

SNIPPETS from Here and There



Autumn 2016

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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.

A Note From Marnie

It is with great sadness that I start my chat with you all today, we have learnt of the passing of Joyce Ferguson. For those in the Club who have spent so much time with Joyce, we send our deepest sympathy.

We look back over the years with members like Joyce who have had so much input with the Club And remind ourselves of the work of longstanding Members who have carried us through to where we are today.

I know I have said it before, but we are a unique Club with great friendships, and once again we are reminded how precious life is. Joyce would have received life membership this year, you will be sadly missed Joyce.

I have just come in from the garden, and notice that buds are appearing on the camellias, and the season is changing. The heat will disappear and the cool weather will bring new life to our garden beds.

I think most of us have moved here to enjoy the change in seasons, which allows us to grow cooler climate plants.

The months fly past and the GOE will be here again, and Dot-along with her helpers, has found great gardens and the excitement of showing Maleny and the Hinterland off to visitors will commence.

I wish you a Happy Easter, which is fast approaching and look forward to the year ahead with all that we have planned in the coming months.

Yours in the garden,
Marnie

P.S. Wasn't it a great way to have lunch under the Trees after a meeting, we will do it again.

Quick Quiz.

1. The sea of Mamara lies within which country?
a. Ireland b. Ukraine. c. Egypt d. Turkey
2. Who preceded Quentin Bryce as Governor General of Australia?
a. William Hayden. b. William Deane. c. Peter Hollingsworth. d. Michael Jeffery.
3. The Lancastrian War was a part of which other war?
a. Hundred Year's War. b. World War I.
c. World War II. d. Thirty Year's War.

Answers on back page.



"I MET SOMEONE WONDERFUL IN A CHAT ROOM...
AND THEN I FOUND OUT SHE'S A CAT!"

Singapore ... a city in a garden

If you love gardens and have a bucket-list then Singapore should be on it. Only 7.5 hours flight from Brisbane, it is a beautiful, vibrant, safe and easy place to visit. We travel their several times a year to see our grandson and every time we are amazed by the stunning parks and gardens. Our last visit we spent our tourist time at *Gardens by the Bay*, but there are many others. *Gardens by the Bay*, a relatively new development, captures the essence of Singapore...with exotic, lush and mouth-watering displays of plants and flowers.

The architecture of *Gardens by the Bay* is inspiring in itself. We were stunned by the *Flower Dome*, *Cloud Forest*, *Supertree Grove* and *OCBC Skyway* and the conservation commitment that underpins the whole project.

The World Orchid Conference was held in the *Flower Dome* when it opened in 2011 and you wonder why they don't hold it there every year. The largest glass greenhouse in the world, it is a place of perpetual spring with Orchids and Dahlias everywhere you look. The displays are incredible, more like works of art and you can only begin to imagine how many busy hands keep it all so lush and loved. If you are a person who enjoys moderation in everything then perhaps *Gardens by the Bay* is not for you...for me though... I had to resist an overwhelming desire to simply fall down in the flowers and stay there.

Now once you have flooded your senses with nature's beauty head off to *Jumbo's* or any of the other restaurants at *East Coast Beach* to feast on Chilli Crab. It is not a meal for a first date as there can be a lot of finger licking and crab leg sucking but it is to die for.

Singapore is a **City in a Garden** and the locals obviously embrace that image too, with people walking, cycling, wheeling prams and picnicking everywhere. Although a small city with millions of people, I have never felt crowded. The people are polite and helpful and value older citizens which is a bonus at our age. Crime is almost non-existent. I think the food and the gardens keep everyone relaxed and content.

There are some great Singapore sites on the Internet if you prefer your first visit to be from the comfort of your computer. Try this one to check out the Gardens by the Bay as I have not done them justice -

<http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg>

After our first visit to *Gardens by the Bay* I found I had taken about 300 flower photos ...and after an intensive cull I still have about 290!

Oh and don't forget to visit Singapore's Botanic Gardens they will leave you speechless....the Orchids!!!

Karen Chalmers

The Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*).

Autumn 1991 my wife and I returned to the UK for the first time in 25 years, whilst over there we took a coach trip around the Alpine areas of Europe. During one conversation with the coach driver he told me he and his fellow bird watchers had come out to Australia from Germany to look for and photograph the "Red Goshawk".

The Red Goshawk is a large powerful spectacular bird of prey having a reddish-brown body streaked with black, body length from 40 to 60cm. its tail is grey and barred, and the wings are long and broad, the wingspan varies from 110 to 135cm. The Red Goshawk has a powerful hooked bill and large taloned feet. The female is much larger and more robustly built than the male with an average weight of 1.1 kg. against that of the male at 0.64 kg. The female has a paler plumage that is more heavily streaked with black. Juveniles have a reddish-brown head instead of the pale-coloured head of the adult, and lighter plumage elsewhere. Although usually a quiet bird, it sometimes emits a distinctive noisy shriek and cackle. The Goshawks breeding season is from December to May and its breeding grounds were once the tall eucalypt forests that stretched south from Cape York are to New South Wales.

