



# SNIPPETS

Autumn 2003/4

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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 Autumn Fair was another successful event organised by the Maleny Garden Club. I congratulate and thank all who helped in many ways during the event which was spread over Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Visitors were very impressed with the fantasy gardens, the flower arrangements and all the other activities in the Community Hall. Technical presentations by members were well received and followed by many questions from the audience. The three day bus trip this year will be visiting gardens and other places of interest in the Warwick/Stanthorpe areas. I hope that our members will occupy most of seats in the bus to be provided by Bakers of Maleny. We have to start thinking about speakers, topics and garden venues for our 2004 program. A list of topics for the period 1993 to 2003 will be available to assist in this task. Any suggestions for new topics or repeat of previous topics would be most welcome and will greatly assist in finalising the program by late 2003.

Peter Golledge.

## Garden Recipe. (Liquid Weed Brew).



Ingredients; White root, Nth. Qld. chick weed, wandering jew, weeds in flower or set weeds, comfrey if available, two cups organic fertiliser.

Equipment; Large plastic containers with lids.

Method; Place any of the above ingredients into a container. Add water to cover, then leave for two months or until vegetable matter is broken down.

Use; Half fill a bucket with water, top up with weed brew, use on plants. Leave a small quantity in container to 'start' next brew.

N.B. Compost other weeds except those with bulbs which should be cooked in a plastic bag in the sun for a couple of weeks prior to placing bag and contents in the garbage.

Pat Powell.

## Did You Know?

Aquilegia or columbine comes from the Latin for dove as the flowers were thought to resemble a cluster of doves

## Bird Antics.



What do birds do when it rains? Now we are not saying that all birds do what we observed during the recent rainy spell we've experienced but sitting in our sunroom having a 'cuppa' we saw what we thought were three very distressed Bar-Shouldered Doves on our lawn. They were lying on their backs, wings outspread and looking as though they were dead. But no! as the rain continued to fall it looked as if they were taking a shower and enjoying the experience. After some minutes they moved from lying on one wing to lying on the other and finally to standing, shaking themselves and flying into the trees and shrubs nearby.

Then as if to cap this behaviour, several days later what should be there on the road but three Currawongs busily trying to read our neighbour's daily paper. As we watched one bird would peck at the plastic wrap until it got a grip, then lift the end of the paper attempting to pull it off the road toward the footpath. This continued for several minutes until some traffic arrived and off they flew. Their unsuccessful attempt to improve their current affairs knowledge was thwarted while we could only ponder on what might have been going on in those bird brains at the time.

We never cease to wonder at bird behaviour, so if you have any interesting bird events that you have observed, why not share them with us.

Cilla & Keith.

## Boonah Area Bus Trip.

This trip will take place on August 22nd, and will leave from the clock in Maple St. at 7 30am. From there the bus will proceed to Kalbar via Brisbane to the Rose Nursery and morning tea. We will then travel to Lavender Farm at Boonah. Here there will be a tour of the vineyard and lavender farm with wine tasting followed by lunch. We expect to return to Maleny at about 5pm.

Cost of \$35.00 includes the trip, morning tea and lunch.



## Recipe - Orange and Sultana Muffins.

(This recipe is provided by popular request following lunch at the April Maleny Garden Club Meeting).

1 orange,  
1 egg,  
½ cup butter,  
½ cup orange juice,  
1 ½ cups S.R. flour,  
¾ cup sugar,  
½ cup sultanas.

Method;

Blend whole orange until finely chopped in a blender. Add the orange juice (equivalent to one extra orange), butter and egg until the mixture is liquid. Place dry ingredients in a bowl and combine with the liquid. Mix until just blended together. Spoon into greased muffin tins and bake in a moderate oven for about 20 - 30 mins. until brown. Happy cooking.

Terry Rowan.

