

Maleny Garden Club Inc.

# SNIPPETS

From here and there



## Autumn 2023

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Dear Members

March is already upon us as we plan for a busy year ahead and take pleasure in working in our gardens. Membership continues to grow and we welcome the new members who have recently joined.

The Club has two day trips planned for the first half of the year:

**Wondai Garden Expo on Saturday 15 April 2023 and A Mystery Trip on Tuesday 9 May 2023.**

It's always great opportunities to get to know your fellow garden club members and come home with lots of new and interesting plants for our gardens.

**The Spring Fair will be on Saturday 7 October 2023** so time to start potting up for the MGC Plant Stall. If you would like some ideas on what to pot up please ask at the next **Garden Club Meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 which will also be the Maleny Garden Club AGM.** We look forward to introducing a variety of Guest Speakers throughout the coming year who will share their knowledge and expertise on all things gardening.

Happy Gardening to All,

Kind regards

Jan

### Short Quiz

1. Name the county that is situated in the South East of England?
2. Which ocean bounds with South America from the west?
3. How many eyes does a spider have?
4. Who wrote the poem- Baba Black Sheep?

Answers on back page.

### Maleny Garden Club Day Trip

(Esk Garden & Lifestyle Fair plus 2 private gardens)

A great day was had on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> June, with 31 enthusiastic Maleny Garden Club members visiting three wonderful destinations. It was an early 7:30 am start with the sunniest of days.

After a very scenic drive, the first stop was the Esk Garden & Lifestyle Fair where three hours were easily spent, visiting the large array of stalls including plants of all types, gardening supplies, home and garden décor items, food and refreshments. There were guest speakers, performances, children's entertainment and workshops. The weekly markets were also running adjacent to the fair, with some club members visiting there also. Lunch was enjoyed while visiting Esk.

The next destination was a 5-acre private home and garden, "Windemere", located in Summerholm, a rural locality in the Lockyer Valley. During the drive there we noted evidence of the recent flood damage to the region.

Windemere is an extensive rambling, country garden - 90% grown from seed, cuttings and divisions shared by family and friends. It has had to withstand extremes of temperature and periods of drought and more recently floods. There are water features, ponds – one large with a jetty, statues and sculptures, gazebos, many garden rooms and an outbuilding containing interesting knick-knacks and memories. The garden is a home for barn owls and other birds, possums, bandicoots, echidnas, and insects. It is also a place of refuge, medicine and where the owners' hearts feel at home. The garden was greatly enjoyed by all garden club members.

The final destination of the day was a memorable visit to "Wivenhoe Station", originally a 43 000-acre property, before it was sub-divided for closer settlement in the 1800s, then

resumed in the 1970s for the construction of Wivenhoe Dam. It is now a 1500-acre cattle property, with a one-and-a-half-acre architect-designed house and garden. The owners' native and exotic garden can be viewed from every room with surrounding water views. It sits up high with no neighbours and absolute serenity. The garden beds, pool and northern wall mirror the inlets and curves around the shoreline of Lake Wivenhoe.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed, courtesy of several garden club members, while admiring the gardens and soaking in the peaceful water vistas.

The scenic drive continued until a tired but very happy group returned to Maleny around 6 pm. Thank you also to club members who provided afternoon tea; and to others who helped make the day one to remember.

Thanks to Diana Begbie for organizing this wonderful day.

Shane and Leigh Josey

Oh Dear!

A wealthy man was having an affair with an Italian woman for a few years.

One night she confided in him that she was pregnant. Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage he paid her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to have the child. If she stayed in Italy, he would he would also provide child support until the child turned 18. She agreed but wondered how he would know when the baby was born. He told her to send him a post card and write 'spaghetti' on the back. He would then arrange for the child support. About 9 months later the husband came home to a very confused wife. "Honey, she said "you received a very strange postcard today". "Just give it me" he said. The wife handed the card over and watched as her husband read the card. He turned white and fainted. On the card was written, spaghetti, spaghetti, spaghetti, two with meatballs and one without.

Anon.

1. All fungi are edible

2. Some fungi are only edible once



Terry Pratchett



"Sorry to keep you both waiting out here.  
Where's your wife?"

