



SNIPPETS

Summer 2003/4

President
Peter Gollidge
5499 9116

Hon. Secretary
Rosemary Simmons
5435 2035

Hon. Treasurer
Philip Myring
5494 4153

Editors
Rosemary Simmons 5435 2035
Sandra Slack 5435 2357

Mailing Address: The Secretary P.O. Box 563 Maleny 4552

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.

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.

From the President

My sincere thanks to all members for supporting the Club in its varied activities during the past year. A warm welcome is extended to new members who have recently joined and in particular those who are new to gardening in the Maleny area. Your active participation in Club activities will make many new friends and will be a source of information on a range of garden topics. Thank you to those members who, during the year made their gardens available to the Club for our meeting venue. We were fortunate in having fine weather on each meeting.

In response to suggestions from members, a program of garden venues and speakers is being planned for 2004. We look forward to some interesting bus trips.

A sub-committee has been formed with experienced and enthusiastic new members to organize the Autumn Fair that as in previous years will be at the Maleny Community Hall. My very best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Successful gardening in 2004

Peter Gollidge

Garden Tip



If you patio furniture has hollow legs then fill them with sand or water so that the furniture won't blow around. *Ivy Cox*



Hints for Birdwatchers- Naming & Identifying Birds

When this subject was suggested as a topic for the newsletter, I must admit I likened the task to that of the dedicated gardener being asked to describe in a few hundred words how to name and identify the plants which one can find in the garden so that a novice gardener can identify each plant he/she comes across.

Let's start with what I think is the most important key to a hobby like gardening or bird watching. That is the need to

identify and name the plants or birds involved. So how best do we commence our observation of birds around our gardens and ultimately identify them? We could start with *size, colour, call or song, how, when, where and on what they feed, any peculiar way they fly, hop or walk and what they do with their wings when they alight. Do they fly, glide, soar or hover. Do they fly and forage in a flock, pairs or alone?*

What should one look for when one has an individual bird in sight?

- Overall size, head and body shape and special or peculiar colours particularly on the back, breast and wings.
- Is the head rounded, flattened on top; is there a crest of feathers, a top knot; is the crest erectable as in the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo?
- Is the beak or bill small and triangular, thick and large, long, curved or hooked? What colour is the beak?
- What of the bird's eyes? Look for colour, shape, rings around eye, bare skin. Are the eyes set at either side of the head or both looking straight ahead (like an owl).

The various points to look for are endless. Finally a good reference book is worthwhile and will provide many hours of satisfying reading and in no time you will become a competent bird watcher.

Keith & Cilla

A garden isa place where the mind goes to seed.

What's In A Name?

Gardenia – Named after Alexander Garden (1730-1791) a U.S. doctor who collected plants in Canada and the U.S. and sent them to England. He corresponded with Carl Linnaeus who was responsible for cataloguing so many plants. Dr Garden had no actual association with finding the Gardenia plant though.

Gardenias do well in our climate and love warmth but prefer morning sun and shelter from midday onwards. They like to be fed and well mulched as this keeps the roots cool. Apply a foliar fertilizer. Some yellowing of old leaves is quite normal. Besides the upright growing *Florida* and *Professor Pucci* you can grow the prostrate *G. radicans* as a groundcover or over a wall. It has the same perfume although the flowers are smaller. It is also more cold

tolerant. There are quite a few different varieties available now in nurseries.

Generally Gardenias don't need pruning, but in our climate with abundant growth, a light clip all over may be needed to keep them within bounds.

One pest to watch out for is scale. You will know you have them when you see black sooty mould on the leaves and stems. Spray with Pest Oil. It may take a couple of attempts if infestation is bad.

Three Day Club Trip- The WOW Factor

Eat your heart out all of you who didn't come on the recent 3 day bus trip. We had everything- good company, good fun, good food and wine and we saw some absolutely fabulous gardens.

The adventure started with a visit to Glengallen Homestead at Allora, which is being restored and gives us a good insight into our past.

Probably the best garden with a rating of 'triple WOW' would have to be Mulberry Cottage. As we walked from garden room to garden room we were pretty much overcome by the loveliness. An unplanned stop at the garden of the Bramble Patch owners was another very rewarding experience as it was centred on a huge lake.

Wine sampled at Thunderbolt's Farm and the Ballandean Estate was enjoyable.

The more energetic of us walked around Stanthorpe and a very nice little nursery was discovered where much money was spent.

Abbey of the Roses in Warwick was the venue for our last meal together and what a delightful place for anyone wanting to stay in Warwick. Thanks to Nancy Baker for overseeing our wonderful trip.

For next year I'd like everyone to consider a two day trip to Mt Tamborine during their October Flower Festival.

Cheers! Sandy Slack

Snippet- This thought shows that nothing much changes in the lives of man/woman except maybe the spelling.

God Almighty first planted a Garden. And indeed, it is the Purest of Humane pleasure. It is the Greatest Refreshment to the Spirits of Man.

