



# SNIPPETS

Autumn 2007

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Mailing Address: The Secretary P.O. Box 563 Maleny 4552 website [www.maleny.info/malenygardenclub](http://www.maleny.info/malenygardenclub)  
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

It's hard to believe that we are preparing Snippets for autumn 2007. I hope that you all had a good Christmas and that you are enjoying a prosperous New Year so far. I expect that what we are all hoping for is good rainfall – at least average or above. It seems funny that Maleny is probably one of the greenest places in Australia except for poor North Qld. I always knew that was one of the reasons I came here, along with the country town atmosphere and the friendliness of the people.

The important event on our agenda now is, of course, Gardening on the Edge. I expect you are all busy now either potting up plants or potting them on. We really do have to have good quality plants and ones of a good size. We will miss Rosemary this year as she contributed over 200 interesting plants both years and it is up to us to make up the shortfall. Please try to pot slightly unusual plants – ones you personally would like if you didn't already have them or, failing that, just healthy, thriving specimens.

As most of you now realize, we depend on GOE to make up the shortfall in our income as membership does not cover expenses. If we are successful this year, we will probably be able to make some donations without putting the club into a financially vulnerable position. We are, after all, a GARDEN Club not a service club.

Think seriously about whether or not you want a new badge and, if you do, don't forget to take the money for it in an envelope to the next meeting. If you choose not to buy a new badge, that's fine but I personally am sick of my rusty old one and plan to buy a new one for \$7.70.

Remember if you have any ideas that would help our Club to be better run in any way, please speak to one of the committee members so they can bring it up at

the executive meeting. I am sure there are many good ideas buzzing around in your heads but they tend to stay there and that's not much use to anyone. Good gardening to you all. **Cheers Sandy.**

## Future Events

- 3 & 4 March Palm & Cycad Society of Qld.S \*
- 10&11 March Q'ld. Council of Garden Clubs  
"Garden A'Fair"\*
- 17&18 March Qld. Dahlia Society Show. \*
- 27 March Maleny Garden Club meeting.  
Showground Pavilion
- 31 March & 1 April Hibiscus Society of Qld. S. \*
- 6 – 8 April Qld. Orchid Society Autumn S. \*
- 14&15 April West Brisbane Orchid Society \*
- 21&22 April The Bromeliad Society of Qld. S\*
- 21&21 April Central Queensland Garden Expo,  
Showgrounds, Rockhampton
- 24 April Maleny Garden Club meeting.  
Showground Pavilion
- 27-29 April Gardening Australia Expo,  
Brisbane Exhibition &  
Convention Centre, South Bank.
- 28&29 April Bimer Bonsai Club Show. \*
- 5 & 6 May Q'ld. Herb Society's Show. \*
- 11-13 May Q'ld. Rose Society's Show. \*
- 17-20 May Gardening Australia Expo, Perry  
Lakes, Floreat, Perth
- 26 May Beerwah Garden Festival.
- 26&27 May Australian Hibiscus Society Show.
- 29 May Maleny Garden Club meeting.  
123 Burgum Rd Maleny  
K & J Eastmure

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

Auditorium.....





### Garden Tips *From Colin Campbell*

- Try soaking papaw seeds in water for a few days to determine which are female. The females will sink and the males will float on top (so I'm told).
- To get potatoes to sprout for planting, put them in a bag with an onion.
- I've also been told that putting banana skins (which contain high levels of calcium, phosphorus and magnesium) into a tomato patch will result in a better crop of tomatoes.
- If tomato wilt is a problem, make a staple by bending a bit of copper wire and pushing both ends into the tomato stem.
- A tree with attractive bark sometimes looks better when the ground beneath is bare.
- Charcoal will help to keep the water fresh in small containers.
- If you want to have water in the garden, but there's the likelihood of having small children around, install a trickling fountain instead.
- Be wary when applying fresh manure to plants as it may burn surface roots.



### *CALLING ALL LOVERS OF FLORAL ART*

Are you looking for a new hobby, interest, chance to be creative?

The Floral Art Group may have the answer. They meet each 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, provide demonstrations and tuition in their art, and are eager to pass on their knowledge and skills to new members. It looks like being a lively year for them, as the community becomes aware how much their floral arrangements enhance every venue – give that touch of class in fact!

So why not contact Margaret Stevenson on 54942782 or Norma Mcleod on 5494986, and enjoy the joint venture of art and nature.

