

Maleny Garden Club Inc.

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Spring2020

President Bill Henman 0408 159 677	Hon. Secretary Marie Hegarty 5494 4404	Hon. Treasurer Margaret Trigger 5435 2812	Editor Margaret Owens 5429 6789
Mailing Address: The Secretary, P.O. Box 563, Maleny Qld 4552			
Website www.malenygardenclub.org			

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 Editor.

Hello fellow Garden Club members.

I have decided to revert back to our quarterly Snippets newsletter now that we have recommenced our monthly club meetings and we are out and about once more. I hope you enjoy these two enviable travelogues, supplied generously by Dot and Kevin.

Look forward to seeing you all at our September meeting, until then stay safe and happy gardening.

Margaret Owens

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Paronella Park

We took the opportunity in late July to drive north to Port Douglas to enjoy the warmth and enjoy long walks on the beautiful 4 mile beach. Roads were good and not too busy, towns interesting but not operating at capacity.

After visiting the Daintree rain forest and Cape Tribulation, we returned in a leisurely fashion, initially exploring the Atherton Tableland. Near Innisfail, south of Cairns, lies the interesting and historic Paronella Park, a place many friends had recommended to us. We had never visited this place before and were amazed at the grand vision, Jose Paronella, the creator of the park had. A Spanish immigrant, Jose came to Australia in 1915, working as a labourer in smelters and cane fields, until he bought the land upon which he built his "pleasure

park" with his "Spanish Castle". Jose and his park are credited with advertising the district throughout Australia.

Incorporating the natural features of the land he created gardens, with extensive woodlands, and structures including ballroom and cinema, all in the Spanish Style. A magnificent 16 metre waterfall is the centre piece and the large pool below was used for swimming carnivals during the heyday of the park in the 1930's. The park spreads over 5 acres and includes extensive woodlands, fountains, waterfalls, paths and bridges, all highly decorated. He installed a hydro-electric system and this is still in operation today. The park suffered extensive damage from major floods in 1946 and later was further damaged by cyclones then fire. Although the buildings are in ruins now as the steel inside the concrete pillars is failing, it is fascinating to explore the grounds. The woodlands are lovely to walk through with surprises at every turn. A long avenue of mature kauri trees leads from one area to another. Picnic benches spread out beside the pool and a long flight of stairs rises to the buildings above.

Under the new owners some restoration is taking place and it would be wonderful to see this unique piece of Australian history returned to a greater semblance of its former glory. Nonetheless it is magical to walk through the

park and appreciate the vision of a remarkable man.

We also enjoyed a stay in Eungella National Park, west of Mackay, with lovely walking trails alongside the river and many waterfalls. We can recommend lunch at the pub at Finch Hatton, home of the famous pies - they really are good and excellent home brewed beer.

It was great seeing parts of Queensland we had never visited before; Sarina, Lucinda and Tammun Sands and felt lucky to enjoy them after lock down. Why be bothered about going overseas when there is so much to see at home.

Dot Jupp.

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Flowers that even Darwin
can't explain.

Hooker's Lips, (*Psychotria Elata*).



Swaddled Babies (*AnguloaUniflora*)



An Enlightening Journey in Northern Ethiopia, April 2014 (Part 1)

Beginning what proved to be an amazing experience of culture and history, we spent our first night at the Sheraton Addis surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens -containing many familiar plants- and ornamental pools, on a hilltop overlooking the sprawling city of Addis Ababa with picturesque views of the National Palace.

Next morning we bussed up to Mt Entolo through streets in need of repair but teeming with people, donkeys, colourful market stalls and laneways of tin dwellings. We passed teams of donkeys in threes descending the mountain to market carrying straw bales, timber and dung (for fuel). There were also women carrying large bundles of sticks on their heads. Vegetation was mainly eucalyptus trees stripped of lower branches which are used for fuel and the straight saplings in construction projects. We saw forests of them holding up floors of buildings while concrete was poured and also lashed together for scaffolding. The fast growing eucalypts were imported in 1895 from Australia by Emperor Menelik II due to decimation of forests for fuel. Atop Mt Entolo sits Menelik's former palace now a church, and a history museum containing crowns and robes of kings and Olympic medals of marathon runners etc. Conditions in the museum were poor in collating, displaying and managing heritage artifacts. Outside we saw many crippled folk visiting for a cure in the holy water of the spring.

We departed Entolo for the National Museum to see the 'Lucy' exhibition of the skeleton of the oldest human in the world, discovered in Ethiopia in the 1960's. It was very interesting and there had been obvious attempts to modernise the exhibition with film and interactive displays. Following an enjoyable, authentic Ethiopian lunch under a thatched canopy in the Lucy Restaurant next door we visited the Fistula Hospital, established in 1974 by Australian gynaecologists Catherine and Reginald Hamlin, set in a beautiful, peaceful garden of Australian plants and trees. It was a humbling experience learning of their work with women ostracised by their communities when they suffer internal injuries through the rigour of childbirth in isolated and poor

conditions. Reg died in 1993 and Catherine in March, 2020 aged 96. In her honour the hospital was renamed the Hamlin Fistula Hospital and continues to be funded by donations from around the world.

