

# SNIPPETS

From here and there



## Spring 2019

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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 the President.

At the beginning of the month Pete and I took an interesting little road trip to see the Waterfall Way in Northern NSW. We drove down through Gatton and were amazed at the incredible expanse of acre after acre of so many vegetables.

On through Warwick and the realisation that the Darling Downs food bowl we saw with Nancy on the Miles trip extended all the way to Stanthorpe; such a vast area of pastoral and farming activity. As we drove on to Armidale, we became distressed by the dryness, the terrible devastation the drought has brought to the Granite Belt. With our first day focussed on getting to Armidale we became aware of how much we were not seeing; the heritage and the lovely towns, so we must do it again taking more time.

We drove down the Waterfall Way from Armidale to Dorrigo, 125km. After 70km or so the land began to become greener and eventually we were in lush dairying country with lovely views of the expansive gorge country. The waterfalls were running at Ebor and on through to Dorrigo with some lovely walks along the way.

The next day we explored National Parks near Dorrigo (there are 5 National Parks on the Waterfall Way), seeing seven waterfalls. All these falls are

permanent, drawing their water from the depths beneath the extensive rainforest. Much of the area is World Heritage Gondwana Rainforest featuring in particular the Antarctica Beech which existed when Australia, NZ, South America and Antarctica were joined.

The Dorrigo Rainforest Centre is a must see; after running the gauntlet of the souvenirs and gifts there is a very comprehensive information and display section, well worth visiting. The skywalk and 6.6km Wonga Walk in Dorrigo National Park were just lovely. Numerous Brush Turkeys per square metre.

The drive from Dorrigo at 750m to Bellingen near the coast is down an amazing and very beautiful steep winding road. Bellingen is a delightful little town, lots of cafes and half of Sydney visiting. On to Yamba for the night, a pretty town but the best of it is at Angourie which is a nearby very relaxed little village on the beach where we had a splendid breakfast before heading for home.

Four nights away and 1500km, a really enjoyable short trip away. But next time we do it – and we will, we'll take at least one extra day to see more of the "high country". Waterfall Way is regarded as the loveliest in NSW and 5<sup>th</sup> in Australia.

Back at home we are delighted to see flocks of scarlet honeyeaters in the callistemons and

paperbarks, their constant twitter making us happy in our work. When we were at Secrets one time, their gardener was foliar spraying seaweed during a very dry period and he said it just helped the garden get through the tough times so we will try that. Although some plants look very sad it is just amazing how they survive and rejuvenate.

A thank you to Marnie who brought back two Luculias from Mt Tambourine, everyone wanted one after seeing the beautiful specimen at Di Falconer's garden in June. Marnie thought the fairest thing was to put them in the raffle, so well done to the lucky winners. However, my neighbour and myself were lucky enough to find one in Bunnings, Maroochydore so you never know!

Happy Gardening from *Dot and Pete*

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## *Sculpture Gardens*

### *Noguchi Gallery, New York*



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## *Spring Quote*

*In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.*

*Margaret Atwood*

## **Quick Quiz**

1. What did the crocodile swallow in Peter Pan?
  2. At what temperature does water boil?
  3. Where was Christopher Columbus born?
  4. What is the Hungarian word for pepper?
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## **Some Remarkable Gardens of the British Isles (Part 4 Final)**

The last stage of our wondrous journey began on the tiny island of Iona which holds a unique place in the history of Scotland. The Irish missionary St Columba built a monastery there in 563AD where it became a centre of Celtic Christianity which spread throughout Scotland and into Europe. Over the centuries the monks were driven out by Viking raids until 1200AD when Iona Abbey was built on the ruins of the monastery. Over 60 early Scottish, Irish, Norwegian and European kings and chieftans are buried there but during the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Abbey's function was dissolved, all the tombstones were thrown into the sea and records destroyed. We were disappointed not to be able to identify the grave of Macbeth in particular. The building fell into disrepair until in the early 1900's a Duke of Argyll commenced restoration. It remains a spiritual icon for Christian pilgrims but general visitors can admire the Celtic crosses and stone carvings. The stiff Hebridean wind doesn't appear to encourage much gardening to speak about.

We sailed over to the Isle of Mull to the 13<sup>th</sup> century cliff-top Duart Castle, ancestral home and part time residence of the Clan MacLean. Lots of

narrow stone stairs, low doorways and some low ceilings would not be conducive to my living there. However the castle has been beautifully restored and furnished which affords a rewarding glimpse into the past. In 2000 Sir Lachlan MacLean planted the Millenium Wood, a collection of trees and shrubs indigenous to Argyll. The tea room offers menus utilising produce from the walled garden and poly-tunnel.

