



SNIPPETS

Spring 2014

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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.

President's Report

How lovely it is to know that we are heading into Spring, and our gardens should burst into life once again after winter.

As you know I have had a trip to England with 'The Perennial Poppies' group of cottage garden lovers and have returned having had a great trip visiting many beautiful gardens, many of which are not usually open to the public, so I felt very privileged to be able to visit. I will transfer some of my photos to a USB stick and have them running during morning tea at a Maleny Garden club meeting in the very near future.

My year as President has gone so fast, which means I have thoroughly enjoyed myself and I hope you have enjoyed our speakers from the last twelve months and the friendship of fellow members.

We are planning a second away meeting before the end of the year, so we will let you know where that will be. We are so very lucky to have a competent group of members on our Committee and I thank them for their help over the past year and also holding the fort while I was away.

At our coming AGM we should see the small number on the waiting list brought forward to membership, as a natural decrease in membership usually occurs each year for one reason or another.

Thank you for your support and kindness,
Marnie Trass

Quick Quiz;

1. What country has the highest divorce rate in the world?
2. What percentage of Australians never marry?
3. In what century was the first Italian recipe for pasta with tomatoes written?

See back page for answers.

The Joys of Country Living

There is a place in central Queensland
Between Gladstone and Kalpower;

Where my son has bought a mountain
top
Covered in lantana flowers.

He's a pioneer - a bower bird,
He collects a lot of stuff;
And I don't know where and why he
does it
'cause he's really got enough.
There's caravans and cattle trucks.
Cars, tractors - yachts and utes;
And last week he built a toilet block
So his mother could ablute.

There's running water - hot and cold,
Controlled by generators;
But when I saw the "Porta Loo"
I said - "Son - I'll see you later.
I appreciate your efforts,
But a 'Porta Loo's' not for me;
If you don't mind - I'll wait till dark
Then go outside to pee".

So - at the witching hour of midnight
Kev went out for "pee relief";
And I trotted out behind him
And that is where I came to grief.
My knees and bladder kind of froze
I couldn't even squat;
So I dropped my pride and dashed
inside and used the "Porta Pot"
There's dingos, snakes and wombat
In the dark amongst the trees;
No wonder that my working parts
Went into deepest freeze:

The years roll by so quickly,
And our joints - they kind of lock
So that is why - against my will
I used the "Porta Pot"
And if perhaps your wondering,
How I did the other task;
Well - I saved it all for Gladstone
And I'm really glad you asked.

Lisa Plucknett Relieved - May 2014

Political Poppycock;

Those who cast the votes decide nothing. Those who count the votes decide everything.

Joseph Stalin

How can you govern a country which has 246 different varieties of cheese?

Charles de Gaulle

If you put a federal government in charge of the Sahara desert, there'd be a shortage of sand in five years.

Milton Friedman

Recession is when a neighbour loses his job. Depression is when you lose yours.

Ronald Reagan

In America the young are always ready to give those who are older than themselves the full benefits of their inexperience.

Oscar Wilde

Pumpkin Fruit Cake

2tbsp butter
finely grated zest of 1 orange
2 eggs
2tbsp golden syrup
2cups SR flour
2tsp mixed spice (or spices of your choice)
1 1/2 cups cold mashed pumpkin
500gms mixed fruit (or dried fruit of your choice- cranberries, raisins, currents, sultanas, dates etc)
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Preheat oven to 150°C. Then line a square or round cake tin with baking paper.
Cream butter and orange zest. Add beaten eggs and stir in thoroughly.
Add syrup. Sift in flour and spices. Mix well. Lastly add the pumpkin, fruit and nuts.
Mix well. Place into the prepared tin and bake in oven for around 1 hr.

Bev Brown

Travelogue;

A short note on my trip with the 'Poppies'. As one would have expected the trip was very well organised by Barb Wickes our President.

Those of you who may not know what the Poppies is about, It is a group of gardeners whose passion is cottage gardening, starting some 14 years ago in Sth East Queensland, and some of our Maleny Garden Club members are also members of Poppies.

We visited Sissinghurst, Hever, Great Dixter, Gravetye Manor, Hidcote, Mottisfont Abbey, and Wisley, these being some that you would all know.

Then we enjoyed many others, too many to mention, as we visited three to four gardens each day. What I notice most about the English gardens is the height to which some plants grow compared to ours here.

Japanese Windflower, for instance grows almost twice the height. Perennial phlox everywhere in amazing colours, dahlias in abundance and roses and underplanting of lots of what we grow here but done with great expertise.

What also helps to make such a display is the old manor homes and buildings that these gardens surround.

We were very fortunate to meet Beth Chatto at her garden, she is, I believe, in her nineties now and was so gracious and came out to meet us when she heard we were visiting.

We also visited Roger Platt's garden, he has won the Chelsea Flower show, I think, a couple of times and he was a wealth of knowledge.

All in all it was a trip to remember, and I know that Susan and I have come home eager to change and work in our garden with renewed vigour to try to achieve some of what we have learnt overseas, but I must say, I will not beat myself up as much for the weeds that seem to be endless in my garden, as there were a few, not many but a few, in all of these gardens, and not everything was perfect. I certainly felt better for having some of these gardeners tell that there are many months when their gardens are dormant and unattractive while they wait for the onset of Spring and Summer, so all is not lost here at home.

I loved my trip but it was lovely to drive up the hill to our beloved Maleny and cast my eye over a garden that had been unattended for six weeks, eeeek!!

Yours in gardening,

Marnie Trass

Misty Grove

Up in the hills at Maleny
It's "Open Garden Day",
Harvey and Bette Weston
Have their green thumbs on display.

