

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Autumn 2022

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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 our President.

2022 is a milestone year for the Maleny Garden Club as it celebrates **70 Years of "Friendship through Gardening"**

A celebration will be held on Tuesday **25th October 2022** to mark this special occasion. Please note the date in your diary.

Another important date for your diary is the **Spring Fair** which will be held on **Saturday 1st October 2022**

Weather wise this New Year has kept us out of the garden more than we like. Hopefully as the weather cools down we can return to doing what we love, tending our gardens.

The day trip to Jonica Gardens, Bahrs Scrub & Nielsen's Nursery was most enjoyable, with members returning with inspiration and plants for their own gardens. We look forward to similar trips later in the year. Many thanks to Diana Begbie for the excellent outing.

Sip n Snip continues to be a wonderful social morning for new members to get to know existing members. I encourage you to join us if you haven't already done so.

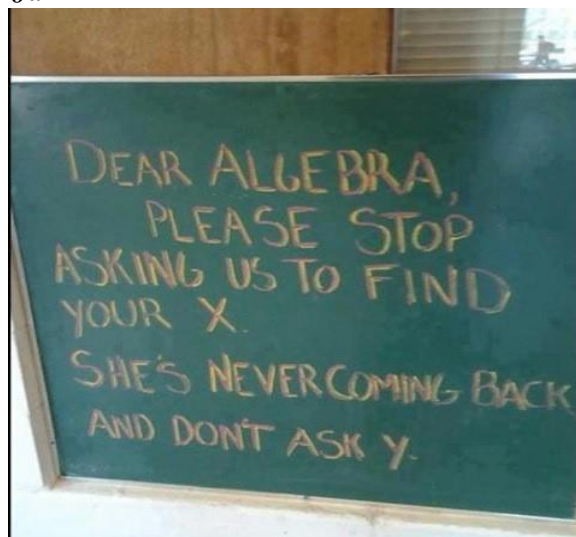
The Maleny Garden Club's AGM will be held on Tuesday 29th March 2022.

Join us for light refreshments to follow the AGM.

May your gardening journey bring you much joy – we are so privileged to have the freedom to do what we love doing.

Happy Gardening

Jan ☐



..... Quick Questions;

- | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. What animal is on the Porsche logo? |
| 2. What geometric shape is generally used for stop signs? |
| 3. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (in 1903)? |
| 4. Who named the Pacific Ocean? |
| 5. Which is the only edible food that never goes bad? |

As our travel is severely curtailed at present, these two utubes may bring back memories of times past when we were fortunate to travel overseas.

1. Tour of Venice.

<https://youtu.be/ka-ZgwCXXho>

2. Norway.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/PqyPW-Bdd4E?rel=0>

.....
Dried Flowers.

(Now that Autumn is here, is an ideal time to collect flowers and seed heads for art work).

Air Drying....

This is the easiest method. Gather the flowers or seed heads when fully mature, stripping the leaves away. Then tie tightly together in bunches and hang upside down to dry in a dark, warm airy place. It is most important that the air circulates freely. Plants suitable for this method include Yarrow, Lavender Golden Rod, Grasses (all kinds), Poppy heads, Clematis, Chinese Lantern, Honesty, Strawflower, Thistles, Onion flowers, Statice, Ferns etc.

Glycerine Preserving....

Mix equal quantities of water and glycerine. The leaves and flowers must first be stood in water for several hours before standing in the glycerine mixture for 2-3 weeks. When the colour has changed, remove and dry. This method is the best one to use for foliage and results in beautiful colours. Clematis and hydrangea flowers can be preserved in this way as can leaves of aspidistra, laurel, ivy, peony, beach etc. *Anon*

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Odd Spot.

*Tomato ketchup was sold in the 1830's as medicine.

*Cheetahs can't roar, they can just purr and chirp.

*China was the first country to use paper money.

*Each time you see a full moon, you see the same side.

*Sound travels almost five times faster underwater than in air.

*Hippopotamus's milk is pink.

*Cows have best friends within their herd.

Returned from the grocery store with the hubby. Took masks off. It turned out it was the wrong hubby! Be attentive!

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An Enlightening Journey in Northern Ethiopia, April 2014. (part 2).

Day 5 in this fascinating country was spent exploring the ancient capital Gondar which was founded by Emperor Fasilides also known as Fasil (reigned 1632 – 1667) at the foothills of the Simien Mountains in 1636. The site was chosen because of its height sans mosquitoes, plentiful water and protection from invaders by surrounding high mountains. Successive early emperors built their own palaces in a royal enclosure containing five distinctly different palaces/castles now heritage listed by UNESCO. Italy occupied Ethiopia from 1936 to 1941 until being ousted by the British after bombing and damaging the castles used as Italian headquarters. Much restoration has been effected but not very well in some cases where contemporary fixtures, fittings, cement rendering and painting were used. All castles were originally constructed of bricks and limestone – handmade, ground and buried for five years to cure. Banqueting/reception halls, stables, acoustically perfect performance halls, saunas and brewery buildings were also in the enclosure in varying states of ruin and restoration. During the visit we witnessed in the sky directly above the ruins an atmospheric corona like a small circular rainbow. Apparently

this optical phenomenon is produced by the diffraction of sunlight in this case, or moonlight or bright star light, by individual small water droplets or tiny ice crystals. None of our group had before experienced it so a deal of excitement and discussion ensued during the 3 kilometre trip to Emperor Fasil's swimming pool.

