

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Autumn 2024

President

Jan Maguire
0468 470 512

Hon. Secretary

Helen Cartwright
0488 772 927

Hon. Treasurer

Sue Cotterell
5494 3423

Editor

Margaret Owens
5429 6789

Mailing Address: The Secretary, P.O. Box 563, Maleny Qld 4552

Website www.malenygardenclub.org

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

Weeds, weeds and more weeds is what we have all experienced in the last few months.

I discovered this great article on "Read your Weeds" from Gardening Australia which is very informative and worth a read.

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/read-your-weeds/12745698>

Our January Guest Speaker was Soul from the **Maleny Seed Library**. Soul introduced us to the Seed Library she has established along with the help of other passionate gardeners. Call into the Library and check it out for yourself. Only criteria is that you need to be a member of the Library, or alternatively you can visit the Maleny Seed and Harvest Swap – check out their Facebook page for details of when and where.

Our February Guest Speakers were Alex and Makiko from **Shogun Tools**. Great talk on tools, their purpose and maintenance of tools.

Alex and Makiko will join us this year for the Spring Fair. In addition to Gardening Tools they also have a selection of Kitchen, Woodwork and Craft Tools.

<https://www.shoguntools.com/>

Guest Speakers: Paul Reilly has taken on the role of Guest Speakers.

If you have any ideas/suggestions please have a chat to Paul at the next meeting.

Mystery Trip on Tuesday 5th March was a great success. Special thanks to Diana Begbie who always manages to come up with surprises each time.

Spring Fair – While Saturday 5th October seems a long way off, it is time to start planning.

Thank you to Jill Rowland for once again coordinating the Plant Stall.

Thanks also to Helen Killeen and Lynda Evans who have volunteered to coordinate the Produce Stall. See Jill, Helen and Lynda if you have any questions.

Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 March 2024, followed by the March General Meeting. We look forward to welcoming you. In the meantime: Happy Weeding and Happy



Gardening
Kind regards
Jan

Classic One Liners

George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill.

I am enclosing two tickets for the first night of my new play. Bring a friend if you have one,

Churchill in response.

Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second,...if there is one.

Brian Johnson, English cricket commentator.

*Bowler's Holding, batsman's Willey.

Winston Churchill.

*Tact is the ability to tell someone to go to hell in such a way that they look forward to the trip.

George Burns, US comedian .

*First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up and finally you forget to pull it down.,

Groucho Marx US comedian.

*One morning I shot an elephant in my pyjamas. How he got into my pyjamas, I'll never know.

Mario Puzo, in the Godfather.

*A lawyer with a brief case can steal more money than men with a thousand guns.

Ronnie Corbett, British comedian

*A government survey showed the Prime Minister was doing the work of two men – Laurel and Hardy

Humorous Quotations

If you think you're having a bad day, remember the woman standing behind 3 mannequins. 🤔🤔



This Is What A Baby Flounder Looks Like.



Our Maryborough Gardens Tour



The time has come, Diana said, to look at many things - of floods and flowers, lovely houses, and whether pigs have wings. They do, in



Maryborough.

Like excited children we gather with our bags and hats and greetings. Then we're off, our thoughts soon synchronised with the rhythm of the coach. At the Gympie mining park, we saw the heights marking the level of the Mary River floods. The top one is the 1893 flood! The Mary River can be a torrent, with Maleny's rivers and creeks sending their contribution. The river also brought benefits: fertile land and a seaport, and city status in 1905.

We came to see gardens. But we were surprised to find that the gardens had personality. There were quirky sculptures, some bold and some peeking out of normal arrays of flowers.



We came to see gardens. But we were surprised to find that the gardens had personality. There were



quirky sculptures, some bold and some peeking out of normal arrays of flowers.

There were large gardens, too, both private and public. Maryborough has some gracious houses set in large grounds, allowing gardens to be designed in spacious settings.

Government buildings near the river have been lovingly preserved, and link with a park that celebrates elements of its history and the names of poets and artists. A line of pavement tiles recognizes local people who have contributed to the city's history.

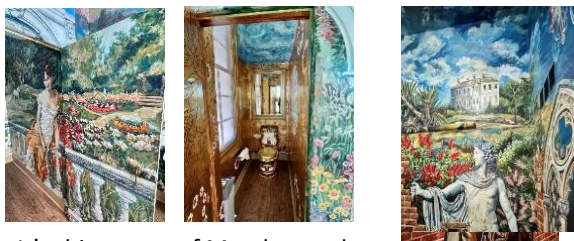


Another marvel is the rose garden, the product of one family's



initiative. It includes a planting for each resident upon their reaching 100. I'm registering my name now, while I can still remember it!

When Diana urged us to visit the Sistine Chapel in Maryborough, I thought she'd gone bonkers. But I heard it wrong; it was the Cistern Chapel! And wow! It is grand and beautiful, the creation of two local Michelangelos. They have transformed a dreary set of public toilets into a work of art with functioning toilets, a nursing room, local history and a golden throne. And tourists flock to visit it!



It's this aspect of Maryborough that impresses me – the initiative shown by local residents to add to their city's charms.

At that night's dinner, just one day into our travels, we shared our amazement at how the hours had extended the time of a normal day! That is the magic of our garden tours. Each one is different; each has its own charm. The novelty of our adventures and the enjoyment of the companionship relaxes, refreshes, and renews us. The next best thing to living in a garden is to spend your time with garden-loving friends.

