

SNIPPETS from Here and There



Winter 2017

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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,

I cannot commence my note this month, without saying how grateful the Committee and I am to all of you for the work you did to make our GOE such a success.

We will have this breakup of the event ready for the next meeting, as some commissions have not been presented yet. Dot and the GOE Committee that was formed this year worked so hard to make sure that the signage was improved, the advertising more far reaching, expense management and everything was done to have a safe and successful weekend. The standard of plants and produce was exceptional, a great credit to all of you.

On to other matters, we have filled our Sip n Snip visits for this year, but if you'd like to open your garden next year to our members, please let us know as it is such a great morning out, we don't normally have more than about 25- 30 members in any one visit, and don't feel that we are looking for perfection, it's like when family visits, you take us as you find us, is the attitude, weeds and all.

The rose I mentioned last meeting for those who may want to buy one is, Souvenir de Louis Amade. It is such a pretty thing and very fragrant.

I am sure you are enjoying as I am the change of season with our camellias, magnolias and flowering fruit trees all bursting into bloom.

It is such a shame that camellias don't have a fragrance, the only plant that I have in my garden with a fragrance is High Fragrance which Darryl had on sale in the pavilion, a soft pink with very informal petals.

I close, looking forward to our next meeting at Witta at the end of the month.

Thank you for your support last weekend.

Yours in the garden,
Marnie

.....

Quick Quiz.:

- 1."His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork" is a quote from this famous actress, who had a notorious feud with Raquel Welsh.
 2. What colour is a Welsh poppy?
 3. What singer/actor gave Marilyn Monroe a white poodle named Mafia?
 4. Name the famous Russian dancer who changed the face of modern ballet?
- (see back page for answers)

The Flower for June:

The Sweet William flower, is believed to have been named after the Scottish Duke of Cumberland, William Augustus, who was infamous for his attacks on injured Jacobites after a battle. However, he once saved Londoners from attack by the North and in gratitude the flower was named after him. His enemies, the Jacobites, then called the smelly ragwort 'Stinking Billy' by way of revenge.

In flower language, the Sweet William means a smile. A posy of Sweet William makes a joyful birthday present for a good friend.

Contributed by Jan Baker from 'The Floral Birthday book'

Handy Hints.

Rhubarb will not go mushy if you steam cook it with a little sugar added.

Mrs W. Gibb, Cronulla

For a successful pavlova use half ordinary sugar and icing sugar instead of castor sugar.

Mrs Dickman, Wahroonga

Apply a thin coat of window cleaner to brass and allow it to dry. This helps prevent brass from tarnishing for at least six months. Mrs Oliver, Bellbird.

Witty Sayings by Famous People.

Be who you are and say what you feel.
Because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. Dr Seuss.
Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing.
Oscar Wilde
I will always choose a lazy person to do a job....because, he will find an easy way to do it. Bill Gates.
The only people worthy to be in your life are the ones that help you through the hard times and laugh with you after the hard times pass. Anon (but worthy of inclusion).

Wedge-tailed Eagle

The Wedge-tailed Eagle or **bunjil** (*Aquila audax*), is Australia's largest living bird of prey, and an endangered species. It is one of 12 species of large, predominantly dark-coloured booted eagles found worldwide, and having a lifespan up to 20 years.

The female can weigh up to 5.8 kg (12.7 lb), having a wingspan up to 2.84 m (9 ft 4 in) and a length up to 1.06 m (3 ft 6 in), the smaller males weigh up to 4 kg (8.8 lb). The Wedge Tail Eagle is distinguished by its unmistakable tail, unique to this species.

Adult females tend to be slightly paler than males. As the breeding season approaches, wedge-tailed eagle pairs perch close to each other and preen one another. They also perform dramatic aerobatic display flights together over their territory.

Wedge-tailed Eagles tend to nest on the sides of the Ranges in nests in the fork of a tree between one and 30 m above the ground and hunt in the open desert woodlands, but if no suitable sites are available, it will nest on a cliff edge.

