

Maleny Garden Club Inc.



SNIPPETS

Spring 2002.

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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

Welcome to this third Spring issue of SNIPPETS. Your attention is drawn to upcoming events such as "Springtime in Maleny" and the Annual General Meeting, both in September. The extended Club Coach Tour in October, the Xmas Lunch in November and further ahead the "Autumn Fair" in March 2003 also need to be noted. It is important for Club Members to get involved in these activities and give the Executive Planners much needed support to stage them successfully.

get involved.....it's your club! *Mal Price*

Garden Recipe
(Potting Mixture)

This mixture is used for all my pelargoniums, geraniums, pentas, begonias and other perennials.

All these plants need good drainage.

1 Large bag of a good potting mix using a 4 litre ice cream container as a measure.

Add; 6 litres of clean sharp river sand,

2 x 5" (125 mm) pot of Bark Fines,

1 x 5" (125 mm) pot of vermiculite,

1 x 5" (125 mm) pot of organic extra,

1 x 4" (100 mm) pot of Blood and Bone,

15 grams of Sulphate of Potash.

Mix well.

Margaret Allen.

Birds.



By the time we read these notes winter may have come and gone. So what do the birds in our garden and district do while waiting for the Spring season to burst out?

From personal observation in our backyard the male "crested doves" have been parading and showing off their beautiful tail feathers and wing flashes whilst hastily chasing the female of their choice, and if she isn't showing any interest on the early approaches, the male heads for the feed trays to replenish the energy just expended.

As for the "Blueys", (Rainbow Lorikets) we observed the most interesting ritual which took place while about a dozen birds were feeding. Some were on the ground foraging, the rest were in the seed trays. As we watched one small "Bluey" and her larger mate started to fuss over each other. She rolled onto her back and would you believe they commenced to play "footsies" with each other while the other birds formed a ring around them and observed what was happening. At no stage did the quick "bird mating consummation" take place and after a few minutes of this interesting behaviour, life returned to normal feeding, playing and semi fighting to prove who was who in the pecking order.

Cilla & Keith.

Three Day Club Trip

This year's trip will take place on October 7, 8 & 9th, with motel accommodation in Toowoomba. Among the attractions planned are a Japanese garden and an orchid show. It is not too late for anybody still interested in going, a few seats remain available. Please contact me.

Mal Price

Recipe - Ambrosia.

1 can (440g) pineapple pieces,

2 apples diced,

2 oz (50g) shredded coconut,

1 pkt pink & white marshmallows,

¼ lb (100g) bunch sultana grapes,

2 oz (50g) walnut crumbs,

1 carton sour cream.

Drain pineapple, cut marshmallows in half or quarters, mix all ingredients together, refrigerate for 24 hrs before serving. Decorate with cherries and sprig of mint.

Margaret Owens

Snippet

Don't knock yourself there are plenty of people out in the world who will do it better than you.

Spring Book Review



Macoboy's Roses by Stirling Macoboy.

At the heart of this splendid book is a gallery of over 1500 beautiful rose portraits. Old garden roses, modern garden roses and wild roses have been selected for their popularity, beauty, historical interest, fame and fragrance. Every rose is illustrated and is accompanied by details of its appearance, parentage, character, fragrance and history.

In addition to the rose entries this book includes special sections that highlight different aspects of the rose. These sections feature paintings and works of art, poems and information on gardens and personalities associated with the history and romance of the rose.

Further sections give practical advice on roses and the designing of rose gardens. If you are a 'rose person' this magnificent book is definitely one to include on your borrowing list from our extensive library. Enjoy!

Molly Cock

Future Events.

August 31 & Sept 1 Wide Bay Garden Expo, Seafront Oval, Hervey Bay.

Aug 31 & Sept 1 The Orchid Species Society Show *

Sept 6 & 7 Australian Red Cross Chelsea Flower Show & Fair, St. Barnabas Church Hall, 189 Lister St. Sunnybank.

Sept 6 - 8 The Queensland Orchid Society Inc. Show. *

Sept. 12 & 13 Springtime in Maleny (set-up in hall on the 11th)

Sept. 14 & 15 West Brisbane Orchid Society Inc. Show.

Sept. 14 & 15 Buderim Garden Festival (\$7 entry for 6 gardens or \$1 flower show only).

Sept. 21 Toowoomba Geranium Society Show, Masonic Supper Hall, Neil St. Toowoomba.

Sept. 24 Annual General Meeting (Maleny Comm. Hall).

Sept. 28 & 29 The Geranium and Pelargonium Society of Brisbane Inc. Show. *

Sept. 26 - Oct. 5 The Royal Horticultural Society of Q'ld. "Garden Spectacular". *

Oct. 7, 8 & 9 Maleny Garden Club Bus Trip to Toowoomba.

