

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Autumn 2020

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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.

On our recent family trip to NZ Pete and I stayed with his son in Hamilton. We stay there every year and always visit the world-famous Hamilton Gardens. There are 17 themed gardens, 3 of which have opened recently and several more are currently under development. The themes are based upon gardens of various eras from a range of cultures and also include a huge vegetable garden and a herb garden.

On this visit we looked at the three new gardens. The Mansfield Garden represents the early 20th century New Zealand garden described in Katherine Mansfield's short story 'The Garden Party'. The story was inspired by an actual event that took place in a Wellington garden in 1907. This garden displays a beautiful house with a garden showing plants and features typical of early New Zealand along with the lawn tennis court complete with marquee, food set out ready for guests and the musician's instruments.

The Picturesque Garden is an interpretation of 18th century Picturesque Gardens which were inspired by a new appreciation of wild romantic landscapes. They often made reference to classical stories or ritual journeys with garden features like pavilions, Masonic symbols, sculptures and inscriptions – in this case the story is from Mozart's opera The Magic Flute.

We particularly enjoyed the wackiness of The Surreal Garden which features a giant wheelbarrow and garden tools along with triffid like monster trees with moving limbs. It is a fun place, very different, well designed and interesting.

If anyone is visiting the North Island of New Zealand these gardens are wonderful, a "must visit". Amazingly there is no entry fee. I have a few brochures if anyone would like them, there is also a very good website: *Dot Jupp*
Hamiltongardens.co.nz



Quick Quiz (answers back page)

1. Name the biggest island in the world.
2. When did William Wordsworth die?
3. At which big event was Kevin left alone at home?
4. How many teeth are there in an adult's mouth?

The Cottage Garden.

While the popularity of cottage gardens ebbs and flows these days, there's no denying they are a stalwart in gardening history.

They are once again gaining in popularity as many people and gardeners return to a simpler way of life where much of the household needs are garnished from the home garden.

History.

To say that cottage gardens were originally established in Europe would be misleading as it makes it sound as though there was some planning involved and a conscious decision to create a style of garden as we have today. The reality is cottage gardens came about more by necessity than design and were traditionally the domain of the poor and working class.

The unfettered, rough and tumble of the cottage garden was brought about by the need to utilise as much growing space as was available to ensure the family's survival and would include vegetables and fruit, medicines, cleaning products, perfumes and livestock. The fact that they looked pleasing to the eye was more by accident than intention.

Space would have been at a premium so everything would have grown in close proximity to each other and the fact that this style of garden was intended for small spaces makes it ideal for today's preference for bigger houses and smaller plots. Not only that, they are generally low-maintenance so they are ideal for time-poor gardeners.

While the modern-day cottage garden may not be as critical to a family's survival as it once was, it can still play both a practical and aesthetic role.

Design.

While a cottage garden maybe somewhat lacking in style, for it to work successfully you actually need to spend some time working on its layout. Hard landscaping features such as pathways and archways need to be positioned in a way that allows them to work with the house and garden as a unit.

While you can plant a cottage garden anywhere they tend to work best with homes that have a look of yesteryear – whether a new build or heritage home – and the garden will play a part in the overall presentation.

The main thing when planning your garden is to avoid all aspects of formality. Paths should be somewhat haphazard rather than displaying any military precision.

Flowers.

Flowers play an important role in a cottage garden. They should ideally be a mixture of annual and perennial plants and for the most part be in paler shades such as pink, white, mauve and blue. While brighter colours such as reds and yellows can be used in the garden they should not be made to dominate as the whimsical appeal of the garden can be lost.

Selecting a variety of different heights will add interest to the garden and incorporating climbing plants and trees will help bring a degree of permanence all year round.

One should not overlook scent when selecting plants for a cottage garden either. A walk through the garden should be a sensory experience appealing not just to the eye but also our sense of smell.

Tough Stuff.

Hard landscaping features such as pathways and arches form an integral part of the cottage garden style. Avoid anything that has a modern look, rather select pieces that have an air of a bygone era for best effect. Paths made of second-hand pavers or bricks work well as does gravel.

Don't forget containers as, while not part of the original cottage gardens, with the right choice they can be sympathetic to the style. Adding benches and seating throughout the garden encourages visits to the garden for more than just a walk through and allows visitors to really appreciate the beauty and complexity they find within its boundaries.

Vegetables.

We all understand the benefits of growing our own fruits and vegetables and a cottage garden is ideal for combining a love of food and flowers. Try incorporating some of your edible crops in with your flowers. Not only are vegetables visually appealing, they can work harmoniously by attracting pollinators and deterring pest issues, if done well.

Of course, you may wish to have a designated vegetable garden, but to keep it in theme, think about using recycled materials to avoid formality.

Herbs are a great addition to a cottage style garden. Often informal by nature they can bring both healing and cooking.

Your Guide to Cottage-style Gardens. (2010)



Dieting Under Stress.

