



SNIPPETS

Summer 2010



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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

Another good year! Attendance at our monthly meetings has been continually high, and it is pleasing to see renewed interest in the Plant & Vegetable competitions.

Our main fundraising event, Gardening on the Edge, was once again very successful and special mention must be made to all who participated – especially the convenor and all his assistants. Peter Dallimore did a great job in the convenor role and his garden selection from both Maleny and Montville made it a true Hinterland event. It was our most successful GOE and it is pleasing to be able to distribute \$15,000.00 to local worthwhile causes. GOE does require considerable effort from many people and it will be good to see this event on next year's calendar.

The speakers at our monthly meetings have been many and varied and Di Begby must again be congratulated on her selection. It is always difficult to try to keep the monthly topics interesting, but somehow Di always manages to achieve this.

It was also pleasing to see so many new members joining. Every month there were always at least 2 new members. Bring a wealth of knowledge and interest, which can only help to strengthen and be of benefit to our great club.

I would like to thank all committee members for their input and participation during the year. Our committee meetings are always enjoyable even though some contentious topics are debated on occasions. Some of the committee have stood down namely: Peter Dallimore, as Vice President, Andrea Long as Minutes Secretary, Babs Groves as Correspondence Secretary and Trevor McCleary as Attendance Record Keeper. The following people have agreed to step up into the following positions; John Long as Vice-President, Glenys Hiley-Correspondence Sec, Marcia Jensen-Minute Sec, Libby Taylor-Raffles, Diana Begbie-Attendance Record. Thank you all for your efforts during the year.

I will be continuing on as President with your consent, for another year, but will be resigning at the 2011 AGM as that will be my three-year term.

Harry Rowland

Quick Quiz;

1. What is a moustiquaire?
2. What is the percentage of water that cacti can contain?
3. Name the genre of Caribbean music native to Trinidad?

The Memorial Garden of Kundasang

High in the hills of Sabah, Borneo, a once beautiful garden slowly returned to the jungle, all but forgotten, just like the memories of the POWs for whom it had been created. Then a Malaysian man found it and spent most of his retirement time and money in returning the garden to its former glory.

There is a succession of garden rooms; firstly one climbs a steep path with tropical plants sweeping each side. This is followed by three separate walled gardens dedicated to each country which had prisoners in Sandakan POW camp in WWII. The Australian garden has an expanse of lawn, with bottlebrush trees around the perimeter and a map of Australia picked out in shells in the centre. Climb a wide flight of steps and the British garden has two rows of roses (no black spot!), while up another flight of steps is the Borneo garden, filled with beautiful orchids – and morning glory (apparently a native).

Up more steps and there is a long, shallow memorial pool under a pergola with an arch at the end with a breathtaking view across to Mt Kinabalu. Rarely visited, few know of it, yet almost every day, after a two hour drive from the coast, it is visited and tended by one man, intent on preserving the respect for those long lost POWs who gave their lives for his freedom.

Pam Linnett

Peace on Earth.

Do you know what would have happened if there had been 'Three Wise Women'?

They would have asked directions,
arrived on time
delivered the baby

cleaned the stable
made a casserole
brought practical gifts AND
there would be Peace on Earth!!
Actually there were four wise men but one said he knew a
shortcut!!
supplied by Kath Marshall.

*Summer Reading.



Velvet Pears: Gardening by the Seasons at Foxglove Spires.

is a delightful and inspiring chronicle of the development and evolution of a garden near Tilba Tilba, close to the coast about 300 km south of Sydney. The instigator and creator of this garden is Susan Southam who tells the story of her extended family, her marriage and her children against the backdrop of the ever expanding garden and the changing seasons. Her passion for colour, form, texture and structure shines through in both the garden and the home. She is aided and abetted in this by her husband who welds (those lovely pergolas and gazebos) and is also conveniently very handy with polypipe. The names alone of the various areas within the woodland garden are charming and evocative – Pear Ring, Apple Tree Lane, The Ruins, Hazelnut Walk, Cedar Hill. The book is handsomely illustrated by the author with photographs which enhance the text. Susan includes a few recipes as well and the title comes from one of her favourites. Altogether *Velvet Pears* is a pleasure for the mind and the senses.

Carolyn Willadsen

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Note on Roses

When I first visited Maleny, actually Montville village, I walked past a store selling some roses, pink in colour, called the Montville rose and I thought I must have one! Now I have come to know this rose as 'Duchess de Brabant', one that you must surely have on your list if you intend to live in this area and grow roses as I do. It flowers all year round as any of us know who grow this variety in our garden. I have given up on hybrid teas and many people say that roses don't grow well here and while I have to agree the David Austin and Old Fashioned roses do very well for me. David Austin's-Jude de Obscure, rich custard colour, large cup shaped beautiful blooms and fruity fragrance is one of my favourite yellow roses because of its shape and fragrance.

