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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

A happy and prosperous New Year to all of you. Let's hope the good early rains continue, but perhaps we could do with just a little less. Here in Maleny all our drought-loving plants will be dead! Mould and more mould is not a nice look either, but that's Australia, it's either a feast or a famine, a drought or a flood.

The Club's main focus now is "Gardening on the Edge", as it is only a little over four months away. I hope you are all potting up madly.

I hope everyone who attended enjoyed the Christmas party. Its just a shame it is so hot in December, but it really is hard to do anything about tradition, and I for one don't want to.

Anyway, I would like to wish you a great year of gardening with everything going as you would want(faint hope) but as long as you don't let the weeds win, you are ahead..... Cheers, Sandy

Future Events

1 & 2 March Palm & Cycad Societies of Aust.

1 & 2 March Q'ld. International Orchid Fair

(Pine Rivers P.C.Y.C.,

Baker Street, Bray Park)

8 & 9 March Q'ld. Dahlia Society *

14-16 March Q'ld. Orchid Society *

25 March Maleny Garden Club Meeting

P & M Owens, 15 Beechwood Rd.

29&30 March Bimer Bonsai Club *

5 & 6 April Bromeliad Society of Q'ld. *

12&13 April Q'ld. Council of Garden Clubs *

18-20 April Gardening Australia Expo

(Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre)

19&20 April Hibiscus Society of Q'ld. *
26&27 April West Brisbane Orchid Society *
29 April Maleny Garden Club Meeting
Jan Glasscock, 23 Burgum Rd
Nth Maleny
29 April Maleny Garden Club Meeting
3 & 4 May Q'ld. Herb Society *
10&11 May Q'ld. Rose Society *
27 May Maleny Garden Club Meeting
R & G Tonkin, 139 Gardners L.

31May & 1June Australian Hibiscus Society *
*All at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt. Coot-tha auditorium.

Garden Tips by Colin Campbell. With a strong jet of water, hose aphids off affected plants or give them a spray with a weak solution of soapy water.

b.. Plant blue flowers in the garden to attract bees.

c.. If you want to keep kikuyu from encroaching into garden beds, try planting a border of lemongrass around the edge.

d.. Where ants are a problem, drill a hole in the top of a screw top jar, big enough for the ants to crawl through, then fill with tinned cat food which has been laced with one teaspoon of Confidor.

e.. Place snail baits in the holes of bricks so that the family pet can't get to them.

f.. When using organic fruit fly controls, such as Nature's Way Fruit Fly Spray, paint a board yellow, then apply the fruit fly spray to the painted board before hanging in susceptible trees or vines. The fruit fly will be attracted to the colour yellow.

g.. Inspect daylilies for tiny plantlets growing on the flower stems. These can be used as propagating material if carefully removed with a sharp knife.

h.. To find out if sweet corn is ready for harvest, peel away the protective layers of leaf material and press a couple of the kernels with the fingernail. If they exude a creamy coloured liquid rather clear, it's ripe.

FAREWELL FOR NOW.....

With regret, we share the last garden notes from Col and Bev Campbell. Col's articles have been an inspiration since Snippets started seven years ago, and we have all benefited immensely, but now their other interests demand their full attention. On behalf of all club members we thank them and wish them well in their travels and adventures. It is with pleasure that we inform you of three wonderful garden trips Col and Bev are hosting this year.

6-10 April- Brisbane/Maryborough and Kingfisher Bay Resort, Fraser Island Contact Deon, Kingfisher Bay Resort, phone 302 2816.

6-21 May – Brisbane/Longreach/Mount Isa/Lawn Hill/Karumba/Cobbold Gorge/Mt Surprise/Cairns/ Brisbane.....visiting homestead gardens as well as local tourist attractions.

(Contact Traveltrain Holidays, 1800 627 655 after 30 January)

14 -26 August Brisbane/ Charleville / Quilpie/ Birdsville/ Boulia/ Winton/ Longreach (visiting homestead gardens as well as local tourist attractions). (Contact Traveltrain Holidays, 1800 627 655 after 30 January)



MORNING TEA ROSTER

April:

Tea: Jill Horsburgh, Margaret Harper

Food: Irene Smith, Pat Weaver, Gillian Allen, Val Bengtson.

May:

Tea: Heather Jones, Irene Kennedy,

Food: Di Begbie, Robyn Birch, Jan Bell, Sue Bell.

June:

Tea: Lorna and Ted Kempner

Food: Angie Brand, Bev Brown, Joyce Butterfield, Mollie Cock.



