



SNIPPETS

SUMMER 2007

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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

As we all say at this time of the year, where has the year gone? It's hard to believe that it's only about a month to Christmas.

We'll be experimenting with a group-potting for the G.O.E. at the Long's place after the November meeting. It may or may not work!

Anyway, for those who want to do their own thing in this regard, now is a really good time to start potting up for the next G.O.E.

I have just returned from a 9 day Garden Trip in the Highlands of N.S.W. I have seen some absolutely wonderful gardens and interesting plants, including an 140 year old English Oak, believed to be the oldest in Australia.

It was, however, good to get home to my own garden and see my beloved dogs, and to discover how much rain we've had, even if that means weeds and mowing!

Don't forget the Christmas party, on 11th December at Tranquil Park!! If I don't see you there, may I wish you and your family a merry and safe Christmas and a Happy New year. Cheers, Sandra.

Future Events

- 24-27 Jan Buderim Ginger Festival,
Yandina
- 29 Jan. Maleny Garden Club meeting.
Venue to be advised
- 26 Feb. Maleny Garden Club meeting.
Venue to be advised

Garden Tips by Colin Campbell

a.. Don't plant a vegetable garden near big trees as the roots from the trees will take the nutrients from the vegetable patch.

b. Herbs, such as parsley and basil, can be frozen for late use. Freeze sprigs in sealed plastic bags.

c.. To prevent water pollution, remove any leaves which will be under water in a vase of flowers.

d.. If you have a small narrow space, it will look better planted out with a single species.

e.. Should the older leaves on plants turn yellow and then brown from the margins, this is a nitrogen deficiency.

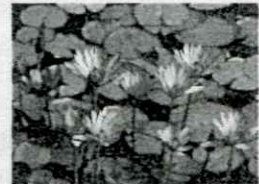
f.. When using newspapers as a form of mulch, shred the papers first, then give them a good soaking, before applying to the soil.

g.. If striking cuttings in water, use a container that is not transparent. It's also a good idea to put a lump of charcoal, if available, to stop stagnancy

h.. The flesh of citrus fruit is sometimes dry - this usually indicates a boron deficiency. Apply a trace element mixture.

Our Pond by Peter and Margaret Golledge

We have a pond in our garden and it is large and at times rather wild. At present the surface of the pond is covered with cultivated and native water lilies with a few bulrushes and some algae.



It was not always like this, as we found out when we moved to the house about 14 years ago. The whole surface of the pond was covered with bulrushes most of which we removed and replaced with water lilies of different colours.

Visiting birds brought in the native water lilies which for a time were very vigorous and covered a large part of the surface. We added native silver and golden perch to the existing fish population.

The pond is spring fed and overflows into Walker's Creek which joins Obi Obi Creek.

For most of the time the water inflow is sufficient to cover evaporation and provide an overflow but during times of prolonged heavy rain the flow from a pipe under Treehaven Way adds to the flow from the spring and substantially increases the overflow into Walker's Creek.

An eel had found its way into our pond as had some yabbies before we cleaned out the bulrushes. The pond is now home to or visited by frogs, cane toads, lizards, water dragons, ducks, wading birds, the odd snake and dragonflies. Some birds are seasonal such as the herons, cormorants, ducks and the azure blue kingfisher. A pair of ducks, sometimes with young fly in for bed and breakfast spending the night on the water and feeding on algae and other plant food before flying away in the morning. Wading birds are limited by the depth of the water to feeding around the edge of the pond, while the cormorant can fish under water but is hampered by the tangle of lily roots beneath the surface.

The rocks around the edge of the pond provide a convenient place for the lizards to warm up, while keeping an eye out for any kookaburra looking for a feed. The joints in the rock wall provide a hiding place and the water provides an escape route. During spring and summer we have many other bird visitors and an evening chorus of calls from a number of species of frogs, cane toads, cicadas. Some of the smaller species of frogs use the lily leaves as a platform to make their calls.

We love our pond in spite of the occasional need to get into the water and remove some of the water lilies and excess algae. It is a constant source of interest and a pleasure to see it providing a home for birds, animals and insects.

Tea Roster

29th January

Tea: Di and John Falconer

Food: Elsie Mulvena; Margaret Moss; Susan Myring; Lisa Plucknett.

26th February

Tea: Joyce Ferguson; Howard Frieman.

Food: Anne Siemon; Sandra Slack; Corinne Taylor; Gail Turner.

25th March

Tea: Dechen Gerrard; Jan Glasscock;

Food: Patricia Laundry; Libby Gemmell; Mavis Benn; Jacqueline Gray.