### *From the Range Kitchen*

#### **GINGERED PAPAW and AVOCADO SALAD**

1 medium papaw peeled seeded and diced  
1 large avocado peeled stoned and sliced  
3 sticks celery sliced

Pulp of 1 passionfruit

1 1/2 tablespoons finely sliced glace ginger

2 tablespoons lemon juice.

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Toss lightly and chill. Serve on lettuce leaves.



### HOW TO PREVENT A NON EVENT

I'd planned a lovely 'Tuesday Party'

To farewell my good friend Jo;

Til the Council sent a letter,

"Next Tuesday – it's NO GO."

"We'll close your street for profiling  
(Whatever "profiles ".are)

"Then put down a coat of bitumen,  
And lots of sticky tar."

"Ye Gods" I cried "The Councillor,  
The Revenge of Dirty Dick."

'Cause he knows how Kevin hates him,  
Really makes him sick.

(Calls him names that rhyme with "Dick.")

So I rang up Madam President,

Said "Sandra – Don't be Slack;

You've said that Dick's a friend of yours;

What's our best line of attack."

But Sandra said "You have no choice,

Your Show – Alas- is off;

We'll send them all an E mail,

And hope we reach the lot."

So Tuesday dawned quite gorgeous,

I was filled with Blue Regret;

But thought I'd better make a cake,

For those not on the Net.

And the Snail Mailers they all rolled,

I said "Enter if you're game;

Your car could be impounded."

But the Roadworks never came.

But the next day all the Roadworks came,

Likewise Jo's Removal truck;

And I'm cranky with the Councillor

Who stuffed my party up.

(With apologies from Lisa

For something beyond her control)



## Autumn Reading



### By Margaret Harper

..... A recently published book, *Gardens of the Beaten Track in Western Queensland*, compiled by Lindy Hardie and Rachel Noble, is an inspirational read for garden lovers. These gardens on large properties in South West, Central West, and North West Queensland show what can be achieved with dedication and enthusiasm. Gardeners there face the challenges of drought, interminable summer heat, bitterly cold winter nights and at times, floods. Each garden is described by the owner, the difficulties faced in creating the oasis and her own little piece of paradise in remote locations, such as Birdsville, Isisford, Winton, Stonehenge and Tambo to name a few. Beautiful colour photographs accompany each story and those with aerial shots really highlight the contrast between the greenery surrounding the homesteads and the harshness of the broader landscape.

Garden owners share their gardening tips and as Joss Chandler, owner of *Kyneton*, Barcaldine says,

"To have a garden you first have to have an interest and that has to develop into a passion. You can't have a garden for the sake of having a garden - you have to put in a bit of yourself - it has to reflect your personality, and I think after twenty-five years that's what has happened at *Kyneton*."

Proceeds from the sale of this book will go to The Royal Flying Doctor Service, Queensland.

.....  
If you would like to visit some of these wonderful gardens, Col and Bev Campbell are taking two trips on this *Outstanding Outback Gardens Tour* this year. Travel from Brisbane is on the *Westlander* to Charleville, where you spend a night after seeing gardens, visiting the Royal Flying Doctor Visitors Centre and viewing the night sky at the Cosmos Centre and Observatory. Quilpie is the next stopover, more gardens and then a couple of nights in Blackall, where one of the gardens you visit is *Dumfries*, garden of book compiler, Lindy Hardie. Two days in Barcaldine, then Longreach, where a tour of Stockman's Hall of Fame is included. From there, travel back to Brisbane is on the *Spirit of the Outback*.

This sounds an unforgettable trip. I understand the

April one is fully booked, but you may still have the opportunity to join the one departing on October 16. Further information can be obtained by contacting Traveltrain Holidays on 1800 627 655.



## Lunch & Tea Roster

**APRIL:** Tea: Sue Bell Judith Mains

Food: Carmen Blain, Anne Boyle, June Crane, Christine Crocker

**MAY:** Tea: Shirley Hollonds Norma McLeod

Food: Jill Horsburgh, Lorna McMillan, Kath Marshall, Meryl Marshall

**JUNE:** Tea: Sue & Trevor McCleary

Food: Meg Maclean, Gillian Macleod, Marie Williams, Nancy Schafer

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



## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members:

**Jacqueline Gray (5435 8464),**

**Libby and Jim Gemmell (5499 9524) and**

**John and Mavis Benn (5499 9367 ).**

(Remember to add phone numbers to your existing list.)

