

SNIPPETS from Here and There



Summer 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.

Note From Marnie

I have to say, after a most delightful day at Pattermore House on Tuesday, that it has to be, that we have many more meetings at outside venues. We had one of the largest attendances at a general meeting in a long time, and I know that Penny and Sue from Pattermore House really appreciated our attendance. It is a long road endeavouring to restore these old properties back to their former glory,

I am involved with Glengallan Homestead near Warwick, a property my father acquired and formed a trust to also restore this lovely old building, and along with a group of very devoted people, it is slowly but surely coming back to life. We need such people to keep the history of our country towns alive.

On quite a different note, I thought I would talk roses, as mine at the moment are looking just so lovely. I wait all year, as we all do, to enjoy the fruits of our labour during the winter months, to have our gardens burst with colour in spring. I have favourites that do so well here on the hill, Jude de Obscure is a soft peach, cupped rose, which has the most beautiful fragrance, and looks lovely in a bowl with soft pink and cream roses. Cousin Essie is a shrub rose, in cream, and is covered in blooms, but needs room and suits a cottage garden. Lavender Lassie, is a soft pink/mauve, absolutely delightful and massed now with the warmer months, it is growing over a single arch.

I recently purchased Princess Alexandra of Kent, another pink, but slightly deeper colour, single rose on the stem, but one that I would recommend highly. Comelia is another, coral pink blooms, musk fragrance and flowering so well.

If you have a pergola, and you would like a rose that looks down at you as you pass, Madam Gregoire Staechlin is for you, it hangs over and smiles at you, an open rose, soft pink on colour, flowers in spring but worth waiting the rest of the year for. I could go on but won't. I hope you are all having as much fun in the garden as I am at the moment.

I look forward to our last meeting for the year, in November, and catching up with you at the

Xmas lunch. A heartfelt thank you for your support, during the year.

Yours in the garden, *Marnie*

Quick Quiz:

1. Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne?
2. Who invented the rabies vaccination?
3. Which word goes before vest, beans and quartet?
4. Where would you find the Sea of Tranquility?
5. What item of clothing was named after its Scottish inventor?

See back page for answers.

I Love You

Daddy had never grown flowers,
he spent little time in the soil.
He rarely showed us soul or emotion,
it hid behind toughness and toil.
He loved us but never once told us, we had to get
that from "the wife".

Our mother, he couldn't call "Mary",
who we knew he loved more than life.

He never once put his arms around her,
my two little brothers or me,
His smiles were infrequent, uncommon,
he acted quite indifferently.
And when we excelled or brought honour,
his words would stop well short of praise,
Twas then that we sort to untangle,
the might of the man from the maze.

Our daddy's eyes painted the pictures,
that mirrored the core of his mind,
A gold spark blazed brightly inside them,
and showed what was burning behind.
What he lacked in his normal expression,
like a lighthouse stood vibrant and clear,
For his eyes radiated love's message,
that our ears never needed to hear.

All Dad's seven brothers were similar,
their father had set them apart
Known for their strength and their fairness,
with cold chains of ice round each heart.
But the district knew well not to stir them,
respected by parish and banks
And Christ help the costic contingent,
when the Connor boys coiled and closed ranks.

Daddy had started a garden,
on a patch just beneath our bedrooms,
It struck us quite strange that he purchased the
tools and the bulbs for the blooms
He worked up the soil, then he planted, then with
gaunt words he screened through a sieve
He explained to our family encircled,
That he had just a short time to live.

"Now make sure you water them flowers" he said,
"I reckon they'll bloom in the spring".
As we said our goodbyes to our daddy,
Our little church started to sing.
And a strangeness and strength seemed to bond
us,
but it really had little surprise
For the flame that was lit deep inside us,
Was sparked from the light in his eyes.

The winter progressed, and we watered and
weeded,
then watched from above
As the miracle formed there below us,
and we felt the full force of Dad's love.
His blooms had exploded that morning,
from our bedrooms we took in the view
The slim yellow bands of Dad's tulips—
Ablaze with his words---I LOVE YOU
John Major

Handy Garden Tips

Tomato Plants; Put a bit of copper wire through
the stem to help produce good crops.