BOOK REVIEW by Margaret Harper

A COUNTRY GARDEN by Fiona Ogilvie "Creating a garden in rural Australia"

Fiona Ogilvie writes a regular column for "The Land" newspaper and is a garden lecturer. In her book, *A Country Garden*, Fiona tells of the creation of her garden, St Anthony's Creek at Bathurst, on the Central Tablelands of NSW.

The author was born in Kent, England and after extensive traveling, settled in Sydney where she saw plants growing in gardens that were grown as indoor plants in the London office, where she had been employed. Her interest in gardening was aroused, but gardening in Australia was a slow learning process, because she was growing plants unknown to her and in a quite different climate from that of her early years.

Her journeys led her eventually to a small grazing property near Rockley, about sixty kilometres south of Bathurst. Her husband was from a rural background in the New England area. By now, Fiona was hooked on gardening, but this climate was different again, as it sometimes snowed and the summers were hot and dry.

This was where Fiona let loose and created a garden, almost from scratch. There was an enormous oak tree on the property, evoking memories of the gardens of her childhood yet

giving her a sense of belonging to this country. A magnificent garden was created, from paddock to a landscaped paradise of plants, selected, by trial and error to withstand the heatwaves, regular droughts, frosts and straying cattle. Fiona takes you on this journey through the various stages of the garden's development and the challenges she faced to achieve her dream. A great read for any gardener!

Seasonal Tasks – by Pat Powell

December

Remove weeds before they rob your plants of valuable nutrients during this rapid growing period.



All weeds except those with bulbs can be steeped in a covered bucket of water to make an organic fertilizer.

The addition of animal manure will aid the decomposition process and add valuable organic matter. It is advisable to dilute well before using.

Thin citrus if the crop is heavy to avoid small fruit. This is difficult, but the tree needs energy to grow before fruiting.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs which flower on new growth. Let coriander flower and grow to seed. They will self sow and their flowers provide food for "good insects".

Continue to plant in small quantities vegetables you require- beans, cucumber, tomatoes and asian greens.

January

Apply fertilizer – a handful per square meter- to the drip line around citrus trees. Water prior to and after applying.

Aerate the lawn in worn paths. Use a garden fork and involve children in the activity in the cool of the evening.

If the season is damp and humid watch for mildew infection. Spray with diluted milk-one part milk to ten of water. As this spray is washed off, it needs to be repeated.

When fertilizing the lawn, use a product containing nitrogen and potash.

Pots and baskets which are constantly watered, require regular fertilizing with a diluted solution.

February

Compost those nitrogen-rich lawn clippings. If you have a pile of clippings, turn to encourage decomposition.

Foliar fertilise seedlings when transplanting, when half-grown, then at flowering. A mix of seaweed and

fish emulsion is good.

Prune herbs to encourage growth and prevent flowering. Leave a few seeds for the future.

Order your spring flowering bulbs, take a note of summer flowering bulbs for next year.

Prepare a bed for growing potatoes next month. As they belong to the same family as tomatoes, make sure they are rotated to another bed which has contained above ground crops.

PROFILE -

TREVOR Mc CLEARY(
The Boy from Belfast)



Odyssey of an Irishman.

To find Trevor Mc Cleary (passionately Irish, fiercely Australian), one journeys to Reesville, meanders down a liquid amber avenue, discovers a secret valley, and there, on a knoll, on the verandah of a charming old pink Queenslander is Trevor, whimsical and charming as ever.

Q:- Let's start at the beginning, your roots and formative years.....

A:- I was born and grew up in Belfast, my family had always been involved in shipping, so I naturally progressed to that.

Q:- And the reason to migrate.....

A:- Like a lot of my countrymen, I wanted a better lifestyle and a better climate, even though Ireland was a bachelor's paradise, with 100 females to every male.

Q:- And why Australia.....

A:- Well, my first choice was Canada, where a lot of my friends were going. I had applied and been accepted for there. Then, one cold wet day in Belfast, the thought hit me that it would be equally cold and wet in Canada, I'd be warmer in the Tropics, so I switched to Australia.

Q:- And the journey.....

A:- It was quite exciting. It was the maiden journey of the P.&O. ship the "Canberra". We had watched it being built in Belfast. And Yes – I came out as a 10 Pound migrant, but don't ever confuse me with a Whinging Pom, I loved it from the moment I landed.

Q:- First impressions.....

