

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Autumn 2025

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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 Autumn 2025

Dear Members,

March is already upon us as we plan for a busy year ahead and take pleasure in working in our gardens when the weather permits. Membership continues to grow as we welcome new members who have recently joined.

The Maleny Garden Club AGM will be held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 at the Maleny Showground Pavilion. Morning Tea will be served at 9.30am, with the AGM commencing at 10.00am.

The Mystery Day Trip organised by Diana Begbie & Gemma Tonkin on Tuesday 4 March was a wonderful day out with many highlights. A report on the trip is included in this edition. Our thanks to Diana & Gemma for their great time management fitting so much into one day.

Our thanks go to Paul Reilly, our Guest Speaker Coordinator who has excelled in the very entertaining and knowledgeable speakers he has organised in the past year. Paul has future Guest Speakers lined up for 2025, thank you Paul.

Planning for the Spring Fair is well underway with Jill Rowlands continuing to convene the Plant Stall and Helen Killeen and Lynda Evans looking forward to convening the Produce Stall for a second year. Jill, will update members at meetings as to what to "Pot up", with Helen and Lynda advising as to what to "Cook up"

As my term as President ends, I would like to sincerely thank the Management Committee and all Members for the support given to me throughout my term.

I would like to wish you all good health and happiness for the future.

Happy Gardening

Kind regards

Jan 🌸

Jan Maguire.

Eating Humble Pie.

On 26th October 1997 off the coast of Spain, the USS Abraham Lincoln, one of the largest warships in the US Navy – detected a vessel on a collision course. Over the radio came a calm message, 'Please change your course to 15 South to avoid a collision. The carrier's crew confidently replied 'Negative, you change your course 15 North'. The unknown vessel calmly repeated 'No you change your course NOW'.

Irritated, the captain of the USS Abraham Lincoln took the radio himself. 'This is the captain of the USS Abraham Lincoln – we are the second largest warship in the US Atlantic fleet escorted by 5 destroyers, 2 missile cruisers and 2 submarines, change your course immediately or we will take action to protect this ship'. A brief pause followed before a calm voice replied, 'This is a lighthouse, your call'. Silence filled the bridge, and the captain sighed and said 'Roger, adjusting course – thank you'.

Moral of the story, Stay humble.

Anon.

Looks Like Stained Glass



Frolicking in Finland at -10 degrees

Two intrepid Maleny gardeners flew to Finland to



assess the winter plant life. And meet Santa. Unfortunately, no reindeer were present. This is a concession to the Animal Rights movement. It means that Santa's reindeer have been liberated from years of

servitude and have now been left out in the rain, dear.



Our window view showed some local snowmen. Their little wave said all is well.

snow



Uber
Later
Uber

The Finns are used to conditions; not so we Aussies. We booked an and waited. And waited. we found out that the driver was snowed

under with demands for transport.

The Finns have been voted the happiest people in the world – for the sixth time. We sought answers. There is education – free for all, from pre-school to university. There is an abundance of libraries – 40 in

Helsinki and some 800 in the rest of the country. (Finns number about 51/2 million people). And Finns are the world's greatest library borrowers. All libraries are free. (Ours are too).



The library in the heart of Helsinki Is fabulous; completed 6 years ago, It looks like a ship, with a viewing platform at its prow. Books are in over 20 languages; children can run around and play in a

designated area on Level 3. Studios can be booked for free for making videos. And there are meeting rooms as well. Three robots are employed (??) to shift big loads. And of course, there is a nice café. Sigh...

Another factor is the sauna. There are public saunas everywhere. But modesty precludes me showing any patrons in the saunas in this newsletter. Finns are big on outdoor exercise as well as relaxing in the sauna.



Cold snowy weather is no excuse for curtailing one's exercise.

Finnish history is a tale of foreign domination: under Sweden for centuries, and then under the USSR. In December 2024, Finland celebrated 100 years of independence from

Russia. The memorial to their great composer Sibelius

Karelia

deep

reminders of the past tyranny that the Finns experienced from the Russians. Yes, the organ pipes do play.



and the continuation of the Society are celebrations of their patriotism, and



through heavy steel doors, into parking that was several floors below ground level. These parking areas are atomic bomb shelters; and spread so far

Underground parking in the major cities was an eye-opener. We drove down great tunnels, and

across the land that they can house well over 3 million people. They contain schools, sport areas, and food stocks – unbelievable but true. Finns are alert but not alarmed. More could be said, but I'll finish here.

Contributed by John Cotterell

Join The Club

Just a line to say I'm living,
That I'm not amongst the dead,
Though I'm getting more forgetful,
And mixed up in my head.

I've got used to my arthritis,
To my dentures I am resigned.
I can cope with my bifocals,
But – ye – gods – I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember,
When I'm standing on the stair,
If I should be going up for something
Or have just come down from there?

And before the fridge so often,
My mind is full of doubt,
Now did I put some food away,
Or come to take it out.

If it's not my turn to write dear,
I hope you won't get sore,
I may think that I have written,
And don't want to be a bore.

So, remember I do love you,
And wished that you lived near,
And now it's time to mail this.
And to say "Goodbye" my dear.

At last, I stand before the mailbox,
And my face – it sure was red,
Instead of posting this to you,
I have opened it instead.