Contributed by John and Sue Cotterell.

Kevin's Away Today

We've got; bandicoots and turkeys,
Last week – a big black snake:
Summer is a-coming
And it might be hard to take.

We've re-located the bandicoots
To a mate who's rather green;
But the other two elude us,
And are rude and quite obscene.

The turkey's reeking havoc,
And the snake – six feet long at least;
He gave me quite a nasty look,
Horrid reptilian beast.

So – my husband didn't come today,
He's an apology – a pardon;
He's out there with a pile of rocks
Just guarding all his garden.

I think I need a rottweiler,
Or a nasty yappy dog;

'Cause somewhere in our garden
There's a snake – beneath a log.

I'll spend the kid's inheritance
On something like the Berlin Wall;
And to all those things protected
I'll relocate them all.

(This poem is one of the 52 poems in Lisa Plucknett's forthcoming book, "Up the Garden Path", soon to be published).

**Aah the good ol' days,
when I used to go for a run
with my mom**



When to Prune Crepe Myrtle

Pruning crepe myrtles is highly beneficial, but when is the correct time to do it?

Crepe myrtles are stunning flowering shrubs that can be jam-packed full of bright blooms from late spring and throughout the summer. These plants, which can also be grown as small trees, can be used in a wide range of landscapes to bring color, and often scent, to a space.

To keep them looking at their absolute best, pruning crepe myrtles each year is an important task. It ensures that the shrub produces a flurry of fantastic blooms and that the flowers produced each year are not impeded by lots of older growth.

A failure to prune can lead to plants becoming dense and overgrown, which can leave them more susceptible to diseases. So, if you are [growing crepe myrtle](#) as part of your backyard ideas, make sure to remember to have [pruning crepe myrtle](#) on your to-do lists.

What is the best time to prune a crepe myrtle?

The best time to cut crepe myrtles will depend on your [Australian hardiness zone](#) and the local climate for where you live. To help you fully understand when to cut crepe myrtle bushes, and avoid making any [pruning mistakes](#) that could harm your plants, we hear from a shrub expert about the best time to trim and of any potential pitfalls to avoid falling foul of.

The ideal time to prune crepe myrtle, as with many flowering trees and shrubs, such as if you're [pruning a butterfly bush](#), is late winter and early spring when the plant is dormant, just before it is about to burst back into life. Heading out with the [pruning shears](#) at this stage encourages the plant to produce lots more flowers, as crepe myrtles bloom on new growth.

It is beneficial to prune before the new growth begins, the exact time of which will depend on when the temperatures start to improve post-winter in your climate. Crepe myrtle are July onwards in many locations

There are advantages to pruning when the shrub is dormant, as it can cope better with pruning at this stage of its growth and also, as a deciduous plant, the bare stems help you to get a good view of the shrub and make pruning choices. Also, by timing the trimming to just before the sap starts flowing again, the crepe myrtle can heal the pruning cuts quickly post-dormancy.

A crepe myrtle will, depending on your climate and the variety, start blooming from late spring, potentially flowering all the way through summer and into autumn. If you missed pruning the shrub at the ideal time in late winter, can you still trim once the plant has started growing - and even once it is flowering?

'If winter pruning was missed, early spring is still an option for trimming crepe myrtles without a significant impact on summer flowering,' says [Autumn Hilliard-Knapp](#), horticulturist at Perfect Plants Nursery. 'However, pruning in late spring may result in delayed blooming.

While it is possible to trim a crepe myrtle while it is in bloom, it is generally advised to wait until after the flowering period,' adds Autumn. 'Trimming during blooming may result in fewer flowers for the current season.'

It is recommended to avoid trimming crepe myrtles heavily during summer or fall, however, there are a couple of exceptions where you can lightly cut. The first is to deadhead spent flowers, as you would [deadhead roses](#) or [deadhead dahlias](#), to encourage a longer display of gorgeous blooms.

The other is to remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches. As these can risk the long-term health of the shrub, it is best to remove them as-and-when they are spotted. Cutting these out should not affect the overall health of your crepe myrtle.

Autumn Hilliard-Knapp does warn against pruning crepe myrtles during fall, advising that trimming will 'cause the plant to produce new growth at an unsuitable time in the year'.

The potential dangers of such late-season growth is that the branches won't be hardy in time for the colder weather to arrive. They will likely be easily damaged by frosts come late autumn and winter, and this can jeopardize the health of the crepe myrtle as it will be more susceptible to pests and disease.

She particularly warns of 'aggressive pruning or topping' of a crepe myrtle during the wrong times of year. 'This can lead to the removal of developed scaffold branches and the growth of weak shoots that are unable to support blooms, impacting the tree's overall structure and flowering capacity,' Autumn adds.

The most important thing to remember, if you have crepe myrtles as part of your [backyard landscaping](#), is to add pruning them to your [winter gardening checklist](#). Wait until the plant is set to start growing, and the risk of frosts for your climate is over, to head out and start to lightly prune to maintain the height and shape of the plant. www.homesandgardens.com/gardens/when-to-prune-crepe-myrtle.

Editor's Note:

Thank you to those who have contributed to this month's Snippets. To John and Sue Cotterell and Lisa Plucknett my special thanks. Margaret.

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

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