



President	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer	Editors
Sandra Slack 5435 2357	Andrea Long (Min) 5499 9581 Marie Williams (Corr) 5478 65	Susan Myring 5494 4153	Lisa Plucknett 54943295 Margaret Moss 54942669
Mailing Address: The Secretary P.O. Box 563 Maleny 4552 website 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

Once again Gardening on the Edge was a success with the numbers of people visiting our gardens up on last year but our net returns were down. This of course was due to increased costs over which we have no control. I would like to say ,once again, a big "THANK YOU" to all our members who worked so hard .Our events are only as successful as our members make them. We cleared for our club over \$7000 which is not to be sneezed at I am pleased to report that next year, Jill Rowland has agreed to be the convenor of GOE and new blood with new ideas is always good for any activity.

Another little money spinner for the club has been to provide lunches for visiting clubs and by the time you receive Snippets we will have done that twice for the Ascot/Clayfield Garden Club and the Hervey Bay Horticultural Society. Both were very pleasant events.

Don't forget that our AGM will be held on the 2nd October at the Witta School and that we hope to make a lovely social day of it for all to enjoy. That can only happen if you plan to come and share a picnic lunch. Weather permitting it should be a great day, and you might also learn some tips on how to care for your garden tools.

Finally I must urge you again to consider a place on the committee as at least two members are resigning and, next year, both Susan Myring and myself will be resigning our positions (that is supposing you do want us this year) and it will be hard for a new comer to take over the reigns without some experience on the committee.

Committee work is a little time consuming though very rewarding and it is not something you need to do for more than a few years either for the Club's sake or your own. Please consider your options for taking on the role of either vice President or assistant Treasurer.

With those thoughts to ponder, I wish you happy gardening .

Future Events

- 1-2 Sept Beaudesert Districts Orchid & Foliage Socy. Autumn Show, Anglican Church Hall 7 Albert St Beaudesert
- 1-2 Sept West Brisbane Orchid Society*
- 8-9 Sept Orchid Species Society*
- 8-9 Sept Buderim Garden Festival, Buderim
- 8 Sept Twin Towns & Dist Garden Club Flower Show Civic C.Aud. Brett St Tweed Hds
- 15-16 Sept Socy for Growing Aust Plants*
- 21-23 Sept Botanical Artists Society*
- 23-30 Sept Springtime on the Mountain, Tambourine Mountain.
- 29-30 Sept Geranium & Pelargonium Society*
- 2 Oct AGM Maleny Garden Club, Witta School**
- 5-7 Oct Gardening Aust Expo, Caulfield Racecourse
- 6-7 Oct Royal Horticulture Society Qld *
- 13-14 Oct North Moreton Qld Orchid Scty*
- 20-21 Oct Bonsai Scty Qld *
- 20-21 Oct Boonah Orchid Show, Boonah
- 27-28 Oct African Violet Scty Qld*
- 30 Oct Mal Garden Club, 123 Burgum Rd N.Mal**
- 10-11 Nov Bromeliad Scty Qld*
- 17-18 Nov Brisbane Daylily Scty *
- 27 Nov Mal Gard Club 50 Maleny/Kenilworth Rd**
 - All at Bris Botanic Gardens Mt Cootha Audit.

Garden Tips by Colin Campbell

- Wrap sheets of paper or old milk cartons around celery once the stalks are formed to keep the stalks white. This keeps the light out and stops them from turning green, but remember green stalks are still edible.

- A light application of a low phosphorus slow release fertiliser at planting time is O.K. for grevilleas, hakeas and banksias.
- If you suffer from hay fever, avoid planting grasses and wind pollinated plants.
- To achieve a natural look in native gardens, curved and raked gravel paths are ideal.
- Black plastic pots get very hot so avoid using these unless they are going to be placed in shady areas.
- Grow a green crop in the garden after harvesting vegetables. This will add valuable nutrients to the soil as well as inhibiting weeds.
- Trowels and forks won't get lost in the garden quite so easily if the handles are painted with a bright colour. Yellow or bright red is ideal.

