



SNIPPETS

Winter 2004

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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.

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 Vice President

Because Peter and Margaret have been away, it has fallen to the Vice President to write this report.

Happily, the Club continues to grow but with this growth comes change. Change, of its self, is neither a good nor a bad thing but how we handle it will determine the future success of the club. We must all be prepared to move on to keep the club relevant to its members' wants and needs. To this end we must be sure to return the survey form next meeting.

When answering such forms and making suggestions, (which you are strongly encouraged to do) please let the following points guide your decisions :- (a) how much work is involved?

(b) am I prepared to do it?

Cheers, and good gardening everyone. V.P.

HANDY HINTS



To prolong the flowering period of your plants, deadhead regularly.

SPRINGTIME IN MALENY

Now is the time to pot up plants for **Springtime in Maleny** which will be on **26th and 27th of August**. Plants need not be large, but they must be well grown, in good condition and labeled with name, description and growing conditions. Potted herbs are always a good idea.

A big **Thank You** to all those members who contributed to the success of the Autumn Fair. Let's hope that those who were not able to help last time will be able to be more involved in this **Flower Show**. To make it a competitive show, all members should try to enter at least one category.

Thought

You have all heard of the Serenity Prayer, well here's one for gardeners.

SENILITY PRAYER

*Grant me the senility
to forget the people I never liked,
the good fortune to run into
the people I do like,
and the eyesight to tell the difference.*

Summer Reading



'New Life For Old Gardens' Allan Seale
(This book is in the club's library)

Looking for a good read and some great ideas? Don't let this title put you off as the book has good ideas for new gardens as well older, overgrown ones. It provides practical ideas for dull or awkward spots in your garden.

The content is divided into four parts:

- 1) Appraising Your Garden
 - 2) Identifying and Solving Problems
 - 3) Rejuvenation
 - 3) Projects to Complement the Garden
- The photographs are great and will inspire you to get out there and garden.
The text is informative and interesting.

I loved this poem by Reginald Arkell which is in the front of the book.

The Lady Who Was Here Before

There are some people that I hate
They gather at my garden gate
Discussing till I'm sick and sore
The Lady who was here before.
They stand and whisper, 'What a shame,
I'm thankful Mrs What's-her-name
Is dead, poor dear and doesn't know.
She used to love her garden so.
They've thrown away those lovely rocks
She got from Cheddar - and the Box
She planted round her heart-shaped plots
Of Heartsease and Foget-Me-Nots.
They've moved her Salpiglossis bed,
And planted Primulas instead.
They've put an ugly Poplar tree
Where that nice Privet used to be.'
They'll get me so upset, some day
That shall spring as them, and say:
'This is **my** garden. GO AWAY!'

Future Events

- 5&6 June - Camellia day, 98 Holmes Street, Brighton (open garden)
12&13 June - Moyo Mhaba, 21 Bateke Rd., Mt. Tamborine (open garden)
12&13 June - Paton garden, 55 Freemont dr., Nth Tamborine (open garden)
12&13 June - Combined Bromeliad & Cactus Show*
19&20 June - Mt Cotton Rainforest Gardens, 196 Mountain View Rd., Mt Cotton (open garden)
29 June Garden Club Meeting at Marianne and John Parry's home at 1 Treehaven Dr. The guest speaker is Olga Webster.
2,3 & 4 July - Nambour Garden Club Expo, Showgrounds, Nambour.
2, 3 & 4 July - North Moreton Orchid Council Show.*
4 July - Camellias & The Classics, Ormiston

House, Ormiston.

10 & 11 July - Q'ld Camellia Society Show.*

17 & 18 July - John Oxley District Orchid Society Show.*

24 & 25 July - Floral Art Society of Q'ld Show.*

27 July - Garden Club Meeting at the Masonic Hall Taramind St, Maleny. The guest speaker is Sally Moore from Ja's Herbs.

31 July & 1 Aug. - Aust. Sogetsu Teachers Assn. Show.*

5 - 14 Aug - R. N. A. Q'ld. Show "The Ekka" R. N. A. Grounds, Brisbane.

21 & 22 Aug. - North Brisbane Orchid Society Show.*

24 Aug. - Garden Club Meeting at the home of Gary Crew, Bridge Creek Rd, Maleny. The guest speaker is Gary Crew.

28 & 29 Aug. - Orchid Species show.*

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

Useful Hint



To highlight yellow in your border, try planting a strong blue flowering plant nearby. For example a blue salvia near a yellow daylily.

Garden Tips



Colin Campbell

- When fertilizing lawn, water it well both before and after fertilizer application.
- Don't throw out weeds. Shake the soil from the roots and place the weeds in a bucket and fill with hot water. Over the next couple of weeks give them a stir, then add a handful of Blood and Bone or manure. Strain the liquid and it's ready to be watered over the plants as a fertilizer.
- If planting trees and shrubs, don't be stingy with the size of the hole. There's no point putting a \$10 plant in a \$5 hole! All planting holes should be at least twice the width of the root ball or pot
- Always put a layer of soil between the fertilizer in the bottom of the hole and the

plant so the roots don't get burnt by the fertilizer.

