



# SNIPPETS

Autumn 2005

**President**  
Peter Gollidge  
5499 9116

**Hon. Secretary**  
Gillian MacLeod  
5499 9590

**Hon. Treasurer**  
Phil Myring  
5494 4153

**Editors**  
Margaret Owens 5429 6789  
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

The first Maleny Garden Club meeting for 2005 was well attended, with an informative presentation from Tim Bagshaw of Maleny Physiotherapy on injury prevention and another from Malcolm Price on pH measurement and importance to gardening.

The meeting endorsed the Committee decision to replace the Autumn and Spring Fairs with an event to be held on 11<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> June (Queen's Birthday weekend). The event, called **Gardening on The Edge** will use Maleny High School Hall and also involves the opening to the public of a number of gardens along the Blackall Range. \$6.00 covers entry to all gardens. Tickets, teas and lunches will be available at the high school.

Planned activities at the high school include camellia flower competition, produce and gourmet food stall, trade displays, talks by gardening experts and the usual Club plant stall.

Peter Gollidge .....



## Camellia Care

*By now many buds should have formed so it is time to:*

*Disbud camellias leaving two buds per terminal and one or two along each stem, as formation of too many buds will result in poor flower quality and improper opening.. For good colour and petal texture, plants will need potassium and phosphorus. Phostrogen is a suitable fertiliser.. After heavy rain top up with mulch.*

*Control grasshoppers that can be a problem at this time.*

## BIRDS



If you enjoy a variety of bird life in your garden, there are a number of things you can do.

- Provide fresh, clean water in a couple of places in your garden. At least one of the birdbaths should be in a sheltered spot with shallow water and adequate cover for those small, shy birds.
- Remember that many birds do not differentiate between natives and exotics. Here are some of the exotics that native birds seem to enjoy – camellias, montana daisies, salvias, tecomaria, justicia, sunflowers and most plants that produce nectar and pollen.

## Further verses of Lisa's poem RECOLLECTIONS OF A (1<sup>ST</sup> TIME) VOLUNTEER

I've sloshed around with Reuben  
As we scraped the porridge vat;  
And when I saw the paddle cried  
"We'll go sailing –how 'bout that?"

"Rub a-dub dub -3 men in a tub"  
Reuben, Barb'ra and me;  
But we must not shirk-it's back to work  
Farewell to fantasy.  
(and Reuben's too young for me)  
There's many a frantic fruitless search



There's many a muttered oath;  
I'm convinced that dressing prostrate  
Is designed to stunt one's growth

I'm overwhelmed by all that fitness  
By the zest, the Joie de vivre;  
And tho' I mutter, tho, I curse  
There's no way I would leave.

I only wish that I could ride  
But I've left my run too late;  
'Cycle Q'd' wasn't there  
In Nineteen fifty-eight.

If I lost three stone within a year  
I might find a tandem-mate;  
Then I'd mix and merge with cyclists  
Tho' I might not pull my weight.

My knees and thighs are doing fine  
I could keep up with the best;  
'Cause of smoking long ago  
My lungs won't pass the test.

I could zoom just like the clappers  
I could whizz along the straight;  
And we'd get there eventually  
Tho' we might be two days late.

We all bonded at Barga,  
Of all places, at St Vinnies;  
Cross dressed in silk pyjamas  
And frilly little pinnies.

The "Op Shop" ladies of Barga  
Endorsed our "Bike Pyjama Dance";  
And some long forgotten trousseau'  
Got a second chance.

We cavorted in the dressing rooms,  
Then frolicked in the sea;  
And collectively our arm-bands  
Made us one big family.

That night we flashed our jim-jams  
At the Surf Club down the road;  
Tomorrow we'd have "R&R"  
At our STATIONARY abode.

### **Burnside Gardens.**

*Burnside Gardens at 171 Burnside Rd., Nambour will be open on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> April, as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme. There is much to interest keen gardeners in this well designed 0.8hec. garden. The owners are plant collectors (their most recent trip being to Sri Lanka), so you will see new introductions and unusual plants. Garden beds are of generous proportions. One section of the garden is devoted to conifers. Tropical plants and trees feature along with temperate shrubs and foliage plants. There will be plants for sale and refreshments available.*

### **Snippet**

We can find many friends,  
We can find many foes,  
What we tend in life's garden  
Invariably grows.