Growing Geraniums

*****by a Friendly Contributor

We often hear from gardeners about their disappointing results in growing their favourite plants. Many times this can be traced back to the soil or fertilizer being used. The potting mix for Geraniums must have a PH range between 6.5 & 7.

The root system and the fertilizer will determine the growth and well-being of your plant. March to early May are the months most suited to starting new plants. The first thing to consider in taking your cuttings is that the parent plant be in first class condition. Some diseases can be carried from parent to the young plant.

Use a clean knife to cut from a solid branch. Those from the tips are preferable to those taken from woodier sections lower down the branch, as soft wood will make roots more readily.

Take the cutting just below a node, about 4" – 5" in length, or with 5-6 nodes. Avoid bruising the end of the cutting as this is apt to start stem rot. Remove lower leaves. Some growers dip the cuttings into a rooting mixture, some prefer Zineb.

Some varieties will produce roots in about three weeks, and others much longer. When plants are well established it is time to pinch out the growing tips.

Basic requirements for growing geraniums are good drainage, plenty of light and abundant free air circulation.

Tea Roster

AGM 2nd October Witta School

Tea: Gwen Hutton, Mike Hutton, Margaret Gollidge & Peter Gollidge. Food- **everyone please contribute**



30th October

Tea: Noeleen Franks, Dorothy Gordon

Food: Kay Eastmure, Dechen Gerrard, Babs Groves, Andrea Long

27th November

Tea: Jill Rowland, Jackie Westmoreland

Food: Sue Bell, Gwen Cosgrove, Tina Maller, Sue McCleary

29th January

Tea: Barbara Dean, Ann Findlay

Food: Libby Taylor, Pamela Watson, Di Roper, Bronwyn Lewis



by Margaret Harper

BOOK REVIEW

Are you looking for ideas for overhauling a forgotten corner of your garden or perhaps creating a new area?

Plant Perfect- Designing with Plants for the Modern

Garden by Neil Ross is a valuable resource book. Neil

Ross was born in England and studied horticulture at

London University. *Sissinghurst Castle Garden* in

Kent, was his training ground and he has lived in New

Zealand since 1994. *Ayrlies*, a country garden in

Auckland, has been his workplace for the past ten years.

He says it is the overall impression of a garden that gives

the 'wow' factor. Instant appeal can be created with

colour, textures, shapes, tidiness and the health of plants.

Choose a style, be it restful, dramatic, bold, whatever

suits your personality and create a focal point to capture

the attention and then move on to the periphery areas.

Topics, such as making use of your available space,

narrow spaces and shady areas are all covered.

Throughout the book, there are **Plant Picks**, where he

lists plants suitable for topiary, trailers, spires, horizontal

forms, subtropical, cottage and many more. In each of

these blocks, plants are listed under various headings-

smaller plants, annuals, trees and shrubs. In other blocks,

the author lists **Top Greens**, where plants are named

under **Lime Green**, **Deep Green** and **Sage Green**.

There are also plants named under other colours.

Classic colour partnerships and advantages and disadvantages of certain plantings are also discussed.

At the conclusion of each chapter, questions are posed

in **Food for Thought**- 'Are your plants like Irish dancers with their arms firmly by their sides or are they having a

party and interacting together?"

Small illustrations and photos are used to stress ideas

It is an entertaining read with a wealth of information.

Not all plants are suitable for our climate, but there is a wide selection.

Some expressions of Neil's that I found amusing are

'Not every weeping tree looks like it has just been to a funeral and camellias plod, abutilons roar into action and hellebores bide their time - every plant dances to its own tune'

This book is available in the garden club library

Seasonal Tasks – by Pat Powell

September

Apply dolomite to areas which have been heavily fertilised or where you find the soil very acid after testing with your ph kit.

* Start tomatoes, capsicum, egg fruit, cucumber and zucchinis in individual pots, leaving them in a warm area to aid growth before transplanting them into the garden.