Before the female lays eggs, both birds either build the large stick nest or add new sticks and leaf lining to an old nest. The nest is a large structure of dead sticks with a shallow cup on the top, can be 2 to 3 metres deep and 2 m wide and weighing as much as 400 kg. The female usually lays two eggs, which are incubated by both parents. After about 45 days, the chicks hatch. At first, the male does all the hunting. When the chicks are about 30 days old, the female stops brooding and joins her mate to hunt for food.

The young wedge-tailed eagles depend on their parents for food up to six months after hatching leaving only when the next breeding season approaches.

Wedge-tailed eagles can soar for hours on end without a wing beat and seemingly without effort, regularly reaching 1,800 m (5,900 ft) and sometimes considerably higher. Wedge-tailed Eagles use the updrafts of thermals to rise effortlessly. Pairs often engage in aerobatic displays to advertise their territory to competitors.

These eagles have a keen eyesight able to extend into the ultraviolet bands. They have bony rings around their eyeballs which can squeeze and elongate their eyeballs, thus simulating the same effect as a telephoto lens on a camera enlarging the image seen by the bird, which enables them to accurately judge the distance between them and their prey.

They have a poor sense of smell and taste. Carrion is a major part of their diet. Numbers have been killed by cars whilst feeding on road kill. In the past their feeding on dead farm animals resulted in them being shot at and killed by farmers under the delusion the eagle had killed their beasts.

Most of their prey is captured on the ground in gliding attacks, sometimes in the air. Choice of prey is very much a matter of convenience and opportunity comprising small introduced and indigenous animals e.g. Rabbits, hares, foxes, cats as well as native animals such as wallabies, small kangaroos, possums, koalas, bandicoots, bush turkeys, ducks, and reptiles. Peter Owens

How Unfortunate Can One Be!

There is this little man sitting inside a bar, looking at his drink. He stays there for half an hour.

Then this burly truck driver steps up next to him, takes the drink from the man and drinks it all down.

The poor man starts crying. The truck driver says- "Come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't see a man crying.

"No, it's not that. Today's been the worst day of my life. First, I overslept, was late for an important meeting. My boss, outraged, just fired me.

When I left the building for my car, I found out it was stolen. The police said they could do nothing. I got a cab to return home and after I paid the driver and the cab had

gone, I found that I had left my whole wallet in the cab.

I got home only to find my wife in bed with the gardener. I left home and came to this bar. And when I was thinking about putting an end to my life, you show up and drink my poison..."

Orchids and inspiration at the Gympie Garden Expo.

Orchids, advice and inspirational gardens were highlights of MGC's first visit to the Gympie Garden Expo on May 6. More than 50 people took part in the trip kindly organised by Nancy Baker. We arrived in Gympie at 9am with everyone eager to see what was on offer. Spectacular orchids were displayed on multi-colour walls in the main hall, courtesy of clubs from Gympie, Wide Bay and Caloundra, inspiring many members to add to their collections. One lucky MGC couple even won three orchids in a raffle. Also for sale in the hall were hibiscus and succulents, garden equipment and novelties with more stalls outside offering other varieties including salvias, lilies, cottage plants and natives. By the end of the day the bottom of the bus wasn't entirely full with plants but quite crowded nevertheless.

Several members took a break from shopping to hear gardening expert Annette McFarlane speak on Heirloom Seed Saving and were rewarded with many useful tips as well as a tomato seedling from Annette's garden. Annette later spoke about Sensational Succulents as well.

After lunch it was time for the open gardens. First stop was Marian Stille's elegant native garden. Many admired her manicured hedges, artwork and modern and classic water features in the front garden as well as the billabong, native plantings and succulents in the back and side gardens.

The second garden focused on the family heritage of Lynn and Andrew Richardson. The front section featured a large wooden cart (once drawn by horses) and an arty rusty trunk (propped open with the head of a garden fork and containing calibrachoa) amid roses and lavender, as well as a side feature of succulents. The back garden was also a delight with stained glass accents decorating the patio as well as convict bricks (from an old mine) serving as

pavers. This led to a tropical style water feature beneath palms and surrounded by variegated philodendron, cordylines and crotons. Farm equipment again featured with rusty ploughs amid the greenery as well as many quirky displays along the side fence.

