

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Summer 2017

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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.

Note from our President:

The weather continues to be “unusual” with no one knowing quite what to expect next. After the recent dry spell, Pete and I took a walk around the garden and made a note of which plants had survived well after so many weeks with no rain. We noted ixoras, Chinese fringe flowers, viburnums, roses, Hibiscus, cleome and many salvias looked fine and recovered really well with the first rain. Even the hydrangeas which I thought I had lost made an astounding recovery. No surprises that most of the natives survived well, we are planning to replace some of the plants we lost with something sturdier. I also took the opportunity to take cuttings especially of plants that looked like they may not make it so that I had replacements on hand.

Mulch is such a conundrum, we definitely need mulch when the weather is dry but with too many leaves and mulch the rain and fertilizer does not always seem to get through to the ground. Perhaps a good topic for one of our general meetings.

I would like to thank all the committee for remaining on the executive. We have an excellent committee, they all know their jobs in detail and work so well together, and I feel fortunate that we will all stay together. I would especially like to thank Marnie for remaining as vice president, she was such a good mentor when I took over convening the “Gardening on the Edge” event and I appreciate her friendship very much.

Marnie has led the garden club so well for the past four years. She has represented the club at many events and organisations, often travelling miles to do so. Marnie has worked very hard on many aspects of the club and especially in fostering a culture of friendliness and welcome. I feel it is very important to continue to keep the welcoming atmosphere of the club which Marnie created so well. It really reflects her personality.

Many thanks for all the supporting comments I have had in the last few months, it is a real privilege to take part in a club with such positive and friendly members. *Dot Jupp.*

Quick Quiz;

- 1 What is the name of Washington Irving's 1819 short story about a man that fell asleep in the woods for 20 years?
- 2 Who was the first president of the United States to live in the White House?
3. The art and practice of garden cultivation and management is called what?
- 4 In the movie "The Wizard of Oz", what did the Scarecrow want from the wizard?

Answers on back page

A Garden Of Friendship,

When I feel a little sad or just a bit low,
To lighten my spirits out gardening I go.
It's a garden of friendship,
Each plant that I tend,
Reminds me of someone,
And each one a friend.

When I gaze on the beauty,
Friends faces I see,
And I think of the plants

They have given to me.
The bulbs and the seedlings,
The cuttings and all.

If it wasn't for friends,
I'd have no flowers at all.
In my garden of friendship,
Midst colour and scent,
My friends are all with me,
And I am content. *Joshua Brian*

Green Manures.

On our last mystery tour in October, we visited an organic vegetable farm, where seedlings and weeds were permitted to grow together until harvesting when the crops were picked and weeds were simply dug back into the ground for composting. With that in mind I have included the following article, even though it's recommendations are for earlier in the year.

If you haven't rested your productive garden beds for a few years, you should think about allowing them to have a break and recuperate using a green manure.

Green manures are easy to grow and mostly consist of legumes-although some include mustards for the purpose of naturally controlling nematodes. The green manure crops are better for the soil than just leaving it to fallow as they perform some very important functions, which mulching alone cannot. Not only do they add organic matter to the soil, but the green manure plants actively fix nitrogen in the soil, as well as drawing beneficial minerals from deeper in your soil profile.

They break up compaction to improve water and air penetration into the soil, making it a better environment for micro-organisms.

It's not too late to put a cool season green manure crop in. You can choose from a variety of cool season green manures – such as fava beans, subclover, lupins, fenugreek and woolly vetch. To get the best results, it's a good idea to mix a few types together as well as sowing with a grass crops such as oats. The oats will give you more green mulch content later on.

You can buy green manure kits with all the seeds already mixed for you – and the good ones come provided with bacterial inoculants which improve their effectiveness. Check with a local produce store and they'll be able to help.

It's as easy as, sow the seed, lightly dig it in, water and let grow. No need to fertilise.

By about November, once the legumes are flowering and while they are still green and lush,

slash them down. You can either just leave them all laying on the soil to compost down, or dig it in.

gcm news, 3rd August 2016.(In the garden with Brownie).

Recipe for Tomato Relish.

1.5kg firm tomatoes
500g sugar
500g Granny Smith apples
375g sultanas
3 large onions
1 level tsp allspice
1 tsp ground cloves
1 tsp white pepper
½ tsp cayenne pepper
2 tbsps salt.

Boil for 2 hours or until the mixture looks like jam. Store in labeled, sterilized jars. Seal and store in a cool dry place.

Yum Yum

Peter Owens

Garden Hints;

This information was supplied courtesy of Greenpeace.

Handpicking insects is time consuming but unbeatable. Use gloves and remove all offending pests.

Tobacco Water: This can be used against soft bodied insects such as aphids, thrips, and caterpillars. Place a large handful of tobacco in 4 litres of warm water. Let stand for 24 hrs. Dilute and apply with a spray bottle. This tobacco water is poisonous to humans, so use caution when handling.

Hot Peppers: Blend 2 or 3 very hot peppers (chillies), ½ an onion and 1 clove garlic in water, boil and steep for 2 days and strain. This spray will not damage indoor and outdoor plants and can be frozen for future use.

Soap: Use only pure soap, as detergents will damage your plants. For liquid soaps, mix 50g with 2 L of water. For dry soaps –use 50g per litre of water.

