

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Autumn 2019

President

Dot Jupp
5445 7795

Hon. Secretary

Marie Hegarty
5494 4404

Hon. Treasurer

Anne Boyle
5499 9238

Editor

Margaret Owens
5429 6789

Mailing Address: The Secretary, P.O. Box 563, Maleny Qld 4552

Website www.malenygardenclub.org

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 the President:

We are all looking forward to the weather cooling down so that working in the garden becomes a pleasure again. The occasional rain and the warmth is producing some phenomenal growth and when it is cool enough, we are out there pruning – Pete and his chipper can barely keep up with it. We have been keeping up the water in the bird bath as our feathered friends struggle in this weather.

It was a delight to find the blue banded bees busy and happily creating a little village of nests in a bank of red dirt under the house. It is a really dry spot there so we hope they will call it home for some time. Blue-banded bees are one of a few native Australian bee species that perform a particular type of pollination known as 'buzz pollination'. Also known as sonication, this type of pollination is really useful on crops such as tomatoes, blueberries, cranberries, kiwi fruit, eggplants and chilies, but the well-known and very common western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*), is incapable of performing this process. For this reason, the blue-banded bee is extremely valuable to Australian farmers.

Are you looking forward to a change of pace when we go to the showgrounds for our April meeting to hear our special speaker Claire Bickle? Claire is a qualified Brisbane based horticulturalist with a Diploma in Horticulture and an Advanced Design Certificate in Permaculture Design. She says of herself, "Children, chooks and all things related to gardening and nature are the main passions in life. My love for everything horticultural stems

from many a childhood day spent in the company of my grandmother, an avid gardener and plant lover. This passion I now share with my three children and this passion I have I made into a career that has lasted over 20 years so far."

Pete and I enjoyed our time in Sri Lanka, people are so friendly and welcoming. A most interesting visit was to an Ayurvedic garden where we saw cinnamon trees and many other medicinal plants growing. The Sinhalese use Ayurvedic medicine as part of their mainstream health care. Sandalwood oil is widely used therapeutically. One of the Sri Lankan staple foods, the bitter melon is purported to be very good for diabetes. Dot was happily eating curries for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Pete sticks to his muesli for breakfast!!!

Schooling is compulsory for children from 5 + to 13 years of age. Education is state funded and offered free of charge at all levels, including university. The government also provides free textbooks to schoolchildren. The youth literacy rate stands at 97%. Although Sri Lanka may have a third world look in some respects it is moving ahead very strongly. Would we go back – Oh Yes, and soon we hope.

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For You to Think About.

Woman, however, has always been the moral standard-bearer and the spiritual leader of mankind. The hand that rocks the cradle still fraternises with destiny.

Quick Quiz:

1. Name the only heavyweight boxing champion to finish his career of 49 fights without ever having been defeated?
2. What is the painting 'La Gioconda' more usually known as?
3. Name the author of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, *Dr No* and *Thunderball*, among others?.
4. In which film did Humphrey Bogart say, "We'll always have Paris?"

For answers, see back page.

Travelogue.

Pete and I really enjoyed our recent holiday in Portugal and Spain. In Porto and met up with old friends from Perth to do a 10 day cruise up the river Douro, famed for its connection with port wine. Porto is a very attractive old city, with many lovely buildings and extensive large panels of historic events and cultural tableaux in blue and white tiles; the railway station (an old convent) is particularly special. An evening of "Fado" in one of the baroque gilded churches was particularly enjoyable.

The boat was very comfortable, and we spent many hours between tours on the top deck enjoying the passing and increasingly rugged scenery. There was always something of interest, in fact mostly terraced vineyards which produce their famous Port wine. We did several Port tastings. In Cockburn cellars in Porto we saw bottles of port dating back to 1826 behind secure iron bars. They have over 9 million litres of port aging in barrels. The Douro valley is famous for growing port wine grapes because of the underlying granite and the naturally occurring "schist" which they use as a mulch.

We visited several picturesque villages, always with a port tasting in a lovely villa or garden, including a fantastic fairy tale garden at Quinta Aveleda and Palacio Mateus (remember Mateus Rose!!) The lochs going up and down the river are fascinating, one of them is an incredible 35 meters lift and took an hour to get through; it is the highest in Europe. The boat could only navigate as far as the Spanish border as the Spanish had put a number of dams across the river but no lochs. From the border we went by bus to the very old city of Salamanca, an ancient university town; founded in 1218 the university is the fourth oldest continually operating university

in the world. The carved stonework in the university and cathedral is quite exquisite.

From our return to Porto we flew to Madrid for a busy six days, taking day trips to Segovia, Avila (an ancient walled city, the walls maintained in perfect condition) and Toledo. All the various guides were wonderful, and we loved the history of the towns. The very old castle in Segovia had to be seen to be believed, a cross between Disneyland and Neuschwanstein.

A lovely holiday but we are always glad to be home on the beautiful range. We came back to three weeks of friends and family visiting with a week of constant rain which frustrated our attempts to go out weeding – the first thing in mind when getting back to the garden. We are now back into the swing of things and looking forward to the Christmas functions. *Dot Jupp.*

Famous Garden Quotes;

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

David Hobson

Work with soil is not a curse; rather it is the highest blessing to all who are thus permitted to enjoy this most human of all human activities.

Anon

Brighten our Dull Days.

When all those yellow flowers were displayed at our January meeting, it was evident that our members have embraced that colour. Yellow is so good to brighten our gardens during those dull days over late summer and early autumn.

Flowers are prone to damage in wet weather; however foliage of plain yellow, or lime and marigold yellow and green, will stand up to the battering of heavy rain.

