



SNIPPETS

Autumn 2013

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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.

From the President;

I write this in the New Year looking forward to the commencement of our Garden Club meetings at the end of the month. We have a lot to look forward to in 2013 with excellent speakers at our meetings, ever popular Sip'n'Snips and enjoyable bus trips.

Unfortunately it probably won't be quite as momentous as last year was with the anniversary celebration (wasn't it great and my everlasting appreciation to Marnie and her troops for producing such a wonderful day) but a year of consolidation and progress. In any organisation there is always change and we all know nothing ever stays the same. However we should look to further and better our club and one of the advantages of having the new shed in place at Witta is proving to provide better Club facilities for members.

We have gained many new members over the past year and we welcome them and expect that they will become part of the Garden Club family. I also hope that they will consider becoming committee members at some time. As I see it, everyone has a talent and new thoughts and ideas can only enrich the Club.

We had some wonderful trips last year, to Taiwan as well as our regular day trips, and Nancy, as always, has produced the goods this year and come up with a great trip to Tasmania in April, and our day outings begin in February with a tour of two beautiful gardens on the Gold Coast. I look forward to seeing you on that trip. Unfortunately Andrea and I will not be able to join in the fun in Tasmania this year as we have our daughter's wedding to go to - a President has to make some sacrifices!

Happy Garden Club New Year to everyone.

John Long.
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Quick Quiz:

1. What oil do you add to candles to repel mozzies?
2. When getting up during a meal where should you place your napkin?
3. How many eyes do scallops have? a.-none b.-2 c.100. (see back page for the answers).

A Garden Visited via Accident Way

Last November five members of the Maleny Garden Club were members of the Perennial Poppies Garden Tour to South Australia for 11 days.

The tour was planned to be the week following The National Heritage Rose Society's Convention being held at Mt Gambier.

The gardens and roses were stunning. A number of the garden owners told us that their roses were flowering even better for our visit, than the prior week. It was a fantastic time for all.

However, rather than comment on some of the garden owners and their gardens because it would be too difficult to choose; I visited a garden which was not on the planned Itinerary.

Whilst visiting a garden (on the itinerary), I had the misfortune to fall, was hospitalised and required a total hip replacement.

After recovered from surgery I was transferred to a Rehabilitation Hospital and was in a room with a garden view.

This garden would have been stunning a few weeks earlier when the Crab Apples were flowering. Clivias, Dianellas, Fishbone and other understory plants, created a 'normal' garden but could not be compared with those 'the Poppies' had visited during the wonderful trip.

However, this was not on the itinerary, and it was planted and landscaped for a purpose. There was a bridge, another with steps to get up onto it. Garden pavers, and an area of paving bricks in need of repair. Plants falling onto the paths etc. and leaves not swept up.

When commenting on the state of this garden, whilst walking with the Physiotherapist; I was told, 'it was not a display garden but had been purposely created to reciprocate a 'normal' garden. Somewhat similar to mine!!!

How sensible! A garden to be enjoyed by visitors but was purpose-built to help the patients with their rehabilitation.

History of the Calvary Rehabilitation Hospital

The hospital building was also interesting.

Originally it was a gracious mansion built in 1864 and over time had experienced many owners and alterations.

In 1958 it was purchased by Manchester Independent Order of Oddfellows and eventually provided accommodation for 40. This was the commencement of its journey as a Hospital!

The building experienced more owners and more uses until 2003 when it was increased to provide 65 beds and converted to a Rehabilitation Hospital which it still is today.

During redevelopment the original building was maintained within the construction which makes an interesting walk to the Hydrotherapy Pool. A beautiful cedar staircase to the 1st floor; part of the outer wall stone work is internal, opposite the pool and although the front façade remains and difficult to view, the beautiful stain-glass front door is still there. Despite the trauma and the pain, this garden and its surrounds provided much interest.

by Susan Myring

Travelogue.

Earlier this year Peter and I flew to Singapore for 4 days before joining the cruise liner 'Volendam'. It was 'winter' in Singapore but even though temperatures were only 29-31°C the humidity was very high.