Frances Bacon (1561-1626) Essays

Toasted Oatmeal Biscuits

Eileen Smith

Preheat oven to 180°C

Melt $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of butter in a frypan until lightly browned, add 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups rolled oats and sauté until golden brown. About 5 mins. Remove from heat and allow to cool.

Sift $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour, 1 tsp cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt and $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp bicarb.

Combine 1 cup soft brown sugar, 1 egg and 1 tsp vanilla in a bowl and beat until light and fluffy.

Coarsely chop 1 cup walnuts and add to egg and sugar mixture.

Stir in rolled oats mixture and flour mixture until well combined.

Drop rounded teaspoonsful on baking paper lined biscuit trays and bake 10 to 12 minutes or until golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Makes about 4 dozen.

Spring Reading



The Gardener's Book of Colour – Andrew Lawson

If you are interested in good colour combination in your borders or garden then this is a useful book to consult. It will help you decide what colours go together and how to avoid jarring colour combinations. It will also help you create harmonizing and contrasting colour schemes in the garden for different moods.

The book is not currently in our Club's library. It is available from Florilegium or other good book stores.

Future Events

November 29/30 Open Garden Dalziell, Buderim
December Nil

January 22/25th Ginger Flower Festival, Yandina

January 26th Maleny Garden Club meeting
Masonic Hall, Tamarind Street, Maleny

February 24th Maleny Garden Club Meeting
Masonic Hall, Tamarind Street, Maleny.

February 28/29th Qld. Begonia Society Annual Show
10am – 4pm *

Those marked * are at the Mt Coot-tha auditorium.

Notes from Perennial Poppy Lecture Day

A few of our club members were fortunate enough to attend the *Perennial Poppies* lecture day at the Mt Coot-tha Auditorium in September.

The guest speakers were Frances Michaels from Maleny, who with her husband runs Green Harvest, an organic gardening company, and Michael Bligh who is a landscape architect from N.S.W. whose speciality is designing country gardens.

Florilegium Books was also there with a great selection of gardening books for sale. It was like having children in a lolly shop.

Frances spoke in a short segment about the need for biodiversity and the harm that can come to this if we do not garden organically and she expanded on how their organic property is run.

For most of the day we were informed and entertained by Michael as he showed us many wonderful slides of his gardens and spoke about design elements in successful gardens, including two of his own. Wow!! Occasionally he would put in a slide that showed what happens when there is no proper design and he wouldn't say a thing. Everyone laughed as most of us know gardens like that and we are all probably guilty of some of the mistakes.

After a day of looking at his work we were much more in tune with good design elements and many of us went home vowing to make some changes in our gardens

Rosemary Simmons



Garden Tips

Colin Campbell

- If a vigorously growing plant blocks the drain holes in the pot, chances are it will get waterlogged, so check regularly and use a sharp knife to cut away any roots.
- A lot of people go to the nursery, buy a plant, take it home and wonder how large it will grow. The smart gardener goes to the nursery, looks at the plant, then goes home to decide whether it is suitable.
- If you're short of space, you don't have to be conventional; silver beet and parsley look great amongst the roses.
- Encourage children to take an interest in gardening by letting them plant seeds that give quick results. Try them out on radish, beans and cherry tomatoes.
- Use string onion or citrus fruit bags to store bulbs after they've been lifted. Hang them in a dry, dark and cool spot.
- About the end of January put spring flowering bulbs into the crisper of the fridge. Make sure you mark them clearly as they can be harmful if eaten by mistake.
- To keep gladioli flowers for up to three days, pick the stems when the colour is just showing on the floret. Pick them at dusk or first thing in the morning and place on a barely damp cloth in a dark corner. The day before using, snip off a few centimetres of the stem and place in water.
- A good organic *herbicide* can be made up with 2 litres white vinegar, ½ cup of common salt and a tablespoon of dishwashing liquid. This is a non selective herbicide so brush it on and be careful how you do it.
- Tabasco sauce isn't just good in tomato juice. 4 drops to a litre of water makes a good *insecticide*.



Lunch & Tea Roster

The President will bring milk for tea & coffee. 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:

January 27th Masonic Hall in Tamarind St.-
Ivy Cox and Gillian Macleod

February 24th Masonic Hall in Tamarind St.-
Jo Fraser and Sandra Slack

Social Snippets – Birthdays, Travel, New Members etc.

Our sincerest sympathy goes to Neil & Gillian Macleod on the recent passing away of Neil's mother.

New Members

Christina Maller; Dianne Roper; Moira Nicolle; Elizabeth Nicolle

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

Thought

*Great Mother, let Me Once be able
To have a Garden, House and Stable;
That I may Read, and Ride, and Plant,
Superior to Desire, or Want;
And as Health fails, and Years increase,
Sit down, and think, and die in peace.*

Matthew Prior (1664-1721)



Seasonal Tasks – December

- Prune your spring flowering shrubs.
- Plant a few seedlings of Cherry or Roma tomatoes.
- Thin citrus fruit if crop is heavy.
- Remove all fruit if citrus tree is young.
- Sow a row or two of dwarf or climbing beans.
- Apply a light dressing of dolomite to lavender.