- While you're digging the hole to plant roses, immerse the rose roots in a solution of seaweed extract and water and once the rose is in the ground, tip the solution around the plant.
- Always ensure that the rose graft is a few centimeters above ground level when planting roses.
- Winter is a good time to do a bit of mower and whipper-snipper maintenance. I always recommend that both mower blades be changed at the same time.
- Once camellias have finished flowering, give them a bit of a prune and also a feed with an azalea and camellia fertilizer.
- If you suspect that you've had a bit of a frost overnight, first thing in the morning before the sun comes up, hose any susceptible plants.
- Be very careful when handling potting mix, wear a mask and gardening gloves and lightly mist with water to stop the drift of the mix. Also work up wind so any fine particles will blow away from you. These steps are especially important if you are a smoker or have breathing problems.

Lunch & Tea Roster

The President will bring the milk. If you need to purchase other things, 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:

June Dorothy Gordon and Molly Cock

July Eileen Smith and

August Elsie and Trevor Mulvena

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Social Snippets – Birthdays, Travel, New Members etc

Travelogue

Margaret and John Stevenson are currently on a three month trip around Australia so we hope all is going well for them.

Rosemary Simmons is just returned from a very interesting meander around the southern highlands of NSW and is threatening to go and live there she liked it so much.

Sandra Slack was lucky to go to the Melbourne International Flower Festival where she met up with other Malenyites.

The only one silly enough to let us know that he was having a birthday was Phil Myring and we wish him all the best,

New Members

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

Judith Bird

REMINDER!!

Please fill in and return your voting paper and membership renewal found in this current issue.



Seasonal Tasks – Pat Powell

JUNE

- Sasanqua camellias are in nurseries now. Choose carefully consulting a local nursery as not all flower well.
- Remove fallen leaves from ground cover and small plants.
- Mow fallen leaves, placing them in a black plastic bag with a handful of blood and bone. Tie and leave in the sun for a few months.
- Consult a local when selecting roses as to how they perform in our wet season.
- Clear beds of dying foliage.
- Prune trees and shrubs which have cast too much shade with their summer growth.

JULY

- Use a liquid fertilizer every two weeks, to bring spring annuals along. Choose one high in potassium.
- When watering strawberries, avoid wetting foliage to prevent mould.
- Hard prune summer shrubs like abutilon,

abelia, salvias and crepe myrtle if you want to keep it as a shrub.

- Citrus trees can be planted now.
- Prune sasanqua camellias after flowering. If seeds stay on flowers will not be as abundant next year.

AUGUST

- Continue to fertilise spring annuals and deadhead to promote flowering.
- Repot container plants using a good quality mix.
- For early tomatoes, start seeds/seedlings on a warm windowsill. Romas do well.
- To deepen the blue of hydrangeas, apply a hydrangea bluing compound.
- Divide dominant perennials.

Birds



COXEN'S FIG-PARROT

This is a call to the gardeners of Maleny to help save this rare and endangered race of the Double-eyed Fig-Parrot. Loss of habitat (lowland rainforest) is the principal cause of its status. However it is heard and glimpsed around Maleny and we thought we would give you some information regarding the fruiting time of the tree species on which the birds are known to feed. The list contains something for everyone in that the parrots like some small/ medium species as well as large ones.

Creek Sandpaper Fig (ficus coronata) 8-15m fruits Jan. to June

Sandpaper Fig (ficus fraseri) 18-20m fruits May to Feb. (semi deciduous)

Deciduous Fig (ficus superba) 30m fruits Jan to July

Moreton Bay Fig (ficus macrophylla) 50-60m fruits Feb to May.

Nipple Fig (ficus watkinsonia) 60m fruits Sept to April

Small-leaved Fig (ficus oblique) 60 fruits April to June.

If you have room to plant the first two smaller trees, you would provide fruit all year round. The last three very large trees can be grown as stranglers by allowing the tube stock to grow a long root way beyond the tube, then binding it on to an existing tree. (Barung can demonstrate how this is done.) This is also a fascinating to observe just how these magnificent trees grow over time and 'consume' the support tree.

Cilla and Keith With thanks to Jeanette Nobes for the information on tree species.

GROWING VEGETABLES

Everyone was so interested in Pat's talk on growing vegetables that we decided to publish it as a reference.

Firstly, why do we grow vegetables?

1. They are fresh with good food value if stored and cooked with care.
2. We have a plentiful supply.
3. They can be spray free.

Organic fertilizer can be your choice.

Secondly, where should they be planted?

1. In full sun if possible.
2. Where there is adequate drainage.
3. Where water is readily available.
4. In an area where there is good air circulation.
5. In an area where there is protection from ravaging elements such as strong winds, wash and frost.
6. In raised beds.
7. At the edge of flower beds.

Thirdly how you should prepare:-

1. Test the PH of the soil and add dolomite if the soil is acid and sulphur if alkaline.
2. If the area is new to gardening, cultivate to spade depth and until soil is fine.
3. If dolomite is added, leave for two or three weeks.
4. Add superphosphate once a year.
5. Add blood and bone.
6. Cover with mulch.

Leave for at least one week – longer if possible to allow worms time to work.

For reliable reference use Yates Gardening Guide plus local knowledge for a variety of vegetables to grow and most importantly when to plant.

All contributions to Rosemary Simmons PO Box 563 MALENY Q 4552 email dj.rf.sim@bigpond.com or sandyslack@bigpond.com

Disclaimer

Articles contributed to this newsletter are published as a service to members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the club.