

## TOPIC: IDEAL GARDENS - CREATIVE LANDSCAPES

GUEST SPEAKER : **BILL ARMSTRONG**

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 30 JUNE 2015

Bill did not work with a prepared presentation but answered Members questions from the floor. He left New Zealand in 2003 and settled in Buderim where he established his garden and business at 133 Mountain Creek Road. He has 40 plus years experience in garden design and creation. His sub-tropical garden is open for viewing by appointment.

- Moving Rhododendrons is easy. They have very fibrous roots – mulch with pine needles
- Vireyas like shade and water
- Trees for semi shade use rainforest natives eg Native Gardenia Tree
- Bugs attack chives and shallots – cut back and spray with white oil
- Varieties of Rhododendrons suitable for Maleny – one of the toughest plants around. Dry season mite can attack so need to prune. Older varieties are best eg Elegance. Refer to books on older plants. They should grow well in Maleny
- Azaleas also like pine needles so grow under Rhododendrons
- Solar lighting – Bill has 12v lights in garden for background and highlighting. Solar is great for general lighting but not strong enough for highlighting
- Chinese Lantern Shrub likes dry situation. If too moist mealy bugs proliferate. Spray a mix of white oil, water and lime into soil
- For borers use syringe to inject a systemic borer solution into holes on tree
- For weeds Roundup is effective within 2 hours – others 5 hours
- Designing gardens Bill likes to meet with both husband and wife to understand what is wanted. Reserves the right to say when they are wrong eg Liquid Amber 6 feet from house, also Norfolk Island Pine. Needs to know if barbecue area, outdoor entertaining area, clothesline area, potting/storage shed are required
- Rose of Sharon removal – poison and let rot. 20 minutes after cutting pour mixture of diesel oil and Roundup to speed up process
- Monstera Deliciosa roots will eat concrete. Poinciana root system very intrusive
- Wisteria roots can be a menace but won't lift foundations. Old vines are strong enough to support a deteriorating timber veranda or pergola
- Deciduous Azaleas should grow well in Maleny
- So many new varieties of Hydrangeas – different colours grow well together and retain their individual colour – soil composition
- Nutgrass eradicator \$60 - \$80 a bottle at Bunnings. Sempra \$30 at Fernland Yandina
- Grass for heavy shade Sir Walter, Sapphire, not couch, last resort gravel. Sweet Smother Grass from South Africa finer than Sydney Buffalo
- Why do people wear red? To draw the eye. In gardens – introduce red to draw the eye
- Climbing Roses with black spot – prune hard, gather all fallen, infected leaves, bin or burn
- Root systems of large trees hold banks together. If cut down, roots gradually die but continue to hold bank together up to 10 – 20 years depending on type of tree

TO MEET WITH BILL ABOUT YOUR GARDEN NEEDS, PHONE 07 5478 2892 or 0432 307 410