes.*

**Cuttings to take during summer: Abutilon, Lavender (with a heel), Brugmansia, Brunfelsia, Tibouchina, Stephanotis, May, Michelia (Port Wine Magnolia) & Fuchsia.*

Any cuttings taken at this time of the year will need some protection from the sun. Under a shady tree is wonderful, as it will let in enough light to keep the plants growing – just remember to make sure they are kept moist.

Jill Rowland

Quotable Quotes.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to get into their pews or their favourite church parking spot.

The trouble with jogging is, by the time you realise you're not in shape for it, it's too far to walk back.

You're getting old when you're on vacation and your energy runs out before your money does.

Anon

Health Matters Sited in Your Garden, Spring 2012 pg 123

Did you know that gardening strengthens tendons and ligaments, reducing the risk of falls and wards off osteoporosis by keeping bones strong? Studies by research professor Lori Turner showed women over the age of 50 who gardened at least once a week had a higher bone density than those who jogged, swam or walked, "We hadn't expected yard work to be significant", she says.

"Gardening's taken as such a dainty, gentle activity but there is a lot of weight-bearing motion going on in the garden, including digging holes, pulling weeds and pushing a mower".. But that is not all. Gardening can help arthritis sufferers, says Dr David Hunter, rheumatologist and professor of medicine at The University of Sydney.

Exercise that works the joints through their full range of motion, which includes many of gardening's activities, can definitely be of benefit, he says. "It is important to pace yourself and to vary your routine if you're doing repetitive

gardening chores”, Dr. Hunter adds. So go on, feel better by making the garden look great

Contributed by Babs Groves

I'm Nearly There; Reader's Digest

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating; the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns?'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man.

He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Herb File Pat Powell

Aloe Vera barbadensis First Aid Plant, Burns and Sunburn Plant.

North Africa and Mediterranean are home to this succulent plant with dagger shaped thick very smooth surfaced mature leavers, which can be 2 to 2.5cm thick and 6-10cm wide at the base, where you cut it. Beware of the sharp triangular-shaped teeth on the margin or edge of the leaf.

The mature green-grey leaves are covered by a greyish bloom, greener in summer and bronzed tinged over winter. The fertility and moisture content of the soil could have an effect on the plant.

The pups, which form around the central plant, are propagating material being best removed to improve the vigor of the parent plant. Plant in a garden well drained neutral ph., sunny with adequate water. Plant are frost tender which lend them to pot culture in cool climate. With over 200 species to be found under cultivation in Australia the Barbadensis Candelabra variety have the best therapeutic properties. As some species contain toxic alkaloids internal use is not recommended unless correctly identified.

When Cleopatra bathed in aloe vera juice large plantations must have existed with many slaves to crush and strain the juice. Reference is made to aloe several times in the bible and the Greek writers made detailed account of its use. Man has used aloe for over 5000 years and modern research has identified six antiseptic agents, which act together to provide pain-relief, when applied to burns, sunburn, sprains and bruises. Cleaned wounds quickly stop bleeding.

- . Make a poultice or rub the gel onto muscles which pain.
- . Try it on your skin to improve the texture as it has been tested to penetrate 7 layers of body tissue.
- . Many cosmetics, shampoos and skin softeners and cleansers contain aloes.
- . To use slice and split to reveal juicy pulp.
- . Always test a small area of delicate skin before using as some find the juice too drying or an allergic rash.

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Health Message:.....Christine Harris
As I was lying in bed pondering the problems of the world, I rapidly realised that I don't really give a damn.

1. If walking and cycling is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.
2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, and is still fat.
3. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years.
4. But a tortoise doesn't run and hardly moves. Yet it lives for 450 years.

And you tell me to exercise?? I don't think so.
I'm retired. Go around me!

Quick Quiz Answers. ☐ ☐ Better Homes & Gardens

1. **Coco Chanel.**
2. **Parrot flower.** Its bract (modified leaves that mask an insignificant flower) can be red, yellow or orange.
3. **Tulip.** The red tulip symbolizes a declaration of love. A variegated tulip symbolizes beautiful eyes, while the yellow tulip suggests hopeless love and can be sent to an unwanted admirer.



Contributed by Emily Jeffery

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

Marnie Trass' Garden Verse

A retirement home up on the range!
We thought we had it all
Our friends all envious of a tree change...
But alas – after pride comes the fall
Sitting out on the deck sipping a wine
We looked around us with pride
A lawn feathery green, and a blue flowering vine-
We'd take gardening in our stride.
The sad day arrived when a good friend dropped by
And smiles quickly turned to dismay
'Feathery grass? That's just bindi-i
And morning glory!' – well, what could I say?
We soon learned that if weeds are given an inch
Before long they'll take over the yard
And to build a new garden is simply no cinch
For digging and weeding are hard.
We'd had no idea, just where does one start
To end up with a garden that's nice?
When the new plantings died we began to lose heart
But our friend gave us excellent advice.
Maleny Garden Club is just what you need
They welcome every new member
They have interesting speakers, & good books to read
And new friends that you'll always remember'
We joined and heard experts on mulching and veg
On soil health and cuttings and flowers
We saw exhibits at Gar-den-ing on the Edge
And we worked on our own place for hours.
The members have willingly shared what they know.
But I should have given more heed
For I've got more lawn than my husband can mow,
And planted more than he can hope to weed.

And what will he say when I go home today?

I'm rubbing my hands in glee

'It's true dear, no, I wouldn't lead you astray –

Tom says go to the orchard to pee.'

But he'll be so chuffed when the citrus trees thrive

We'll give everyone that garden tip!

Perhaps then as gardeners we'll really arrive

And they'll ask us to host Sip n Snip!

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Leonie Kearney's 'Rosevale Homestead' Garden

In October we took Nancy and Malcolm's day excursion to Leonie's garden that nestles in the foothills of the D'Aguilar Range. Amazing what she and Tony (her husband) have achieved in just 9 years of hard toil given that they commenced with a dairy farm. The garden has since been transformed into a colourful lush paradise. They were fortunate however to inherit some beautiful mature trees that are a wonderful backdrop to a developing garden and provide good shade for new and existing plantings.

Jacarandas form an avenue up the main entrance that will no doubt be a lovely sight in late spring. On the southern side Leonie has planted Taxodium (swamp cypress) that turns a fiery red in September. On the same side there are two huge hoop pines draped with Tellonia (grandfather's whiskers) prove an attractive feature to the garden and near which is her cool climate garden.

On the eastern side is a cottage garden with lovely mass of apricot roses and purple heliotrope. The northern aspect is a continuation of the cottage garden again filled with roses, hollyhocks, nicotiana (that Leonie is trialing) sweet william and the not to be forgotten petria climbers and the climbing 'Duchess de Brabant' rose.

This is not quite your average garden as many of the plant varieties have been obtained from very choice nurseries and selected for their ability to withstand hot dry conditions.

A standout for me in this garden, were the roses, climbers, and the magnificent figs and hoop pines that give this garden so much character.

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

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Seasons Greetings



Wishing All of Our Members

A Very Merry Festive Season

&

A Very Happy & Healthy New Year

May the New Year bring Hope, Peace &

Joy to the World