

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Summer 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

Presidents Report 2024

Dear Members,

As the year draws to a close it is time to reflect on all the activities we have participated in,

Sip n Snips, Mystery Trips, General Meetings and the Spring Fair. All of these activities are only possible with the input of members.

Thanks to Diana Begbie for organising the Sip n Snips and the Bus Trips and to Paul Reilly for the wonderful Guest Speakers he has sourced throughout the year.

Thanks to the Flower Competition Team, Susan Bailey, Kate Durham and Lyndell Burns, a great team effort and thanks to Dave Webb who looks after all things technical.

Thanks to Annette Lees for coordinating the M/Teas at each meeting and to those who volunteer to clean up at the conclusion of the meetings.

Thanks also to Margaret Owens who has been our "Snippets" Editor for many years.

The success of the Spring Fair was thanks to Jill Rowland as Coordinator of the Plant Stall and Helen Killeen and Lynda Evans as Coordinators of the Produce Stall, Well Done.

A very big thank you to all members who participated in some way, being it volunteering on the day or potting up and making produce, all of which produced a wonderful result.

To the MGC Committee I extend my sincere thanks for their commitment and dedication in their various roles throughout the year, Sue Cotterell as Treasurer, Leanne McKeague as Secretary and Carolyn Willadsen as Newsletter Editor and to all the committee whose valuable contributions has been much appreciated.

Our October Meeting was lots of fun as we rocked up in our "Quirky Garden Gear", thanks to Ann Rignault for this idea.

Our last meeting is on Tuesday 26th November after which we celebrate the end of the year with our Christmas Lunch at Flaxton Gardens on Tuesday 10th December 2024.

We look forward to welcoming you all back at the first General Meeting on Tuesday 28th January 2025 at the Maleny Showgrounds Pavilion.

A special Thank you to the Spring Fair Garden Owners, Lyn & Gil Fairweather, Allison Hepburn and Helen & Hart Oetjen for participating in the 2024 Spring Fair.

With Best Wishes for the Festive Season and a **Very Happy & Healthy 2025**

Kind Regards,

Jan Maguire,

President

Maleny Garden Club Inc.

BREAKING NEWS:

There was a break in at the police station today and the toilet was stolen. The police have nothing to go on.

Christmas in Queensland 2023

'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the house;
The cockies and vermin,
Were feeling not grouse
(And the source of their sickness?
Me – 'cause I own the house.)

For I'd sprayed all the benches
With Mortein and Rid;
And the ants when they landed,
Went for a skid.

Each day when I woke,
I sprayed them some more;
Swept up all the bodies,
At last count – 94.

Then did Christmas shopping,
Feeling quite jolly;
Singing "Christmas in Queensland,
Is sometimes a folly".

Each night as I lay,
Perspiring in bed;
Sugar Plum fairies,
NOT in my head

We get in a sweat,
If the air-con breaks down;
And poor Santa he looks,
Like an over dressed clown.

Last Christmas I stripped,
And sat in a pond;
But as I advised,
The pond is now gone.

I'm still fighting the weeds,
And what's firm in my head;
Is to fight Mondo Grass,
As the roots- they all spread

So Happy Christmas to all,
If you want a great laugh;
You're welcome to join me,
With champagne in the bath

P.S.

And if anyone says,
That I should shift South;
They'll get a fat lip,

Told "Wash out your mouth."

We'll suffer the vermin,
The snakes and the crocs:
And we're saving our daylight,
Without altering our clocks.

We'll suffer the sunburn,
The heat and the stress;
And three cheers for Queensland,
The place I love best.

From our resident poet, Lisa Plucknett



"He's lost his worm again."

Hello Possums

There were five churches in a small town:
the Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the
Uniting Church, the Anglican Church and the
Jewish Synagogue.

Each church and synagogue was overrun with
possums.

One day the Presbyterian Church called a
meeting to decide what to do about the possums.
After much prayer and consideration they
determined that the possums were predestined to
be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's
divine will.

In The Baptist Church the possums had taken
over the baptistery. The deacons met and decided
to put the plug into the baptistery, fill it with water
and drown the possums in it. But the possums
could swim, they escaped and there were twice as
many the next week.

The Uniting Church got together and decided
that they were not in a position to harm any of
God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the

possums and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later they were back.

The Anglican Church baptised the possums and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

At the Jewish Synagogue, they took one possum and had a short service with him called circumcision and they haven't seen a possum on the property since.

Contributed by Emily Jeffery.

Gardening in November.

The Flower Garden;

Remove dead flowers from [hippeastrums](#) (unless you want to try propagating from seed). If you feel the clump is overcrowded or you'd like to spread them around the garden, they can be lifted and divided after flowering.

Prune the last of the spring-flowering shrubs as they finish blooming for the season. This not only removes the unattractive dead flowers, prevents them wasting energy on seed production, it is a good time to prune to keep them dense and within bounds.

[Daylilies](#) are a useful addition to the flower garden as they provide colour after many spring-flowering plants are finishing. November is a big month for daylilies, but the exact time of flowering will depend on whether you have an early, medium or late cultivar. To spread interest over a longest possible period, plant a few of each. If you can, visit a daylily nursery in the next couple of months. Seeing the plants actually in flower may help you make a selection, rather than simply relying on photographs or written descriptions.

Lightly prune azaleas to induce more branches and more flowers next year.

