



SNIPPETS

SUMMER 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

Greetings Gardeners! This is my first effort as president and there are two important things I must say. Firstly, thank you all for the confidence you have placed in me – I shall endeavour not to let you down. Secondly, and I think I speak for you all when I thank Peter Golledge for all the hard work he put into running the club in his presidency. At times his lot wasn't an easy one as he was so grossly outnumbered by so many women, who can and do speak more loudly than he. Sincere thanks to you Peter.

I am looking forward to a busy year ahead with interesting speakers at our meetings. You will find we are giving you the programme for only the first six months and in that period we will probably have two meetings out of Maleny. Certainly one will be in the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens.

A little matter came to my notice after the last meeting and that was somebody felt the club was being too political in supporting I.G.A. I am sorry about that, but I don't see our support as being politics, rather I see it as loyalty. They help us, we help them – pretty simple really.

Anyway, at this point, let me wish you and yours a very safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Cheers,

Sandra

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.

Strangers in the Night

We've got feral flying foxes
In the fruit trees having fights;
Black bats in the banana bunch
Feasting through the night.

The bandicoot digs up the lawn
From here to Timbuctoo;
Does he have a "Miner's Right" to dig?
I wish to God I knew.

And if I fail to clear the mail,
For, just an hour or two;
The snails go hyperactive
From sniffing envelope glue.

They start off chewing juicy cheques
And forms from Centrelink;
If I send them back all shredded up,
Centrelink kicks up a stink.

They chew up bills from Energex,
The phone bill and the rates;
They chew up all the "Pay By dates"
And I'm fined for being late.

Then they move on to the vegie patch,
And watch the spinach grow;
And though I always rinse it well,
We have "Greens with Escargot."

At dusk the possum clan arrive,
With a thud upon the roof;
Auditioning for "River Dance"
Oh yes! - I tell the truth.

They start off with a Gypsy Tap,
Led by "Possum Fred Astaire"
'Til a possum fight at traffic lights
Disrupts the evening air.

They do a polka, a mazurka,
Then "Tap'n' Rap from twelve 'til two;
Ignore me when I yell out "Stop!
Or you'll be possum stew!"

At break- of- day they thump off home,
To the cry of the crow forlorn;
The currawong and feathered friends
Tell us to face the dawn.

We rise and check the garden out,
The scrub turkey's been and gone;
He's dug up all the dahlia bulbs,
But he's done nothing wrong.

For like the other – he's protected,
(Except for the humble snail.)
And should I dare evict just one,
I'd surely go to jail.

We've got a cranky, big brown snake,
He, too – has right-of-way;
And should I take a stick to him,
A fortune I must pay.

We decide to eat "al fresco"
We host a hundred flies;
And they're the only ones to whom
I'm allowed to say – "You die!"

I phoned National Parks and Wildlife,
There's two species unprotected;
Homo Sapiens and flies,
To whom we are connected.

Along with crawly cockroaches,
Mosquitoes, ants and lice;
We're at the bottom of the heap,
When it comes to "Right of Life."

So – I'm writing to the Council,
To re-direct the rates;
We're moving out – just send them,
To the snake and all his mates.

And we'll just go and bivouac,
Somewhere on the Birdsville Track.
P.S.

I don't mind that I'm out of puff,
And can't climb Uluru;
'Cause it's protected – one must pay,
Well I won't – NOT A BRASS RAZOO!

Lisa Plucknett

A Selection of Jodie's Favourite Roses to Grow in Maleny

This list is based on experience, a love of roses and personal choice. In this edition, the miniatures will be covered.

Green Ice (1971) = pale greenish rosettes with pink flush (rain brings this on) – continuous. Great filler.

H 30-40cm. W 90cm.

Mignonette (1880) Polyantha, cluster flowering, small, double, softest pink, continuous flowering. W 25cm.

Anna Maria de Montravel (1880) Chinensis, cluster flowering, small, sweet double white, continuous.

