

## Maleny Garden Club Inc.



## SNIPPETS

SPRING 2005

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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

This is my last President's Message. I very much appreciate the support given to me by all members during the past three years. After the AGM the Maleny Garden Club will have a new President and a Management Committee with some new faces, who will face a number of challenges in the future. I hope that the members you elect to manage the activities of the Club will receive your full support in the future.

Over the past three years there have been some significant changes made to the way in which the monthly meetings were conducted. These changes included refreshments before the meetings, speakers at the beginning of the meetings, and a garden section with more information on gardening. Formal club business has been kept to a minimum with a copy of all relevant documents available at each meeting. The majority of members have accepted these changes.

In order to keep members better informed about activities within the Club and external information relative to gardening the Management Committee has introduced a Monthly Newsletter which will either be delivered by post or e mail to each member. It is proposed to continue this initiative for 12 months and then gauge members views.

I sincerely hope that sufficient members of the Club will nominate for positions on the Management Committee so that it can function efficiently and effectively and ensure that the Club remains vibrant and best serves the needs of the members.

Kind Regards,

Peter Golledge

## Garden Vegetables.



Broccoli is an essential ingredient in just about any savoury meal – be it Asian stir fry, pasta, pizza or a traditional roast dinner. What's more broccoli is packed with essential nutrients especially Vitamin C. Broccoli needs a sunny well drained position and a slightly alkaline soil. If soil is more acidic than pH 6.5, sweeten it by digging in garden lime. Wait at least two weeks then dig in a good fertiliser and compost to a depth of at least 30cm.

(About the Garden, Australia).

Margaret Owens.

## Did You Know?

That 1tbsp of molasses in 1 litre of water sprayed onto the leaves of shrubs and vegetables deters caterpillars and grasshoppers.

## Bird Antics.



## 'The Welcome Swallow'

This may or may not be an apt name for this member of the swallow family for I'm sure a lot of us would, while we are keen lovers of birds in and around our homes and gardens, prefer the nesting and subsequent toileting activities to be performed under someone else's awnings or verandah rafters and cornices.

As children some of us had homes with open verandahs or lived not far from large concrete culverts and storm water pipes. It was here that these birds built their mud nests, lined with thin straws and feathers and where they deposited their eggs and where their young developed.

Breeding between August and December, they could produce two or more broods of four to five young. Thin distribution is throughout Eastern and Southern Australia, including Tasmania. They are also nomadic and partially migratory after breeding, reaching Torres Strait, Northwestern Australia and Southern New Guinea also New Zealand, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.

Often when we lived in Maleny we observed them in their dozens perched on the overhead electricity wires or flying in obvious joy and delight in the currents of air over the Obi Creek and adjacent paddocks. Keep your eyes open for their cousins the tree and fairy martins and my favourites the swifts, especially the 'whitethroated needle-tailed swift' which migrates every year from Asia and is noted for it's acrobatics and it's ability to sleep, eat and mate on the wing without alighting.

Keith Russell

## Garden Invitation.

Pohlman's Garden Nursery at Gatton wish to extend an invitation to all Maleny Garden Club members to visit their



nursery during the weekdays Mon-Fri. They have a beautiful Garden Centre in a lovely peaceful setting, perfect for morning tea or lunch (bookings are essential). They also offer train tours that take approximately 45mins. and travel through the centre (costs \$5 pp). anyone wishing to visit please book with Kym or Jan at Pohlman's on 5462 0444.

## Recipe - Spotted Dick.

This is one of the most popular of real English puddings. When well made, Spotted Dick is light and delicious.

75g (3oz) fresh breadcrumbs,	Finely grated rind of 1
75g (3oz) S.R. flour,	large lemon,
Pinch of salt,	1 egg,
75g (3oz) shredded suet/butter,	60-90ml (4-6 tbsp) milk,
50g (2oz) castor sugar,	custard to serve,
175g (6oz) currants,	

Mix the first seven ingredients together in a bowl, form a well in the centre, add the egg and sufficient milk to give a fairly soft but not sticky, dough.