Oct. 11 & 12 Gardenfest and Trade Fair, Civic Centre Stanthorpe.

Oct. 12 & 13 Bonsai Society of Q'ld Inc. Show.

Oct. 13 Sunshine Coast Independent Living Centre, Giant Plant Sale. 8 Tamper St. Nambour.

Oct. 19 & 20 Redlands Green & Grow, Showgrounds, Cleveland.

Oct. 19 & 20 African Violet Society of Q'ld Show. *

Oct. 26 & 27 The Queensland Rose Society Inc. Show. *

Oct. 29 Maleny Garden Club meeting at (Joyce and Brian Butterfield - 26 Nadi Lane, Nrth Maleny).

Nov. 16 & 17 The Floral Art Society of Q'ld Inc. Show. *

Nov. 26 (11-30) Tranquil Park Resort for Xmas lunch.

*Those marked * are at the Mt Coot-tha auditorium.*

Colin Cambell

Specialist Feature.



New Zealand Gardens.

There are some very beautiful gardens in N.Z. however space does not permit a detailed account, so I will only mention a few that impressed us.

Lanarch Castle in Dunedin which at one time had fallen into disrepair, is now restored to its former glory and has a beautiful garden with extensive lawns and landscaping in keeping with its setting.

The Botanical Gardens in Christchurch are a beauty to behold. Another garden runs along a small canal-like stream which is the Avon River. This garden widens into a large rose garden. Many wild ducks and their offspring provide much interest for passers by. Many beautiful homes are built on the opposite side of the river. An early settler willed these gardens to the city of Christchurch and volunteers assist with their maintenance. A very beautiful setting.

The Pohutukawe (N.Z. Christmas Tree) is most symbolic of North Island and must look a treat when in bloom. We saw long avenues of them. None were evident in the South Island. The autumn tones were breathtaking especially the reflections mirrored in the lakes. The Pampas Grass is every where and threatens to become a pest.

New Zealand is a truly beautiful country to visit, contrasts in scenery and culture and lovely to look at but we still call Maleny home.

(This letter was presented by Olga & Alan Webster following their NZ trip recently).

Springtime in Maleny

This is to be held in the Community Centre on the 12th and 13th of Sept. We need as many as possible to help us set up for the fair on the 11th. If you have not yet been allocated a job and wish to assist please contact Norma McLeod (tele: 5494 4986).



Garden Tips

- Once pointsettias have finished flowering, give them a hard prune. Take them back to a couple of buds above the ground level and at first sign of new growth treat them to an application of a complete fertiliser.
- Keep water up to leafy green vegetables during dry periods, especially lettuce or they will be very bitter.
- Watch for rust on beans. If detected spray with a copper based spray.
- Look for caterpillars on soft foliage plants. Either hand remove or spray with a 'soft' insecticide.
- Shrubs planted in June or July that are now making growth should be fertilised.
- If you didn't fertilise citrus in July do it now with a citrus and fruit tree fertiliser
- Apply dolomite to beds into which beans, peas and tomatoes are to be planted. Allow at least 6 wks. between the dolomite and planting time.
- As soon as spring flowering climbing roses have finished get in amongst them with the secateurs.
- Applications of soil wetting agents such as Wettasoil to lawns and garden beds will improve the ground's ability to absorb water.
- As soon as petunias have finished flowering cut them back to just above ground level and a repeat flowering will usually result.

Colin Campbell.



Lunch & Tea Roster

Mal Price will bring milk to each meeting.

Pick up necessary teapots, etc from previous month's meeting and take home in readiness for your turn.

If unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange to have someone replace you.

Our helpers are:

September— Annual General Meeting.

October -- TBA.

November -- Xmas lunch

Social Snippets – Birthdays, Travel, New Members etc

Bon voyage to Rosemary Simmons as she travels to China shortly. Her itinerary includes a visit to the Imperial Gardens within the walls of the Forbidden City in Beijing. We look forward to hearing about it when she returns.

Barbara Dean, who is presently in England visiting family has also planned a trip to Europe, so maybe she will have some

photos of many interesting gardens to show us on her return in a few weeks.

An interesting and pleasant time was shared by those members who visited three venues on 2nd Aug. on Baker's Coach. The first stop was Belli Bamboo Farm where a guided tour and visual presentation were greatly enjoyed. The next stop was well known Fairhill Nursery the home of many lovely plants, both to look at in their immaculate gardens and to purchase from their Nursery. The new and inspiring Maroochy Botanical Gardens were then visited after lunch where an easy and relaxing 2km walk among the tall timber of the native forest were completed by many members. Maureen Sheargold, President of the Committee who constructed this challenging project was their guide on the day. Thanks to Geoff Andersen for organising this day.