Mary Olney 1939

### **Recipe - Wendy Hartman**

#### **Raisin and Cheese Loaf**

250 grams raisins, chopped  
¾ cup hot water  
1¼ cups self raising flour  
½ cup sugar  
Pinch salt  
Cup of grated cheese  
½ cup chopped walnuts  
1 egg

Pour hot water over raisins. Mix flour, sugar and salt, rub in cheese, add walnuts and mix well. Add lightly beaten egg. Lastly add raisins and water. Bake in loaf tin in a moderate oven for an hour. Serve buttered. Keep in fridge.

### **Spring Reading**



Check the club's library for books on  
**Camellia Culture.**

### **Future Events**

**Feb. 12&13** Aspley Orchid Society Show\*

**Feb. 22** Maleny Garden Club Meeting,  
Masonic Hall. Topic: Water Conservation

**Feb. 26& 27** Q'ld. Begonia Society Show\*

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** - World Garden Tour (wine,  
cheese, slides) with Colin Campbell -  
Community Centre 7.00 p.m.

**March 12&13** - Q'ld Hibiscus Society Show\*

**March 19&20** - Q'ld Dahlia Society Show\*

**March 25, 26&27** Q'ld Orchid Society Show\*

**March 29** - Maleny Garden Club Meeting -  
TBA

**March 31** - Maleny Garden Club bus trip to  
local and north coast areas.

**April 2&3** - West Brisbane Orchid Society  
Show\*

AOGS Burnside Gardens, 171 Burnside Rd.,  
Nambour.

**April 3** - AOGS Mango Hill Farm, 159  
Commissioners Flat Rd., Peachester. One day  
only.

**April 6-10** - Melbourne International Flower &  
Garden Show, Carlton Gardens, Melbourne.

**April 9&10** - Royal Horticultural Society Show\*



AOGS Wickes garden, 8 Roms Crt., Buderim.  
AOGS Mango Hill Farm, Peachester only  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April

**April 16&17** Bimer Bonsai Club Show.\*

Wondai Garden Festival, Sports  
Ground, Wondai.

**April 26** -Maleny Garden Club Meeting -  
"Cloverdale", Aplin Rd., Maleny. Topic- Living  
with Wildlife.

**April 28-May 1**- Sydney's Garden & Flower  
Show, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

**April 29&30** -Gardenfest, Showgrounds,  
Toowoomba.

**April 30 & May 1** -Q'ld Council of Garden  
Clubs Show.\*

*AOGS is (Australian Open Garden Scheme)*

*\*Held in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt.  
Coot-tha auditorium*



**Gardening is a medicine that does not  
need a prescription.. and with no limit on  
dosage. Author unknown**

#### HINT

Don't throw your old CDs out, hang them in  
your fruit trees, over stawberries and new  
seedlings. They will keep the birds off.

Trouble with mice and rats? Melt a little  
chocolate over hot water and when it is soft,  
mould the chocolate onto the trap

Ivy Cox.



Colin Campbell

#### Garden Tips

- If killing nutgrass, cut the bottom out of a  
softdrink container, place over the nutgrass  
plant and apply the chemical through the  
nozzle.
- Prune native plants from an early age to stop  
them from becoming straggly.
- If you're planning to grow sweet peas, it's  
easier to erect a trellis before the seeds or  
seedlings are planted, but make sure that the  
trellis, and consequently the sweet peas,  
receive full sun.
- Don't throw prunings of geraniums, roses or  
hydrangeas away - use them as cuttings.

