



SNIPPETS

Spring 2011

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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.

From the President

Hello Everyone,

This note in Snippets will be my last as President of the Maleny Garden Club. The tragic passing of Sandy Slack was my introduction to the presidency and that was just on three years ago. Those years have passed remarkably quickly, but they have been very enjoyable, and rewarding. I found the monthly meetings interesting, occasionally controversial and always entertaining. The speakers have been varied in their topics and always interesting and enlightening. The bus trips are always good, as was the Norfolk Island excursion. The upcoming Taiwan trip also sounds like a good one too.

Gardening on the Edge has always been a favourite of mine, and even though a lot of work is done to make this event happen, I have always found the rewards and comments well worth the effort. I do hope that this event will continue and maintain its success in the years to come.

There are so memorable moments they are too numerous to mention. What makes them so memorable are the people – both on the committee and in the club that I have had the pleasure and privilege of being associated with. Thank you for allowing me to be your President for these past three years. I hope I have carried out my duties to your satisfaction and also that I pass on to the next president, a larger and more vibrant club. Thank you

Harry Rowland

.....
"Gardening is not graceful, and it makes one hot but it is a blessed sort of work, and if Eve had had a spade in Paradise and known what to do with it, we should not have had all that sad business of the apple".

Elizabeth, Countess von Arnim (1866-1941)
Supplied by Gail Turner

Spring Gardening–



This time of the year, it is usually very dry, so treasure every drop of water ! Watering the garden in the late afternoon, gives the plants a better chance to drink up that precious liquid. A good tool to enable watering only the roots of plants, is a 'root irrigator'. This is a very time consuming way to water, but at least you know the water is going where it will do the most good, and not just dripping off the leaves. And of course, mulch, mulch and more mulch is the next best thing.

The best part, of course, is witnessing the plants springing back to life - especially the roses and deciduous plants. Nothing beats seeing those fresh soft, green shoots emerging. So, other than watering and mulching, the main jobs to be done include pruning and fertilizing citrus, roses, and anything else, that is about to come to life. Take care to only spread fertilizer on damp ground – if we get a shower of rain, then rush out and spread the magic stuff, and then water it in again afterwards. When pruning, remove any old, dead wood and branches that are crossing over or touching another branch. Try to allow as much air and light as possible to reach the middle of the plant, remembering how much rain and overcast weather we experienced last summer.

Other chores to be done at this time of the year include:

- ✓ Prune Bougainvilleas and Allamanda & Abutilons
- ✓ Trim Fuscias by about one third (take cuttings – ready for next GOE)
- ✓ Divide & replant perennials – Cannas & Heliconias – cut right to the ground as well as Chrysanthemums and gerbras
- ✓ Lightly trim Lavenders
- ✓ Prune Hibiscus (& fertilize & take cuttings)

- ✓ Trim Camellias & Azaleas, as they finish flowering
- ✓ Fertilise bulbs, ready for next year
- ✓ Check potplants – add some slow release fertiliser. Do they need repotting?
- ✓ Lawn care includes spraying for bindii & clover.

Now is the ideal time to plan ahead by taking cuttings & plant them up, ready for Christmas gifts.

Most importantly, enjoy every moment of this glorious, sunny, warm (but hopefully not too hot) weather, and just being outdoors.

Jill Rowland

Member Profile.

Of ... Lisa Plucknett (A Passion for Life)

*Grew up in a leafy Brisbane suburb
By a lazy Brisbane River;
That eventually would burst its banks,
Cause the populace to quiver.*

*My childhood was idyllic,
Blithe – with not a care;
Concerts, picnics, bushwalking,
Loving parents – always there.*

*But I do remember World War 2,
Children playing in the trenches;
An American invasion,
To strengthen our defences.*

*I loved to play my violin,
To scribble verses – at aged eight;
Inherited my father's genes,
Of always running late.
(But hopefully took Mum's advice
To be obliging, kind and nice.)*

*Then came the vibrant Fifties,
And the word was Immigration;
And migrants came from war-torn lands,
To merge into our nation.*

*I wed a man from Europe,
Working on the Snowy River Dam;
And our children – multicultural
Learned of each other's lands.*

*We raised three children – went to work,
Bought Hoovers, hoists and Holdens;
I rejoined an orchestra,
And life was really golden.*

*The years rolled by and widowed,
Lured by mountains, lured by mists;*

*Met a wond'rous man called Kevin
And life is utter bliss.*

*Now we sit and mellow in the sun,
Enriched by lifestyle- family- friends;
I've had a most enchanted life,
And love shall never end.*

Lisa P. (Poet, Muso, Lover of Life)

Saving the Flavour in Tomatoes.