Well they have done it again! Banksia Garden Club put on another wonderful day on 5th Aug. Nancy, Leonie and Marianne volunteered to go. Margaret Allen, the geranium guru, entertained us with her 'life in the garden' spanning 76yrs. This was followed by a vocal rendition of 'One Day at a Time' which proved very poignant. A delightful array of food was much appreciated by all while the raffle was deemed to be most successful. Three happy ladies voted the day a triumph.

New Members.

A big welcome to our new members. We look forward to your participation in the club's activities.

Terry Rowan

Jeanette Bennett

Howard Friemann

Margaret Harper

Travelogue – by Lisa Plucknet.

This has been our 'Year for Garden Tours' and the biggest and best was to the world renowned Butchart Gardens the highlight of our spring tour to Canada and Alaska. The rail trip through the Rocky Mts, the awe inspiring moments when glaciers you could almost touch crashed into the sea in Alaska and the majesty of thundering Niagara Falls still only came 2nd to the splendour of the 50 acres of Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island.

From a gardener's point of view, these gardens, built on a former quarry were the best thing we saw. One keen gardener in our group who became quite weepy (like a muslim on a pilgrimage to Mecca) said that all her adult life she had dreamed of this visit. Mere words cannot describe the wonder and beauty of Butchart. The entry courtyard was full of colourful pots of colourful flowers. A bank of conifers made a lovely dark green backdrop to this sand coloured courtyard.

First sight to catch our eyes were the avenues of tulips with under-plantings of blue forget-me-nots. This created an effect of tulips floating on a blue carpet. Shady areas were home to massed plantings of cinerarias and giant frilly begonias while edgings were English daisies. Cherry blossom trees were visions of pink, rhododendrons were in full blossom and

fountains of water danced and changed shapes like a lovely ballet. There were sunken gardens, topiary areas, a Japanese garden with a pine-lined 'window' that gave a vista of a small bay in the distance, naturally a rose garden and a formal English garden with clipped lawns and low-boxed hedges, trellises and avenues of rose covered arches. Nothing was obtrusive or artificial, the buildings had green roofs, dormer windows and creeper covered walls. Even the night lighting of the gardens was subtle. Our overall memory; the colour blocks of one colour were spectacular, our favourite was of tulips (Kevin estimated 50,000) being of mixed colours on a carpet of blue. The workforce consists of 17 full-time gardeners and a large number of young people on work experience.

(to be continued)



Seasonal Tasks

September;

- * Prune hibiscus.
- * Prune pointsettias.
- * Plant a passionfruit - prune existing vines.
- * Divide perennials.
- * Dead head spring annuals.
- * Re-pot plants.
- * Grow petunias for max. flowering.

October;

- * Fertilise hibiscus.
- * Plant out summer annuals.
- * Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering.
- * Grow a herb garden.
- * Plant tomatoes.
- * Continue weeding and apply mulch.
- * Fertilise lawns - watering prior to and after applying.
- * Plant dahlias and divide iris.

November;

- * Apply trace elements to citrus, keep watering if dry.
- * Cover summer fruit crops with plastic netting.
- * Continue summer planting of vegetables.
- * Continue feeding roses after each flowering, a little extra potash will help.
- * Apply liquid fertiliser to all summer crops and flowers.
- * Prune tomato plants, cover if necessary with netting, spray for fruit fly.

Pat Powell.

All contributions to: Kate Nothling, P.O. Box 1050 Maleny

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.

Annual General Meeting.

This yearly meeting for the election of offices will be held on Tuesday 24th Sept. at 11 30am in the Community Hall. If you have dreams of becoming the new President or Treasurer of the Gardening Club now is your opportunity!

Following this there will be a brief Maleny Garden Club Meeting in the form of a talk by Alan Franks on Hollow Log Homes and Nesting Boxes for birds.

We invite you to be present at this important meeting.

Please note that everybody's yearly subscription becomes due and requires payment from that date. The new fee is \$10 per person.

Did You Know?

Learning botanical or gardener's latin can make you a better gardener by teaching you a great deal about the plants themselves and by helping to avoid confusion. Common names that gardeners use can lead to confusion because we are often referring to different plants. An example of this is the name *Rose of Sharon* which can refer to *Hibiscus syriacus* or *Hypericum calycinum*. These two plants are nothing alike and neither of them are roses.

Using the Latin name can also help to describe the plant and it's preferred growing conditions. The common name for *Baby's Breath* in Botanical language is *Gypsophila paniculata*, *Gypsophila* means gypsum loving while the flowers are arranged in loose spreading clusters or panicles.

Rosemary Simmons.

Reference; *Gardener's Latin*. Author- Bill Neal.

