



SNIPPETS

Autumn 2012

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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.

President's Message;

Here we are in the run up to our 8th Gardening on the Edge, hard to believe, but thanks to the efforts of our members, we continue to make a profit at our event. We have tried to reduce overheads and to this end the club now owns sufficient tables to save hiring (cost was approx. \$800 last year), signage will only require minor alteration and skip hire will be negated. The only substantial cost therefore will be the hire of the hall. Our fundraising event this year will be very timely as we have the additional expense of our Friendship Day in October. Being our 60th anniversary it should enable us to make it a very special day.

Club membership continues to be healthy. Following renewals this year membership was down by 10 members for various reasons but already we have attracted the same number plus another 10 which is good news and positive for the future of our club.

Quick Quiz

1. Who were the first people to use rope?
 2. Which common plant is sisal rope made from?
 3. How much did Australians waste on unwanted Christmas gifts in 2010?
- For answers see back page.

And Then There Was ebay

Hours were spent by HRH searching the net, watching ebay and Grey's Online. Many walks were had around the two and a half acres of cleared land of our ten acres that make up La Granja, identifying trees and shrubs that 'had to go!'. I did a bunch of pushing back at first but after a while I gave in a bit. So did HRH. But the

hours of surfing continued and before too long a chainsaw was delivered to the post office box.

And the shrubbery disappeared. Well it disappeared from the top of the shrubs and made huge mounds down on the grass.. Oh No!! but with little ado we decided this lot could break down over the edge of our drop off. It will make nice homes for little critters. It will break down over time and enrich the land. But the next lot didn't fit so it went to the dump.

Are we serious here or what? How can we remotely consider improving our land when we send stuff grown on it to the dump? A mulcher! A kingdom for a mulcher I can only say at this juncture that with hours of practice already on ebay and other auction sites, HRH was well skilled at locating and bidding for a mulcher, especially when he thought I may over step my responsibilities and buy it myself. I mean what would a woman know about mulching, motors and horse power? Those skills were exercised and a 7hp mulcher came home on the trailer.

Those piddly little shrubs went through it in a flash barely leaving a bump on the ground. We are going to need more stuff to put through it justify it. Which was a nice segue into bringing down the tea trees between the house and sheds where the extension will go. Not big trees but enough to enable HRH to put into practice those other skills he acquired while assisting a tree man pull down a liquid amber at my house in Brisbane. Big enough to warrant a chainsaw. Oh he'd been itching to get that thing started. And did it go? You betcha! The pile of mulch grew and was worthy of the wheelbarrow to be spread around.

Lee Moles

DID YOU KNOW?

1. If you drop a whole egg on the floor, pour salt all over the egg, let it sit for awhile, then use dustpan, the egg will come right up, without all that mess.
2. Soak stained hankies in salt water before washing.
3. Sprinkle salt on your shelves to keep ants away.
4. Soak fish in salt water before descaling; the scales will

come off easier.

5. Put a few grains of rice in your saltshaker for easier pouring.
6. Add salt to green salads to prevent wilting.
7. Test the freshness of eggs in a cup of salt water; fresh eggs sink; bad ones float.
8. Add a little salt to your boiling water when cooking eggs; a cracked egg will stay in its shell this way.
9. A tiny pinch of salt with egg whites makes them beat up fluffier.
10. Soak wrinkled apples in a mildly salted water solution to perk them up.
11. Rub salt on your frypan and your pancakes won't stick.
12. Soak toothbrushes in salt water before you first use them; they will last longer.
13. Use salt to clean your discolored coffee pot.
14. Mix salt with turpentine to whiten you bathtub and toilet bowl.
15. Soak your nuts in salt brine overnight and they will crack out of their shells whole. Just tap the end of the shell with a hammer to break it open easily.
16. Clean brass, copper and pewter with paste made of salt and vinegar, thickened with flour.

Oh Dear!!

A little old man shuffled ever so sloooooowly into an ice cream shop, pulled himself ever so sloooooowly and painfully onto a stool. After catching his breath he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, "Crushed nuts?" "Nope" he replied "arthritis."

Reader's Digest

I went to the doctor the other day to have a full brain scan. After the scan the doctor reported, "Your brain has two parts, one left and one right. The left part has nothing right in it and the right has nothing left in it."

Reader's Digest

A woman's mind is as complex as her handbag; even when you get to the bottom of it there is always something to surprise you.

Billy Connolly

Chinese Proverb

contributed by Audrey Brown

If you want to be happy for a week, take a wife.

If you want to be happy for a month kill a pig.

If you want to be happy forever plant a garden.

Weekly Times

Health Matters

Stalls closest to the door in public toilets consistently have the lowest levels of bacteria and are the least likely to run out of loo paper.

