

TOPIC : **“FLOWER POWER** – Wild flowers are making a comeback” Flowers for Scent, Colour, Flavour; Good Bugs and Memories.

GUEST SPEAKER : **CLAIRE BICKLE**

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 30 APRIL 2019 AT MALENY SHOWGROUNDS PAVILION

Claire shared her flower memories –

- The language of flowers; Flower Fairies Snugglepots and Cuddlepie books; Flowers my Grandmother and Great Aunt loved e.g. lavender; Gardens from my childhood
- Why flowers are on Trend – Food source for bees and good bugs; Butterflies need nectar and host plants; Flower picking / scent; Edible flowers / garnishing; Colour stimulation; Seasonal growing; Pots and small backyard living; Size and range available; Maybe we are sick of Yuccas etc now; Historical Flowers – Ancient Civilisations; Flowers in Art; Flowers have inspired many a great artist e.g. Van Gogh; Flowers in Memoriam, Lest We Forget; Flanders Poppies hold a significant place; May Gibbs Gumnut Babies; Cecily Mary Barker’s Flower Fairies; What does a flower garden mean to you? What does your patch consist of? Favourite flower memories wish list; Eupatorium Purple Mist Flower and Bougainvillea;
- Nature Deficit Phenomenon exists in inner cities; City folks suffer from Plant Blindness due to loss of garden space with more buildings on smaller blocks
- Honey Rose is a prostrate Bougainvillea ideal for small spaces; Flowering annuals / bulbs always make a great show but are short lived; Salvias galore – there are hundreds of them and bees love them; Floral Classics- Pentas, Geraniums, Echinacea, Marigolds
- Subtropical / Tropical delights are Heleconias, Gingers, Frangipani - Structure and Colour
- Lavender (particularly French); Pineapple Sage; Heliotrope ‘Cherry Pie’; Rondeletia and Brunfelsia for fragrance; Climbing Scented Jasmines; Quisqualis (Rangoon Creeper) now double and all white varieties available. Shrub Scent - Port Wine Magnolias and Gardenias
- Old fashioned roses e.g. Lady Hillingdon, Mrs BR Cant don’t seem to get black spot like the hybrid teas. Eco Fungicide is a black spot preventative. Other Heirloom varieties - Lorraine Lee, Claret Cup (very thorny), Peace 1902 large tea shaped blooms pale yellow/lemon/pink
- World of Camellias – need TLC water for 2 years to develop fibrous root system for a very hardy plant. Some are fragrant, others prostrate; good varieties for hedging
- The Good Bug Mix & Bee Mix from Green Harvest. Alyssum, begonias, nasturtiums, violas
- Cosmos and Coriander. Perennial coriander good for summer, other for cooler months
- Aloe hybrids of lily family. Celosia, Yellow Salvia, Pink Monkey Tail Plant-dry spell survivors
- Top Tips for Great Flower Gardens – dead heading annuals; pruning perennials; regular fertilising high in potassium and applications of seaweed/kelp liquid fertiliser; consistent watering and mulching especially during summer; choose appropriate plant species; talk to local gardeners and horticulturalists; flowering shrubs respond well to a good prune after flowering to encourage new growth and more flowers the following season

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