

Maleny Garden Club Inc.

# SNIPPETS

From here and there



## Winter 2023

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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.

Dear Members

Winter has brought with it some chilly days and some much needed rain, along with some beautiful sunny days.

The Mystery Trip on the 9th May was fantastic, special thanks go to Diana Begbie for planning and coordinating a wonderful day. The trip included a visit to a private garden in Nambour, the Maroochydhore Botanical Gardens where a delicious lunch was served, Hinterland Foliage in Landsborough, and was eclipsed with a visit to Diana's beautiful garden overlooking the Glasshouse Mountains.

An overnight trip to Maryborough on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th August is planned to visit the Maryborough Open Gardens Festival. Town Gardens will be visited on Saturday and Rural Gardens on Sunday. MGC Trips are a wonderful way to get to know fellow Garden Club Members. Visiting other gardens inspires and may give you new ideas for your own garden.

The cost of the trip is dependent on the number of people going.

Please Register as soon as possible as Diana has to confirm room numbers by a certain date. Please email Diana Begbie: E: [trips@malenygardenclub.org](mailto:trips@malenygardenclub.org)

Remember to nurture the plants you have potted up for the Spring Fair Plant Stall on Saturday 7th October and start preparing jams, preserves, pickles for the Produce Stall. In the meantime, "Happy Gardening to All"

Kind regards

Jan.

Most of the generation of those now over 60 were HOME SCHOOLED in many ways...in our parents' own words!

### 1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE .

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

### 2. My mother taught me RELIGION .

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

### 3. My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL .

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

### 4. My father taught me LOGIC.

" Because I said so, that's why ."

### 5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC .

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store."

### 6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT .

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

7. My father taught me IRONY."Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

### 8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS .

"Shut your mouth and eat your dinner."

### 9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM .

"Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

#### **10. My mother taught me about STAMINA .**

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone.

*Anon*

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#### **April's Sip and Snip**

We were warmly welcomed to the property of long time Garden Club member Arthur Brown in Caloundra for our April Snip & Snip.

After a delicious and abundant morning tea and much chatter Arthur proceeded to give us some information about his property where he has lived periodically for many years.

This was followed by a guided tour of his garden containing stunning hibiscus which many garden club members will remember seeing on the competition table at our monthly meetings.

Some of us also took snips of pentas, rose geraniums, and coleus etc. to name a just a few. Arthur is obviously a very proud gardener and rightly so.

Then it was off to Restaurant 'Three' for 14 of us where we enjoyed lunch together. We all had a great morning many thanks to Arthur for his generosity.

*Ann Rignault*

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### **1981 & 2005 - Two Interesting Years**

#### **Interesting Year 1981**

- 1. Prince Charles got married.**
- 2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe .**
- 3. Australia lost the Ashes.**
- 4. The Pope died.**

#### **Interesting Year 2005**

- 1. Prince Charles got married.**
- 2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe .**
- 3. Australia lost the Ashes.**
- 4. The Pope died.**

### ***Lesson to be learned:***

**The next time Charles gets married, someone should warn the Pope.**

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### **Wonderful Woodlands.**

Among the studies revealing the positive effects that a vegetated environment has on mental health is a new one involving adolescents in London. It focused on the 9-15 age range, which is thought to be a key period for development of reasoning and understanding. The researchers found exposure to woodland (not grassland) was associated with higher cognitive development scores and a lower risk of behavioural and emotional problems. Other green space has a smaller benefit but no effect was observed from proximity to blue space (rivers, lakes, sea). Sources: [Living near woodlands is good for children and young people's mental health](#) (July 2021)

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### **Best Camellia Varieties, Australia.**

#### **Camellia japonica**

This grows into a classic [small tree](#) - from 1cm to 4m - that prefers shade or dappled light as its large, glossy, dark green leaves can be scorched by the sun. The flowers can grow as big as 15cm and come in colours ranging from white, cream, pale to dark pink and reds with hints of orange or purple - or variegations of all.