## Snippet.

"GARDENING, LAWS OF: (1) Other people's tools work only in other people's gardens. (2) Fancy gadgets don't work. (3) If nobody uses it there is a reason. (4) You get the most of what you need the least."

GARDEN Lovers QUOTATIONS. By Helen Exley (1992).

## Autumn Book Review.



Gardens for Living by Helen Lochhead (1987).

A beautifully illustrated and interesting read. This book is a nice addition to any gardener's library. The author discusses the historical background up to and including modern day garden design. She covers the attempts by early settlers to create a soft green English landscape in the harsh and dry Australian environment and the widespread clearance of dense bushland, despite the shelter and shade the trees offered and includes early pictures of homes, their architecture and garden landscaping styles typical of their periods. Most of this book however provides a 'methodology for designing gardens which are pleasing and functional'. In addition the author presents to the reader a number of designs that cover all features of the garden incorporating pools, ornamentation and the creation of 'rooms' for quiet and reflective moments.

The preface states that the author aims to provide the most timid gardener with confidence and pleasure nevertheless it would take a fairly experienced gardener to follow her designs and apply them to their gardens.

Margaret Owens.

## Future Events.

June 7 & 8 The Combined Bromeliad and Cactus Show.\*

June 8 Camellias and The Classics, Ormiston House, Ormiston.

June 20-22 North Moreton Orchid Society Show.\*

June 24. Maleny Garden Club Meeting, 9 Walkers Drive Maleny. (Lisa & Kevin Plucknett).

July 4 - 6 Nambour Garden Expo, Showgrounds, Nambour.

July 12 & 13 Q'ld Camellia Society Show.\*

July 19 & 20 John Oxley District Orchid Society Show.\*

July 26 & 27 Floral Art Society of Q'ld Show.\*

July 29. Maleny Garden Club Meeting at Range Nursery.

August 2 & 3 Art in Bark Association Show.\*

August 7 - 16 R.N.A. Exhibition, Showgrounds, Brisbane.

August 14 - 17 Gardening Australia 'Live' Homebush, Sydney.

August 9 & 10 Society of Growing Australian Plants.\*

August 16 & 17 Australian Sogetsu Teachers Assn. Show.\*

August 26 Maleny Garden Club Meeting, 10 Rangers Rd. (Sandra Slack).

August 30 & 31 North Brisbane Orchid Society Show.\*

Those marked \* are at the Brisbane Botanical Gardens Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium.

Colin Cambell

## Specialist Feature.



English Lake District.

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
that floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
when all at once I saw a crowd,  
a host of golden daffodils,  
beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Wordsworth's words best describe springtime in the Lake District where we spent some time recently.*

*We rented a small grey slate cottage up the hillside at Coniston with beautiful views looking down upon the length of the lake and across to the drystone fenced green, green hills. To one side is the grey roofed village of Coniston nestled at the foot of the awe inspiring craggy peaks of the Old Man of Coniston while on the other side were viewed farm fields, blackfaced sheep with two lambs apiece and deciduous trees, some still bare branched, some clad in their new green finery.*

*Coniston is small and quiet compared to Windermere and Ambleside but has many points of interest apart from mountain climbing and country walks. You may remember that it was at Coniston Lake where Donald Campbell met his demise in attempting to create a new world speed boat record.*



*Across the water lies Brantwood House and Gardens, unique in its concept of being "a living laboratory for the ideas and ideals of John Ruskin—one of the greatest figures of the Victorian age". We wandered along the Estate walk, through the fern house and cottage garden and into the herb garden, past the woodland daffodils, bluebells, tulips, giant tree rhododendrons, azaleas and superb maples. Unfortunately the latter three were only in bud, late spring to summer would see them in full glory. This is but one of the many places to explore in the English Lake District.*

(This letter was presented by Gillian and Neil Macleod following their recent trip to the U.K.).

