

TOPIC : BIZARRE & BEAUTIFUL BOTANICALS

GUEST SPEAKER : IAN & JUDY WINTLE

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 27 JANUARY 2015

Ian took the title of his topic from a USA publication which sells for US\$25 but is not available in Australia. His powerpoint presentation was adversely affected by reflected sunlight and I regret being unable to reproduce here the botanical names of the majority of plants discussed. However I trust that the common names he used will suffice.

- Anyone can find something of interest in any plant
- Mattress Button plant- native to rainforests in Brazil, traditionally used as a culinary herb and medicinally
- Queen of the Night – cactus flowering between dusk and dawn
- Calico Flower – member of the Dutchmans Pipe family. Flower has fine hairs pointing downwards to collect pollen off exiting insects – native to Brazil
- Water Canna – suitable for growth in ponds etc
- Kava plant – large heart shaped leaves that can grow to 25.4cm wide – used by Pacific Islanders as a medicinal herb and to make a potent drink
- Thai Beauty Caladium- has compact habit and unusual pink, green and white leaf colouration
- Parachute plant- has green parachute like flowers held in mid-air
- String of Hearts- cascading member of milkwood subfamily native to parts of Southern Africa
- Queen of the Abyss – known as Puppy Ears - stroking the leaves feels like stroking dog or cat hair
- Starfish Flower or Starfish Cactus - from South Africa - is pollinated by flies – has a dead meat smell
- Tractor Seat plant – clusters of orange/yellow flowers in Summer – leaves up to 45cm across in shape of tractor seat – from New Zealand
- Hoya Macgillivrayi – one of the most spectacular of the seven Australian species – a rich burgundy flower – Cape York Peninsula
- Variegated Valentine Hoya – or sweetheart plant – heart shaped leaves – origin Thailand
- Gold Fish plant – red flowers that resemble gold fish – Southern Mexico
- Tape Worm plant – so named for leaf formation – knotweed family New Guinea

- Green Madagascan Bat plant – has long spindly stem which breaks easily when birds land on it – bulb comes in white and black seed pods look like hanging bats
- Anthiriums
- Giant Birds Nest Anthirium – grows to 190cm tall- from Ecuador and Columbia
- Bosworth Beauty – black anthirium
- Amorphophallus - known as the corpse plant - grows 1.2m wide and 2.1m high – smelly flower made up of thousands of fibres – uses ⅓ of bulb to produce the flower which is pollinated by flies
- Snake plant – very interesting species – 300 in total - all so different stem patterns
- Ruellia – winter flowering – known as wild petunia – purple flowers
- Brisbane Lily or Moreton Bay Lily – is the only species confined to Australia
- Torch Lily – Kniphofia – originates from Cape Province South Africa
- Blood Lily – also known as powderpuff lily
- Sanseveria – spear plant – Mother-in-Law’s Tongue
- Tree Aloes – drought resistant succulents
- Agave – tough plants that thrive on neglect
- Foxtail Agave – or Swan’s Neck – develops curved stem – from Central Mexico
- Yucca – can grow to 9m tall- may be pruned – fragrant white flowers
- Euphorbia Milk tree- also known as Candelabra Cactus – from Western Africa
- Euphorbia Geraldii – flowers all year – no thorns – grows to 1.5m tall
- Crocodile plant – leaf pattern resembles crocodile hide
- Lotus- aquatic flowering plants – will grow as far south as Victoria
- Cardinal Creeper - laden with pollen loved by native bees
- Thunbergia Lady Slipper vine- produces hanging clusters of bright contrasting yellow, red, and brown flowers
- Morning Glory – perennial vine with blue/purple flowers
- Firecracker flower – seed pods bursting make snap, crackle, pop sound – flowers all year
- Crinum/Crinum – swamp lily – long flowering stalk with up to 20 white flowers
- Calanthe – birds love to make nests from it
- Double Hippeastrum – Rachel Maguire- white with cerise blotches
- Variegated Clivia – use Confidor when grubs attack tips
- Elephants Foot plant – named for shape of bulb
- Gingers – Beehive, Singapore Gold, Shampoo, Malaysian Yellow
- Torch Ginger – a grub gets into the core and eats out the plant – hard to grow
- Justicia Shrimp plant – native to Mexico
- Jade Vine – pale green foliage and claw shaped flowers in trusses of 75 or more reaching up to 3m long – from the Philippines
- Swamp Hibiscus from Louisiana Swamp – die back in Winter
- Heliconia – related to bananas, cannas and gingers – origin tropical America

- Blue Mist plant – showy purple fuzzy flowers – Mexican highlands
- Curly Poinsettia- euphorbia family cultivated by the Aztecs – native to Mexico
- Big Red Geranium – developed over 14 years crossing upright and ivy geraniums – heat and drought tolerant
- Claredendrum Bridal Veil – native to India – graceful shrub up to 2m – elegant leaves and pendulous white blooms
- Orange King Begonia
- Princess Lily – will take over garden
- Lipstick plant – hot flash
- Variegated Monstera – Swiss Cheese Plant or Split Leaf Philodendron
- Aphelandra – slow growing – known as Zebra Plant - Brazil
- Gloriosa Lily – common names Flame Lily, Fire Lily, Glory Lily – tropical Africa
- Crotons – colourful leaves – low maintenance plants
- Orchids – Dendrobium, Catleya, Cymbidium
- Fruits – Soursop, Jack Fruit can weigh 12.5kg, Black Sapote – chocolate pudding plant, Dragon Fruit, Mangoes – Ian uses a 40m strand of LED lights around tree to prevent flying foxes from eating his mangoes – does not stop the Possums

Ian and Judy have opened their property at Birkdale for a 'Gardening Australia' program and have participated in the Open Garden Scheme which sadly terminates this year. Bus Trips to visit their garden are welcomed by arrangement and they love having their grandchildren helping in the garden.

A monthly garden diary of photos, events and articles is available on their web site –

www.ianjudy.blogspot.com

Reviews of garden products both good and bad are available on their other web site –

www.gardenproductreviews.com

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