Keep adequate water up to shrubs such as [hydrangeas](#) and [gardenias](#), [ixora](#) that are coming into flower, if they are to put on a good display. The same goes for crotons, hibiscus and softer plants that you want to keep looking good for summer parties. You might not be able to water the whole garden, but keep an eye on the high-visibility plants near your entertaining area, entrance etc.

If you are having guests over the Christmas and New Year period, or just want to enjoy a relaxing "staycation", be sure to get as many of those necessary garden tidy and repair jobs as

you can done now to avoid stress (and even more heat) then.

Remember too, that summer storms could be on the way. Attend to dangerous trees and secure garden structures that could otherwise become missiles. Sagging gutters or tarps can also become pools for mosquito breeding.

The Vegetable Garden

As you harvest vegetables planted in late winter and early spring, you'll be thinking about what to plant for summer. This is the time for heat lovers like okra, rosella, snake beans and eggplant plus the more familiar sweetcorn, capsicums, chillies, pumpkins and melons. Be sure to select heat-tolerant varieties of other vegetables such as lettuce and tomatoes if you decide to keep growing these (check your seed packet or catalogue). Some shade cloth to protect more sensitive veggies in the sunniest parts of the day may also be helpful.

Alternatively, large containers in a suitable position may be a way of keeping some salad ingredients going over the summer.

Before you get carried away, however, consider the months ahead and whether you'll have time over the holiday season to attend to the garden, and whether you're willing and able to battle the heat and pests.

The lack of rain so far this spring is of particular concern. If we don't get significant rain soon, you may choose to scale back your vegetable growing activities until late summer. In the meantime, utilise whatever water and time you can spare to keep fruit trees, hedges and favourite ornamental trees and shrubs healthy. These take priority because they represent long-term investments. Furthermore, fruit trees will need an adequate and consistent moisture for developing fruit.

Unused parts of the vegetable garden can simply be mulched for the summer. Pop in a few seedlings of melons, cucumbers or pumpkins to ramble over these areas for some greenery and, hopefully, some production without too much effort. *The Queensland Gardening Pages.*

Powdery Mildew-what to do about it.

White, powder-like growth on plant leaves, shoots, and stems are sure signs of powdery mildew's arrival. Unlike many [common fungal diseases](#) that thrive in cool, wet weather, powdery mildew flourishes when

it's warm and dry. In fact, prolonged wet conditions that fuel downy mildew and other diseases inhibit powdery mildew. The fungi travel on wind to reach new plant hosts and infect succulent new growth. Moderate temperatures and shady conditions support its spread.

Many different fungal species cause powdery mildew, with each species attacking a different plant or plant family. The widespread disease affects many plant types, from annuals and vegetables to ornamental shrubs. [Pollinator-friendly zinnias](#) and members of the cucurbit family, such as [cucumbers](#), melons, pumpkins, and [zucchini squash](#), are common powdery mildew targets.

Powdery Mildew

Identification/Symptoms: Powdery mildew is one of the easiest plant diseases to recognize. The first sign of problems is usually white, powdery spots or patches on the top side of leaves or on plant stems. The powdery surface growth gradually spreads to cover the entire leaf, including the undersides, until the plant looks like it's dusted with white powder.

Infected leaves turn yellow and twisted. New shoots and buds develop distorted growth. Flowers and fruit are normally spared the white mildew, but infected plants have low yields and poor-quality fruits.

How to Control Powdery Mildew:

Prevention and perseverance are essential in controlling powdery mildew. For cucumbers and squash, this means starting preventive treatments as soon as plants have their first true leaves. For zinnias, treat at the first sign of telltale powder. For ornamental shrubs such as viburnums, treat in mid-summer, when weather conditions favour the disease.

With [Daconil® fungicides](#), [GardenTech® brand](#) offers highly effective products to prevent, control and stop powdery mildew and more than 65 other fungal diseases. These products treat vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants and treat cucurbits right up to the day of harvest:

- [Daconil® Fungicide Ready-To-Use](#) and its convenient grab-and-go spray bottle simplify small-scale

treatment of individual plants, including trellised container squash and window-box zinnias. Spray until all upper and lower plant surfaces are thoroughly wet. Avoid spraying on open blooms.

- [Daconil® Fungicide Concentrate](#), used with hand-held, hose-end or tank-style sprayers, offers ease and economy. Pour the recommended concentrate amount into your sprayer using the helpful measuring cap. Then add water and mix well. Spray all plants surfaces, including stems, until thoroughly wet.

Fast-acting [Sevin® 3-in-1 Insect, Mite & Disease Control Flower & Shrub Ready To Spray](#) can also treat powdery mildew while it fights harmful mites and insect pests.

Powdery Mildew Tip: Powdery mildew struggles in hot, sunny, well-ventilated conditions. Give your plants plenty of room so sunlight and air can flow through leaves. Remove and dispose of infected leaves and stems, and don't compost powdery mildew-infected plants. The fungi may survive the heat of the heap.

Always read product labels thoroughly and follow instructions, including guidelines for treatable plants, application rates and frequencies, and pre-harvest intervals (PHI) for edible crops.

www.gardentech.com

Editor's Note:

Thank you to those who have contributed to this month's Snippets. To Lisa Plucknett, Emily Jeffery, and ofcourse our President Jan Maguire, 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.

All contributions to: Margaret Owens email: margaret.owens@bigpond.com

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