

# Maleny Garden Club Inc.



## SNIPPETS

SUMMER 2006

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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 President

Where has the year disappeared to? How can it be only a month to Christmas? I hope you are all more organized than I am.

Thank goodness for the early Spring rain and that of early November. Even with all we have had, we still need much more good soaking rain to really saturate the ground - I guess we can hope!

Things are going along quite nicely and our last meeting, which was held at the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens, was really very interesting. What a great job the volunteers have done down there and what a shame we don't have a public garden in Maleny. Once again, I guess we can hope!

Don't forget to put your names down and pay for the Christmas lunch at the November meeting or organize for someone to do it for you. Money in a marked envelope as usual please. The cost is \$30.00 per head.

At the November meeting I'll be calling for volunteers for the committee for Gardening on the Edge, so please give the idea some consideration and let's spread the work around a little.

On that note I'll close. I hope you and yours have a merry and safe Christmas and return in January all fresh and rearing to go.

Cheers,

Sandy.



### HOLIDAY READING

"Sub Tropical Gardening" is an attractive magazine produced for Queensland for the experienced or inexperienced gardener.

The detail on subjects featured provide information the general run of gardening magazines neglect to supply.

Most of the featured plants can be grown in a large area of the state, with information on sourcing plants, how to grow, where to grow and maintain.

A large range of plants for flower or foliage are show-cased with detailed information.

Landscaping is covered with sufficient detail to help those inspired to incorporate the ideas into their gardens.

Hopefully an index will be included, annually, as this magazine with so many aspects of gardening covered, promises to become valuable reference material.

Support this magazine as previous excellent Queensland publications over the years have failed because of limited interest..

The Armchair Gardener

*Watching something grow is good for morale.  
It helps you believe in life.*

Myron S Kaufmann.



## RECIPE

**Date, Apple and Fig Tea Loaf** - another favourite from Terry's Kitchen.

**300g pitted dried dates**  
**200g dried dessert figs**  
**50g glace ginger**  
**1 green apple, peeled, cored and chopped**  
**1 cup brown sugar**  
**60g butter,**  
**1 ½ cups strong freshly brewed tea**  
**1 ½ cups Self-raising flour**  
**½ cup plain flour**  
**2 teaspoons mixed spice**  
**2 eggs**

Roughly chop the dates, figs and ginger. Place in a large bowl with the apple. Add the sugar and stir in the tea. Mix well. Cover and allow the mixture to stand for at least 5 hours or overnight. Grease a 7 x 10.5 x 24cm loaf tin. Make a well in the centre. Add the eggs and half the fruit mixture. Stir. Add the remaining fruit mixture and the butter. Stir to combine. Spoon the mix into the prepared tin. Bake in a preheated moderately low- 160C – oven for 1 ½ - 1 ¾ hours. If the loaf is becoming too dark during cooking, cover loosely with some foil. Allow the loaf to cool in the tin. Will keep for up to 2 weeks in an airtight container in a cool place.

**Happy cooking, Terry**

## Future Events

**12<sup>th</sup> Dec – Maleny Garden Club Christmas**  
**Lunch Key Restaurant, Mary**  
**Cairncross Cnr.**

**16-25 Dec. Singapore Flower Show, Singapore.**

**30 Jan – Maleny Garden Club meeting. Mary**  
**Cairncross Park Kiosk 10a.m.**

**27 Feb – Maleny Garden Club meeting. Mary**  
**Cairncross Park Kiosk 10 a.m.**

**27 March – Showground Pavilion Maleny**  
**10a.m.**



## Garden Tips

*Colin Campbell*

- When planting shrubs in the garden, group plants that have similar requirements.
- If applying cow manure to passionfruit plants, don't use too much as it could cause harm if used too heavily. Also add a bit of sulphate of potash to the cow manure.
- Apply ant killing granules to ant nests if they are a problem.
- Use the vacuum cleaner to remove stink bugs from citrus trees, taking care to avoid being sprayed in the eye by their toxic juice.
- Smaller varieties of waterlilies look great when planted in a large watertight container. They will need to be placed in a sunny position.
- If using waterlilies as a centrepiece for the dinner table, dribble a little wax into their centres as they close up at night.
- For better penetration of water to garden beds, make deep holes with a fork.
- When making new garden beds use the motor mower to create a nice sweeping curve. If the curve is too tight, it's diabolical to mow.