The choice of flowering shrubs or trees highlighting our garden with bright yellow is wide. Try grevilleas, abutilon (Chinese lantern), Golden Penda trees or dwarf varieties. Hymenanthera (lilly pilly) flushes lime, yellow and rust. This native to the Blackall Range, is one of the most under-

used natives to be planted within its home territory.

If you find natives too restricting try Shinnas Gold, cordylines, variegated or golden privet well managed, flax, cannas with yellow and green foliage or bougainvillea, which will fit into the middle range of planting as does the lovely golden leaf geranium, which does so well on our range.

Bromeliads, low growing hardy acorus and yellow fish bone fern lighten up lower down in the garden as do succulents and edging plants.

If variegated foliage is not your preference there are enough yellow or lime plants for you to have a wide choice. A warning! Madagascan Hemp has been a must-have with many gardeners only to find that it grows very large with leaves having sharp ends! Also after flowering it leaves a giant gap with much cleaning up. If you have a large area enjoy this plant otherwise forget it and take pleasure in the plants you see in others gardens.

Pat Powell garden notes, February 2019.

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Travelogue.

Last August Alan and I travelled to Sydney via Lakes Entrance for a Week's holiday.

We travelled with our small caravan and had an overnight stopped at a small town, south of Tamworth, on the New England H/way called Wallabadah. The rest area in the town beside a park was a gold coin donation to stay and use the facilities, and we woke to see a very frosty morning the next day.

The reason for visiting this park is that it is the First Fleet Memorial Gardens. The gardens were instigated by a Ray Collins who was born in Paddington in 1936 but found later in his life that the family had changed its name from Cross. It seemed the family wanted to hide their convict ancestry. He discovered that there was no memorial inscribed with the names of all those who came out on the First Fleet, and after

approaching 10 local councils he found one that was interested in establishing a park.

Around the park are the different ships that were in the fleet, each listing the names of those convicts who landed: 543 men and 189 women plus 22 convicts.' Children 11 boys and 11 girls. There were 619 officials/mariners/ships crew and their families. In total 1373.

During the voyage there were 22 births [13 boys and 9 girls] while 69 people either died, were discharged, or deserted [61 males and 8 female]. on board indicating whether they were Convicts, Mariners, Seamen or Dependants.

In the centre of the park made out of hedging and smaller shrubs was a map of Australia [including Tasmania]. At the entrance to the park was a picnic area with tables with sails atop to represent the ships. We must have walked around for about an hour taking in all the information there.

So if you happen to be in the area it is well worth a visit.

Emily Jeffery

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Lost Words from our Childhood:

Mergatroyd! Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word Mergatroyd?

The other day a not so elderly (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy; and he looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a Jalopy?" He had never heard of the word jalopy! She knew she was old .. But not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. These phrases included: Don't touch that dial, Carbon copy, You sound like a broken record, and hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten up and fly right. Heavens to Betsy! Gee whisksers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy moley!

We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us

of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill.
Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell,
but when's the last time anything was swell?
Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys
and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, trilby, poodle
skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he
isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a
short nap, and before we can say, "Well, I'll be a
monkey's uncle!" Or, "This is a fine kettle of
fish!" We discover that the words we grew up
with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as
oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice
from our tongues and our pens and our
keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words
we've left behind. We blink, and they're
gone. Where have all those great phrases
gone?

Long gone: Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey!
It's your sixpence Don't forget to pull the
chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well,
Fiddlesticks! I'll see you in the funny papers.
Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words
and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This
can be disturbing stuff! (Carter's Little Liver
Pills are gone too!)

We of a certain age have been blessed to live
in changeable times. For a child each new word
is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at
the other end of the chronological arc have the
advantage of remembering there are words that
once did not exist and there were words that
once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage
and now are heard no more, except in our
collective memory. It's one of the greatest
advantages of aging.

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find
a phone booth...

See ya later, alligator! Okidoki.
You'll notice they left out "Monkey Business"!!!

Contributed by Ian Grice

The Bumble Bee Bat.

The smallest bat in the world also happens
to be the smallest mammal in the world.
The bumblebee bat is only about one inch
long and lives in Thailand and Myanmar,
formally Burma. It weighs about as much
as the old Australian 5 cent piece. It really

is about the size of a large bumble bee.
This reddish brown (or gray) little creature
has no tail, but has a wingspan of about
6.5 inches. It is formally called Kitti's hog-
nosed bat (you can guess why) and lives
in limestone caves along rivers.

Like many endangered animals, its
habitat has been disturbed by mankind. It
was mostly unknown to the world until 1974
when scientists were classifying bats in
Thailand.

Like most bats, the bumblebee bat flies
out of its roosting place at night to catch
insects. Its activity is briefer, 20-30 minutes
in the evening and then again before
dawn, because short flights are easily
interrupted by heavy rain or cold
temperatures. Though very small, the bat's
long wing tips allow it to hover like a
hummingbird. Female bats give birth to
one baby bat a year, and it takes about a
year to raise their young. Since this takes
so long, it makes these bats even more
susceptible to extinction. Burning forests
near these limestone caves has hampered
their survival. Some indicate there may
only be about 2,000 of these cute (can
you call any bat cute?) little guys left.

Reference Amazing Facts T.V. Programme.

Editor's Note.

*A special thank you for all those who
so graciously contribute to the success
of Snippets each quarter, especially to
Emily Jeffery, Ian Grice, Pat Powell
and Dot Jupp, who provided articles
for this edition..*

Answers to Quick Quiz

1. Rocky Marciano
2. The Mona Lisa.
3. Ian Fleming.
4. Casablanca.

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 email:
margaret.owens@bigpond.com

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