On visiting Carol Robinson's garden in Tenterfield I found the rambler-Mme Gregoire Staechelin-beautiful rich pink, large flowers, semi wonderful fragrance. I bought two of these roses and this year they are covering a pergola in my front garden and look simply lovely. I could go on as my love for old fashioned roses gives me a good reason to wake every day and look out from my bedroom window. If you are contemplating two new roses for your garden then please consider one of these as they are truly delightful

Marnie Trass

Summer Recipe

supplied by Susan Myering

The Slice

125 gms Butter
1 tablespoon golden syrup
1 cup dessicated coconut
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup caster sugar
1 cup SR Flour
1 Cup Sultanas
100gms chopped ginger – I use the packet with no sugar coating
1 beaten egg
Preheat oven to 180 (I find 175 too hot in mine). Gently heat butter with golden syrup to melt it but don't overheat. In a big bowl mix the coconut, sugar, flour and sultanas. Add the melted butter mixture and the egg and stir till combined.
Pour into a 28cm x 18 cm tin and bake in the middle of the oven 20-30 mins. Allow to cool in pan – it will sink a little.
(I dust mine with icing sugar as using) Also freezes well.
ENJOY!

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Herb Profile - Blue Flowering Borage

An annual that grows to about 90cm tall with leaves which are oval, green-grey and slightly hairy like the stems. The flowers are a heavenly blue, star like and unscented. Plant the seed all year around in our climate, in a sunny location, best in a drift near the vegetable garden to attract the bees. Once established, borage will readily self seed. Use the leaves torn or whole in salads, sandwiches, stock, teas and to enhance the flavour of cooked cabbage. Use the flowers as a garnish only as heat and salad dressing will turn them pink. They have a slightly peppery flavor. The slightly salty flavour can improve a salt free diet.

A Multi-Purpose Native Tree for our Garden.

Backhouser Myrtle folias is a multi-purpose native for our gardens. Uses are as a tree or for hedging. Flowering mid spring, with masses of small whitish flowers that have a lime green calix lasting for months while the fruit forms. The King Parrots and many other birds then descend and decorate the tree and your garden.

Pat Powell

The Following was Supplied by Wally

wallyjr@gardennews.co.nz

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention,
though gardeners know it's true,
is when He made the goodies,
He he made the baddies too.

All things sprayed and swatable,
disasters great and small,
all things paraquatable,
the Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses,
the maggots on the peas,
manure that fills our roses,
He gave us all of these.

The fungus on the goosetags,
the club root on the greens,
the slugs that eat our lettuce,
and chew our aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuscias,
the frost that nips the buds,
the rain that drowns our seedlings,
the blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes,
the nettles and the weeds,
the pigeons in the green stuff
the sparrows on the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots,
the wasps that eats the plums,
how black the gardener's outlook,
though green may be his thumbs.

But still the gardener's labour,
Midst vegetables and flowers,
and pray what hits our neighbours
will somehow bypass ours.

Submitted by Susan Myering

Peace on Earth - Mobile Phones for All

Mobile phones, mobile phones-I see them everywhere-
People walking down the street, talking to the air.
Would a mobile phone for Christmas be a blessing or a curse?
Well I've thought about it and you know things could be worse,
Just imagine for a minute if these phones had been the go,
that very first Christmas, two thousand years ago!

On the road to Bethlehem, it was crowded as could be
Joseph there beside Mary (she's in late pregnancy)
Joseph would look at Mary, with Baby Jesus nearly due,
And he'd reach out for his mobile, and book a room or two.
So when they got to Bethlehem, the innkeeper would've said;
'Yes, we've got your reservation here. It's wise to book ahead!'
So there would have been no manger, no ox, no ass, no shed.

And then those shepherds, watching sheepish flocks by night,
They'd get a call from heaven-no need to get a fright.
Ring, Ring-there goes the mobile-'Hello, chief shepherd here'.
(See, just a simple phone call, no cause for trembling fear)
'Hello-Yes-to see a Saviour-Wonderful-You don't say
I'll tell the other shepherds, and we'll set off straight away!'
So there would be no Glorias, no angels in the air,
It would have been so boring if mobile phones were there.

Last there were those three wise men who lived 'way in the East'
They were very well known-VIP's to say the least,
And as far as we can gather they spent time away from home,
So each of them, I'm pretty sure, would have had a mobile phone,
And the chances are, that special night, they'd had a link up call,
And would have been too busy to have seen the star at all.
So there would have been no camels, no journeys in the night,
No gold or frankincense or myrrh, no one to see that Light,
And perhaps sometime later when they tried to wrap their packs,
They would have heard of Jesus, most likely on a fax.