Form into a roll on a lightly floured surface, then wrap in a greased greaseproof paper. Wrap in foil, securing the seams well but allowing the pudding plenty of room to rise during the cooking. Steam in boiling water for 1½ - 2 hrs, checking the level of the water about every 30mins and topping up with more boiling water if necessary. Serve pudding with custard. Serve warm.

(Harrods Book of Traditional English Cookery).

Margaret Owens

## Handy Hints.



It is a common misconception that cacti and succulents in home gardens do not need water. While their water needs are small and they survive well in dry conditions, potted cacti will perform at their best if given a teaspoon of water every 1-2 weeks

About the Garden. Australia.

## News from the Library.



First of all could I please remind members to bring books borrowed, back to the following meeting so that others can enjoy them. Thanking you.

We hope to receive some more new books this year and would welcome feedback from members as to specific topics they

would enjoy. New books at the Library include a lovely Bird Book (donated by Cilla), a magnificent Magnolia book, A Cottage Garden & Fragrant plants book (donated by Deirdre) and Colour me a Garden. This book is designed as a reference for identification and selection of following plants for Australian gardens by colour. Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, Climbers, Shrubs and Trees are covered. Our gardens provide a perfect opportunity for us to surround ourselves with colours that make us happy and with careful planning offer a range of colour shades and harmonies for each season. This is a very lovely book. Enjoy Spring and Happy Reading.

Bev Brown

## Future Events.

- 6 & 7 August. Sogetsu Ikebana Assoc. Show. \*
  - 19-21 August. Q'ld. Orchid Society's Winter Show. \*
  - 27&28 August. North Brisbane Orchid Society's Show. \*
  - 30 August. Garden Club Meeting, Sandra Slack, 10 Rangers Road, Maleny (Pruning Hibiscus).
  - 3 & 4 Sept. Society for Growing Australian Plants Show. \*
  - 3 & 4 Sept. "Strawberry Fields", 133 Laxton Road, Palmview. (\*\*\*)
  - 5 Sept. Lunch-Garden Clubs Australia Convention, Maleny Showgrounds Hall.
  - 10&11 Sept. Orchid Species Society Show. \*
  - 17&18 Sept. West Brisbane Orchid Society Show. \*
  - 24&25 Sept. Geranium & Pelargonium Society Show. \*
  - 27 Sept. Garden Club AGM, Community Hall (Training Dogs For the Blind).
  - 1 & 2 Oct. Q'ld. Rose Society's Spring Show. \*
  - 4 & 5 Oct. Garden Club Bus Trip to Toowoomba (Details to be Confirmed)
  - 8 & 9 Oct. Bonsai Society of Q'ld. Show. \*
  - 8 Oct. Kingaroy & District Garden Club's Spring Garden Expo, Lutheran Church Hall, Youngman Street, Kingaroy.
  - 15&16 Oct. African Violets Society of Q'ld. Show. \*
  - 25 Oct. Garden Club Meeting, Myring's Garden, 4 Koala Court, Witta (Making Paths, Steps & Walls).
  - 28-30 Oct. Botanical Artists Society of Q'ld. Show. \*
  - 29&30 Oct. Lowood Garden & Backyard Expo, Lowood Showgrounds.
- \* All at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt. Coot-tha auditorium.  
 \*\*\* This is NOT an AOGS garden and admission is free.  
 Those marked \* are at the Brisbane Botanical Gardens Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium.

Colin Cambell

## Specialist Feature.

### South Africa.

In September last year a visit to my daughter in Pretoria, Sth. Africa became a true African adventure with many and varied experiences. I chose to do a four day Garden Route Tour - Sth. Africa's way describing this picturesque southern coast from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town. This route reveals a beautiful coastline with rugged mountain passes into Klein Karoo, through vineyards and spring flowering



ostrich farm (great steaks for lunch), the flora and fauna here was so diverse.

Driving out from Port Elizabeth, along a gum-tree lined road we could have been in Australia! (along with Pt. Jackson black wattles, gums are considered a pest in Sth. Africa). In a rainforest walk while we gazed at an 800yr old yellowwood tree we were aware of a bush buck by the road and a notice bearing the sign "Beware of Leopards". Further along the coast we had lunch under the milkwood trees and watched Southern Right Whales at play.