Flush With the Lid Down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba from the University of Arizona, warns that you should always flush the toilet with the seat lid down. If you

don't, polluted water particles float for a few hours around your bathroom before they all land, some on your toothbrush. Dr Gerba says, "It doesn't happen all the time but e.coli and other faecal-based bacteria really make you ill, so unless you want to brush your teeth with what is in the toilet, close the lid".

(What a wonderful reason I now have for insisting the lid is put down by the users of our toilet).

The Sunday Mail-body and soul 16th Oct. 2011

Mahler Musings

Did you know that the fourth movement of Gustav Mahler's Symphony no. 4 in G is a setting for a soprano of a folk poem which is said to provide a child's vision of heaven? The text is of interest as besides singing and dancing, plentiful meat and wine, bread baked by angels, the children find

"Fine vegetables of every kind
grow in the gardens of heaven.
good asparagus and beans
whatever you fancy,
big bowls are prepared for us!
Good apples and pears and grapes!
The gardeners let us take all!"

So maybe they will need lots of us in heaven.

Contributed by Carolyn Willadsen

I'll Bet You Didn't Know This.

Yawning isn't a sign of tiredness, it's the body's way of cooling the brain. A US study shows that yawning controls brain temperature which may explain why we yawn when tired – our brain temperature rises when we are sleep deprived.

The Sunday Mail 6.10 2011

Time to Plant in SE Queensland;

Autumn is great time to get busy in the garden. The humidity of Summer has dropped off but the soil temperature is still warm so your seeds will shoot out of the ground and provide the fresh food you need. Plant the following now:

Dwarf Beans, Beetroot, Capsicum,
Carrots, Cucumber, Eggplant, Lettuce, Peas, Potatoes,
Radish, Rocket, Silverbeet, Shallots, Strawberries,
Sweet Potato, Tomatoes, Zucchini

Autumn Reading.



In the past half year the Maleny Garden Club library has gratefully received 29 book donations from members past and present. These contributions have included many special publications which will be of great interest to Club members. With far too many titles to list here, an updated library list is

available on our website with new items indicated. Alternatively, please ask Andrea Long at our monthly meeting if you would like a copy of the list.

Australian Native Plants Propagation, Cultivation & Use in Landscaping By John Wrigley & Murray Fagg

A recent addition to the Garden Club Library, kindly donated by a Club Member, is this fantastic reference book for the selection of suitable native plants for every area of Australia. It contains a wealth of information on literally thousands of native plants, their properties, cultivation and propagation with chapters on ground covers, rockery plants, water features, shrubs, trees, annuals and bedding plants, climbers or container plants. Beautifully illustrated with over 1000 colour photographs and drawings it provides a wealth of knowledge for the planning of gardens, whether large, medium or small.

Now available from Maleny Garden Club Library
Phone John & Andrea Long, 5499 9581

Pollinators.

At a recent Garden Club meeting the subject of a lack of honey bees was raised. Curious to find out more, I did some research and found many interesting facts. Some 65% of plants need insects for pollination.

Although there are some major problems associated with diseases and deaths of the European honey bee, we should remember that Australian plants thrived for an extremely long time before the honey bee was introduced. Firstly, we have over 1,500 species of native bees in Australia, many of which are solitary so are not easily seen, as well as the fact that they come in a huge variety of shapes and sizes, including one which mimics a wasp. The native blue banded bee, which is common in our area is one of the best insects for pollinating tomatoes.

Of course, not all pollinators are bees. Amongst the most common are butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, beetles, thrips, bats and birds. As some of these creatures are often seen as enemies they are frequently killed, yet they all have a vital role in our gardens. Before you next swat, spray, squash that 'thing' or destroy that little mud nest remember that you are possibly killing an insect vital for the pollination of particular plants in your own garden. Try to live and let live. I have various wasps building tiny mud nests on the balcony and outside the house, and find that if you let them just get on with it, they will completely ignore you, and probably repay you by pollinating some very special plant in your garden. I have found that good way of attracting a range of pollinators to the garden is to have as big a variety of plants as possible, and throughout the year have at least a few plants flowering. The salvias, which flower all year, are great

attractors of a big variety of pollinators, from tiny flies I can barely see, to honeyeaters fighting over the flowers.

An excellent website for information and identification of native bees is www.aussiebee.com.au

Pam Linnett

Protecting Vegetables

If you want to grow vegetables you have to learn to share with a variety of creatures. As I don't want to use any poisons on the plants I eat, it can be frustrating at times and so protecting the plants is one option.

Vege net, rather like shade cloth, is available from Green Harvest at 5m x 2.87m per sheet for \$19.50. This net can be thrown over plants or cut into pieces and sewn to make small bags. These can be put over bunches of tomatoes and the neck tied with string.

