



# SNIPPETS

Spring 2003

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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

The September monthly meeting of our garden club will, as usual, be the Annual General meeting followed by the normal meeting.

This is an opportunity for any member to nominate for positions on the Management Committee. This Committee meets on a monthly basis for approximately 2 hours, at the home of the President to carry out various functions associated with the effective running of the Garden Club. New members of this Committee make a valuable contribution and I hope some of you will nominate for positions.

Relatively few suggestions have been received regarding either topics for 2004 or venues for meetings. Your suggestions are most welcome so that the Program Coordinator can contact suggested speakers and finalize dates for the venues and prepare the program, which can be circulated at the November meeting which will be the last of the current year.

I hope that more club members will join the bus trip to the Stanthorpe area in October. If we are unable to fill the available seats, the bus company may invite non-club members.

Peter Gollidge

## Garden Tip



*John Dale's recipe for rose fertilizer*

8 parts of blood and bone  
4 parts of sulphate of potash  
2 parts of super phosphate  
1 part of epsom salts

*From RHSQ August edition*

## BIRDS



Do you want more birds in your garden? There are a number of reasons for not attracting and keeping native birds and, while some reasons

are beyond our control, others are not. It is a simple matter of cause and effect.

Being a keen bird and dog lover and having kept a number of cats over the years, I am always saddened when a pile of feathers appears in the yard. I don't get mad with the cats that are doing what comes naturally—hunting and killing. However I sure couldn't print what I think about the owner who doesn't lock the moggie at night, or lets it roam during the day minus a collar loaded with bells to warn all the birds.

Cats, like birds have their place in our lives, so if your neighbour has a wandering cat (we are sure Garden Club members wouldn't) perhaps with diplomacy and tact, we could suggest how great it would be to see the native bird population recover and increase in our back yards.

### **Some practical things to do:-**

Plant local banksias and smaller flowered thorny grevilleas to provide nectar and shelter, allowing smaller honeyeaters a chance to feed.

Plant local species which are best suited to local conditions and provide the foods local birds are adapted to.

Plant densely foliated shrubs in groups or clumps to create thickets for small birds to shelter and nest in.

Avoid the use of insecticides. A healthy garden with a variety of birds visiting shouldn't need them.

Provide fresh water. Use a birdbath or container that is safe from cats. Hang it from a tree or ensure it is high enough and has good visibility all around so the birds can see the predator before it is in range to spring. Keep the water cool and clean and don't use cleaning agents. Just scrub clean.



Finally, remember birds have natural pecking orders, so it is possible to have many birds visiting your garden during the course of the day. At the homes we have been fortunate enough to live in here in Maleny, from daylight through to sunset, and sometimes after dark we are entertained and thrilled by sights and sounds which our native birds give to us so freely and abundantly. *Cilla & Keith*

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### What's In A Name?

**Sweet Pea** – *Lathyrus odoratus*

*Lathyrus* is the Latin form of the Greek word for pea. *Odoratus* means sweet scent. Sweet Pea.

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### Three Day Club Trip

This year's trip (3days 2 nights) will take place on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, with motel accommodation in Stanthorpe. A variety of regional attractions have been selected and I am sure they will be both interesting and different. A reasonably detailed itinerary will be distributed at the next Garden Club meeting. New members are most welcome and it is a good way to get to know other members.

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### Snippet

Old gardeners never die, they gradually become compost.

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### Recipe -

#### Savoury Scones (Marjorie McCubbin)

2 cups S R Flour  
½ cup grated cheese  
1 small grated carrot  
1 small grated onion (or spring onions)  
2 tabs of butter  
1 tsp salt  
parsley

Mix all ingredients with a little milk.  
Top with grated Parmesan cheese and place in a 220° oven for 12/15 minutes.