Next a visit to the Sabahar silk scarf production house to witness the process from the silkmoths laying eggs and hatching to form silkworms, on to eating mulberry leaves, spinning their cocoons which are softened in boiling water and the long silk threads wound onto a reel, washed and degummed, bleached and dried before dyeing and spinning ready for weaving. All the weavers were men displaying skills passed down from father to son. Needless to say we made several purchases from an amazing range of silk products which are exported around the world.

Our second day began early flying from Addis to the small resort town of Bahir Dar on the southern shores of Lake Tana. We drove along a rough dirt road through hot and dusty villages to the Blue Nile Falls which didn't have much water flow due to drought, but it was interesting to visit the source of the Blue Nile. Back to town for a drive by the former summer palace of Emperor Haile Selassie the 225th and last emperor who died in 1975 having ruled for 44 years. His lineage traces back to Menelik I, credited with being the child of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

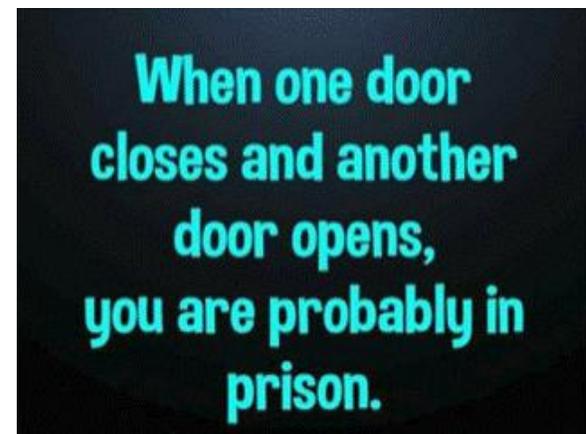
After a night at the Kuriftu Resort Hotel in a four poster bed draped with mosquito netting we sailed across the fresh water Lake Tana, largest lake in Ethiopia – 84 kilometres long, 66 kilometres wide holding 50% of the country's fresh water. The hotel provided a packed lunch of cold chicken and chips with chilled local beer to stave off the effects of a very hot day and relax everyone. We passed long, narrow papyrus canoes heavily laden with timber and goods for market. The locals row in groups across the lake for communal support. There are 37 islands scattered across the lake, some with hidden churches and monasteries where the remains of emperors and treasures are kept. We disembarked on one island to see the church and village where students are trained for the priesthood. The church was round with thatched roof, built around 200 years ago. On entering, women had to cover their heads and all had to

remove shoes. A wonderful bell made of a stone slab hung on timber posts. Stalls selling craft and religious artifacts lined the track back to the boat. The artists use local berries and seeds to make the paint colours for painting on hide (skin and fur of goat). The figures of Mary, Jesus and saints in these small religious paintings were naturally Ethiopian. Prior to departure we were treated to a pleasant coffee ceremony in a shelter under trees where the beans are grown, picked, roasted, ground and brewed by the locals.

We finished our all day lake crossing at Gorgora from where we bussed to Gondar and the Goha Hotel situated on a hill with a panoramic view of the town and its monuments. The rooms were comfortable but very basic.

(To be continued) *Kevin Radbourne.*

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In case You Need a Smile



featured on iFunny.com

Around the Corner.

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end,
Yet days go by and weeks rush on,
And ere I know it, a year has gone,
And I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race.

He knows I like him just as well
As in the days when I rang his bell
and he rang mine.
We were young then;
And now we are busy, tired old men –
Tired with playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.

Tomorrow, "I say, I'll call on Jim,
Just to show I'm thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And the distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner, yet miles away!
"Here's a telegram sir."
Jim died today"!
And that's what we get and deserve
In the end;
Around the corner-a vanished friend.
Charles H. Towne.

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Russian Humour as per Ronald Reagan

A story of an American and Russian arguing
about the benefits of their two countries—

The American said "Look in my country I can
walk into the Oval Office, pound on the
President's desk and say Mr. President, I don't
like the way you're running our country".

The Russian replied, "I can do that." The
American said, "You can?" "Yes replied the
Russian. "I can go to the Kremlin, go into the
General Secretary's office, bang on his desk
and say, I don't like the way President Reagan
is running his country."

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Fast Veggies

Radishes are one of the fastest and simplest
plants you can grow. They are ready to harvest in
about four weeks from sowing. They can be
grown all year round in most climatic zones. For

tropical areas grow in the cooler months of the
year.

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Flowers that even Darwin
Can't Explain.

White Egret Orchid. (Habenaria Radiata)



**An Orchid That Looks Like A
Ballerina**



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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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