Cut the bottoms out of plastic pots and cover individual seedlings such as lettuce. I usually put the pots over the plants late afternoon and take them off in the morning, however it doesn't matter if they are left there as the seedlings should get enough sun and benefit from any rain from the open pot, but snails, caterpillars etc (so far) have avoided the tedious journey up the sides of the pots to get to the seedlings. For larger plants such as young silverbeet, use 3 litre milk containers with the tops and bottoms cut off.

50 ml (2") Plastic mesh sold by the metre at hardware stores can be laid on the veg bed to protect root crops such as sweet potatoes and potatoes. Bandicoots and turkeys can't dig up the tubers and the plants grow through the mesh. (Still in the experimental stage at the Linnett household, but showing great promise).

Of course all these methods can be adapted to protect young bulbs, annual seedlings and fruits such as figs etc

Pam Linnett

Tick Removal

Ticks are still showing their heads. Here is a good way to get them off you. A School Nurse has written the info below – good enough to share – and it really works!!

A paediatrician told me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great because it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers – between toes, in the middle of head full of dark hair etc.

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20). The tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it (and that was frequently). And it is much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me.

Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!"

Contributed by Andrea Long

Know Your Vegetables and Their Families

Apiagae:	carrots, celery, parsnip
Asteraceae:	globe artichokes, Jerusalem artichokes, endive, lettuce
Brassicaceae:	broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kol rabi, swede, turnip
Cheopodiaceae:	beetroot, silverbeet, spinach
Convolvulaceae;	sweet potato
Cucurbitaceae;	cucumber, marrow/zucchini/squash, melons, pumpkins
Fabaceae:	broad beans, French beans, lima beans, runner beans, snake beans, peas
Lilliaceae:	asparagus, garlic, leeks, onions, shallots
Malvaceae:	okra, rosella
Poaceae	sweet corn
Solanaceae	sweet capsicum, chilli, eggplant, potato, tomato, cherry tomatoe

Contributed by Molly Cock.



Seasonal Tasks –

- ▶ Give lawns an autumn feed and repair bare patches.
- ▶ Plant broad beans as a green manure crop. Pick a few early crops of beans while they're young and tender and then dig the plants into the soil to enrich it.
- ▶ For a colourful winter plant up pots of pansies and primulas
- ▶ Take action if you notice curl grubs in pot-plant soil as they can decimate the root system of container pots.. Its best to remove the plant, dispose of all the infested soil and repot in fresh potting mix.
- ▶ Increase your herb collection by striking cuttings of plants such as mint, oregano and marjoram. Take tip pieces 100-150cm long and remove lower leaves. Dip the base of the cutting into hormone powder or gel, then pop into a pot filled with potting mix (form the holes with a pencil). Water gently and sit in a mini greenhouse or cover with a plastic bag. Keep moist until roots have formed.
- ▶ For something new in flowers, look out for Petchoes. They're a cross between petunias and calibrachoas and forma well-branched spreading plant (to about 60cm wide), with blooms in a range of colours from spring through to autumn.
- ▶ Plant a citrus tree now for their year round good looks and wonderful fruit crop. A sunny spot and well drained soil is all they need but if space is limited grow them in pots – cumquats and

meyer lemons are ideal in containers. Where ever you plant them, remember to feed them 2-3 times a year.

▶ If you're looking for an unusual citrus tree, seek out a finger lime (*Microcitrus australasica*). Native to Australian rainforests, they bear small fruit in a range of colours. Cultivars like 'Rainforest Pearl' are ideal for containers.

Better Homes and Garden, April 2010.

Oh To Be A Wife.

He didn't like the casserole
 And he didn't like my cake,
 He said my biscuits were harder
 Than his mother used to make.
 I didn't perk the coffee right
 He didn't like the stew,
 I didn't mend his socks
 The way his mother used to do.
 I pondered for an answer
 I was looking for a clue.
 Then I turned around and smacked him one

Like his mother used to do.

Editor's Comments;

Special thanks for those who have contributed to this Autumn Snippets. They are;

Pam Linnett, John and Andrea Long, Carolyn Willadsen, Lee Moles, Audrey Brown, Molly Cock

Please don't forget to write a contribution for your Snippets if you visit a garden, travel overseas or go on one of *Nancy Baker's bus trips*. It doesn't have to be a lengthy article, 100-250 words is long enough. I would love to hear from you. Remember this is your Snippets, so without your contributions this quarterly newsletter wouldn't happen.

Answers to Quick Quiz

1. The Egyptians in 3500BC
2. Agave sisalana
3. More than ½ a billion dollars

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

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.