*All gardeners need to know when to accept something wonderful and unexpected, taking no credit except for letting it be.*

*Allen Lacy*

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*Did you know?*

*Botanical treasures are still to be found, and you can learn about them in unlikely places! Which is what Jodie did recently, when laying paper mulch in her garden.*

*A photograph of a yellow powderpuff banksia and the accompanying article in the old newspaper caught her attention. In a remote corner of the Great Sandy desert in W.A., back in 2000 a bushwalker found some ancient plants. Botanists, including botanical artist Celia Rosser, were taken to the secret site, and a new "old" banksia was identified and, named after the artist. Botanists are amazed that new species can still be found, given the thoroughness of Banksia studies, but attribute this new flowering to the favourable sequence of drought, fires and cyclone.*

*In the nearby Kennedy range, a fossil banksia has been found in 50 million year old sandstone!*

## SPRING AMONGST THE TULIPS

By Lisa Plucknett

[An extract from a record of Lisa's recent travels in Tasmania]

After enjoying the flowering rhododendrons on the slopes of Mt Wellington, the cherry trees of Salmon Pond, and the enormous tree ferns adorning the banks at Russell Falls in the Mt Field National park, we were at last on to the main purpose of our trip – to see the tulip fields of Table Cape in the State's North West. And all our tulip dreams came true.

The sky was clear and the sun shone brilliantly. Acres and acres of ribbons of multi-coloured flowers stretched as far as the eye could see. Purple with lilac edges, orange with yellow splashes, scarlet and black, and interspersed here and there, a square of green pasture with snow white new born lambs enjoying a gambol...

Bass Strait, sparkling and blue and calm, a sentinel lighthouse marking a corner of the Plateau ....

While up above a melodious bird (it was a lark) fluttered and sang and snappy tourists squeezed along narrow country lanes to record the moment.

After that, one would think that what followed would be a disappointment. But the next day we journeyed further west to Allendale gardens, - 6 acres of wonderful garden "rooms", a silver birch walk, a cloud of bluebells underneath, Japanese maples, rhododendrons, flowering cherries, a meandering stream with picturesque arched wooden bridges, a Golden Pheasant in the aviary and proud peacocks fanning out their tails whenever someone approached.....

All in all, we felt, the wondrous memories of Spring in Tasmania will enrich our lives forever.

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### NOVEMBER

The scent of the Christmas lily  
Seduced the garden gnome.  
It sure beats "Glade" and "Sprayfresh"  
And permeates our home.



### Lunch & Tea Roster

#### January

Tea: Babs and Richard Groves  
Food: Irene Kennedy, Jackie Westmoreland, Rhonda Whiting, Barbara Hays

#### February

Tea: Andrea and John Long  
Food: Judith Mains, Marie Williams, Sandy Hudd, Gemma Tonkin

#### March

Tea: Graham and Robyn Birch  
Food: Jill Rowland, Joan Swift, Judy Stubbs, Pam Watson

If you are unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange with another member to take your place.

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## Seasonal Tasks –



### December

Plant and stake dahlia tubers or seedlings if you neglected to do so in November.

Beans cucumber, zucchini, rocket, tomatoes and herbs can be planted out. Children can handle bean seed if you would like to involve them.

Feed the lawn, watering prior to and after spreading the fertiliser.

Mulch the garden with soft mulch for the areas you garden and chip for under shrubs and trees.

Arrange your potted plants and pot up some colour.

Trim the edges and mow the lawn then sit back and enjoy the holiday season.

### January

Avoid cutting limbs from trees as the hot sun is inclined to burn soft foliage and the bark. The sap flow is high in summer, leave the job for winter.

Azaleas and Camelias benefit by fertilizing with the specified fertilizer.

Remember to feed your other shrubs and trees with a complete plant food spread around the drip line.

If fertilizing natives damage can occur if fertilizer with phosphorus is used.

Protect dahlias from snails and slugs.

Feed fortnightly with liquid fertilizer or monthly with organic pellets.

Gardenias can be cut back after flowering by 25 to 50%.

### February

Powdery mildew and black spot on roses may defoliate the plant. Remove infected material, disposing in the garbage to prevent the spores

reinfecting.

The soft spring growth has hardened up sufficiently to take cuttings, especially of azalea, camelia, pentas and fuchsia

If the lawn is scruffy in parts, rake some mixed grass seed over the area giving a light dressin of lawn starter fertiliser. Keep moist until the seed is established.

Silver beet planted out or started from seed will be established before the cool months. "Iron man" or coloured stems are most attractive even for the ornamental garden.

Remove the dead heads on agapanthus and the fruit on camelias and sasanquas as the plant uses much energy on seeds to the detriment of next seasons flowers.

### 2007 Tour

Colin & Bev Campbell will be hosting a tour, flying business class, to Scandinavia from 21 May – 15 June. A definite highlight will be a six night cruise along the Norwegian coast, calling in at many ports. For details, contact Harvey World Travel, Buderim, on 1800 067 747.

### **Contributors to Snippets**

Thanks to all members who have contributed articles to Snippets over the year. The more who take part, the more interesting and informative this quarterly can be.

*Happy Christmas to all!*

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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.