



SNIPPETS

WINTER 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

May you all have a wonderful weed-free winter and may your autumn leaves rush to become mulch. We are now in full swing with preparations for our third Annual "Gardening on the Edge."

Hopefully all the potted plants are growing profusely, clever cooks are ready to produce soups and slices, and Di Falconer's teams are ready to do us proud in the kitchen. A few hours volunteer work from everyone and I am sure we will function in a blaze of glory and have much success to show for our efforts. In the past month I have had the pleasure of two garden Clubs from Brisbane coming to visit our area. We showed them several gardens, they were most impressed and we all gained ideas from each other. It is a wonderful way to meet people with a common interest, and I hope that in the not too distant future, our Club will be able to visit some Brisbane gardens. As I write this, there is a gentle mantle of rain and mist shrouding the garden, what a blessing, hope it spreads to where it is most needed.

Hoping to see you all at "Gardening on the Edge."

..Cheers **Sandy**

Future Events

2& 3 June Cactus & Succulent Society of Q'ld. Show. *

9&10 June "Gardening on the Edge", Activities Centre, Maleny High School.

16&17 June Art in Bark Show. *

22-24 June North Moreton Q'ld. Orchid Council Show. *

26 June Maleny Garden Club Meeting TBA

27 June Brisbane Chapter 79 Ikebana International. *

6 - 8 July Nambour Garden Expo, Nambour Showgrounds.

7& 8 July Q'ld. Camellia Society Show.

*21&22 July John Oxley District Orchid Society Show.

28&29 July Sogetsu Ikebana Assoc. Brisbane/Gold Coast

31 July Maleny Garden Club Meeting. T.B.A.

4& 5 Aug Floral Art Society of Q'ld. Show. *

9-18 Aug Ekka, Brisbane Showgrounds.

17-19 Aug Q'ld. Orchid Society Winter Show. *

24-26 Aug Gardening Australia Expo, Homebush, Sydney.

25&26 Aug North Brisbane Orchid Society Show.

28 Aug Maleny Garden Club Meeting. T.B. A

*.....All in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt. Cootha Auditorium.



Garden Tips *From Colin Campbell*

Because bulbs can sometimes be treated with chemicals to stop fungal disease, always wash the hands after handling these.

When planting a hedge, don't wait for it to get too big before pruning – start pruning from an early age so that it becomes dense.

Make sure the vegetable garden is planted away from large trees so that the fertiliser nutrients are beneficial for the crops and not feeding the tree roots.

Keep fence lines clear of weeds to stop the overwintering of pests.

Worms will not stay in a "daggy" soil, work compost or organic matter into the soil and the worms will love it.

Clean the mower after use to keep it in good condition. This is especially important if the grass is damp as the dampness will eventually rust out the shield covering the blades.

If using a micro irrigation system, check the drippers etc. from time to time to ensure they are not blocked.

Aerating the lawn and applying gypsum will provide better water penetration.

Creating a Standard By Pat Powell

Great pleasure and satisfaction is gained doing the fun part of gardening and although creating a standard is slow, you will be truly pleased with your effort.

Why grow a standard ?

To show the plant off.

As a feature e.g. in pairs to frame an entrance of a path, or as a centre piece;

To allow more plants to grow in the area.

What plant material to choose ? Leave roses and grevilleas to the grafting experts. Fast growing plants such as potato creeper, daisies or pelargonium require constant trimming with the result flowers are sacrificed.

Hibiscus, Abutilon and Brugmansia are reasonably fast, and as flowers are required, the tops are best left to weep with heavy pruning in the early spring.

Azaleas, Sasanqua, Magnolia Little Gem and Lillypillys are slow balling-up well and require less pruning.

How to start ? Strike or buy the plant material keeping one trunk and staking to keep straight until trunk is sturdy enough to hold. Keep plant potted for a few years. Remove side shoots but not all, as the leaves will help nourish the tree. Grow to required height constantly tip pruning to thicken the top. Clip to retain shape.

After care- Keep to shape. To encourage healthy growth, treat as a normal plant.

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PROFILE.....OLGA WEBSTER
MALENY TREASURE &
ENDANGERED SPECIE

Q.....Olga, I have called you an Endangered

Specie because you are that rare breed; a Born

and Bred Citizen of Maleny. Who has lived here for over 80 years. Please tell us about your childhood and school days.

A.....My family were some of the first settlers in the Curramore district (about 120 years ago) and had to clear their land, build their home, sow to use the dahlias to make a floral carpet. Q...

...Any advice for new gardeners to Maleny? crops and acquire cattle. I attended the one-teacher school at Curramore, until my Scholarship Year, when I had to attend the two-teacher school at Witta. And yes, I did ride a pony to school. Then for High School, I had to go to Brisbane for two years, where I boarded with my sister, and found life very different from my idyllic childhood on the Range.