### Spring Reading



**The Rodale Book of Composting**  
Deborah Marti and Grace Gershwey Ed.

This is a comprehensive book for small-scale garden composting, to large-scale farm and municipal composting. It begins with the history and benefits of composting, then a detailed explanation of the chemical processes and the part played by insects, worms, bacteria and fungi. There is extensive information on compostable materials; the chemical contribution and the carbon/nitrogen ratios of each.

It explains how to build at least a dozen different compost heaps and suggests remedies for problems that might arise.

The book may be used as a simple practical guide for the gardener and it has a lot of technical information for those who wish to know more.

*Di Falconer*

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### Future Events

**Sept. 5 & 6<sup>th</sup>** Sunnybank Red Cross Chelsea Flower Show & Fair, Paloma Reception Centre, Mains Rd. Sunnybank.

**Sept. 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>** Orchid Species Society Show \*

**Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>** Basket Cases (weaving with plant fibre), between Japanese Garden & Fern House \*

**Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>** Scarborough State School Spring Fair (Special Needs Children) Scarborough

**Sept 11 & 12<sup>th</sup>** *Springtime In Maleny*, Community Centre, Maleny

**Sept 12 & 14<sup>th</sup>** Townsville Garden Show

**Sept 13 & 14<sup>th</sup>** West Brisbane Orchid Society Show \*

**Sept 17<sup>th</sup>** Perennial Poppies Lecture Day (cost \$35) contact Judith Hobbs ph 3878 3906 \*

**Sept 19 & 21<sup>st</sup>** Q'ld Orchid Society Show \*

**Sept 20 & 21** Geranium Show, Masonic Hall, Neil St, Toowoomba

**Sept 27 & 28** Geranium & Pelargonium Soc. of Qld Show \*

**Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** Maleny Garden Club Annual General Meeting, Community Hall

**Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>** Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner at Gardens

**Oct 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>** Queensland Rose Society Show \*

**Oct 10 & 11<sup>th</sup>** Spring Flower Show, St. Mary's Hall, Wood St. Warwick

**Oct 11 & 12** Bonsai Society of Qld Show \*

**Oct 17-20<sup>th</sup>** Griffith Festival of Gardens, Griffith, NSW

**Oct 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>** Royal Horticultural Society Show \*

**Oct 24-26<sup>th</sup>** Maleny Festival of Colour, Showgrounds & private gardens

**Oct 25 & 26<sup>th</sup>** African Violet Society of Qld Show \*

**Oct 28<sup>th</sup>** Maleny Garden Club Meeting at Margaret



and Peter Owens, 15 Beechworth Rd. Maleny.  
**Nov 15<sup>th</sup>** Gold Coast Rose Soc. Show, Robina  
 Community Centre, Town Centre Drive, Robina  
**Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>** Floral Art Society Show \*  
**Nov 25<sup>th</sup>** Maleny Garden Club Christmas Party,  
 Terrace Seafood Restaurant  
 Those marked \* are at the Mt Coot-tha  
 auditorium.



## Safety Tips

### Guard against tetanus

In the garden, tetanus bacteria may lurk in soil at the roots of the finest rose as readily as on a rusty garden fork. Make sure that your tetanus injections are up to date and that you know when the next booster is due.

### Eye protection

We all know to wear eye protection when using power tools but are we aware of just how important it is to protect our eyes during general gardening? Damage can occur when dirt flicks into your eyes when you are digging and weeding; when leaning forward into sharp branches or twigs and when foliage whips back as you push through it.

*Wear safety glasses or your sunnies.*

### HINT

To kill ticks use Listerine. It will kill them and disinfect the wound.



## Garden Tips

*Colin Campbell*

- Try using strips of flax or some such textured fabric for plant ties.
- Azaleas are, more often than not, pot-bound when purchased from the nursery or garden center. Tease out the roots before planting.
- When planning paths, if possible, allow a minimum width of two metres for ease of access. Also you won't have to prune the shrubs back from the path so often. There's nothing worse than having the path a shade narrower than the wheelbarrow legs.
- More impact is achieved if beds are planted in single colours.
- The garden will look better in winter if evergreen shrubs in groups of threes or fives

are planted under deciduous trees.