We look forward to your participation in the club's activities.



## Seasonal Tasks -

### March

With secateurs and old plastic bag inspect the garden for diseased foliage, eg rust on beans and geraniums, black spot on roses and lace bug on azaleas. Remove area or leaf infected.

Inspect canna growth for rust visible on the underside of leaves. Being airborne, rust spreads rapidly from plant to plant. The only method of control is by removing all growth and bin. Spray remaining plant with Mancozeb. Rapid regrowth will follow with flowers well into the cooler months.

Fertilise the lawn and fork compacted areas. Plant



garlic cloves, parsley and coriander. Coriander does very well over winter with dainty flowers followed by seeds which can be harvested for the kitchen.

For a welcome burst of colour mid winter, plant a few petunia, African marigolds or calendula seedlings in baskets, pots, tucked in with other plants, or edging a vegetable garden.

#### April

It should be cool enough to grow sweet peas, sugar snap and snow peas. Remember to prepare the soil well and if too acid apply dolomite at least two weeks prior to sowing.

Tidy up overgrown shrubs and trees, but leave most pruning until late winter.

Plant broadbeans, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, cabbage, broccoli and English spinach.

Prepare garden for spring annuals. Pansies and viola seedlings should be planted early April to become well established for a long flowering period. Put geranium cuttings into small individual pots, stand in an icecream container with sand on the base, and avoid water in the bottom of the container.

Grow your tulips late in the month or early May, after about three weeks in the crisper – do brand the storage container.

#### May

Now the cooler weather has arrived, reduce the amount of water for indoor plants. Give them the finger test.

Repot indoor plants in fresh high grade potting mix; this will give them a new lease of life.

Perennials can be lifted and divided with a sharp spade or knife before replanting.

Neaten ornamental grasses and flaxes which have become untidy with old and dead foliage. This will encourage new growth.

After tibouchinas have finished flowering, prune. If the tree has not been trimmed for a few years, a drastic prune will not harm the plant.

When dahlias have ceased flowering and foliage has died back, the tubers can be lifted, washed, dried and stored with label for colour and size.

Pat Powell

#### THE COLOURS OF AUTUMN

Now that Autumn is almost upon us, be ready to be dazzled by brilliant russet tones. Of course, these colours are provided by deciduous trees, whose leaves colour and then float to the ground.

While we do not have the brilliant, fluttering yellow leaves of the poplars of the New England plateau, here in our own area we can enjoy the colours of liquidambers, Japanese maple, and crepe myrtles to name a few.

As our March guest speaker Denise Horchner says in her book- *In a Brisbane Cottage Garden* – “Autumn is a glorious time in the garden....even the light is different, sunlight mellow and friendly, the sky a rich, rich blue”. Denise reminds us to colour our Autumn gardens, with Chinese lanterns(Abutilon), perennial phlox, rampant nasturtiums, not forgetting the spectacular climber, Herald’s trumpet, and lawn bulbs such as zephyranthes. Include some white contrast, for example potato vine, snowflake bush and fragrant mandevilla to complete a beautiful picture.

#### Touring through Gardens

By our President Sandy

I have traveled twice with Botanica Garden Tours, first in S.E.England and recently in New Zealand. They were both fantastic. Our Botanica Guide was Simon Ricard, head gardener at the Diggers Club. What he doesn’t know about plants is not worth knowing.

Our tour started in Christchurch and the most interesting garden there is a gorgeous English garden overlooking Christchurch Harbour-magnificent! The botanical and rose gardens were truly memorable.

On the way to Dunedin we visited Glenfalloch Woodland Garden and Larnach Castle Gardens, both very different but equally interesting. On our return from our spectacular Milford Sound trip, we visited more enchanting gardens in Queenstown and Arrowtown.

This was followed by a flight to Auckland and a tour of the city’s gardens. We spent a day at the Ellerslie Flower Show, and my advice is – don’t waste your time!

We were away eleven days and had time to enjoy garden visits, sightseeing and shopping in that order. I have never seen such fantastic peonies, roses, rhododendrons and wonderful varieties of native clematis.

If ever I leave Maleny - not likely – I might just settle somewhere on the Canterbury Plains, South Island, as to be a gardener there would be wonderful.

All contributions to :

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