Household Hints:

Fruit and Wine Stains: Immediately pour salt or hot water on the stain and soak in milk before washing.

Grease: Pour boiling water on stains and follow with dry bicarb of soda. Or try ammonia and water.

Ink: Soak in milk or remove with hydrogen peroxide.

Chewing Gum: Rub with ice. Gum will flake off. Alternatively try a dab of eucalyptus oil.

Lipstick: Rub with cold cream and wash with washing soda.

And Then it is Winter.

You know ... Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is.. **The back nine of my life** and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the back nine, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. A new adventure will begin! **Yes, I have regrets.** There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

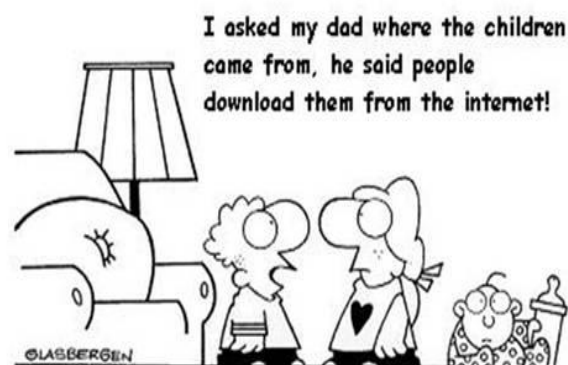
So, if you're not on the back nine yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster

than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the back nine or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Remember **"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."** LIVE HAPPY IN 2018!

Anon



Reading Between the Lines

My husband says he can read me like an open book. The only problem is he doesn't know what page I'm on.

Sydney Newman Dotson

Men are like fine wine, they all start out as grapes. It's our task to stomp on them and keep them in the dark until they mature into something you'd like to have dinner with.

Anon

Some Remarkable Gardens of the British Isles (part 2)

Berthing in the River Liffey, Dublin we travelled by coach to Garden 4, Mount Usher, a lovely romantic garden covering 8 hectares along the banks of the River Varty. Designed in the style of

the influential Irish garden designer William Robinson in the 1850's, trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants were introduced from all parts of the globe for planting in harmony with woodland and shade loving plants. 5000 different species are themed for seasonal display - the extensive collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and camellias are exceptionally colourful in spring. In autumn, precisely planted trees and shrubs present brilliant displays of various berries and glorious foliage.

Garden 5 was an absolute gem created behind their beautifully restored Georgian house by Helen Dillon and her husband Val in Ranelagh, Dublin. We chose the Private Garden option and it certainly was a treat and tour highlight. Helen is a world-renowned gardener, writer, lecturer and broadcaster. Entry to the garden was through the late Regency (1830's) house to the magnificent garden they created over 45 years on this ½ acre property – small when compared to the vast estates visited so far. The design, structure, shallow canal water feature, textures, variety of plants and colours appealed to all the senses. In the small conservatory I discovered a spindly specimen of the cockspur coral tree. Helen said she brought a seed back from Melbourne where she admired the blooms and being a collector known for her relaxed, unorthodox style she couldn't resist. She and Val were charming hosts chatting and serving afternoon tea with Val's homemade biscuits. I bought a copy of her Garden Book which she signed for me. Our small group was really reluctant to leave. I was sad to learn recently that at ages 78 and 80 they decided to downsize and sold the property for €4.5 million. Next day we cruised to Holyhead, Wales boarding the coach to visit Garden 6 - the Plas Brondanw Estate built in the 1550's and inherited by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis in 1908. As an architect he created the village and gardens of Portmeirion between 1925 and 1976 on the Dwyryd Estuary near his home. The gardens he created at Plas Brondanw are not as famous as those of the village but we thought the terraces, yew hedges and avenues extending outward into the fields with vistas up to Snowdonia's mountain peaks, were stunning. He was devoted to the rehabilitation of the family home and

development of the gardens throughout his life – he lived to 95.

A pleasant drive through the Snowdonia region brought us to Garden 7, Bodnant Garden, a beautiful site covering 80 acres in North Wales on wooded slopes above the river Conwy with views to the mountains. In the 1870's the owner, Henry Pochin, planted many conifers, some of which survive. They provide a background for the large numbers of flowering shrubs which ornament the Dell. Pochin was also responsible for another tour highlight, the Laburnum tunnel bordered by brightly coloured azaleas. Beneath metal arches and cascading golden blooms – more spectacular than wisteria – the slightly curved tunnel walk measures 55 metres over a carpet of gold with bees buzzing above. The blooms last for only two to three weeks in Spring, so we felt fortunate to experience it. A formal rose garden overlooks a croquet lawn and ornamental gardens descend the slope. Two massive cedars border the great lily pool and an elegant 18th century pavilion reflects in the water of the Canal Terrace. Although owned by the National Trust since 1949, descendants of Pochin still supervise the gardens. The garden shop was a treasure trove for gardeners – I found a pair of waterproof slip-ons which fitted and are a much used souvenir. (Part 3 next issue) *Kevin Radbourne.*

Quiz Answers;

- 1 Rip Van Winkle.
- 2 President John Adams.
- 3 Horticulture.
- 4 A brain.

Editor's Note;

Many thanks to Peter Owens, Kevin Radbourne and Dot Jupp for their much appreciated contributions this edition. May I wish each club member a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. We will see you again in 2018.

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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