* Prune hibiscus and abutilon back by a third to an attractive shape. Stand back periodically to view your handiwork.

* Gardenias, which are heavy feeders, may have developed yellowing leaves. They are running out of nourishment so a good handful of organic life or dynamic lifter will help regain those attractive shiny leaves. Potash sprinkled around each plant will encourage flowers.

October

* Fertilize and mulch your pruned hibiscus and abutilon.

Grow basil with your tomato plants to distract fruit fly and as a herb to serve with the tomato fruit.

* Borage attract bees with their delightful blue flowers. The flowers and a few chopped leaves are an interesting addition to tossed green salads.

* Plant out your summer vegetables staking tomatoes and climbing beans.

* Start a herb garden in full sun, near the kitchen door. By elevating the centre for rosemary, sage and thyme the drainage will help the mediterranean herbs.

* If you are unable to establish a compost heap, dig a trench about 20 centimeters deep to deposit your organic waste. Throw a few comfrey leaves on top before covering with soil as they will assist in breaking down the waste. Leave for about six weeks for the worms to do their free labor for you, then plant out your garden.

November

* Keep the water up to your citrus if the weather is dry. Make sure the mulch is thick enough and away from the trunk of the tree. * Spray azaleas if lace bug

is evident with confidor. The heavily damaged foliage should be pruned away and confined to the bin

* Set out your dahlia tubers into the well prepared garden beds. Stake as you go.

* Coleus give your garden colour without too much effort. Many coleus do not tolerate full sun.

* Protect lettuce by growing climbing beans on a tripod or cucumbers so the shade falls during the heat.

Growing Fruit in the Home Garden.

By David Hockings

A large range of varieties of fruit will grow quite well on the Blackall range. However, if you seriously wish to enjoy eating home grown fruit you should curb your enthusiasm and choose only varieties that are best suited to the range and which provide fruit with the least remedial input from you.

Unfortunately, there are many animals, birds and insects that apparently enjoy fruit even more than we do, as well as a few devastating diseases. You will find it worth while to choose varieties that involve you less with barriers and sprays.

Popular TV garden shows promoting fruit varieties which have relevance to only the colder parts of Australia, are shown up here in the tropics and subtropics. This, along with the migration here of gardeners from the southern states, has seen the planting here of temperate varieties which will give disappointing yields.

For instance, the commercial varieties of apples and pears have specific chilling requirements (hours below 4 degrees C) to promote bud formation and these periods of low temperature cannot be achieved here. At best a few fruit may be set but which then will be beset by other local problems of fruit fly and codlin moth. So-called tropical varieties are often promoted but produce inferior fruit. As long ago as the 1880's, a Queensland Garden Manual promoted a tropical apple – much like the current varieties. It is not by chance that commercial production of apples and pears is limited in Queensland to the Granite Belt. Likewise, you could grow an impressive apricot tree here but you would be lucky to see any fruit.

There are excellent sub-tropical varieties of peach, nectarine and plum that will grow well here. However if you are somewhat isolated from older trees you may enjoy one or two crops of fruit before the animals, birds and insects take



over and as soon as grey mould arrives the fruit will all rot as it begins to ripen.

The most reliable and rewarding varieties to grow here are the citrus – orange, mandarin, lemonade fruit, grapefruit and lemon. They are less troubled by animals and birds, but you may need to be watchful for bugs and borers. I will write more specifically about caring for citrus in the future.

Other varieties that home gardeners may find rewarding are avocado – but go for the thick skinned varieties such as Hass or Reed, they are much less affected by anthracnose (black spot) and fruit spotting bug or fruit fly. Persimmon – try the non-astringent varieties such as Fuyu – they can be enjoyed while firm and crunchy which beats the fruit fly but parrots seek out this fruit. Papaw - if you have a relatively frost free site. Passionfruit likewise, if you can build a trellis and can avoid frost. Custard apple if you have room – they grow very large and spreading.