In Cape Town – surely one of the world's most beautifully cited cities, we visited Kirstenbosch Gardens that shouldn't be missed. These are situated on the eastern slopes of Table Mt. and is a haven for many threatened indigenous plants. Although too early for the profuse flowering of proteas, it was interesting to see the different foliage such as the Silver Bush and the amazing red flowering Boer Bean Tree with colourful sunbirds nesting in it.

A day trip took me to the Cape of Good Hope on the southern tip of the Cape Peninsula which Sir Francis Drake described as "the fairest cape in all the world"! It is a heritage site, mostly Fynbos Veldt (fine bush heather, yellow leucodendron and yellow powder puff protea). We hired a car from Cape Town and drove up the west coast to Springbok in Namaqualand. This area is noted for its magnificent wild flower display in Spring. Although not a good season, it was still worthwhile for the wonderful rugged scenery through the Cederburg Mts. that are noted for the Clanwilliam Cedars - great efforts are being made to preserve these trees. We stayed in a restored barn in an old Cape Dutch farm at Nieuwoudtville. Brochures describe it as the bulb capital of the world (but the Dutch may dispute this). We saw yellow bulbinella growing under poplars, fields of watsonia, smaller bulbs and babonia (little baboons) in rock crevices. We then drove through gazanias by the roadside and fields of vygies (pronounced faceys) which looked like portulaca!

At Springbok we saw an amazing succulent reserve that looked like a prehistoric landscape with Aloe Trees (known as QuiverTrees because of their hollow trunks from which arrow holders are made). At Blaauwburgstrand we stopped to watch windsurfers in the wild surf with Table Mt. as a backdrop and then came across a flock of flamingoes in the marshland! Mentioning birds – Sth. Africa is believed to have 10% of the world's bird species.

Back in Pretoria for a rest, we had two highlights to come. The first was to Zimbabwe via Livingstone in Zambia. Here we stayed at the Queen Victoria Hotel and were able to hear "the smoke that thunders" and watch monkeys playing on the hotel's manicured lawns. A short garden bush walk took us to a view of the spectacular Victoria Falls then onto the long canyon into which it dramatically falls! While there we took a Sundowner Cruise along the Zambezi River with hippos playing in the water and elephants at the water's edge. We also had pointed out to us, a Boab Tree, supposedly 1500yrs old.

Then finally the last highlight- to a game reserve near the Botswana border in Thornbush Veldt and Savanah on the edge of the Kalahari desert. This is a haven for wildlife, 340 different birds have been sighted and recorded here and the "Big 5" (of which I only missed seeing the leopard!)

#### AMAZING SOUTH AFRICA!

*(This article has been supplied to us by Joyce Ferguson and describes her interesting journey through parts of South Africa last year).*

#### Garden Tips



- Use the inners of toilet rolls to protect seedlings when first planted.
- Do not use mushroom compost around acid loving plants. You may get away with it for a

while, but it will eventually have disastrous consequences.

- Always have a layer of soil between fertiliser and newly planted plants so the roots don't get burnt.
- Screening plants are more effective as a wind break than a solid fence.
- Give hibiscus a fairly hard prune in September.
- If ants are a problem, pour boiling water into the nest.
- Make sure you dip the secateurs in methylated spirits or disinfectant after each cut when pruning roses. This will minimise the risk of disease.
- If parrots are raiding the vegetable garden, try pushing feather dusters into the soil, fluffy side up. They won't come near.
- Try cutting up onion bags or any red material into strips and hang in the garden to keep the scrub turkeys away.
- Don't plant cacti into pots that are too large as they can't absorb the excess moisture.

*Colin Campbell.*



#### Lunch & Tea Roster

Sandra Slack will bring milk. If you need to purchase other items, please keep the docket and present it for reimbursement.

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:

**September --**

**October --** Byron and Margaret Moss.

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

A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all members who have a birthday in September, October and November.

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.

Brian and Joyce Butterfield have recently returned from a trip to Canada, the UK and Asia. Their travel details are in the travelogue below.

