

# SNIPPETS

From here and there



spring 2024

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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,

Some much needed rain overnight, to give our gardens a fresh look.

The Spring Fair on Saturday 5 October is fast approaching. Volunteering is a key factor for a successful event, a great day to volunteer and get to know your fellow garden club members.

We had a wonderful day trip on Tuesday 3 September to the Mt-Cootha Botanical Gardens visiting the Bonsai, Japanese and Fern Gardens and an opportunity to catch up with Darryl & Steph Baptie, former owners of Camellia Glen who now volunteer at the Botanical Gardens. Lunch at the Garden Café was followed by a visit to the Old Government House and a surprise visit from Jeanette Young, the QLD Governor who was there at the time.

An afternoon visit to the Roma Street Gardens to visit the Colin Campbell Memorial Garden- was the end of a very enjoyable day. We had fine weather at last for the September Sip n Snip. Thirty members enjoyed a very social morning as we wandered in Murray and Robyn's garden and Murray sharing his tips on gardening and propagating.

Be grateful and thankful for where we live, our gardens are a special place to reflect on life.

Happy Gardening

Cheers Jan 🌸

## Marriage Counselling.

After 20yrs of marriage, a husband and wife go to counselling. When asked what the problem is, the wife breaks into a passionate tirade of every problem they've ever had. Finally, after allowing

this to go on for a sufficient length of time, the therapist gets up, walks over to the wife, makes her stand up and kisses her hard. The woman shuts up and quietly sits down.

The therapist says to her husband, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week, can you do this"? After a moment the husband replies, "Well I can drop her off on Mondays and Wednesdays but on Fridays I fish".

## Rose and Pistachio Ice-cream.

2 cups scented rose petals  
1½ cups (300mls) light cream  
½ cup icing sugar  
2 tbsps rose water  
½ cup pistachio nuts, coarsely chopped

Remove the yellow base of the petals. Place them in a pan with the cream and sugar and bring slowly to the boil. Strain the cream mixture, taking care to extract as much liquid as possible from the petals.

Incorporate the rosewater and leave to cool.

Pour into a freezer-proof container, cover and freeze for at least an hour, together with an empty bowl.

Beat the mixture in the cold empty bowl and carefully stir through the pistachios. Return to the freezer for a further 3 hours.

Remove bowl from the freezer and place in the refrigerator for 30mins before serving.

*The Little Book of Roses*

## Humorous Quotations.

\*Hollywood is a place where they'll pay you a \$1000 for a kiss and fifty cents for your soul.

*Marilyn Monroe, US actress*

\*A successful man is one who can make more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

*Lana Turner, US actress*

\*A sheep in sheep's clothing—A modest man-much to be modest about.

*Winston Churchill, British PM on rival Clement Attlee, British politician.*

\*When I am right I get angry. Churchill gets angry when he is wrong. We are angry at each other much of the time.

*French President Charles de Gaulle on British PM Winston Churchill.*

\*Reporter to the Beatles during their 1<sup>st</sup> US tour.  
'How did you find America'? Ringo Starr,  
'Turned left at Greenland'.



"Want me to get you a shopping cart?"

## The Lazy Gardeners' Trick for Dealing with Aphids in the Garden.

Ah, aphids. If you have been in the gardening world for any length of time, you have probably heard about these little nuisance bugs that can prey on the health of your plants. You may also remember from elementary school science class that ladybugs love to feast on them. While there are countless products on the market aimed at

helping you reduce aphid populations, there is an easier way to handle these pesky pests: simply ignore them.

This might seem counterintuitive — most problems in life don't go away if you ignore them, they get worse. However, in the case of aphids, many experts agree that the best method for managing aphids is to do nothing. Although aphids can cause damage to your plants (usually in the form of feasting on leaves and stems, which can harm their health and appearance), they generally aren't that big of a deal. In fact, the University of Minnesota suggests that "in most cases they cause little to no damage to the health of plants." The takeaway? Unless you are seeing your plants struggling to grow, or signs of damage like yellow and curled leaves, you can let nature take care of itself — many other bugs and animals will help get rid of aphids.

As mentioned, generally, aphids won't pose such severe risks to your plants that they require annihilation. If, however, you are growing concerned about how many aphids you are seeing on plants, you can always take matters into your own hands with some good old-fashioned water. While companies might try to sell you on expensive pesticides to wipe out the aphids, these small bugs are very fragile and easily disrupted — so much so that a spray of water will take care of the problem.