Pam Linnet

Cabbage Solution; Crushed egg shells around
broccoli and cabbage helps deter moths.

Beverly Scott

Tool Management; Keep a small spray bottle of
meths handy, to disinfect garden tools.

Dot Brown

Growing Beetroot.; Try adding boron to the soil
to aid the growth of beetroot.

Harvey Weston

On Azaleas; Don't water azaleas except on root
area to help prevent 'petal blight'. *Harvey Weston*

On Clivias; Give clivias a good feed of high
potassium fertiliser five months before flowering
in August. *Harvey Weston*

More Trivia;

Here are some more facts about the 1500s;

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with
a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every
day they lit the fire and added things to the kettle.
They ate mostly vegetables and didn't get much
meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving
left-overs in the pot to get cold overnight and
then start over again the next day. Sometimes
stew had food in it that had been there for quite a
while.

Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge
cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made
them feel quite special. When visitors came over,
they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was
a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the
bacon". They would cut off a little to share with
guests and would sit around and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter.
Food with high acid content caused some of the
lead to leach onto the food, causing death by lead
poisoning. This happened most often with
tomatoes, so for the next 400yrs or so, tomatoes
were considered poisonous.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The
combination would sometimes knock the imbibers
out for a couple of days. Someone walking along
the road would take them for dead and prepare
them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen
table for a couple of days and the family would
gather around, eat and drink and wait for them to
see if they would wake up.
Hence the custom of "holding a wake".

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 muscle 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
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 from the waist. Where possible, keep one foot on the ground for support as you lean forward.

When shovelling or using a garden fork move your feet to change direction rather than twisting your body around and keep one foot in front of the other.

Tim Bagshaw Maleny Physiotherapy

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Heather, the Flower for November

A gift of white heather brings luck to both the giver and receiver. The British Queen Victoria wrote of white heather in her diary of 29th September, 1855. (*I believe the following quote has been written in the third person*).

Our dear Victoria (the Princess Royal) was engaged to Prince Frederick William of Prussia. He had spoken to us of his wishes; but we were uncertain whether he himself should speak to her or wait till he came back again. During our ride up Craig-na-Ban, he picked a piece of white heather, the emblem of 'good luck' which he gave her; this enabled him to make an allusion to his hopes and wishes, as they rode down Glen Girnock, which led to their happy betrothal.

Queen Victoria (1819 – 1901)

The moor-cock springs on whirring wings
Among the blooming heather,
Come, let us stray our gladsome way,
And view the charms of Nature,
The rustling corn: the fruited thorn
And every happy creature.

Robert Burns (1759 – 1796)

R. Nottridge, (1994) *The Floral Birthday Book*.

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The Wonder of Two Japanese Gardens.

Peter and I recently took a 3 week train ride east to west along the south of Honshu and among many wonderful experiences, saw two outstanding Japanese style gardens. The Adachi Museum of Art is situated an easy ride from Matsue (get out your atlases) and boasts a garden that has been chosen as the best Japanese garden in Japan for 13 consecutive years. The museum was established by a local businessman to combine his two passions, Japanese art and gardens.

The gallery is beautifully housed and worth a visit in itself. The garden is a wonder of raked stone, 'planted' rocks, streams,

meticulously trimmed shrubs and carefully pruned trees. Spring, with the azaleas and the maples in autumn are a highlight in an otherwise mainly green toned and very textured landscape.

However, one aspect of the garden that we found surprising is that it is housed behind glass with only one small pathway through nature. Possibly its renown and the accompanying mass of visitors has forced this unusual situation. Of course, its founder said that "The garden is, so to speak, a picture scroll" and one does get a feeling that the garden is a gallery in itself with the large 'windows' acting as frames to the different garden areas. It was, one could say, a perfect Japanese garden.

The unusual presentation of the garden may have influenced our opinion that we enjoyed the second garden more. One could stroll as usual through the Korakuen Garden in Okayama. It was only billed as one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan and although still of amazing design and elegance, it was more relaxed in a controlled Japanese way.