#### New Members.

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

Bob Aberneathy  
Daphne Hunt

Jan Gallian  
Maureen Preece



## Travelogue -

Brian and I left Brisbane Airport for Seattle on the 26<sup>th</sup> April this year where we stayed five days with my cousin in Everett near Seattle. From there we drove across the Cascade Mts. covered in snow and took a ferry ride across to Vancouver Is. While there we visited the very beautiful Butchart Gardens. After also visiting Victoria and British Columbia we returned to Everett before flying from Seattle to London and onto Bath.

Ten lovely days were spent with Brian's daughter and family in Bath before flying from Bristol to Cork in Ireland. While there we enjoyed a flight in a small plane where we viewed the beautiful countryside spread out beneath us like a patchwork quilt, stone walls and hedges marking the outline of the squares. In Cork we hired a car and drove around the Ring of Kerry staying at B and B's on the way. We then flew back to Bath and took another plane to Edinburgh. On the way to Inverness we stopped for lunch at Birnam where Beatrix Potter wrote many of her famous stories about Peter Rabbit and others. We then travelled down through the Lochs and Grampians. From Dumfries we drove to Cairnryan and across by ferry to Larne in Northern Ireland. On returning to England we were fortunate enough to visit William Wordsworth's Dove cottage in the Lake District which is a very beautiful part of the country and while in London we visited the wonderful Chelsea Flower Show and experienced a six hour guided tour of London's tourist attractions. After completing an exciting, exhilarating and exhausting trip to Canada and England we had a four day break at the Hilton in Singapore. Amongst other adventures there and despite it's stifling heat, we managed an enjoyable few hours at the Singapore Zoo.

And so home to lovely Maleny on the 4<sup>th</sup> June. On reflection we were hardly able to believe we had travelled so far and seen so much in that time.

Joyce Butterfield.



## Seasonal Tasks

### September;

- \* Liquid feed roses by spraying with diluted seaweed fertiliser which also acts as a mild fungicide.
- \* Hose off aphids from new growth and roses, avoiding toxic sprays which destroy natural predators.
- \* Repair damaged areas of lawn by digging area, adding top dressing. When settled sow either suitable seed or runners.
- \* Find a fine tuned fork and spend time rocking on it while loosening compacted areas of lawn. Then fertilise.

- \* Plant into the soil bulbs that have flowered in pots. Mark their position and feed all bulbs that have flowered to encourage flowers for the following year.
- \* Prune hibiscus by about 1/3 in late September.
- \* Prepare soil for summer veggies and annuals.

### October;

- \* Dead head roses by cutting back to a full sized leaf. Fertilise with potash for next flowering.
- \* Water citrus trees as fruit is now set, to prevent fruit fall. Check trees for dead wood and remove thin, heavy and low growth.
- \* Check potted plants and baskets are not receiving too much sun and are absorbing water. Add Wetta Soil if necessary.
- \* Hill potatoes as they grow to maximise yield.
- \* Plant out summer vegetables in short rows suitable to family size and remember to follow up with crops during season.
- \* If flowers are not hardy enough try graceful graces.

### November;

- \* Feed annuals, vegetables and roses with suitable fertiliser. A little at a time is recommended.
- \* Plant out dahlias with their necks pointed toward the stake.
- \* Tip prune shrubs that have been planted over the last twelve months to thicken up growth.
- \* Feed and mulch hibiscus.
- \* Mulch all pots and baskets to prevent drying out during hot weather.
- \* Plant a sweet potato if you have the space, they do well in our area.
- \* Keep water up to hydrangeas. For best results avoid watering overhead or when the sun is on them.

Pat Powell.

## Pain-Free Gardening

- \* Avoid prolonged bending postures eg. Don't do all your shovelling/ weeding at once.
- \* If you must bend, don't twist and definitely don't add a load.
- \* When lifting light loads, reach forward and bend your front knee.
- \* Avoid lifting heavy objects from below knee height if possible.
- \* When shovelling use a fork, keep one leg in front of the other. don't twist when you have a load on the shovel.
- \* Use a long-handled shovel rather than a spade.
- \* Back Support Braces are available on the market - they can be of some use.

Tim Bagshaw

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

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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.