If you have found the tomato you love you can keep the taste year after year. Collecting seeds from your favourite tomatoes lets you grow and enjoy that delectable flavour for years. You'll find that seeds collected from old fashioned and heirloom tomatoes will grow true to form; they'll look and taste the same as the plant they came from. Supermarkets and other commercially grown tomatoes are often hybrid varieties, so seed gathered from them may not produce fruit the same as the parent. If collecting seed from different varieties its best to do each one separately to avoid mix-ups.

Step 1. You will need very ripe tomatoes, a sharp knife, spoon, cutting board, fine sieve, thick absorbent towels, paper bag, storage jars and rice.

Step 2. Carefully scoop out the seeds along with the jelly-like pulp surrounding them and place into a fine sieve

Step 3. Wash seeds under running cold water and gently rub to remove pulp. They're adequately washed when individual seeds separate easily and no pulp is visible.

Step 4. Shake off excess water, fold paper towels a couple of sheets thick and spread seeds over ensuring all are separated. Place in a cool, dry location to dry off.

Step 5. If storing for next season, place another sheet of toweling on top before folding the paper into a square with seeds inside. Put this into a paper bag with the variety's name written on it, then put the bag into an airtight storage jar with a tablespoon of rice at the bottom. The rice should absorb any residual moisture.

For a wide variety of heirloom tomato seeds available by mail order contact the Digger's Club on (03) 5984 7900 or visit www.diggers.com.au

Better Homes and Gardens, April 2010.

Garden Visit

I would just like to say what a lovely afternoon was had at Olga's garden after our MGC meeting on Tuesday 28th June. Members took along sandwiches and chairs and we sat in the front garden of a wonderful old property and enjoyed a delightful informal chat. The treasure of the day was when Olga treated us to her piano playing and a singalong. Thank you Olga for a memorable time. It made the Garden Club meeting extend to a wonderful afternoon.

Margaret Denmeade

Health Matters

How Much Water is Enough?

We all know we need to drink plenty of water throughout the day for our health, wellbeing and hydration however the ideal amount that we should drink varies from person to person and is dependent on many health and lifestyle factors.

Almost 85% of our brains, 80% of our blood and 70% of our muscle is water and without it our metabolisms don't work efficiently. It becomes harder to concentrate, our skin becomes drier and other symptoms such as headaches and constipation can arise.

The answer is quite simple – aim to drink enough fluid so that you rarely (if ever) feel thirsty and produce more colourless urine throughout the day. This should be happening by mid-morning, then your fluid intake is probably adequate. Just remember to pace it throughout the day and not drink it all at once to get it over and done with. Anyone for a glass of water?

'Inspired', Winter 2011/Issue No 7

What is an Arborist? By Cassian Humphreys

Hello to all, as an individual who has long admired the Sunshine Coast Hinterland and has much experience of working in the region as a tree assessor for Energex it is a pleasure for me to have finally moved here. My purpose with joining the Maleny Garden Club is to become known and to share my knowledge as a means to help trees and people locally. Trees are the largest and longest lived plants on our world. Trees are home to more organisms than any other life form and are the driver of life on earth, acting as giant pumps for the nutrient cycles of our planet. Arborists make up a new profession as the caretakers and life givers for trees and forest ecosystems within urban and semi rural environments.

What an arborist does:

A good arborist cares for and has the ability to manage the body of the tree. This involves the tree's crown (or all the above ground parts from buttress to leaves) and the tree's root system (or below ground parts from structural [woody] to absorbing roots [non-woody].) Generally speaking, 70% of a tree's body is considered by arboricultural science to be below ground. As well as managing the health of the tree, unfortunately, many arborists in Australia are forced to remove trees, as a means to support themselves financially. By definition an arborist as a caretaker of trees is not a tree removalist; tree loppers are by definition tree removalists who are not arboriculturally trained. For the sake of this article I make reference to arborists as is true to our definition as tree-culturists.

What people should expect from a good arborist:

People who require arboricultural operations should employ a qualified tree contractor or tree surgeon because a good professional arborist has a comprehension of trees. An arborist is trained in tree physiology; how to work on trees that promotes their longevity, safety and beauty. A good arborist knows the vegetation of the region they live in and serves the tree and people of that region.

People who require advice should employ a qualified arboricultural consultant because a good professional consultant has an in-depth knowledge to the specific needs of trees (and usually has a background as a contractual arborist). A diploma or degree level arborist understands the role that trees play in ecosystems and what land-based activities do to compromise or promote tree longevity.

Usually a good arborist is more concerned with managing soils and soil biology to promote tree health than working on the crowns of trees; however, a good arborist will also correctly prune a tree for sustained health, longevity and beauty – a skill which is often misunderstood and incorrectly applied. A good arborist can look at a tree and immediately identify problems and solutions – both long and short term. The management of veteran and ancient trees constitutes the pinnacle of arboricultural practice. A good arborist will work with you to help you care for the greatest contributor to our planet's ecosystems: the tree.