Petal arrangements can be single, semi-double, double, or peony, anemone or rose forms. Most begin flowering in May-June and keep blooming through to September, and many have a dusky or almond fragrance.

The flowers stay on the plant for several weeks. Use as a formal or [informal hedge](#), a single specimen or a feature in a mixed garden bed. It responds very well to pruning, tolerates frosts and prefers a well-drained, slightly acidic soil (pH of 6.0 to 8.0).

#### **Camellia reticulata**

'Retics' as they're fondly known by camellia enthusiasts tell us that winter is almost over. With lovely, big, ruffled petals looking like skirts lifted in readiness for dancing at the spring fair, this variety of camellia grows to about 3m but the flowers between May and September are huge and flamboyant, getting up to 25cm wide, and look stunning against the deeply veined, leathery (rather than glossy), dark-green leaves.

## Camellia sasanqua

Grow as a formal or informal hedge, clip into a standard or topiary, [craft into an espalier](#), make it the stand-out in a mixed garden bed, or use it as a single specimen. It responds to pruning, tolerates frosts and prefers a well-drained, slightly acidic soil (6.0 to 8.0).

[illegible]

- 1 c chopped dates
- 3/4 c boiling water
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups sifted self raising flour

Grease and line base and sides of loaf tin with baking paper, spoon mixture into tin and level the top with a knife or spatular.

## Miracles of Nature



Al Brightwell files

The reality is that birds don't really need our help to make their nests. But if you're very careful, there's no harm in giving them easy access to some of the native items they would likely choose on their own. To know what those may be, you'll first need to know what type of birds are native to the

area. It will take some research, but it's important to err on the side of caution. Many materials that seem safe can cause severe harm or even death to the birds.

### Safe bird nesting materials

Once you have a better understanding of the type of materials native birds to your area typically use for nesting, you can look for these items accordingly. When it comes to what's generally safe, stick with things like small sticks and twigs, leaves, and plant materials. Twigs about the size of an adult finger generally make good nest material, but the size often depends on the bird. Instead of raking up all the dead leaves and putting them in the compost pile in the fall, save a small pile of dead leaves and twigs.

You can add to the pile with grass clippings, as long as you don't treat your lawn with fertilizers or pesticides. You can also offer some untreated straw, as this is a favorite nesting material of many birds. If you have any moss to mix into the pile, this is a safe material. Pine needles are safe and a favorite of bluebirds. Lastly, the fluff from certain plants like cattails or cottonwood trees makes a wonderful addition to soften it up. You can stuff a bunch of this nesting material in an empty suet box, or simply place the materials in a spot easily accessible to where the birds gather.

### Beware of possible harm

Some items you might think are safe but aren't include either pet or human hair. Pet hair is unsafe due to flea treatment, pesticides, and shampoos. Human hair isn't safe due to the chemicals in our shampoos, dyes, hairsprays, etc. These things can be harmful to baby birds in the nest, even though some birds use animal fur in the wild. Birds can't always differentiate between "safe" wild animal fur and pet fur.

Dryer lint is not considered safe either due to the chemicals in the detergents and the microplastics contained in it. Of course, avoid any bits or pieces of plastic and anything containing plastic. Additionally, do not include any yarn or string that can quickly become a hazard if the bird gets tangled in it. Yarn and coloured bits also typically contain dyes that can be harmful to baby birds. Basically, anything birds would not find in nature should be avoided. Anything that helps wild birds save precious energy can be helpful; just be careful that what you're offering is safe for them.

<https://www.housedigest.com/1309821/best-nest-materials-leave-out-for-birds/>

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### WORDS OF WISDOM

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*"It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then."*

LEWIS CARROLL



**"If you remember, I did mention possible side-effects."**

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### Editors Note.

*Well here is the 2023 Winter's edition of Snippets. How this year is flying by!!*

*I would like to thank ; Ann Rignault and Jan McGuire for their entries in this newsletter. But it would be lovely to hear from other Garden Club members when they next travel or have an article they think would be suitable for Snippets.*

**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](mailto: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.