- If moving house, be patient and see what happens to the new garden over the period of a year. Light, shade, wind direction etc. have quite an effect on gardens.
- If you're in a bad mood, go out into the garden for a while, as it's wonderful therapy.
- If starting a new garden, don't be too ambitious. Plant 'easy to grow' things first and once established then be a bit more adventurous.



## Lunch & Tea Roster

Whoever is on duty is to bring milk to the meeting. Keep the docket for reimbursement. Pick up necessary teapots, etc from previous month's meeting and take home in readiness for your turn.

If unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange to have someone replace you.

Our helpers are:

**September** Annual General Meeting,  
 Community Hall – to be advised

**October** Margaret & Peter Owens, 15  
 Beechworth Rd, Maleny - *Jo Tedman and Leonie Loch*

**Social Snippets** – Birthdays, Travel, New Members etc

Sorry to hear that Val Bengston, Joan Stilwell and Olga Webster have not been well. Hope things improve quickly.

Happy 60th Birthday to Sandra Slack and Anne Siemon. May they have many more.

## New Members

A big welcome to our new members. We look forward to your participation in the club's activities.

Dorothy Gordon

Doug & Marjorie McCubbin

Eileen Smith

Jeanette Warry

Bobbie Williamson

Josephine Woodcock



## Garden of Friendship

*When I feel a bit lonely or just a bit low  
To lighten my spirits out gardening I go.  
It's a garden of friendship  
Each plant that I tend reminds me of someone  
And each one a friend.  
When I gaze at the beauty, friend's faces I see  
And I think of the plants they have given to me.  
The bulbs and the seedlings, the cuttings and all  
If it wasn't for friends I'd have no flowers at all.  
In my garden of friendship midst colour and scent  
My friends are all with me and I am content.  
Joshua Brian*



## Seasonal Tasks –

### September

- Stake or cut back vulnerable shrubs.
- Watch for white butterfly on cabbage
- Apply dolomite to heavily fertilized areas.
- If season is dry, make sure citrus trees are watered well prior to flowering and after fruit set.
- Prepare garden beds for summer annuals and vegetables.
- Start fertilizing all plants as growth commences – low phosphorus for natives.,

### October

- Dead head all spring flowering annuals or if spent, remove plants to compost.
- Prune azaleas after flowering.
- Plant out summer vegetables.
- Blitz weeds then mulch.

### November

- Pinch out first, second and third buds of annuals to promote growth.
- Prune back callistemons and grevilleas after flowering.
- Plant sweet corn and more summer vegies.
- Prepare for the social season with pots of colour.
- Clean up paved areas and the barbie.
- Plant summer bulbs.

– Pat Powell

## Did you know?

Toad patrols are formed in Britain each March to May. Volunteers carry frogs and toads across roads in buckets so that they can safely get to their breeding ponds without getting squashed. They also erect warning signs asking drivers to slow down. Toads are also encouraged to use specially constructed underpasses.

Toad busting patrols are formed in Australia all year round so.... all you ex-pats stop molly coddling those toads and BUST them.

## Hint

From now on, as the weather warms up, it is time to get into the pruning of nearly everything in particular evergreen Hibiscus which needs to be cut back to about one third. Then give the plants a really good feed.

**In the famous words of J.F.K. ask not what your club can do for you but what you can do for your club?**

## WHY?

Because the Annual General Meeting is in September and we need fresh ideas and candidates for election to the committee and the executive.

At the next meeting collect a form and either nominate a friend or get them to nominate you for a position. Even if you are unable to accept a position, your ideas and input are vital to the successful running of the club.

**Come on members, 'ave a go!!**

**All contributions to:** Rosemary Simmons 72 Murer Dve Maleny

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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.