Q.....And your first job, Olga?



A..... Office and secretarial work in Maleny at the store owned by Salloway Bros. and then And Maleny Show always had a floral section, but the camellias weren't the big thing they are today, so all the flowers were together in the same section.

Harry Lyon. He was a general factotum, having several cream runs, the mail run, Pig and Calf Days, transport to Landsborough for both livestock and humans, sold petrol (with coupons as it was WW 2); Organized the Saturday night movies, and was even the undertaker. His store was located where Pioneer now stands. I boarded in Maleny and went home to Curramore at the weekends.

Q.....Please tell us about your early married life.

A.....Alan and I were married in 1946. I shifted to the Webster family home and farm where I am still living today. Electricity had still not come to Maleny, so we had kerosene lamps, I had to cook on a wood stove, and light the fire under the copper (and lug water by bucket) to do the washing. As you know, heavy rainfall is (or was) the norm in Maleny, so it was very hard to keep the wood dry.

Q..... What are your earliest memories of gardening?

A.....My mother, Ida, was a good gardener, though she had a large family to care for, had to help on the farm, and for 33 years ran the Witta Post Office and Telephone Exchange. But I remember she had an enormous flower bed in the front yard, full of portulaccas and gerberas, and she did have camellia trees, and was always greatly excited when the first buds appeared... Then when Alan and I married , there were already five well grown camellia trees here and I just kept planting more and more over the last century or so.

Q... ..Please tell us about the early days of the Garden Club.

A... ..It was formed in 1952 and in a little over 10 years the Membership grew to 65 - and this was well before Maleny was "discovered". My husband was Treasurer and a Founding Committee member.

Q.....And what about the floral carpets and the Club's involvement in the Maleny Show?

A... ..The first floral carpet evolved in Maleny in the Fifties when everyone had a bumper crop of dahlias, we all swapped tubers, and it just seemed logical

A... ..Cow manure and mulch are basically the only nutrients I use, and we already have two of Nature's Gifts, good soil and good rainfall.

Q... ..What are the greatest changes you have seen in Maleny?

A... ..Well of course, electricity being connected in the late Forties improved everyone's life vastly, and the advent of School buses meant that all the small one teacher schools in the area closed down and we had one central Primary School here in Maleny. And the coming of the High School meant that children did not have to go away and board to get a Secondary Education—that is, if their parents could afford to send them

Q... ..Olga, we know how special you are, but isn't there something unique about your position in the family?

A... ..Well, I was the second last of the family to be born- and that happened in the old Maleny Hospital three years after it opened; but I am the seventh child of a seventh child, and that stands for something, but I'm still trying to find out exactly what! But I do share birthdays with George Washington and Steve Irwin, so that means that I cannot tell a lie (and I don't cut down cherry trees), and I guess I do like to be adventurous, (but not to the extent of befriending crocodiles!)

Q... ..To conclude, could you share some of your fondest memories?

A... ..Being part of a large loving family, all going to Church together on Sunday, followed by a huge Sunday roast; wonderful musical evenings round the family piano, which came out with the family in 1879; that piano is one of my most prized possessions and I still play it regularly; and of course, all my wonderful years with Alan.

As spoken to Lisa Plucknett

Book Review by Margaret Harper **Garden of a Lifetime**

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch at Cruden Farm

Take a journey through this magnificent garden, the heart of a small cattle grazing property, with well written text and stunning photographs in a recently released book by Anne Latreille. It tells of the creation of 'Cruden Farm', the home of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch at Langwarrin, south-east of Melbourne. Dame Elisabeth,

now 98, has lived on the property since 1928, when she went there as a 19 year old bride. The farm, then in the country, surrounded by bushland, was a wedding gift from her husband.

In the early years, Edna Walling was involved in the landscaping. Probably the most identifiable feature of the farm is the avenue of 123 lemon scented gums, bordering the curved driveway.

In the first chapter we are introduced to Number One Gardener, Dame Elisabeth and Number Two Gardener, Michael Morrison, her invaluable right-hand man, who has worked there since 1971. Almost every day, they go through the garden together, Dame Elisabeth in her electric cart (an 80th birthday present) and are ever vigilant of what needs attention and always looking to improve aspects of the garden.

Explore the garden in the second chapter, where you are walked through the various areas, such as the Picking, Cottage, woodland and Walled Gardens and many plants are vividly described. Chapters on the creation and evolving, and finally the upkeep of the gardens are equally enthralling.

For the last 25 years, 'Cruden Farm has been shared regularly with the public, when it is open for various charity groups, as described in the next section, Sharing. To ensure that it will continue to open, Dame Elisabeth has set up a foundation.