In order to eliminate the leaf-and-stem-crunching bugs, you'll just need a hose or spray bottle (if, for example, the plant is too far from your hose's reach). Simply screw on a sprayer attachment to your hose, then wet the plant in question until you can see that you have rinsed all of the aphids away. Remember when spraying your plants to be careful with the pressure setting: if the stream is too strong, it might damage your plant.

If you find that water alone isn't resolving your aphid issue, you might need to try a more aggressive treatment. When feeling desperate, you can test out using a spray bottle with both water and a small amount of soap. Mix 1 tablespoon of Castile soap (which is nice and gentle on your precious plants) into a gallon of water, then apply it to the affected areas. Using a pump sprayer will give your hands a much-needed break and help you complete the task more quickly, too. Alternatively, you can try water mixed with vinegar to keep aphids from destroying your plants.

If you're looking for a more hands-off and holistic way to take care of the aphids in your yard, you can always plant flowers that attract ladybugs. At best, it might draw more aphid-eating ladybugs to your yard, but at worst you'll

have more beautiful blooms to look at. Opt for flowers with heavy pollen output like marigolds and calendula, among others.

*housedigest.com*

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## City Gardens

The day dawned bright, temperature just right, and our Brisbane trip in sight. First stop - morning tea at the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens. Note: we have learned that the secret to touring happiness is morning tea; sandwiches and cake and a nice hot cuppa!

Appropriately fortified, we were ready to explore. The Mt Coot-tha gardens are vast and diverse; they can't be conquered in a couple of



hours.

Visitors are offered six walks, each one distinctive. We chose Path 2, which led to the Japanese Garden and its sculptured tranquillity.

In the bonsai house, we were treated to nature in miniature and invited to look and marvel and contemplate. Here is a pair of tiny fig trees, perfect in every detail.

Even in this brief visit to Mount Coot-tha gardens, we were struck by the diversity of habitats in the park. Examples include a bunya



forest, open meadows, shaded streams, enclosed gardens, and desert

shrubs with their strange thorn trees. Certainly worth a longer visit.

The Roma Street gardens have a different character and feel. The gardens are more open, and invite strolling on paths that take you past arrays of colourful annuals and by generous sweeps of lawn to shaded benches.

What were once the city's railway yards have been transformed from ugliness to gentle beauty.



And then there is the special treat of the tour: our visit to Government House.



The building was constructed as a private residence in 1865 by a wealthy Scot, and acquired by the Queensland government in the early 1900's. Its location on an elevated ridge in Bardon lends grandeur to its colonial architecture.



Here we met the governor herself, Dr Jeannette Young. Her warmth and informality made us feel very welcome.

She met us in the room where the investitures are held. There we were served a cup of tea and had the opportunity to view the decoration of the room and see the civil and military medals.



Then we were led by our guides into the other grand rooms such as the hall with its huge portraits of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century British monarchs. On the staircase is a large painting of the late queen and a stained-glass window of Robert the Bruce. From there we entered the dining room with its nine-metre table in Yellow-wood, and out into the spacious drawing room with its sub-tropical ambience.

The rooms have high ceilings and tall windows, letting in lots of light, and fine Queensland timbers are prominent in the flooring and in the furniture. Outside is a rose garden planted with heritage roses, and 15 hectares of native forest on the steep slopes. The Italianate style of the house and its rooms and its quiet forested setting seem to me well-suited to its purpose as the residence of our governor.

Gardens are what we love. Travelling to explore other people's gardens, and meeting the gardeners and hearing their stories is a delight. Thankyou Diana and Gemma for your

meticulous planning of this tour, and Lyn for keeping us on the move. Thanks to the catering team for the goodies, and thanks to Andrew for steering us safely there and home.

*Contributed by John Cotterell.*

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### Keep Calm for Chaps.

Do you know what it means to come home at night to a woman who'll give you a little love, a little affection, a little tenderness? It means you're in the wrong house, that's what it means.

*Henry Youngman*

Eat right,  
exercise regularly,  
die anyway.

*Anon*

Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.

*Anon*

If you think your boss is stupid, remember: you wouldn't have a job if he was any smarter.

*Albert A Grant,*

Education is when you read the fine print.  
Experience is what you get if you don't.

*Pete Seeger.*

When all else fails read the instructions.

*That famous bard, Peter Owens*

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### Editor's Note:

Thank you to those who have contributed to this month's Snippets. To John Cotterell and Jan McGuire, my special thanks. Margaret.

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**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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