## Garden Tips



- \* If you find maggots in the compost heap don't panic. Just spread a liberal dressing of Lime or Dolomite over the top and this will suffocate them. Avoid putting meat scraps, seafood or fatty substances in the compost heap in future.
- \* If you're having trouble getting seeds to germinate, try watering them with Epsom Salts at the rate of one tsp. to five litres of water.
- \* If lawn clippings are spread directly onto garden beds as mulch, they sometimes pack down whilst decomposing. This then renders them water repellent which defeats the purpose. Loosen them up with a fork and apply a wetting agent such as Wettasoil. Better still put the clippings in the compost heap.
- \* Try spreading cut potatoes over areas affected by nut grass. I won't guarantee that it works but I'm told that it does prevent re growth.
- \* Put a light dressing of sulphur dust into the planting drill for French bean seeds. This prevents attack from bean fly.
- \* Spraying seaweed extract on a regular basis is claimed to reduce the incidence of red spider mite.
- \* If you don't have any root forming compounds, try using honey or vegemite. Both help plants form adventitious roots.
- \* When planting seedlings it's best to hold them by their leaves rather than their stems. If you should crush the stems you inhibit the flow of moisture and nutrients from the roots to the leaves.

Colin Campbell.



## Lunch & Tea Roster

Peter and Margaret Golledge will bring milk to each meeting. Please pick up necessary teapots, etc from previous month's meeting and take them home in readiness for your turn. If unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange to have someone replace you.

Our helpers are:

**June—** Rosemary Simmons and Sandra Slack.  
**July --** Patricia Roberts and Joyce Butterfield.  
**August —** John and Di Falconer.

## A.B.C. Garden Expo.

A group of Garden Club members and myself travelled to Brisbane in a comfortable Baker's bus on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April to the ABC Expo held in the Exhibition grounds. I found it a rather overwhelming experience as I don't very often find myself in such large crowds. Having said that I really enjoyed the scope of the exhibits and soon lost touch with my 'mates with whom I started out. I went around wonderful displays of the newest varieties of hibiscus, roses and orchids, all of which could be purchased. There were nurseries devoted to water plants, tropical plants including heliconias, anthuriums, gingers and equally others displaying cooler climate varieties, some of which can be grown here in Maleny.

There were all the newest 'gadgets' for the gardener, also displays of wonderful garden ornaments and water features, varying widely in price. Of special interest were the cut flowers and lovely floral art displays. In one of the pavilions demonstrations were given as well as talks, questions and answers by ABC experts and TV personalities which proved very popular. We had been advised by one of our members to take lunch and some water, very good advice as the queues for food were very long with a desperate shortage of seating everywhere in the showgrounds.

To sum it up, I had a tiring but wonderful day.

Shirley Hollonds.

## Social Snippets — Birthdays, Travel, New Members etc

A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all members who have a birthday May, June or July.

Glenys Brunn, Zone Co-ordinator for Garden Clubs of Australia (ACA) has mentioned one of our Maleny Garden Club member's recent praiseworthy efforts. At the ABC Garden Alive Expo, Marianne Parry volunteered to help in the GCA information booth. Marianne also became the top seller of GCA tee shirts. The GCA would like to congratulate Marianne for her hard work.

Doris Pedder and her husband Martin are currently on a five month tour around Australia. We look forward to hearing about their trip when they return in August.

Sandra Slack has been in Europe for the last couple of weeks and is due home shortly. Maybe we could persuade her to write a few lines about some of the interesting aspects of her trip in the next SNIPPETS journal.

Our special thoughts with Peg and Allan Warry and at this time as Peg undergoes surgery at the Wesley Hospital.

## New Members.

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

Gwen Hutton  
 Cynthia Hume  
 Lorraine Ungerer  
 Meg Maclean  
 Angie Grand  
 Lois Miles



## Travelogue - by Lisa Plucknet.

(This is a continuation of the article presented in the Spring "SNIPPETS" 2002).