The most famous of Scotland's gardens, Inverewe Garden, is situated in the North West amid 20ha of scenery of great natural beauty between Loch Ewe and the Wester Ross Mountains. Warmed by the Gulf Stream, the garden sustains plants from many temperate regions of the world – Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Himalayas, South and North America. A vegetable, fruit and flower garden was constructed by excavating the glacial raised beach. Soil was imported for this and other areas to provide a better medium than the native gravel, rock and peat, for growth. The garden was commenced in the 1870's and most of the structure is original. Bequeathed to The National Trust of Scotland in 1922, the Trust has upgraded the pathways and planted woodland ground cover, summer flowering shrubs and perennials. It was certainly pleasurable to wander through just a portion of the vast plantings and discovering Wollemi Pines, Tasmanian Eucalypts and other familiar plants and shrubs tended by 10 full time gardeners.

Last on the list of stunning gardens we visited was Crathes Castle, a magnificent tower house with an intricate maze of turrets, towers, oak panels and ceiling paintings. It sits on land gifted to the Burnetts of Leys family by King Robert the Bruce in 1323. The beautiful pink harled castle was built by the family in the 16<sup>th</sup> century near Banchory in the Aberdeenshire region and inhabited by successive generations for 400 years. (Harling is a rough cast wall finish consisting of lime and aggregate notable for its rough texture and weather resistance. Many Scottish castles and contemporary structures use this wall finishing. I was reminded of brick rendering back home). The castle estate contains 530 acres of woodlands and fields, including nearly 4 acres of amazing walled garden within which are gravel paths surrounding specimen plants mostly in herbaceous borders. There is also a grass croquet court at a higher terraced level within the garden walls. Topiary hedges of Irish yew planted in 1702 separate the gardens into eight themed areas.

Our journey ended at the port of Leith where we farewelled the good ship Island Sky, excellent crew

and happy band of fellow gardeners and travellers. From the port by coach to Edinburgh for a couple of days visiting friends before the flight to Canada to visit Jennifer's brother in Calgary and on to friends in Portland Oregon, San Francisco and then home – that is another story.

I commend Botanica World Discoveries for the well planned, diverse itinerary, great guides, organisation, comfort and attention to the needs of all travellers. I look forward to another adventure with them. *Kevin Radbourne.*

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*Spring Quote*

*I enjoy the spring more than the autumn now.  
One does, I think, as one gets older.*

*Virginia Woolf*  
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*Sculpture Gardens*

*National Gallery of Australia, Canberra*



*Welcome to our Garden*

(the Good – the Bad....the Bold and the Beautiful)

We've got Bandicoots and Bindi-eye,  
The lawn is slowly dying;  
There's chick weed and there's Wandering Jew,  
Rampant and defiant.

Begonias have the blight,



Magnolias are miffed;  
To tell the truth – my spouse and I  
Are peeved and slightly piffed.

The Camellias are wilting,  
Magnolias on strike  
But poinsettias and sun-flowers  
Are really what we like.

But just today my giant sun-flower,  
So lustrous, green and bright;  
Just up and died – and yes I cried  
It was got at – in the night.

The sweet peas just flopping round  
They don't know how to climb,  
And as Kevin's not a sweet pea man,  
That problem must be mine.

Geraniums once strong and green,  
Now have mouldy fungus,  
The beds look like a frozen waste,  
Humungous Russian tundras.

But the gardener's over eighty,  
And the wife's a lazy slob;  
But Blackall Care are always there  
To do the heavy jobs.

We've electrified our Southern side  
Though we love our neighbours dearly;  
But that's to stop a wandering bird,  
A turkey acting queerly.

But we're happy with our hyacinths,  
Tittilated by our tulips;  
Delighted with our daffodils,  
And we've never drunk mint julips.

We love our rustic ambience,  
With Hopper's heifers hovering round;  
And we love our rustic attic;  
Nightly nestled – safe and sound.

And we hope to stay forever here  
Till we're both – six foot underground.

And now you're free to wander round  
And you know what to expect;  
And as long as we're all happy-  
Who cares!-and what the heck.

Kevin and Lisa Plucknett...Maleny July 2018.

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## *Sculpture Gardens*

### Sutton Forest, NSW



#### Answers to Quick Quiz.

1. Alarm clock
2. 100°C
3. Genoa
4. Pepper.

*Editor's Note; My thanks to all contributors of the written word; sculpture gardens & spring quotes from Carol, standing in as editor for Margaret this spring.*

**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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