A Japanese feudal lord ordered the construction of the garden in 1687 and used it to entertain important guests. It now belongs to the prefecture and has been open to the public since 1884. The garden is designed in a scenic promenade style which presents the visitor with a new view at every turn of the path which connects the vast lawns, ponds, hills, tea houses, streams and bridges. As well as having the very ordered Japanese style vistas with azaleas trimmed to the millimetre, it also has a cherry grove, a tea plantation, rice fields and a crane aviary which perhaps give it a more accessible feel.

Two magnificent gardens!

Carolyn Willadsen

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Ornamental Garden plants

A renewed interest for 2016-17 are ornamental garden Fuschias and Echinaceas.

Fuschias;

The tiny Fuschia "Sun Kisses", now on the market has awakened our passion for these versatile, beautiful plants, which tolerate our weather and soil condition very well, lasting with care for many years. Tolerating morning sun, broken or filtered sunlight, plus flowering well is a real bonus.

The nursery will inform you on the growth habits of various Fuschias for best results. . The Bush Shape, is a compact, dome shaped bush achieved by constant pruning.

The Fan-Shaped Espaliers, require a wall or fence to train the plant on. Pruning is essential, but the effect is worth the effort.

The Standard, also requires attention, being a lovely feature in the garden.

Baskets of Fuschias, are eye-catching with flowers spilling over the sides. Be sure to place some wet-a-soil in with the potting mix or a saucer full of charcoal in the base of the basket. An inner lining of plastic with a hole help. Water well, avoiding sogginess.

Feeding:

Feed with slow-release fertiliser or a liquid fertiliser for growth until buds appear, then change to a high potash liquid fertiliser to promote flowering.

Pruning:

Remove thin twiggy growth and old branches close to the stem in late winter.

Echinaceas:

Have been one of my favourite daisy plants. The pink is always in my garden, sadly the white has gone. Does anyone know where they are available?

Gardening Australia has featured pink Echinacea twice this year. Grand Design when showing landscaping had two gardens, one with a block of white Echinacea another a few pink. Will Echinacea feature in the nurseries this season? If you have any seeds, which I left at our meeting a few months ago, now is the time to sow them into a seed box. When large enough, pick out into tiny pots before re-growing into full sun.

They will flower for many months, die down in winter to re-grow the following summer and many after.

Ideal for long lasting cut flowers, loved by the bees, so near the vegie garden is an ideal location.

All the plant can be used as a medical herb. See a herb book for this information, a valuable book to keep in your library.

Pat Powell

Household Tip;

This is my own bathroom cleaning mixture that is suitable for tiles, mirrors and glass shower screens. A nylon scouring pad will not hurt the tiles or the glass shower screen.

Into a 750ml bottle with a child-proof screw top, mix together

¼ cup each of methylated spirits and kerosene.

Add ½ cup fabric softener,

1 tsp eucalyptus oil and

2 cups cold water.

Wring out a cloth in water, add a dash of the shaken mixture and clean all the bathroom surfaces. Buff up with a soft dry cloth. For safety's sake do not forget to label the bottle clearly and shake well before using.

Margaret Owens

Gardening Wit.

A man should never plant a garden larger than his wife can take care of. T. H. Everett

As long as one has a garden, one has a future. As long as one has a future, one is alive.

F.H. Burnett

The problem with picnics is that they're always held on a holiday – when the ants have a day off too.

Gene Perret.

Editor's Note

A special thanks to those who contributed to this season's Snippets. I enjoy reading each of the articles, then placing them here. So I appreciate your thinking of me as I sit at the computer. Thank you to;

Pat Powell, Carolyn Willadsen, Tim Bagshaw, Harvey Weston, Pam Linnet, Beverly Scott and Dot Brown. John Major and Marnie Trass.

Answers to Quick Quiz;

- 1.Dom Perignon.
- 2.Louis Pasteur.
- 3.String
- 4.The Moon.
- 5.A mackintosh

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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