The year 2002 was our 'Year for Garden Tours' and the biggest and best was to the world renowned Butchart Gardens the highlight of our spring tour to Canada and Alaska. The rail trip through the Rocky Mts, the awe inspiring moments when glaciers you could almost touch crashed into the sea in Alaska and the majesty of thundering Niagara Falls still only came 2<sup>nd</sup> to the splendour of the 50 acres of Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island.

But first as a prelude to our trip to Canada in May/June we toured the gardens of Victoria in April. This was the inaugural garden tour of the touring company APT and was planned to co-incide with the Melbourne Autumn Flower Show. It was also a chance for us to do a pre-run of the Canadian tour, test ourselves at wearing ourselves out wandering through gardens, climbing in and out of coaches, handling a large lethal shoulder bag (that weighed at least a ton), and mislaying and finding airline tickets in the compartments of the above mentioned 'blasted bag'. It was also a chance for me to see Bright and Beechworth in the autumn as I had waffled on for years about 'seeing Bright before I die', as I was a trifle apprehensive about flying overseas.

As many Garden Club members have seen the gardens of Victoria, I shall not go into any detail, just to mention that outstanding gardens we visited were; "Forest Glade at Mt Macedon, "Cloudhill" in the Dandenongs, "Heronswood" at Dromana and the State Rose Gardens at Werribee Park as well as several gardens in the Kiewa Valley on the way to Bright. As anticipated, mid April was a touch early for the brilliant Autumn colours for which Bright is famous but it was planned that way to tie in with the Autumn Flower Show. However what really interested us in the Bright area was the use of the 'corridor' of the former train line. The tracks had been pulled up and the area made into a lovely fenced flat hard track for cyclists (or pedestrians). It runs for 94kms and would be an ideal way to view the countryside at one's leisure. This we may do in the spring and perhaps see these lovely gardens in a different season. But if we could visit only one garden in Victoria then our choice would be Forest Glade at Mt. Macedon.



## Seasonal Tasks

### June;

- \* Prepare a well drained humus rich and sunny position for asparagus crowns.
- \* Order crowns and research this project.
- \* Wage war on broad leaf weeds- eg bindii and chick weed.
- \* Prune hydrangea, removing old unproductive wood.
- \* Visit azalea, camellia and citrus nurseries making an informed selection.

### July;

- \* Plant out into well prepared holes, plants selected last month.
- \* Spray azaleas for petal blight.

- \* Avoid wetting azalea foliage.

- \* Service the mower, clean and oil garden equipment.

### August;

- \* Mark this month for pruning.
- \* Plant lettuce varieties and rocket.
- \* Plant Asian vegetables for quick greens.
- \* Time to plant passionfruit with good support in a sunny position.

Pat Powell.

## Call For Budding Journalists.

We are asking for article contributions from as many Maleny Garden Club members as possible to help us fill a request from the Range News for fortnightly submissions pertaining to gardening or nature. Your article needs to be between 200-300 words which amounts to only 3-4 average sized paragraphs. The plan is to have a contribution from each member sometime during the year therefore filling each fortnightly slot. So please speak to Rosemary Simmons, our Editor and arrange for the fortnight that suits you or commence your article now and then your article(s) can be used when needed.

## Handy Hints.

It is a good idea to label special or unusual plants in your garden so that you can remember their names and others visiting can be informed.

Take some weather proof material like marine ply or a kind of fibro and cut into small rectangles.

Paint these in a dark colour (we have used dark green) and then use a paint pen available from the newsagent to write on the plant's name and any other information.

Attach this plaque to a peg or stake of durable material.

There You Have It! An individual and durable plant label.

John and Marion Parry

## Cutting Mix for Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Camellias.

50/50 by volume,

Peat and washed fine gravel, perlite or polystyrene beads.

Mix peat and gravel.

January is the time to take cuttings of the above plants.

The edition for this season has been produced by Margaret Owens.

All contributions to: Rosemary Simmons, 72 Murer Drive Maleny 4552.  
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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.