The pool is a marvel of 17th century Ethiopian engineering. It appeared to be twice the size of an Olympic pool with a small two-storey palace in the middle where the Emperor could bathe privately. The square pool is surrounded by an embattlemented turreted wall with enormous banyan and strangler fig trees and roots curtaining the wall in many places and the leafy canopies creating a cooling atmosphere. The pool is gravity fed through a canal from the River Qaha and takes two weeks to fill. Nowadays it is kept empty for sanitary reasons and filled only once a year on January 19 for the re-enactment of Timket, the Ethiopian Orthodox celebration of Epiphany for all to enjoy. On conclusion the sluice gates are opened to drain water back into the river. We lunched at the Four Sisters Restaurant which served authentic and delicious local food after which we were entertained by the singing Sisters (one of whom married an Australian) and all their staff playing various local musical instruments and dancing. We were then invited to join the dance of Eskista, a traditional cultural dance from the Amhara ethnic group involving much shoulder shaking and laughter while rain and hail fell outside.

In the afternoon we visited a very old, well kept church, which had not been damaged in the war, where monks, in preparation for Palm Sunday observances, were praying and chanting beneath 300 year old paintings on the ceilings and walls. We felt we were intruding but they were welcoming and not at all perturbed. Warm and responsive welcome is something we continued to experience from all Ethiopians we met.

The final visit of the day was to the palace/castle ruin of Menalik I, son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, who reigned

from 975 to 950 BC. We viewed in the crypt skeletal remains in glass topped coffins along with ancient books and paintings all in need of curatorial attention. Lastly we wandered through the ruins of the Queen of Sheba's palace which consisted only of the stone foundations depicting the palace footprint.

Kevin Radbourne (To be continued)

Instead of a sign
that says 'do not disturb'
I need one that says
'already disturbed
proceed with caution'



Floral Noah's Ark helps save

A dedicated team of camellia lovers are preserving threatened plants brought here almost 200 years ago, writes Julie Power.

Former Helensburgh Fire and Rescue captain Jim Powell spent 41 yrs saving people's lives but he couldn't protect his other great love and obsession from the 2001 Christmas Day bushfires. He returned home to blackness, his collection of 1100 rare camellias largely destroyed.

"My house was saved and the camellias saved it. There were 860 in the front garden and their fleshy leaves absorbed the heat", said the retired firefighter.

After that blaze, Mr Powell co-founded Australia's first Camellia Ark to identify and preserve rare and endangered camellias-many are threatened around the world with some

considered sacred or symbolic- that could never be replaced.

These include a 190-year old bush, the *Camellia japonica Anemoniflora*, said to resemble the Australian waratah, which still flowers at John Macarthur's Camden Park.

It was thought to be the last remaining plant from Macarthur's shipment of camellias to Australia in 1830. Members of the Ark have propagated it to ensure it survives.

A strange camellia planted by the late Prime Minister Bob Hawke at Sydney's EG Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens at Caringbah changes its stripes and colours more than the average politician.

Grown from a cutting of an old *Camellia Japonica Shiba Xueshi* in Japan, it is also known as the 18 scholars. That's because it can have as many as 18 different shaped, coloured and striped flowers on a mature tree at the same time.

Another camellia, known as the "Mrs Faifax" and likely named after the newspaper family who owned this masthead for nearly 150 years, was lost to NSW. But Stephen Utick, the Ark's Secretary and co-founder, found another specimen growing in Victoria's Botanical gardens. It was propagated and brought home to NSW with plants deposited at Sydney's Botanical Garden to ensure its survival.

Dr Utick was in 2021 appointed honorary curator of camellias at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney to help the garden educate the public about its outstanding camellias. He said camellias have played an important role in the Australian garden history since the first recorded plantings at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney in 1823.

David Laughlin, the garden manager and curator, said staff were still working to preserve these varieties and their preservation "would maintain a living history for future generations to enjoy".

Dr Utick describes rare heritage camellias as "living antiques" that open up the lost nursery and garden worlds of colonial NSW and Asia over the course of two millennia.

If it wasn't for a white camellia called "Alba Plena"- a symbol of womanly excellence" to the suffragettes- Australian and New Zealand women may have taken much longer to get the vote, he said.

The "Tongziman Baby's Face" camellia (only 12 in Australia) is worshipped as a god in northern China. The Australian plants were grown from four cuttings from a very old tree grown at a temple in China guarded by monks. "They watched us, to make sure we only took four," said Mr Powell, who collected the cuttings.

(contributor unknown) *Sydney Morning Herald*, Sept. 19th 2021.

WARNING

There is an email going around offering processed pork, gelatin and salt in a can.

If you get this email, do not open it. It's spam.

Answers to Quick Questions

1. Horse
2. Octagon
3. Marie Curie
4. Ferdinand Magellan
5. Honey

How did you go?

Editor's Note.

Thank you to all those who generously supplied articles for this season's Snippets.

They are; Kevin Radbourne and the unknown contributor of the article on rare heritage camellias.

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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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