Nevertheless we spent several hours in the botanical and orchid gardens. While we enjoyed the lovely layout of the botanical gardens we were mostly taken by the huge variety of orchids in the orchid gardens, the world's largest collection of orchids, I believe. I like the organisation and tidiness in this city, yet Peter complained that the humidity was too high, the petrol fumes unbearable and the chopsticks were blunt. Well you can't please everyone!

We have grown to love cruising and this time was no exception. The Volendam was very comfortable, well organised with a host of interesting activities of which we only had time to attend a few and the food was wonderful-no cooking for two whole weeks!!!

Of our two stops in Thailand the most fascinating had to be Bangkok and our visit to the Royal Palace and its gardens. 25,000 tourist visit here every day and it seemed all of them were there that day. We were

amazed at the grandeur and immense wealth of the buildings that were covered in what appeared to be gold leaf. The architecture is typical Thai and so beautiful and different from what (from a novice tourist's point of view) we are familiar with. The gardens were immaculate with a multitude of different topiary forms. Shrubs rather than flowers formed the colour in the gardens.

After a visit to Sihanoukville in Cambodia that was so desperately poor we were surprised to see the contrast in Vietnam. While Vietnam is still poor in many areas, the tourist industry appears to be flourishing. It is a popular destination by the Chinese who contribute in a large part to the Vietnamese economy. The Vietnamese people are gentle, polite and courteous, except when they are trying to sell you something then they become very persistent.

Vietnam is fascinating and one place we would like to re-visit. Still visible is French architecture in many of the older buildings, while a number of the older Vietnamese speak French fluently despite the strong communist influence of yester year. It was a privilege for us to visit Saigon, Nha Trang, Da Nang and Halong Bay, the famous world heritage site in North Vietnam and to see such amazing scenery. Then there was Hong Kong- that is another story for later. Overall it was such a delight to have done this fly and cruise and visit countries that we never expected we would. So now we simply long to do it all again.

Margaret and Peter Owens

Here are some great ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

** Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.*

** Always wear stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.*

** Drive carefully - It's not only cars that can be "Recalled" by their maker.*

** If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.*

** If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.*

** Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time because then you won't have a leg to stand on.*

** You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.*

Anon



Gardening in March, April, and May

Contributed by Jill Rowland

This is my favourite time in the garden – by now, those horrible hot days should be behind us, and I love the promise of cooler weather to come.

So, enjoy the fact that you can work almost all day, and not feel so horribly hot and tired come sunset! Because, there is plenty to do.....the ground is nice and moist after our summer rains, and of course, we still have a couple of months before the nights get really cold.

MARCH:

*Trim Blue Ginger and take cuttings, Cordelines regular ginger (remember, the yellow flowering ginger, is now regarded as a weed, so eradicate this, cut and then spray with neat Glyphosate. It is a nuisance, as it self-seeds all over the place, and suddenly gets absolutely huge!)

*Plant Strawberry runners and Sweet Pea seeds (traditionally, these should be in the ground, by St Patrick's Day, but in Qld, we have more time, as the ground is still warm enough right through until late April)

*Plant Spring flowering bulbs – condition soil first. (Freesias & Jonquils do best in our climate, as do Babianas and Bluebells)

*Lightly trim Azaleas and May – to keep a neat shrub. Then leave them alone until after they have flowered in spring.

*Fertilize roses, so that they will give an autumn show – although I did ours in February, when it was still raining, as you must only fertilize when the soil is moist, then water it in well afterwards.

*Prune and fertilise Pelargoniums towards the end of March to promote new growth and optimum spring flowering. Use prunings for propagating new plants– they'll strike readily from now, until October. Pick pumpkins from now on

APRIL:

*Now is a good time to sweeten the soil. Hydrated, slaked or builders' lime or dolomite are good. Sprinkle a handful per sq metre over soil and allow to wash in. If using Dolomite, use more, as it is very mild.