The third garden belonged to tour host Brian Herron and Gladys Gear. It featured hundreds of bromeliads, ferns and clivias as well as smaller areas of bonsai and succulents. Brian's pride and joy was a huge enclosed vegetable patch and orchard – an impressive pipe and chicken wire structure over 3 metres tall – protecting fruit trees including several citrus (the large mandarins were particularly admired) and plums. Vegetables and even peanuts were also organised into dozens of tidy sections inside. In all, it was a very inspirational trip!

Lyndall Bryant

For the Men:

I called an old school friend and asked what he was doing now. He replied that "he was currently working on Aqua Thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium and steel under a constrained environment." What was he doing?.....

He was washing the dishes with hot water, under his wife's supervision.

Emily Jeffery.

The Southern Highlands Garden Tour.

Once again, Nancy's fingers were at work – transplanting a posse of potted pensioners (and some younger folk too) into the red soil and clear air of the NSW southern highlands. In the time it takes to wheel a barrow along a gravel path, we became quite fond of one another, and new friendships flowered. Les our driver was both informative and adroit, manoeuvring the huge coach in narrow lanes as if it were Aunt Millie's Mini Minor.

The gardens we visited in the four days were diverse. In general, they were a touch larger than the ones we are familiar with back home. They featured towering pines, tranquil ponds, contrasting garden rooms hiding their surprises, and bushy shrubs shaped into

rounded docility. Some gardens were entirely the work of the owners themselves, like Barbara and Don's *The Moorings*, where its orderly trees and shrubs contrasted with panoramic views of farmland beyond, or Dawn and Dean's *The Willows* with its army of Bonsai'd plants guarded by a 30-metre dragoon-like sweep of sculptured plantings. The gardens at *Red Cow Farm* reveal their charms coyly. The paths lead into hedged rooms where statues and urns give out a sense of timelessness; or they turn a corner into the woodland and reveal a sailboat on a tranquil pond, and its reflections capture the glorious colours of the trees.

Retford Park is of a grander scale: residing in restful concealment, enticing you along its bordered avenue and up its forested slopes to reveal its special charms. The magic of these gardens is not captured in a brief encounter: one needs time for a fleeting acquaintance to mature into deep appreciation. Some of our group pursued that goal by finding a place to sit and soak in the surroundings. At *Carisbrooke*, Merryleigh's blend of lawn with a colourful woodland garden includes summerhouses and garden seats for such quiet reflection. The sounds of Maurie's bagpipes in these gardens helped deepen the bonding to this place. These wonderful moments in the gardens possess a spiritual quality which the bagpipes emphasised: they make the soul sing. The facility of a camera or i-pad in one's hand enables us to preserve these cherished personal experiences - what Wordsworth termed "emotion recollected in tranquillity".

I should assure the gentle reader that in this rambling recollection, no plants were pilfered, no birds were affrighted, no shoes were muddied, and no dogs were discombobulated. Simply put, we spent four days of pure joy gazing into gorgeous gardens - surely as close to perfection as one can get. *John Cotterell*

Some Words from the Late Ronnie Corbett.

"A cement mixer collided with a prison van on the Kingston by-pass. Motorists are asked to be on the look-out for 16 hardened criminals."

"We will be talking to an out of work contortionist who says he can no longer make ends meet."

"This is a message for seven honeymoon couples in a hotel in Peebles: Breakfast was served three days ago."

Pruning Mature Kiwi Fruit Vines;

Regular pruning is an essential part of caring for kiwi vines. Kiwi vines left to their own devices quickly become a tangled mess. How to prune an overgrown kiwi vine:

The only way to keep a kiwi vine vigorous and productive is to adhere to a regular pruning schedule. Do most of the kiwi plant pruning in the cool season while the plant is dormant. However, you'll also need to prune the back several times during the summer to keep it under control.

If you neglect pruning, kiwis quickly grow into a tangled mess of woody vines.

(more about this next edition) *Teo Spengler*

Editor's Note;

Many thanks to those who contributed to this Winter's Snippets. They are:

John Cotterell, Lyndall Bryant, Peter Owens, Jan Baker, Emily Jeffery and our intrepid leader, Marnie Trass,

And if you have travelled recently, spare me a though with Snippets.

Answers to Quick Quiz:
1. Mae West.
2. Yellow
3. Frank Sinatra.
4. Rudolf Nureyev

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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