It is wonderful that a person of Dame Elisabeth's age maintains such an interest in her garden, although she can no longer do hard physical work, the garden is still very much of her making. Proof that gardening is good for you!

Tea Roster

July

Tea: Angie Brand & Emily Jeffery

Food: Gillian Allen, Rebecca Anderson, Di Hall, Shirley Hollonds

August

Tea: Rosemarie Gready & Di Roper

Food: Sandy Hudd, Margaret Owens, Pat Powell, Marjorie Robertson

September

Tea: Gwen Hutton, Mike Hutton, Margaret Golledge & Peter Golledge. Food-AGM- everyone please contribute



Seasonal Tasks –

June

Chrysanthemums can be cut to the base. If clumps are too large divide, replant or give away.

Give peas, broad beans and other above ground winter vegetables a side dressing of seaweed and fish emulsion fertiliser and a generous sprinkle of potash to promote healthy growth and flowers. For big juicy stalks of rhubarb a side dressing of organic fertiliser followed by a good drink.

Cut back to just above the base Daylilies showing any sign of disease - bin cut material.

Prune Hydrangers back to two healthy plump buds leaving stems which did not flower last season. If Hydrangers are pruned back into old wood fewer flowers will be produced. Remove fruit and trim Sasanquas.

July

Fertilise citrus early this month - a handful per square meter around the drip line watering prior to and after. Collect fallen citrus then bury or bin to prevent disease spreading to fruit.

By avoiding the foliage of Azaleas when watering, you discourage petal blight. Buy some potted colour if your patio or deck need brightening. Cut grass constantly if winter grass is thick to prevent reseeding. Prepare a garden bed for potatoes for next month.

Late in the month prune, fertilise and clean up your rose garden; then mulch.

August

Dead head and fertilise your spring annuals to prolong the display.

Treat your lawn to a spray for broad leaf weeds - read the instructions on the bottle chemical is supplied in. Follow with a dusting of dolomite - water in. When you or your family need a little exercise aerate with a garden fork compacted areas. Prune Passionfruit as they fruit on new wood. Fertilise and mulch. If your passionfruit is over five years old or the fruit was woody last season replace in another position.

Petrea soon to flower will benefit with a hair cut over the tendrils only, if flowers are your aim.

Gardening in the Dandenongs by Rosemary Simmons

We are well into Autumn in the Dandenong Mountains and the burst of colour is truly remarkable. This, I think, more than anything else, is the greatest difference between gardening in a cool climate compared with that of a warmer one like Maleny's. Of course there are many other differences and many similarities as well. My garden is being put to bed now as the perennials are being cut back and the herbaceous ones are dying down and disappearing for quite a few months. Many will not reappear until late October or early November. One of the

problems of this is the constant spearing of dormant plants, bulbs etc with the fork or spade as I try to find room for just one more new plant in an already crowded garden. I have some strange combinations as I find that I have planted a Geum over the bulb of the Calla Lily and in summer they both try to grow in the same spot. I do look forward to the tiny species cyclamen popping their tiny flowers out of unpromising ground soon to be followed by speckled and splotched leaves that will enjoy all that winter has to throw at them before retiring for the dry summer months.

Here I find that plantings seem to come and go in waves, whereas in Maleny many plants spot flower and grow throughout the year. Late winter/early spring sees hundreds of bulbs come into flower and just as these are finishing, the bearded Iris flower and are then followed by the lilliums and later again, dozens of perennial phlox which are cut down about now. All of this makes one much more aware of the seasons which I quite like as the garden seems to be constantly changing.

*It is surprising just how many of the same plants can be grown in both climates as evidenced by the stock in the nurseries. I grow pelargoniums outdoors here as we rarely get frost although we do get ice and snow. Fuchsias do quite well too. I have Anisodontia, salvias and cannas growing, although they only get to half the size because of fewer growing days. I found cannas a weed in my Maleny garden and they were always covered with rust, but down here it takes all of summer to get to flowering and then they are promptly cut down. They rarely spread at all. The rate of growth is much slower and this can be a problem as well as a blessing. The small camellias, kalmia and deutzia planted 12 months ago are **still** small.*

I find that there is less work to do in a garden that sleeps for several months and the weed problem is less too. On the flip side, the gardens often don't look as lush and green as the ones in Maleny and you have to wait quite some time to get a small plant to maturity. What I really miss is the green grass in summer, although I don't miss the attendant constant mowing. It remains to be seen what will happen with drought and climate change in mature gardens like this one, where the large trees need so much water. Like all gardeners I will take it one season at a time and try to enjoy the journey.

Happy gardening, whatever the climate.

Rosemary

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