10 Rules on How to Combine a Successful Diet with Life as a Normal Human Being.

- 1) If you eat something and no one sees you then the food has no calories.
- 2) When you eat with someone else, the calories do not count if they eat more than you do.
- 3) If you drink a diet cola with a chocolate bar, the diet cola cancels the calories in the chocolate bar.
- 4) Broken biscuits contain no calories – the process of breaking causes calorie leakage.
- 5) Food used for medicinal purposes never counts; e.g. hot chocolate for relaxation; brandy for fortification; toast and cheesecake as anti-depressants.
- 6) It is recommended that you fatten up everyone around you so that you appear slimmer.
- 7) Food licked off cutlery or out of a bowl has no calories if you are following a recipe, e.g. butter icing on a cake; the remains of a scone mixture; cream for the top of a trifle.
- 8) TV and cinema food contain no calories as they are part of the whole entertainment package.
- 9) Foods of the same colour have the same number of calories, e.g. spinach and mint ice

cream; mushrooms and white chocolate; water and a large gin and tonic.

10) Athletes eat huge amounts of pasta before races like a marathon. It's a myth that you have to run 26klms to work it off. One brisk trot around the settee is quite sufficient to wipe out one bowl of spaghetti. Twice round the living room will use up so much energy that a chocolate bar is required to supplement your sugar level and rebuild your strength.

Good Luck *Anon*

Pattemore House The Foibles of "Fairview"

When I was asked to curate Pattemore House's garden restoration project some 2 years ago I had little to no experience with gardens let alone restoration of a heritage garden. I was chosen for my organisational skill and my willingness to get dirty! At times very dirty! Plus I may have been the last person standing.....

Pattemore House was not a typical cottage garden. It was a farm garden that supplied the household with an abundance of food: fruit, vegetables, eggs and flowers.

The garden is now developed and maintained by a group of dedicated and talented volunteer garden gnomes to whom I am extremely grateful for their time and willingness to share their knowledge. Who those gnomes are varies from project to project, month to month.

The foundation for the restoration is a master plan provided, via Sunshine Coast Council, by landscape architect Catherine Brouwer. The plan provides the layout for the hard landscaping elements such as the arbour, garden beds, sheds and vegetable beds. It stipulates the materials to be used on all elements of the garden.

Finally, it provides a prescriptive plant list based on plants proven to be common at the time the garden was commenced or proven to be actually part of the garden. This element is the fun bit! We can't just plant what we think suits!

The challenge is to live up to Emily Pattemores' vision of the garden, development of the garden within the scope of the master

plan BUT ensuring the garden is low maintenance.

Early learning that was the master plan is a sacred document. Any variation to this plan must go through an application and I mean ANY variation. If we simply want to plant something similar to a plant on the approved list permission must be sought and that is not a speedy process.

Despite the master plan being sourced by the applicable heritage bodies, as each element of the garden restoration comes around, certificates to proceed must be applied for. These are a lot of work and need a lot of patience waiting for the approval. Add into this mix that some of the works require supervision of an archeologist and I'm sure you start to feel our pain.

Despite all this, things progress.



A strategy was developed to provide the heritage bodies with one plant list for approval to stop going back every time a variation was needed. Extensive research was done into a suitable plant list incorporating many of the plants on the master plan (some recommended plants were dropped as they were totally unsuitable for Maleny) and some which were appropriate from both a heritage and maintenance perspective. That list took around six months to research and over nine months to get approval but now there is a workable list.

The existing plants on the site have all been catalogued and many hours have been put into their amelioration with great affect.

With the aid of grant funding, elements of the hard landscaping are complete. The front fence and gate, the rose arbour, the washing line and

several garden beds are complete and planted out.

We, The Friends of Pattemore House, would like to extend sincere thanks to those of you who have joined us on the journey so far. From sweaty toil in the garden, to propagation and supply of stunning plants, supplies of cups of tea, outstanding cakes and chicken sandwiches and equally important joining us on open Saturday's for a cuppa and cake on the verandah or any Friday just for a chat.

What's next?

The certificate for the next phase of hard landscaping has been applied for. It includes construction of the outside "dunny", replacing the water tanks with more suitable ones, construction of a structure on the site of the old buggy shed which will become a much needed workspace and storage space, vegetable bed construction, "chook" house construction and completion of the perimeter fences.

We recently hung two stunning original portraits of JR & Emily Pattemore. Emily's piercing blue eyes seem to follow you as you move through the house and in her location she can see straight through the front door to her beloved garden. Our work is now under Emily's watchful eyes!

There is much yet to be done!

Mandy McCosker

Answers to Quiz

1. Greenland –an area of 2,131,000 sq klms.
2. Died on 24 April 1850.
3. Christmas.
4. 32 teeth.

Editor's Note.

A big thank you for all those who so generously contribute to the success of Snippets each quarter. Special thanks to Mandy McCosker and Dot Jupp for their interesting contributions this edition.

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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