Magic Carousel (1972) Double flowers are white, edged with pink, in clusters. Continuous. Very healthy bush to 90-120cm high.

Pinkie (1947) Polyantha, rose-pink, blousy, semi-double cluster flower. 45-60 cm. high.

News from the Library.

Again, could I remind members that we love you all to avail yourselves of our library books, but we also need you to return them after one month, to the next meeting. This is even more important now, as we have several lovely new books, that we are all keen to enjoy. Thank you everyone.

BOOK REVIEW

Flowering Shrubs – What to Grow – How to Grow It by Keith Rushforth (in our library).

This book covers topics such as:- Selecting Plants, Colours and variety, range of flowering times, perfume, different forms and habits, planting combinations and so much more.

Preparing the Site

Mulches and Feeding

Also Propagation – How to take and strike cuttings.

There is quite a large list of shrubs with the main unifying feature being the beauty of the blooms.

An interesting bit of info is the size and spread of shrubs after five and ten years of growth, that can be expected. Very useful to know. This book is a very informative read.

Happy Summer gardening everyone

Bev Brown

The Joy of Flowers and Annuals for All Seasons,
both by Stirling Macoboy are two new additions to the library.

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*Happiness keeps you Sweet
Trials keep you Strong
Sorrows keep you Human
Failures keep you Humble
Success keeps you Glowing
But only God keeps you Going
You are Special*
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Camellia Care.

These are the recommendations of The Queensland Camellia Society Inc. Now the weather has warmed up the plants need to have adequate mulch to keep the roots cool and moist. The fallen leaves and last year's spent blooms from older plants form their own mulch, but young plants need to be mulched with loose dry material. Ensure that the mulch you use will not compact on the soil and prevent the water from penetrating.

In December you need to check for scale. Affected leaves can be removed and destroyed, if the infestation is not heavy. Otherwise, spray only the affected plant with Cabaryl and White Oil, but make sure you do this on a dull day. Grasshoppers and leaf eating insects are ravenous at this time. Use a strong jet of water from the hose on the leaves to keep them clear of spider mites and aphids. Camellias planted out in July and August

can be fertilised with half-strength Fish Emulsion or Aquasol.

In January, additional fertiliser can be applied if we have had a wet summer. **Never** fertilise on a hot, dry day as it can cause fertiliser burn – a cloudy or rainy day is ideal. Use Aquasol or Thrive.

February is the month for taking cuttings. Iron deficiency is indicated by leaves turning a lighter green or yellow with dark green veins. Use Iron Chelates as directed. You can start disbudding now to control flowers – too many buds will prevent proper opening.

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Recipe -
DATE SLICE DELIGHT

Margaret Harper

250g pitted dates
1 ½ cups orange juice
2 ½ cups plain flour
1 ¼ cups brown sugar
375g butter, cut into pieces
1 cup desiccated coconut
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
1 ½ cups rolled oats

1. Preheat oven 180 and grease 26 x 30cm tin.
2. Simmer dates in orange juice, stirring occasionally until thickened. Remove from heat.
3. Combine flour and sugar. Rub in butter, until crumbly. Stir in coconut, pecans and oats and mix well.
4. Press half the mixture into prepared tin, patting flat. Spread with date mixture to within 1cm. of the edges.
5. Bake for 45 – 50 minutes until firm and golden. Cool in tin before cutting.



Hints

When dead heading roses, cut back the stem as if you were picking the roses for indoors.

Lavender grown with roses is said to ward off aphids.