This Month's Wisdom

contributed by Kath Marshall

In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins – not through strength but through perseverance

Buddha

One For Brian!

A man was driving down the road and ran out of gas. Just at that moment, a bee flew in his window. The bee said, 'What seems to be the problem?' 'I'm out of gas,' the man replied. The bee told the man to wait right there and flew away. Minutes later, the man watched as an entire swarm of bees flew to his car and into his gas tank. After a few minutes, the bees flew out. 'Try it now,' said one bee. The man turned the ignition key and the car started right away. 'Wow!' the man exclaimed, 'what did you put in my gas tank?'

The bee answered,

Wait for it.....



The Tree's Prayer

Ye who pass by and would raise your hand against me,
 hearken ere you harm me. I am the heat of your hearth on
 the cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from
 the summer sun, my fruits are refreshing draughts
 quenching your thirst as you journey on.

I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your
 table, the bed on which you lie and the timber that builds
 your boat. I am the bread of kindness and the flower of
 beauty.

Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer; harm me not.

Submitted by Andrea Long, June 2011

The Camellia Is My Flower Author unknown

The Camellia is my flower, I shall not want.
 It makes me to enjoy the green foliage,
 It leads me to be happy when it blooms,
 It restores my contentment.

Yea, though I must water and prune,
 fertilise and mulch,
 I will fear no fatigue, for I know it will
 produce beauty.

Its new growth and new buds
 comfort me.

In the late autumn and winter
 When new flowers bloom
 My cup runneth over.

Surely wonder and goodness
 Will follow me
 If I share the blooms with others,
 And I will dwell in a state of happiness
 forever.

Contributed by Olga Webster

Herb File

by Pat Powell

How to cultivate northern hemisphere herbs without the general
 wipe out that last summer inflicted on us. These herbs are :-
 Rosemary, Sage, Thyme and Lavender. Chives can also be grown
 in the same way.

Plant in risen beds surrounded by rocks, bricks or timber off cuts.
 This will help with good drainage. An alternate is to use unglazed
 terracotta pots. Not too deep or too shallow with plenty of
 drainage holes covered with old fly screen or chucks to prevent
 the generous layer of crocks or stones from escaping. Ensure the
 potting mix is free draining and if possible mount the pots on a
 wheel base. This allows the pot to take advantage of a warm
 sunny position in spring and autumn with a part shade location
 over the very hot months.

Mulch both the garden and potted herbs with pale sand, gravel
 or stones, which helps the effect of too much humidity and rain.
 This also simulates the natural growing conditions.

Keep the plants well trimmed and thinned out to allow a flow of
 air circulating around the plants

Lastly, enjoy your herbs which give variety to summer meals.

Pashley Manor Gardens

by Judy Stubbs

This garden won an award for being "One of the finest
 gardens in England" and we were privileged to be in the area of
 Ticehurst, East Sussex to visit it in May.

The estate was sold to the forebears of Anne Boleyn in 1453
 and it is possible that she stayed here during her childhood.
 The Tudor house at the centre of the estate was built in 1543
 and the Georgian facade added in 1720.

The garden offers a sumptuous blend of romantic landscaping,
 imaginative plantings, fine old trees, fountains, ponds and
 exceptional views over the surrounding countryside. It was a
 delight to walk in the grounds finding something new at every
 turn. We were there in time to see a splendid display of
 bluebells, wisteria climbing over the grand old building, and
 thousands of brilliant blooms. April and May is tulip festival
 time and there was an amazing display of cut flowers as well as
 beds full of every variety and colour. The garden provided the
 perfect setting for dozens of sculptures, made from many
 different styles and materials by eminent and local artists.
 Visitors to the garden can enjoy refreshments overlooking the
 beautiful garden; and buy botanical art, cards, gifts and other
 treasures from the shop.

This garden was a pleasure to the eye and a great way to spend
 an early summer afternoon in S.E. England.

Editor's Comments

*A special thank you to the following people who so
 generously contributed to this spring edition of Snippets;
 Lisa Plucknett, Kath Marshall, Olga Webster, Cassian
 Humphries, Andrea Long, Margaret Denmeade, Pat
 Powell, Judy Stubbs, Gail Turner, Harry and Jill
 Rowland.*

*In your travels if you have visited either a garden or
 somewhere else of interest why not write a brief story
 about it and send to me for inclusion in Snippets. We
 would love to hear from you.*

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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Disclaimer

*Articles contributed to this newsletter are published as a service to members
 and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the club.*

