

TOPIC: "A WALK AROUND OUR GARDEN".

GUEST SPEAKER : CAROL AND JOHN KERKIN

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 25 FEBRUARY, 2020 AT THE OLD WITTA SCHOOL

Part of their weekly ritual with the first cup of coffee is a walk around the garden. With 4 acres they always find things that need attention as when 5 – 6 weeks ago, desperate for rain with reliance on tanks, bore or dam. Trees defoliate in dry times to survive. In ordering a water delivery there was a 3 week waiting time but rain after Christmas filled the tanks so cancelled the order. Started planting after the rainfall and while lovely to see green again, some plants didn't make it.

- with humidity blackspot appears in rose garden – needs air movement through the roses
- The Children's Rose – hybrid tea, robust, strong grower, strong fragrance, powder pink
- opening their garden again in May so now deadheading roses – 300 in total
- now planting perennials and annuals amongst roses for interest after deadheading
- have 3 mango trees, Turpentine, Bowen, R2E2. Had last crop after 2019 dry
- keep deadheading gerberas for continuous flowering. Can buy old fashioned single gerbera seeds in packets – they grow better than doubles
- perennial gloxinia sleeps most of the year (dormant) rhizomes shoot and flower in summer
- asters, Easter daisies are easy to grow – single, double. Small flowers good for vase display. Will repeat flower through the year
- Rudbeckia has oak shaped leaves like sandpaper, yellow flowers – rosette type plant
- salvias – Mexicana, bright blue with lime bract. Propagate from cutting. Prune twice a year
- dahlias - tuber, permanent/seasonal. Bishop of Llandaff - dark foliage, scarlet flowers
- annuals are great for colour – gravel paths are amazing for seed drop propagation – more so than what you labour over in propagating trays
- Cleome (spider flower) self seeds prolifically – annual or perennial
- pink Queen Anne's Lace turns from white to pink to chocolate colour
- collect seed – especially fine, tiny type – in voile bags with ties
- vines – Ladies Slipper (thunbergia mysorensis) from Mysore, India. Very prolific with stunning racemes of yellow and burgundy flowers hanging below foliage. John made a tunnel to control and display it – he managed an engineering company before retirement and gardening. Tunnel is like the Laburnum tunnel at Bodnant Garden in Wales
- Cardinal Creeper - spectacular – glossy dark green leaves, crimson trumpet shaped flowers
- White Petrea – Queen's Wreath Vine – eye-catching substitute for Wisteria, origin Mexico
- Quisqualis(Rangoon Creeper)tropical Asia origin. Red flower clusters intoxicating fragrance
- Ipomoea (Morning Glory) large heart shaped leaves and blaze of red flowers
- Ipomoea Quamoclit – totally different foliage very fine and wispy
- Pentas draws butterflies – cut back to keep compact. B'fly caterpillar regularly strips plant
- Saw 2 pairs of Birdwing Butterfly on Poinciana flowers and now on the Ixora flowers
- Odontonema – easy to grow in all conditions and positions – understorey, full sun, v tough
- Abelia should be used more often as withstands drought and heat. Trim to keep compact
- Tabernaemontana – large shrub covered in fragrant white flowers, attracts b'flies & bees
- Tabernaemontana Little Emerald – smaller leaf and flower, also double flowering form
- Walk round your garden taking in the growth and blooms which reward your efforts

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