January

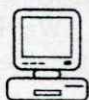
- Take cuttings of camellia, azalea and daphne.
- If baskets or pots drain too rapidly apply a soil wetting agent.
- Spray azaleas and vireya rhododendrons if lace bug is evident.
- Apply a summer time fertilizer to lawns, remembering to water prior to and after application.
- Remember a deep watering is better than a light hose.
- Water cucumbers, lettuce and zucchini regularly.

February

- If the sun is very hot with plants showing signs of stress, give them a good drink, avoiding the foliage, even if it is midday.
- Plant out cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli seedlings.
- Check that azaleas, camellias and vireya are well mulched.

- Feed roses with complete fertilizer plus a little potash.
- Dead head all spent flowers from annuals and perennials.
- Prepare soil by cultivating, fertilizing then covering with mulch, for winter crops.

Pat Powell



Useful Websites & Information

www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests/environmental_weeds/weeds_list.html Click on legislation. This site lists the plants that have become weeds and which are now illegal to plant, sell etc. These are illegal to sell at nurseries, stalls, flea markets, fetes etc. They include all forms of lantana, African tulip tree, camphor laurel, pencil willows, Tecoma and some asparagus ferns.

www.nrm.qld.gov.au Visit this website to find out more about the sap sucking lantana bugs. It is time to check your Clerodendrons, Durantas & Fiddlewoods for this bug. Careful as it can sting.

www.tesselaar.net.au A great site. You can browse the catalogue, get growing information on those more unusual plants and even order plants.

www.bugsforbugs.com.au This site gives information on and a product range for combating harmful bugs in the garden. As the name implies useful bugs are sold to combat harmful bugs. Some of the more useful are for scale, mealybug, lacewings and two-spotted mite. The site also gives information on Fruit Fly control.

Did You Know?

Clivia miniata is named for Lady Charlotte Clive- Duchess of Northumberland and granddaughter of Robert Clive (Clive of India fame). *Miniata* comes from the colour *minium*, which was a lead-based, orange-red pigment much used in miniature illustrations of medieval books.

Roger Mann



Roses

At the October meeting Pat McDowell of Peachester Roses, gave an informative talk on growing heritage roses, organically. Here is a potted version of what he had to say. At his nursery roses are sprayed weekly or fortnightly. David Austin roses are sprayed usually weekly on a rotation basis.

Week 1 Bi carbonate soda and Charlie Carp fish emulsion. Use 2 teaspoons of bi carb to 5 L of water and 4 caps of

fish emulsion. This is applied as a foliar spray and changes the ph of the leaf surface.

Week 2 Neem oil and seaweed. The neem oil acts as a surfactant.

Week 3 Compost/manure water, which is brewed for 2 days before adding Charlie Carp.

Week 4 Charlie Carp

Pruning

Deadhead regularly. Take out deadwood and tip prune climbers. In mid January prune all shrub roses by a third to a half. This gives the plant a rest from flowering. Six weeks after pruning there will be a good flush of flowers. Don't worry about black spot before the winter prune.

Prune again in winter before the spring growth

At this time use *lime sulphur* on bare wood and surrounding soil to kill off fungal spores. Keep it off any leaves as it will burn.

Grow older varieties of roses as these seem more hardy. Try to make your roses water thrifty. Don't water them very often and they will send their roots down deeply.

Use a jet of water to get rid of *aphids* or use soapy water.

For *mildew* use 1:9 parts milk and water. For economy use full cream powdered milk. This mix promotes an enzyme reaction that is hostile to fungal spores.

Feeding

Put aged manure or compost around plants, also a handful of *dolomite lime* in acidic soils. Use *sulphate of potash* in early spring, but don't be too heavy handed as too much will burn the leaves. This promotes flowering.

A few recommended roses:

Crépuscule; Monsieur Tillier; Mutabilis; Safrano; Buff Beauty; Lady Hillingdon; Duchesse de Brabant; Marie van Houtte; Jean Ducher and Cornelia.

Contributions

A reminder that contributions to Snippets are always welcome. A big **thank you** to those who have contributed articles, information etc. in 2003. We look forward to your continuing participation.

Snippets is currently prepared by Margaret Owens, Sandra Slack and Rosemary Simmons. We are looking for one more person to help us so that each of us only does one copy per year. If you have some computer skills and would like to be involved please let us know.



Garden Club would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the members a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone at the January Meeting.

All contributions to: Rosemary Simmons 72 Murer Dve. Maleny

Email: dj.rf.sim@bigpond.com or Sandra Slack email sandyslack@bigpond.com

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.