It's an alphabet of assortments
From Azaleas to Zinnias to see;
As our hosts with smiles do greet you
Beneath a tree-lined canopy.

The Chinese Lanterns dazzle
In their cheery colourful way;
Yellow and orange flowers
In a gentle breeze do sway.

The rusty red Ipomoea
Amongst the foliage green;
With Pixie Pinks and Snowflakes
Are a wonder to be seen.

Hibiscus with enormous flowers
Salvias and Roses too;
And the famous Mona Lavender
In Nature's frame for you.

Geraniums, Grevilleas
And lacy, delicate ferns;
The Norfolk pine in it's splendour
My heart for more it yearns.

Flowers galore and sky-scraping trees
This garden has the lot;
Begonias, Chinese Rain Bells
And a topiary in a pot.

But! One must eventually say "Goodbye"
Through arches and arbours sublime;
To our hosts "Adieu", it's been great fun
Can't wait until next time.

submitted by Bette Weston from Ian Miller Toowoomba.

Sweet Spicy Mango Chutney

Save this recipe for summer when mangoes are in season.

8 large unripe mangoes
500g raw sugar
150mls malt vinegar
2 bay leaves
150mls water
salt to taste
1/4tsp ground cloves
1tsp chilli powder
1/4tsp crushed peppercorns
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2tsp ground mace
1/4tsp ground cardamom
60g raisins
60g shelled pistachio nuts
1tbsp fresh lime or lemon juice.

Peel and slice mangoes and place in a large enamel or stainless pan with water, salt and bay leaves. Cover, simmer over a low heat until mangoes begin to soften. Add malt vinegar, sugar and spices and bring to the boil. Simmer, uncovered until mixture begins to thicken. Add raisins, pistachios and lime or lemon juice and continue cooking until thick and syrupy. Pour into hot sterilised jars and seal.

submitted by Emily Jeffery from 'Harvest of Good Fruit'.

More Trivia

Here are some facts from the 1500's;

There was nothing to stop things falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, 'Dirt Poor'. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in winter when wet, so they would spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they would add more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold. *Kath Marshall*

Tips for Gardening Safely.

Begin your gardening session with a few stretches and exercises to warm up the muscles and joints you will be using. This helps prevent injury and reduces soreness at the end of the day.

Make sure the area in which you are working is free of obstacles such as gardening tools, bags, hoses and seedling trays. This helps prevent slips and falls.

Vary your activities so that you are not in the one position for more than 30mins at a time.

When doing tasks at ground level, like weeding or planting, kneel rather than bend at the waist. Where possible, keep one hand on the ground for support as you lean forward.

Tim Bagshaw, Maleny Physiotherapy.

The Bathtub Test

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director how do you determine

whether or not a patient should be institutionalised.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No." said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Year to Remember - 1918.

In view of 2014 being the centenary year of the commencement of WW1, I thought you might like this article covering its close.

At last the guns fall silent. After four years and three months and upwards of 10 million dead, the First World War comes to an end at 11am on the 11th November - the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month -- when fighting ceases on all battlefields and the disarming of German troops begins.

Six hours earlier an armistice document had been signed in a railway carriage in the forest Campagne in France to bring hostilities to an end.

It came more quickly than the Allies, who had been planning a campaign, in 1919, had expected, sparked when an offensive, spearheaded by British troops drove deep into enemy lines.

All through Britain church bells ring out at 11am as its war weary people jubilantly celebrate peace.

It has been won at great cost. Three quarters of a million men from Britain and a further 200,000 from the Empire have been killed and one and a half million have been seriously injured.

But tragedy drew the nation together and there was forged a united defiance and a national identity.

Events of the Year;

* Women over 30 and men over 21 gain the right to vote as the Representative of the People Act receives Royal assent in February.

* Wartime coalition premier David Lloyd George wins his first General Election as Prime Minister. It is the first election in eight years.

* Baron von Richthofen, the German air ace nicknamed the "Red Baron" is shot down and killed in April. In two yrs he destroyed 80 Allied aircraft.

* An end to workhouses is recommended by a committee on poor law.

* Major T. E. Lawrence - "Lawrence of Arabia" - leads the Arab forces into Damascus, abandoned by the Turks after General Allenby wins a crushing victory in Palestine.

* The Royal Air Force is born on 1st April. Independent of the Army and the Navy, it is created by merging the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

* A U-boat torpedoes the Irish mail-boat *Leinster*, sinking her off the Irish coast with the loss of 587 lives.

* Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates on 9th November as revolutionary fervour sweeps Germany - sailors mutiny and troops seize command posts.

Popular Songs;

'For Me and My Gal', 'In a Monastery Garden', 'Oh, Its a Lovely War', 'The Darktown Strutters Ball', 'K-K-K-Katy', 'Give Me the Moonlight', 'Rock-a- Bye Your Baby With a Dixie Melody'..

Evergreen Autumn 1998

Quick Quiz Answers

1. The island nation of the Maldives with 10.97 divorces per 100 inhabitants per year. The US rate is 4.34 and Australia's is 2.3.
2. About 29%
3. The 19th century. The first Italian recipe featuring tomatoes was only written down in 1839. Native to Central and South America, tomatoes only arrived in Europe (via Spain) in the 16th century.
Better Homes and Gardens

Editor's note.

I would like to thank the contributor's this Spring's Snippets.

They are: Marnie Trass, Tim Bagshaw, Bette Weston, Kath Marshall, Emily Jeffery, Bev Brown and Lisa Plucknett.

Please don't forget to write me a few words if you travel. We would love to hear about it.

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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