Anon

Five Top Tips for Autumn Gardening.

As summer wanes it's time to prepare your garden for winter and the spring that follows. Autumn plays a surprisingly vital role in ensuring that you get the best outcomes and growth come spring. Follow these 5 expert tips by Growing Rooms.

Remove Leaves. Transfer the leaves that fall on your autumn garden and lawn to the compost bin on a regular basis, otherwise they will smother your plants and grass. Rake leaves up and compost or use as a mulch in garden beds. Well-rotted leaf mould as it's called is nutrient rich and extremely beneficial to garden soil.

Plant Spring Flowering Bulbs. Start planning for a stunning display of bulbs in spring with mass plantings of daffodils, Dutch iris, hyacinth, lachenalia, ixia, muscari, ranunculi, *Freesia*, crocus, anemone, *Babiana* and tulips. Choose a spot with light, well-drained soil or plant in pots that can be moved out of sight after flowering. In warm areas, chill hyacinth and tulip bulbs in the fridge (about 8 weeks) before planting. A few handfuls of fertiliser mixed into the planting area is an easy way to help prepare and enrich the soil.

Trim and Prune Hedges and Plants. Trim hedges before the onset of winter to keep them compact and bushy from ground level. The thing about pruning is that it actually stimulates new growth. The reason it does that, is because a chemical is contained in each terminal bud, or leader, and once you've removed that it allows the buds below to break. This means a much bushier plant. But don't make the mistake of pruning back everything in the garden, because if you do you might miss spring blossoms.

Divide Perennials. Dig up and divide large clumps of perennials such as dahlias (pictured), cannas, daylilies, dietes, euphorbia, foxgloves, hosta peonies and red-hot pokers. Lift them, then re-plant into well-conditioned soil. When planting in your autumn garden you can also mix in some fertiliser into the soil or planting hole. It not only improves and enriches the soil but will provide the new plants with gentle slow-release nutrients as they establish and set them up for a fantastic spring growth flush.

Take Care of The Lawn. Autumn is the time to feed the lawn. The reason is that the grass has slowed down with cold nights, but the roots are still growing well, so it's a great time for repair because the soil is warm. Use a slow-release lawn food to develop a strong root system and thicker grass. Autumn is also a good time to sow new lawn seeds. Before sowing seed, remove stones and difficult weeds such as dock and dandelion. You will end up with a lush green cover over winter.

Growing Rooms by Oliver Sizeland

Wall to Wall.

Today's adventure is about a wall and its gift to England. Walls have been built for centuries, as protection, as boundaries, as means of confinement, as statements of power. The latest is the Trump Wall, on the Mexican border; but I digress.

The wall in these travels is Hadrian's Wall, built by some 15000 Roman soldiers in 6 years from 122 - 128AD, across the border of England and Scotland, from coast to coast. It is 80 Roman miles long (73 English miles) and was originally 5 metres high and 3 metres wide, with a walking path on the top of the Wall. Remnants of the Wall survive, mostly where the land is rugged and undulating.

The reputed purpose of the Wall was to control the border, which meant keeping the Scots out. It also defined a boundary of the empire. Historians point out that it stood for nearly three centuries of Roman rule in Britain: "a statement of the might, resourcefulness, and



determination of an individual emperor and of his empire" (Jarrett Lobell, Archaeology 2017, 70 (3), 26-35)). Ruins of the Roman camps are dotted along the Scottish border and attract thousands of tourists every year, as they marvel at the sophisticated plumbing of the bath-houses. Recently, a large mound of sandals worn by the Roman soldiers was unearthed – almost as good as new!



The centuries have not been kind to Hadrian's Wall. It has been pillaged by local people down the centuries. To put it differently: the stones have been a very useful building resource. One sees stones from the Wall serving as boundaries across the farmlands. And in the towns and villages, the walls of churches owe much to that Roman Emperor. For example, the arch inside the old entry to this church in Corbridge is Roman; the stones have been "borrowed" from a nearby Roman building on the principle of "re-use, recycle, relocate". The stones are easily distinguished by the way they were chiselled by the Roman masons.

Hadrian's impact on the landscape remains in architecture. We explored some of the more recent stone constructions found in these border areas: the abbeys that survived the ravages of Henry VIII, the safe houses, and church restorations.



This building, constructed in the Corbridge churchyard in 1318, is called the Vicar's Pele. It is a three-story defensive tower and was occupied for 300 years. (The triangular roof on the top is an addition and not part of the Pele). The lower floor housed the cattle, the main floor the residents, and the top floor the defences.

In nearby Hexham, its Abbey was constructed by St Wilfred in 674 AD – "almost entirely from material salvaged from nearby Roman ruins". In 875



it was plundered by a Danish warrior and burnt to the ground. It was later rebuilt in the 11th century and replaced after 1170 by an

Augustinian priory. Different parts of its walls have been rebuilt over the centuries, giving it the magnificence we can admire today.



And so the stones from Hadrian's time have continued to leave an imprint on modern times.

Contributed by John Cotterell

Editor's Comments.

My special thank you for this Snippets goes to John Cotterell for his significant contribution to this edition. I would also like to say another special thanks to Jan Maguire who has so willingly provided her 'Report' each quarter during her tenure as President. Thank you Jan. 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.

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