

SNIPPETS from Here and There



Winter 2015

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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.

A note from Marnie,

I'm sure we are happy to see the sunshine today after a week of wet weather. Back into the garden.

Having said that, what a wonderful two days of good weather for our GOE.

Thanks to everyone in the Club, the event went without a hitch, a well oiled machine, as they say.

We are now in a situation where exhibitors are making contact with us to show their wares in the hall, so that shows that the event is well and truly on the calendar for many people. A wrap up of monies will be done at the next Executive Meeting.

I attended a preliminary meeting of local Garden Clubs to put together a joint Picnic Day, which will be a great day out for a few local clubs to have a social day, at this stage it is thought to be held in the Maroochy Botanic Gardens next year.

I will keep you posted regarding this. The Committee is thinking that our next Friendship Day should take place in 2017, I mentioned this briefly at our last meeting. I would be grateful for any suggestions from members regarding this event, as the time will pass so quickly and it does take some planning.

I wish you pleasant days in the garden and a very big thank you for a great team spirit over the last few weeks,
Yours in the garden, Marnie.

Quick Quiz.

1. How much will you save on your energy bill by lowering your heater temperature by 1°C?
2. Who won a Grammy award for her performance of "The Rose" which she sang in the 1979 movie of the same name?
3. Approximately how many species of roses are there?

The Correct Way to Weigh Yourself



I can't believe I've been doing it wrong all these years. **WE MUST SPREAD THE WORD.**

The Lion of Flanders

Throughout history there has been an affinity between soldiers and members of the animal kingdom. For example, some regiments have official mascots which can often be seen on parade on ceremonial occasions.

On the other hand some animals, having been abandoned in war zones have attached themselves to passing battalions in a desperate search for food etc.

The situation was no different during the First World War with the exception that one officer had a lion which was allowed to wander freely down the front-line trenches.

The officer concerned was Major General Sir Tom Bridges, the commanding Officer of the 19th (Western) Division. Bridges was a larger-

than-life character, highly respected and famous amongst other things during the retreat from Mons in August 1914 for the now legendary and unconventional way in which he led the remnants of the two battalions of infantry back to the safety of the British lines. This was achieved with the aid of his trumpeter playing "The British Grenadier" and "Tipperary" on a tin whistle and Bridges himself beating a tin drum "like mad" while he marched around the fountain in St Quentin! This rallied and encouraged the exhausted men to join in and "after a short exhortation" they fell in and "moved slowly off into the night to the music of the improvised band now reinforced with a couple of mouth organs".

According to his autobiography (*Alarms and Excursions*) (Longmans, Green & Co., 1938), Bridges was on a period of leave in Paris during the spring of 1916 enjoying lunch with a fellow officer, Captain Arthur E. Capel, when he detected "something strange in the garden". This proved to be none other than a lion cub, apparently won in a Red Cross raffle a few days earlier. Capel offered him the animal which he accepted, taking it away in a champagne hamper in the car and thereby acquiring "a new recruit for the Division".

The cub was given the name Poilu who "soon made himself at home, for he was an amiable beast, never showing temper" and he stayed with Bridges "running loose" until September 1917 when the General was wounded. Poilu "helped to amuse the men" and the legend grew that he was being trained to go over the top as soon as he was big enough.....

Bridges' headquarters were in dugouts on Scherpenberg Hill, a prominent position which afforded excellent views over the war zone. Here, distinguished visitors would frequently call to view the troop movements and learn about the situation generally. On one such occasion Prime Minister Herbert H. Asquith was making his way to the hilltop when he came face to face with Poilu. The Premier's shocked reaction is reputed to have been followed with the words "I may be wrong but did I see a lion in the path?"

When Bridges was wounded the lion cub was despatched to England in the charge of an aide-de-camp. Unfortunately, on board ship Poilu broke out of his crate during the rough passage and "took command of the vessel" until finally it was enticed into a first class cabin.

The lion spent his final days in a private zoo near Maidenhead. According to Bridges, he lived to be "benign and mellow" and "always the perfect gentleman", eventually dying at the age of 19. *Graham Bebbington, Evergreen, Winter 2014*

While 2015 is the 100yr anniversary of Gallipoli, I took the liberty of including this article which didn't take place in Gallipoli but in the European campaign. I thought the read may interest some of you.
The Editor

Maleny Garden Club Mystery Tour

Anticipation was high as 34 members gathered at the Maleny Show Grounds. The first stop was the Nambour Community Gardens. Further up the Bruce Highway we went West on the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road, then South on Belli Creek Road, marvelling at how high the flood waters from Cyclone Marcia had risen, shown by the debris on the fence lines. Nancy then revealed that we were headed to Frank and Judy Jasinski's Lost Garden which is on the Open Gardens agenda for the public the following weekend 7 & 8 March.

We were taken on an interesting walk to the homestead, past a lake with waterlilies and ducks, peacocks with baby peacocks wandering around the garden. Lovely setting for the homestead on the hill with most of the gardens below the house. Lots of interesting garden plants, some for sale, interesting outdoor ground baskets supported by 3 interlocking timber slats. Everyone enjoyed the delightful morning tea.

The next stop of our mystery trip was the Mary Valley Orchard at Amamoor with 11,000 persimmon trees!! Many of us remember the persimmon tree Grandma had in the garden. If you didn't eat them when they were very, very ripe you ended up with the most tarty taste in your mouth. Many of us never ate a persimmon again.

However we were in for a pleasant surprise. Sitting under a big tree, eating our lunch, Heinz Gruber, one of the owners, began to tell us about how he does things around his orchard.

The persimmons the family grow are known as the Jirra variety. We were all able