The Red Goshawk requires large tracts of bio diverse habitat and is a very difficult bird to find and sightings of it are few, its numbers are considered to be in decline, and it is classed as near threatened. Our coach driver and his party did not spot one. *Peter Owens*

Garden Wit

Gardening requires lots of water---most of it in the form of perspiration. *Lou Erickson*

Old gardeners don't die. They just throw in the trowel. *Audrey Austin*

A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place but intends to stay *Sara Stein*

If you are a garden plant you are regarded; well regarded, just as long as you stay in the garden. *Davies Gilbert*

I think we consider too much the good luck of the early bird and not enough the bad luck of the early worm. *Franklin D Roosevelt*

He who slings mud generally loses ground. *Adlai E Stevenson*

An Englishman's home may be his castle, but it's the grounds that the Englishwoman cares about. *Wendy Holden*

One of the worst mistakes you can make as a gardener is to think you're in charge. *Janet Gillespie*

Other people's tools work only in other people's gardens. *Arthur Block, Murphy's Law and Other Reasons Why Things Go Wrong.*

It has been said that vines are to bits of architecture what a dress is to a woman. It may serve to enhance beauty or to cover defects. *Loring Underwood*
Submitted by Susan Myring

Sweet Violets

Violets like primroses have been associated with death, especially with the death of the young. This feeling has been constantly expressed with early times. It is referred to by Shakespeare in Hamlet and Pericles and by Milton in Lycidas.

But it is Napoleon Bonaparte with whom the violets are especially connected. Napoleon loved the flower which reminded him of his boyhood in the Corsican woods. Josephine wore violets on her wedding day because they were Napoleon's favourite flower. When she died, he planted violets on her grave. When he was first exiled, Napoleon claimed he would return from exile "with the violets spring". He plucked violets from the grave of Josephine and it was found after he died in 1821 that he had placed the violets in a locket which he wore around his neck. Napoleon's allies would ask: "Do you like violets?" as the test question requiring the answer "eh bien" to recognise friend from foe.

Even the austerity of Islam was not proof against their appeal. According to Mohammed, "as religion is above all others, so too is the excellence of the odour of violets above all others.

Queen Victoria adopted them as her mourning flower. According to legend, violets were white until Venus, jealous of Cupid's admiration of their purity, made them blue.

Herb Society of Nth Queensland 1988

Bendles and Edna Walling

Most of you will know of the bed and breakfast accommodation on the Maleny- Montville Road called Bendles. It turns out that there is an interesting connection between Bendles and the great Australian gardener, conservationist, photographer and writer Edna Walling.

Edna Walling was born in Devon but came to Australia at 20 and began to study horticulture and then garden design. She worked professionally and built her own cottage Sonning at Moorook, east of Melbourne. She created the village of Bickleigh Vale which was an experiment in her theories of urban design, with the buildings in sympathy with the landscape. Hedgerows, country lanes, stone walls, arbours, steps made a harmonious setting. After a unusual and adventurous life she spent the last five years of her life in Buderim.

When Bendles was built 25 year ago, the original owners Brenda and David Gray used her methods to plan the cottages and garden. The cottages are still named Sonning, Downderry, Mistover, Toorak and Bickleigh in her honour.

The Sunshine Coast Library has 10 books by and about Edna in the collection.

Carolyn Willadsen

God's Plan for Aging

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach & stretch.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

John Gyzemyter

A Gardener's Poem

She dug the plot on Monday - the soil was rich and fine
She forgot to thaw the dinner - so we went out to dine...
She planted roses Tuesday - She says they are a must
They are really quite lovely - but she forgot to dust...
On Wednesday it was daisies - they opened with the sun
All white and pink and yellows - but the laundry wasn't done!
The poppies came on Thursday - a bright and cheery red
I guess she really was engrossed - she never made the bed...
It was violets on Friday - in colours she adores
It never bothered her at all - all the crumbs upon the floor.
I hired a maid on Saturday - my week is now complete
My wife can garden all she wants - the house will still be neat!
It's nearly lunch time Sunday - and I can't find the maid
OH NO! I don't believe it - She's out there WITH THE SPADE! *John Gyzemyter*

How to Call the Police When You're Old and Don't Move Fast Anymore.

George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window.
George opened the back door to go and turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.
He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" and he said "no".
Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available.
George said, "Ok," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.
"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed Well, you don't have to worry

about them now because I've just shot them." Then he hung up.
Within five minutes three police cars, an Armed Response Unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed.
One of the Policemen said to George: "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"
George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"
I LOVE IT - Don't mess with older people!!

The Poppy

A cornfield dotted with scarlet poppies was once thought to be the creation of the Roman Goddess, Ceres. So that her cereals could grow safely, she always planted the pretty poppies in the field so that they could be given as a gift to the gods, who would then leave the corn alone. That is why it sometimes called the Red Rose of Ceres

It is also said that red poppies have sprung up in battlefields from the blood of men killed there.

"Summer set lip to earth's bosom bare,
And left flushed print in a poppy there;
Like a yawn of fire from the grass it came,
And the fanning wind puffed it to a flapping flame." *Francis Thompson (1859-1906) in R Nottridge (1995)The Floral Birthday Book,*

Editor's Note

A special thanks to those who contributed to this season's Snippets. I enjoy reading your articles, then placing them here. So I appreciate your thinking of me as I sit at the computer. Those names are; Karen Chalmers, Carolyn Willadsen, John Gyzemyter, Peter Owens, Susan Myering and as always- Marnie Trass.

Quick Quiz answers.

1. a. Turkey.
- 2.a Michael Jeffery.
3. a Hundred Year's War.
Better Homes & 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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