Garden Tips

Colin Campbell

- Raise pots above ground to ensure free drainage. A brick will do the job well.
- A covering of fly wire over drainage holes in pots prevents the potting mix from escaping.
- Compact plants look more attractive in small spaces than plants with a straggly growth habit.
- Watering deeply once a week is a lot more beneficial to the plant than a shallow watering every day or two.
- Use a hose nozzle with a soft and full spray when watering plants in pots – avoid using a jet of hard water as the soil will become compacted and also wash away valuable nutrients.
- Paint the inside of terracotta pots with an acrylic paint to conserve moisture.
- A gravel path looks more natural in a native garden than a concrete path.
- Plant a vegetable garden in a north-south direction to receive optimum sunlight.
- Plant the loose leaf varieties of lettuce for summer salads – the hearting varieties, such as Iceberg, quickly “bolt” to seed.
- Elderly gardeners will find it easier to work in a vegetable patch if the beds are raised.

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

Congratulations to Sandra and Doug Slack on the birth of their first grandchild, a boy, Wilson Thomas.

Happy birthday to Lisa Plucknett and Joan Swift. Diana and Sandy Begbie have recently returned from a trip to Turkey and Greece. China was the destination of Meg and Stuart McLean.

Closer to home, Diana Begbie, Sandra Slack, Libby Taylor, Anne Siemon, Di Hall and Margaret Harper have just returned from a garden trip with the Perennial Poppies group, visiting gardens in Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Armidale, Uralla, Bundarra, Inverell, Moree, Goondiwindi and Pittsworth- covering about 1600kms. We saw

some wonderful gardens and the roses were stunning. John and I called into Coroneos' Nursery at Toowoomba and the owner is a great salesman - we came home with a grafted, hybrid lilac, that he assures us will perform anywhere. Here's hoping!

#### New Members

Several new members have joined us in the past few months: Sue Bell, John Crofts, Joe Eastmure, Mike Hutton, Heather Jones, Beatrice Lane, Judith and John Mains, Jill and Harry Rowland, Judith Stubbs, Gemma and Ron Tonkin and Lorna and Edward Kempner.

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

Congratulations to Rhonda Whiting on her recent marriage.

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*"A gardener's life is full of sweets and sour;  
He gets the sunshine when he needs the showers  
But don't forget he's always growing flowers."*



#### Seasonal Tasks – December

- Take leaf, stem or root cuttings of your favourite begonias.
- Do a weed watch, removing them before they become too large, robbing your plants of valuable nutrients.
- Make a liquid fertiliser from your weeds. Steep them for about four weeks before watering your plants with this highly nutrient tea.
- Lift the blades of your mower. Also fertilise your lawn with a complete lawn food. The grass will become stronger and leave little space for weeds.
- Water early or late. If plant is really wilting, only apply water around the base in sun.
- Beans, cucumber, tomatoes, sweet corn and pumpkin are some of the vegies you can grow now.
- Remember, if you have a garden wish list make it known.

#### January

- Keep water up to citrus if experiencing dry conditions. This helps to avoid fruit split when it rains.
- Trim azaleas and camellias –take cuttings.
- Fertilise roses with a potassium rich mix to promote blooms and strengthen the plant.
- Divide iris, discarding old roots. Cut foliage back to a fan shape. Allow roots to be exposed to the sun.
- Plant beans, cucumber, marrows and tomatoes.
- Remove agapanthus dead heads.
- Every two weeks remember to liquid fertilise annuals and vegetables that are bearing fruit or leaf.
- Should water drain rapidly from pots or baskets, it is a sure indication the potting mix requires a wetting agent to aid absorption.

#### February

- If mould invades your cucumbers, zucchini, pumpkins, roses or begonias spray with one part milk to ten parts water as a preventive measure.
- Feed your citrus in early February around the drip line, not forgetting to water prior to and after applying fertiliser. A handful per square metre.
- Remove weeds from lawns. Avoid spraying lawns that have a good supply of food for birds.
- Rose bushes looking tatty from black spot and mildew can be pruned hard, followed by a fertiliser rich in nitrogen to promote growth.
- Remove dead heads from hydrangeas.
- Cut cannas back if mould is affecting the leaves. Bin the leaves.
- The curling leaves on hibiscus and abutilon indicate a caterpillar which responds to a spray of Dipel or Success every seven days for three weeks. They are both organic and bird friendly.

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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.