Of the newer fruit varieties, Jaboticaba can fruit 3 or 4 times a year and seems to resist fruit fly and White Sapote can grow and fruit reliably. Kiwi fruit requires a strong trellis, and provided you plant both male and female, you will enjoy the fruit. Averrhoa or Star Fruit is little more than a novelty and once the novelty has worn off the fruit will just breed fruit fly.

There are several other varieties also, but the questions you need to ask yourself are – how suitable is this variety to our climate and also, is this a fruit you would enjoy eating every day. Unwanted fruit breeds problems for neighbouring gardens.

Our Trip to the U.K. May/June 2007 by Beverley Brown

We traveled south from London to Canterbury and Stonehenge all through southern England to Lands End. Spectacular scenery. So, so green. Patchwork quilt country with the lovely grey stone walls everywhere. Lots of barley in the fields and of course sheep and cattle. Dartmoor was just beautiful and unique, very eerie; saw lots of wild ponies. After leaving Cardiff, and the beautiful Welsh singing, we crossed the Irish Sea. We visited Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, Cliffs of Moher, and Giants Causeway through Londonderry, Belfast and Dublin. All over Ireland the fields were full of flowering yellow irises and wild rhododendrons. We saw the 80 shades of green in a wilder landscape than England. We enjoyed the Irish culture of folklore, singing,

theatre, dance and of course the Guinness. Back through Wales to the walled city of Chester then to Windermere and Grasmere in the Lakes District. Beatrix Potter country. Rhododendrons of all colours near William Wordsworth's grave. Into Scotland and over to the Isle of Skye past millions of bluebells in the woodlands beside the road. Yellow broom and golden gorse were in full bloom everywhere. The Armadale gardens were lovely with herbaceous borders of spring flowers. The next day was even more spectacular at the Inverewe Gardens. It's a sub-tropical garden warmed by the Gulf Stream. We luxuriated in it for about 3 hours. Clematis everywhere, rhododendrons every colour imaginable, delphiniums, laburnums, hebes, foxgloves, buttercups, valerians, and thousands of flowers I've never seen before. A huge walled garden was filled with colour. It covered many acres and it was such a treat. Struggling to leave this lovely garden we then traveled through the magnificent Scottish Highlands. Just loved every second. After the cruise on Loch Ness we traveled to St Andrews, Edinburgh. Walked through the castle then a night of bagpipes, highland dancers, singing and the 'Haggis'. Went through Holyrood Palace the Queen's residence then a tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia. Blenheim Palace where Winston Churchill was born was our last stop. The rose garden was very beautiful with arches of Albertaine interplanted with Iceberg Climbing roses surrounded the circular rose garden. Capability Brown landscaped the gardens. Lots of formal hedging and water features..... We went to Haddon Hall (Pride & Prejudice & Jane Eyre). The best rose garden in full bloom. Albertaine roses and colourful Clematis covered the grey stone walls of the Castle. Thousands of roses filled the beautiful gardens. Lots of spring flowers. Then we had the whole day at Chatsworth House. It was 25 degrees and sunny, the orchestra played in the grounds while children and dogs enjoyed the 24 cascade steps of water. Families had picnics and the ice cream van was popular – it was thoroughly English. It covers 1,000 acres on the Derwent River. Hundreds of peonies and Russell lupins of every colour abounded. We walked for hours 5 miles of paths all beautifully planted – hedges, maze, waterfalls, bridges, ponds, statues. Chatsworth House was filled with wonderful treasures, tapestries, paintings and spectacular ceilings and statues also Egyptian relics. An unforgettable holiday.

All contributions to :

<i>Lisa Plucknett,</i>	<i>9 Walkers Dr</i>	<i>Maleny</i>	<i>Email:</i>
<i>lisapluck@dodo.com.au</i>			
<i>Margaret Moss,</i>	<i>56 Watson Lane,</i>	<i>Maleny</i>	
<i>emanbemoss@bigpond.com</i>			

Articles contributed to this newsletter are published as a service to Members and do not necessarily reflect Club opinion or policy.