So at Christmas when I come across some great religious scene,
I think for just a moment how some things might have been..
Yes, mobile phones are here to stay, for better or for worse,
But I think it's really better that Jesus got here first!

Lisa Plucknett

Found in a Sydney Paper;

"We were impressed by the truthfulness in a real estate advertisement in the *Northern District Times*, although the house itself might not be all that impressive", writes Lisa from Gladesville. The advert reads: This 2 bed, 1.5 bathroom house craves affection and the kitchen is ideal for the family who likes to dine out".

Parents These Days.

At one point during a game, the coach said to one of his young players, "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?"

The little boy nodded in the affirmative. "Do you understand that what matters is whether we win as a team?"

The little boy nodded yes. "So" the coach continued, "when the ball hits the wicket that you're defending, that you are out and that you don't argue, swear or attack the umpire. Do you understand that?"

Again the little boy nodded.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain that to your mother."

We have been in Maleny for 24yrs and when I joined the Garden Club in 1986 Thalia Skerman was President. When our son won a beautiful home in Maleny and moved up here our daughter and her family also moved here, so we followed and moved to Witta where we lived for 17yrs and had a lovely garden. When we sold our Witta home 5yrs ago we built a unit onto our daughter's home.

Even though our garden is very small there are mostly shrubs and small perennials as well as a very nice vegetable garden where we grow beans, tom thumbs, lettuce and cucumbers. Pot plants, hanging baskets, ferns and African violets adorn the deck while African violets also adorn inside. We love Maleny.

Roses.

Rose lovers who are new to the area will find that Old Roses - teas(not hybrid), noisettes, hybrid bushes, chinas and bourbeans do much better in our climate than hybrid teas. They don't get as much black spot and need less spraying. Leanie Kearney who normally has a stall at 'Gardening on the Edge' sells these roses and is a fountain of advice. You must ring first to make an appointment.

Her address is;

'Rosevale Homestead'

922 Mt Samson Rd

Samsonvale Q 4520 Ph: 3289 9250

Di Falkoner

The History of Tea Drinking

The Chinese, of course were drinking tea even on the misty borders of recorded time. They kept their pleasure close. The first taste of tea allowed to Europe did not come until the middle of the sixteenth century when Portugal managed to establish a trading centre at Macao, sending home a few pounds of the precious herb now and then and once tea reached Europe it was tremendously expensive, the beverage of monarchs and aristocrats alone.

Teas first reached England's shores during the years of Cromwell's Protectorate (1653-1658). The importers tried to make it acceptable to Puritans by selling it as a medical draught, advertising it in a London gazette as "That Excellent and by all Physicians approved China drink, called by the Chineans- Tcha , by other nations Tay alias Tea'. This did not convince them however and it needed the restoration of the Merry Monarch, Charles II, in 1660 to bring tea and pleasure into fashion. Charles married the Portugese Princess Catherine of Braganza in 1662 and she brought a large chest of tea as part of her dowry. Tea became all the rage at court, taken green, without milk or sugar, from handless Chinese bowls of blue

and white porcelain, hot water poured onto the leaves in oriental style from red-brown stoneware pots. Soon anybody who was anybody was paying gladly (if dearly) for tea and it's paraphernalia. If you were going in for tea you had to have a tea service; and if Chinese porcelain or silver were too expensive, this had to be in pewter, faience or Dutch Delftware as Europeans had yet to discover how to make porcelain. Then it was necessary to store the valuable tea-leaves in a caddy with compartments for different varieties of tea, a crystal blending bowl and most importantly, a lock against pilferers. Tea was blended at a little table by the mistress of the house in a pleasingly graceful ritual. Liqueurs like orange-brandy, ratafia and 'Barbadoes-waters' frequently accompanied or followed the tea.

The London Ritz Book of Afternoon Tea by Helen Simpson.

From the Editor.

This is the final Snippets for 2010. I hope that you have found these newsletters informative and interesting. If you have travelled overseas, visited a garden or experienced something that we would be interested in hearing about, put it down on paper and send it to me. Our Snippets relies on your contribution to make this newsletter happen.

A special thanks to Lisa Plucknett, Pam Linnett, Susan Myering, Pat Powell, Kath Marshall, Marnie Trass, Carolyn Willadsen, Jo Tedman, Di Faulkoner and our president for their contributions this edition.

Finally may you all have a relaxing, delightful and safe festive season and we will see you in the New Year 2011.

Answers to Quick Quiz:

1. Mosquito net or screen.
2. Up to 94%
3. Calypso music.

Better Homes and Garden.

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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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.