..... I'M  
WEARING WIDOW'S WEEDS

*The Wandering Jew is wandering well,  
The White Root's really rooted;  
I'm waging war on all these weeds;  
And I'm feeling convoluted.*

*Scotch Thistle said "Now this'll do,  
I'm feeling right at home."  
Madeira Vine's gone rampant,  
And it's hid my garden gnome.*

*There's weeds I can't identify  
And Bindi-eye to make you cry;  
And nematodes and feral toads,  
And the bin man will not take my load.*

*'Cause I've filled up all my green waste bin,  
The general one as well;  
Black garbage bags as camouflage  
And at least my weeds don't smell.*

*I'm thinking of those bygone days,  
When my spouse said "weeding's done."  
And all I said was "well done love,"  
And went off to have some fun.*

*I wish I'd just stayed home and said,  
"Come share your expertise"  
For now I'm weeding night and day  
And stranded on my knees.*

*I hope that Kevin's watching me,  
And yelling out "well done"  
And I reply" it's all for you  
And I've only just begun."*

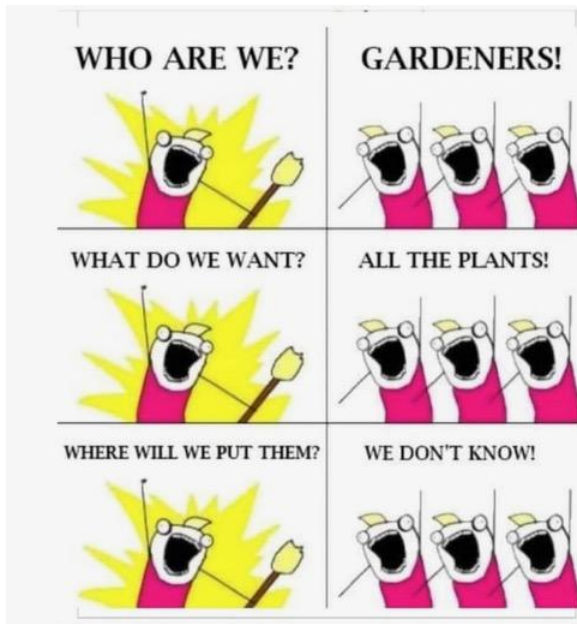
*I think I've pulled out onion weed.  
But fear it could be freesias;  
And if I've pulled his spring time bulbs,  
We both could have a seizure.*

*So if my garden friends should think  
That I have disappeared;  
When I have won my war on weeds  
I may just re-appear.*

*I'll play cards and music once again,  
And de-junk lots of stuff;  
And maybe look for Kevin,  
If I think I've had enough.*

*But while those weeds are lurking,  
I'll not yet pull the pin;  
'cause i know that I've got ten more bags,  
To go in Tesch Park bin.*

*Lisa Plucknett Maleny Sept 2022*



Contributed by Dot Jupp.

## 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.

.....  
Odd Spots.

\*John Lennon's cat was named Elvis.

\*In the time it takes to read this sentence, 50,000 cells in your  
body will die and be replaced.

\*Most car horns honk in the key of F.

\*Termites eat wood twice as fast when listening to heavy metal  
music. Anon

## Seed Starting Mistakes to Avoid This Season

There are a number of common mistakes that gardeners  
make when starting seeds both indoors, and outdoors.  
Problems like adequate light and not enough water can be  
tricky when starting seeds indoors.

### **\*Forgetting to Thin.**

Thinning is essential for any successful garden. You have to  
cut out the weaklings so the strongest, healthiest seedlings  
can thrive. If you don't thin, you may end up with dozens  
of weak plants that barely yield anything at all. The plants  
will be struggling to compete for space, water, nutrients,  
and sunlight. This is especially true for any vegetable that  
requires a lot of space to thrive, such as tomatoes,  
cucumbers, squash, or cauliflower.