- Remember that bulbs need a good deep  
container to grow in to achieve the best  
results.
- Sulphate of Potash applied to gerbera plants  
will ensure that the stems remain straight and  
not fall over.
- Never buy agricultural packs of fertilisers  
and chemicals. They may be cheaper in the  
short term, but unless you have an acreage  
property, the product will probably  
deteriorate and become useless before it's  
ready to be used.
- Contrary to the thinking of some, I've found  
that citrus peelings and gum leaves are  
acceptable in the compost heap. It may be a  
good idea to run over the gum leaves with  
the mower before composting.
- Grow comfrey in the garden to use in the  
compost heap as an "activator".
- To deter possums try mixing 2 tablespoons  
of molasses with 1 litre of warm water and  
1teaspoon of soft soap. When mixture is  
cold put into a spray bottle. (This was passed  
on to me by a Courier Mail reader and it's  
worth a try.)

Colin Campbell



#### Lunch & Tea Roster

Golledges will bring the milk for morning tea to  
each meeting.

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:

**February:** Molly Cock& Lisa Plucknett

**March:** Bev Brown & Kay Eastmure

**April:** Rosemary Simmons& Diana Begbie

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

Norma Mcleod celebrated her birthday this  
month. Congratulations to Tina Maller and husband  
Gary, who had a special evening at King Ludwig's  
Restaurant to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

Rosemary and David Simmons have just returned  
from a week's holiday in Melbourne. They were  
there during the wild weather, when the city



experienced record rainfall in a day and also had below average temperatures. However this did not deter Rosemary from meandering round the beautiful garden, 'Cloudhill' in the Dandenongs.

### New Members

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

**Rhonda Dwyer**, who is Bev Brown's sister



### Seasonal Tasks –

#### March

- It's bulb time for a winter spring show. Try planting up a pot for the patio, remembering to cover the drainage hole with fly screening or chux.
- Pansies and violas like an early start. So mid to late March is a good time to plant them.
- Remove spent annual flowers and vegies. Test the soil and if necessary add dolomite. Cabbage family, onions and peas dislike an acid soil.
- Sugar loaf cabbage, a few silver beet (coloured stem variety) and pac choy planted now, can ease the budget when greens become expensive.
- Fertilise camellias, pawpaws and avocados.

#### April

- Plant those lovely root vegies, also cabbage and broccoli, which are high in nutrients. Try the red cabbage.
- Browse the seedling displays before deciding on your winter-spring garden.
- When transplanting seedlings, add either fish or seaweed emulsion to the water for watering in.
- Plant strawberry runners in a well prepared, preferably raised garden, then mulch. Nasturtiums and borage are good companion plants and also attract bees.
- Try propagating bougainvillea from cuttings. A heel dipped into root forming compound, before placing into individual pots of propagating mix is the way to go.

#### May

- Lift, label and store dahlias in a dry, airy location.
- As you cut back geraniums, take cuttings of healthy growth. Dip cuttings into either honey or hormone preparation before potting into individual pots. Place in an airy, shaded area, watering regularly, but not too much.
- Prepare your garden bed until soil is a fine tilth for your onion crop to be planted in late May, either direct into the garden or into seed trays, until they are large enough for transplanting.
- Leafy vegies like to grow quickly, so dress them with a fertiliser high in nitrogen. A little fish or seaweed fertiliser helps as well.
- Green peas fresh from the garden are a luxury the home gardener can enjoy. Sugar snaps go in now **-don't forget the supports**

### MIND YOUR BACK

Here are some further tips from Tim Bagshaw for pain free gardening.

When lifting heavy loads

- Plan the lift so you only have to move the load the minimum distance
- Position the load as close to your body as possible
- Make sure you can get a good grip on the load
- Bend both knees and keep your back straight.
- Tighten stomach muscles to 'brace' lower back.
- Lift slowly and evenly.
- Step around if you have to move a load and gently place load down.

### Hint

A simple way to get rid of weeds growing in the cracks of pavers is to pour boiling water on them –saves having to mix and use chemicals.

All contributions to:

Margaret Owens 15 Beechwood Rd Maleny 4552

email [margaret.owens@bigpond.com](mailto:margaret.owens@bigpond.com)

or Sandra Slack email [sandyslack@bigpond.com](mailto:sandyslack@bigpond.com)

or Margaret Harper email [jcharper@tpg.com.au](mailto:jcharper@tpg.com.au)

### Disclaimer

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