A:- Perth was our first Australian landfall. The sea was turquoise, the sand white, the sky deep blue; a lot of my fellow travellers were so impressed, they jumped ship at Perth, said "Why go further" – silly buggers had to have their luggage sent back from Melbourne – but I stayed on till journey's end – Sydney.

Q:- First job in Australia....

A:- Because of my experience in the shipping industry, I had been contracted to work in shipping for two years in the (then) Territory of PNG. I worked in Port Moresby and Rabaul. Eventually I became an entrepreneur there, I bought a poultry farm with 5,000 laying hens, and increased it to 10,000 hens. I lived on nothing but eggs, my cholesterol went through the roof. I never want to see another egg again. Luckily, my wife Sue doesn't like eggs either. (Memo to hostess- avoid serving quiche or pavlova to McClearys when entertaining). But I loved being an Australian, couldn't wait to join them. Got naturalized as soon as I could (at the RSL Port Moresby.) The one drawback was that the ratio was changed. There were 100 bachelors to every single female. And it was stinking hot, and the Australians don't do the siesta thing.

Q:- And the shift back to the Mainland.....

A:-Ten years in PNG is enough, nobody stays there forever. I worked in shipping in Newcastle, where I met Sue. And then, eventually Sue and I shifted to Brisbane.

Q:- But you didn't come directly to Maleny.....

A:-No. We bought a house at The Gap, in Brisbane. Our two daughters, Emma and Kate, went to school there, but we could see an Empty Nest and eventual retirement on the far horizon.

Q:- And how did you discover Maleny...

A:- My mother came out from Ireland several times on a visit. One Sunday, we took her to Maleny for a drive. After that, it became a pilgrimage. She'd come from the green hills of Ireland, but she never wanted to go to the beach, the outback, or the cities, it had to be the green hills of Maleny. Once we got there, it was tea and scones in Maple Street, and then home again.

Q:- And the eventual shift.....

A:- One Sunday morning we were reading the Sunday papers at The Gap, and we saw this house advertised. We rang the agent and he faxed us the address and a sketch of the interior of the house. We drove up that day, and found the house, but that was all we did, maybe it was the 11 overgrown acres, the steep drive, the "oldness" of the house, or we realized it was not yet time, but we did not go down, we just looked from the road, and then drove away. Then, a few months later, Sue's twin sister came to visit, we told her about the house. She made us get in touch with the agent, and go and have a proper look. We bought it. But it was still too early, the girls were still at school, so we rented it out for five years.

Q:- Tell us about Trevor the musician.....

A:- I love singing. I'd sung with the school choir, and later with a group in New Guinea. But I'd also always loved the bodhran, the Irish drum. On one of

our trips to Ireland, Sue and I went to the West Coast to buy a hand made bodhran. I wanted one made in a cottage, not a factory. There's this belief that with the home-made ones, the skin of the drum is soaked in Guinness to soften it. I found what I wanted, but it was so cold that day, the lady had to warm the drum in front of the fire before she could demonstrate it. I had it shipped to Australia, and it had to be quarantined for three months, don't know if it was the Guinness or the skin that kept us apart for that time.

Q:- And tell us about Trevor the gardener, and custodian of Australian fauna.....

A:- Well, there was a neglected citrus orchard here when we arrived, so we nurtured that, and it has rewarded us;. We had rampant plumbago growing all around the house, so I had to tame that. I have snakes in the creek, so I guess I should clear the rubbish and weeds away, when I am down there I look like the proverbial Paddy in a bog. I'd like the snakes and hares to go, but they seem to like it here. The liquid ambers on the drive way have become so lush it has become a green tunnel, rather than an archway, so I guess I should cut them back, I think I'm waiting for Kevin to come and help me. But I have a great tradition of gardening. My father back in Ireland was a renowned rose judge and he travelled all over Europe, judging at rose shows. He created a famous acre park in Belfast, the Lady Dixon Rose Garden.

Q:- And the future.....

A:- Our children are now settled in their careers, To sit here on the verandah, Squire of the manor, watch the sunset with Sue and Amber (our dog), a little music, a little drink, and reflect on how lucky a man is, What more could a man want?

As revealed to Lisa Plucknett- Inquisitor

THANKS TO SNIPPETS CONTRIBUTORS

This year we have so many to thank, for their informative and interesting articles, their willingness to share gardening, travel and life experiences with club members, to overlook the editorial mishaps, and generously give time and effort. A merry Christmas to you all, and may you continue to breathe life into our quarterly paper.

Lisa and Margaret

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Articles contributed to this newsletter are published as a service to members and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the club.