**How to Avoid.** Look at your seed trays or garden beds and  
find the strongest, tallest seedlings. Take note of the  
recommended spacing for the plant and then begin thinning  
out the weaklings. Use thin scissors to cut the weak sprouts  
at the base and remove them. Seedlings like chard, kale,  
and lettuce are yummy to just pop in your mouth like  
microgreens! The **best time to thin is when seedlings are 2-3"**  
**tall**, right after they develop their first set of leaves. I like to  
wait until the seedlings get past the cotyledon stage so I can  
properly assess which ones are the strongest. But, if you  
forget to catch them at the infant stage—*late is better than  
never!*

### **\*Overseeding and Overcrowding.**

It is a common misconception that planting extra seeds will  
result in extra yield. This is not usually the case with  
vegetable gardening. When there are too many plants  
crowded together, all of them suffer.

**How to Avoid It.** Plan your garden in advance based on what you like to eat throughout the season. Order a little more seed than you think you need. When it's time to plant, take care to count your seeds as they go into the soil. They don't need to be perfect, but you don't want to dump a bunch of seeds in one place, either.

If you're having a hard time singling out tiny seeds like basil or lettuce, consider using a mini seed sower. Simply load the seeds into the round part of the dispenser. Then turn the wheel until you find an outlet that is small enough to release just 1-2 seeds at a time. Hold the pointed end over your seedling tray and gently tap the top to sow the seeds. For most vegetables, you can plant 2-3 seeds to ensure germination. When they sprout, you can thin to 1 seed per cell (if transplanting) or per hole (if direct seeding)..

**\*Forgetting to Label and Date.**

Without variety labels and dates on your seeds, how will you know what the heck you planted? At the time of seeding, we always tell ourselves, "I'll remember what this is." Guess what? You seldom remember 3-5 weeks down the line when spring is in full swing! Another bonus of labelling is that it makes you a better gardener! You have more references for next year. If you see that one cultivar is performing better than another, you can take note and order only the best variety next year.

**How to Avoid It.** Use popsicle sticks and a permanent marker to label every single seed tray or seed bed. On the popsicle stick, write:

**Variety Name.**

**Date of Seeding.**

**Burying Seeds Too Deep.**

Seeds need to be buried at specific depths. When you bury a seed too deep, it dramatically reduces the rate of germination success. This mistake is especially common with small-seeded crops like lettuce, celery, poppies, [basil](#), [thyme](#), tomato, arugula, [cabbage](#), fennel, oregano, etc. For a large seed like cucumber or pumpkin, sowing ½" to ¾" deep in the soil isn't as big of a deal because the seed has a lot of food reserves. The endosperm will fuel the baby plant all the way up to the surface, where it can then sprout leaves and start making its own food via photosynthesis.

**How to Avoid It.** Most seed packets include a recommended planting depth. But you can also use this secret trick for determining seed planting depth. **Seed Depth Rule of Thumb:** *Plant a seed twice as deep as the seed is wide. In other words, never sow a seed any deeper than twice its diameter.*

**Letting Seeds Dry Out.**

Like any baby organism, a plant is most needy during its germination stage. If your seeds don't remain consistently moist, they will dry out and die. Freshly started seeds need to be checked every 1-2 days. The seed-starting season is not the time to go out of town!

**How to Avoid It.** Maintain consistent moisture so that seeds never dry out, nor do they sit in soggy soil. Check your seed trays every day and touch the soil. If you can, stick your finger into the soil. If your skin comes out clean, it's probably too dry.

**Overwatering Seeds.**

Water is clearly essential for healthy plant growth, but sometimes you can give too much of a good thing! Overwatering can quickly destroy your seeding efforts by welcoming pathogens into the planting environment.

**How to Avoid It.** If you notice mold or algae growing on the surface of your soil, you are overwatering. Stop watering immediately and move the seed tray to an area with warm, bright light. Overwatering" refers to giving seeds too much water. Please don't confuse this with "overhead watering," which means watering seeds from above.

<https://www.allaboutgardening.com/seed-starting-mistakes/>

**Beautiful Rare Black Baccara**



**Answers to Short Quiz**

1. Essex
2. Pacific ocean.
3. Eight.
4. Rudyard Kipling.

**Note from the Editor**

Thank you to Dot Jupp, Shane and Leigh Josey, Lisa Plucknett and of course our president Jan. Your contributions are much appreciated. And don't forget your travelogues for me please.

**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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