*Take side shoots of Bromeliads Lightly trim and fertilize Hibiscus, and Abutilons now, to give more flowers in Spring

MAY:

*Prepare ground for any new roses. Sweet peas should be powering on, so check frequently, to make sure they

are climbing well, and not falling all over each other.

*Herbs do better in our climate through the cooler months, so now is the time to keep them powering on– with regular cutting– or use in the kitchen of course, but even if you do not actually need them, tip prune to keep them fresh and healthy

All through our autumn, is a wonderful time to take cuttings – of just about anything, but especially– *African Violets (either stems or leaves, cut into segments). Lavender and Begonias strike easily now, and grow quickly until it is much cooler. *Take cuttings also of May, by checking around the bottom of the plant, as there are bound to be some rooted suckers – this is the case for lots of shrubs.

*Divide Iris and Alstroemeria, Cannas, and any of the 'Grasses' and make new plants from the surplus, ready for GOE plant stall, or bring along to Sip and Snip.

Ever Wonder;

**Why the sun lightens our hair,
but darkens our skin?**

Why don't you ever see the headline- 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

**Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavour,
and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?**

**Why is the man who invests all your money
called a broker?**

Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Anon

Fruit for Autumn – Figs

It is only in recent years that fresh figs have put in an appearance at the fruit markets and yet the fig tree was one of the first grown by early Australian settlers and many farmers in the country still pick the voluptuous bell-shaped purple or green skinned fruit for home consumption. Where have they been in the interim? – perhaps fighting a losing battle with marauding possums or fruit bats (or excess rainfall).

The fig tree has ancient origins and was probably native to Western Asia. It is common throughout

the Mediterranean and baskets containing figs have been found in Egyptian tombs.

Figs need good summer heat to ripen properly and are available well into autumn. They are a treat to eat raw but fresh figs are also beautiful when baked, preserved or made into jam.

Fig Conserve

- 1 ½ kg green or purple figs
- 125g preserved chopped ginger
- 1 ½ cups water
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 60g slithered almonds
- 1.25kg sugar

Cut figs into rather large pieces. Place in a large a pan with water and lemon juice. Simmer gently until soft. Add sugar and stir until dissolved then bring to the boil. Add ginger and almonds and boil until setting point is reached. Transfer to warm, sterilised jars. Store in a cool, dry place.

contributed by Emily Jeffery from 'Harvest of Good Fruit recipe book

How to Grow Waratahs.

Waratahs burst into flower in late spring. Plant a group of them for a natural bushland feel. They grow best in the dappled light under gum trees. When planting, mound the soil up to create a mini volcano around the plant to help avoid waterlogged soil. Plant native grasses underneath for a soft coverage. Feed with a native fertiliser during spring and summer. Prune hard after flowering at about waist height to get flowers at eye level next year. Plant in autumn if possible.

Better Homes and Garden (? Issue and date)

What it Means to be Poor

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor some people can be. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm with what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great dad' the son replied. "Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked. "Oh yes" said the son. "So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father. "The son answered", I saw that we have only one dog they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a stream that has no end. We

have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us but they serve others. We buy our food but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they are surrounded by friends".

With this the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thank you dad for showing me how poor we are".

Contributed by Audrey Brown (from Queensland Country Life).

Did You Know?

*If you stretched your circulatory system veins capillaries and arteries in your body they would stretch 100,000km or 2.5 times around the world. Take care of your circulatory system!

*Copy the information from your DNA cell onto A4 paper at 10 point font and you would have ... 4 million pages. Amazing!

*Mice run 14 km per day on mouse wheels. Yet we can struggle to run 1km.

*In 1900 the average chair width was 16.5 inches. In 2000 it was 20 inches.

*Small bursts of intensity are better for abdominal weight loss than consistent moderate exercise.
Revive.co.nz

Editor's Note;

I'd like to say a personal thank you to all those who have so generously contributed to this season's Snippets newsletter; to Emily Jeffery, Audrey Brown, Jill Rowland, Susan Myring and our illustrious President-John Long.

Quiz Question Answers

1. Citronella
2. To the left of your plate
- 3.c. 100.

Better Homes and Gardens

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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