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From Our Maleny Kitchen

Date, Apricot & Ginger Slice

(This slice got the "thumbs up" in the Gardening on the Edge kitchen, so Barbara Dean, who has now sadly left Maleny, kindly provided this recipe).

2 cups chopped dates
15 dry apricots chopped

6 pieces ginger chopped

1/3 cup sugar

3 ozs butter

1 cup coconut

Juice of half a small lemon

¼ teaspoon bi-carb soda

Mix together in bowl. Cook 2 mins on high in microwave.

Chop up ½ packet plain biscuits. Add to date mix. Press into tray lined and dusted with coconut. Add a light layer of coconut as topping.

BOOK REVIEW by

Margaret Harper

Under the Spell of the Ages – Australian Country Gardens by Trisha Dixon



Trisha Dixon is a well known garden writer and photographer, who has written several books and has also co-written with Jennie Churchill books on Edna Walling gardens. In her latest book, *Under the Spell of the Ages*, Dixon showcases twenty five historic Australian gardens from every state and territory.

The first garden, *Bobundara*, is the writer's own garden in Cooma where the family has lived since 1985. With each garden, Trisha introduces an artistic connection – be it artist, poet, writer or photographer. In the case of *Bobundara*, it is the artist, *Percy F.S. Spence*, (1868-1938) who painted the home, office (pictured in the book) and shearing shed to mention a few. These paintings are clearly recognisable as the property.

Patrick White, the author, was jackerooing on *Bolaro Station*, Adaminaby and his experiences there were invaluable in some of his writings. *Brindabella Station*, the childhood home of author Miles Franklin of *My Brilliant Career* fame is another homestead featured.

Canning Downs, *Franklyn Vale*, *Gracemere*, *Mt Abundance* and *Yandilla* are the Queensland properties covered. *Gracemere* at Rockhampton is of particular interest as it has been in the Archer

family for over one hundred and fifty years. Ludwig Leichhardt set out in 1848 on his third and fateful expedition from the Roma property, *Mt Abundance*.

Pejar Park, Woodhouselee, near Goulburn was the home of gardening writer, Beatrice Bligh (*Down to Earth* and *Cherish the Earth*). After her marriage in 1941, Beatrice developed this garden and it is now managed by her son, Hugh. Michael, her other son is a well known landscape architect in Goulburn. Definitely, gardening is in the blood of that family!


A charming, picturesque little cottage, Dingley Dell at Port MacDonnell in South Australia was home to the poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon from 1864-1867.

Stunning photographs accompany each garden and in a segment, *Through the Lens*, the author gives a brief description of her feelings on the property.

It is pleasing to know these properties have been maintained and are now being cared for so lovingly by their current owners and thus preserving Australia's heritage.

Seasonal Tasks – by Pat Powell

March

- Order spring flowering bulbs now. 
- Parsley and Coriander do well over winter. Plant seeds now in an open well drained, sunny area near the kitchen door.
- Remove seed heads from basil plants to extend harvesting period.
- Areas to be gardened for strawberries, cabbage, onions and peas should have an application of lime or dolomite to reduce the acidity of the soil.
- Roses given a tidy up and fertilised will reward you with a late Flowering.
- Propagate fuschias late this month.
- Fertilise Kangaroo Paws and tidy up the plants.

April

- Strawberry runners can be planted in a well prepared raised mulched bed. Plant

nasturtiums or borage to attract bees.

- Onion seeds planted now will become established before winter.
- Pansies are the first flowers to be planted out in early April.
- After Anzac Day, spring colour can go in big time. Primula, Cornflower, Calendulas and Poppies to mention a few.
- When vegetable and flower plants are spent dig in to the garden or remove to the compost heap.
- To improve chrysanthemum flowers liquid fertilise with a high potash rich fertiliser.
- Once you have taken delivery of your cool climate bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths place them in the crisper well labelled.

May

- Day lilies can be cut back or tidied up.
- Winter food crops such as English Spinach can be planted from seed now.
- Repot indoor plants then place them in a warm sheltered position. Plants only in need of a tidy up with leaves removed and rinsed foliage can be returned to indoors.
- Late May is time to cut back untidy perennials and grasses.
- Try planting a few bulbs under a small area of lawn. Freesias do well in our area.
- Cull your gardening magazines and books for Gardening on the Edge.
- Keep an eye on Azaleas for Petal Blight and if necessary spray, removing mushy flowers from the plant and ground.

THERE'S NOTHING SLACK ABOUT SANDRA

*The Farmer's Wife got into strife
But not for Three Blind Mice;
The Christmas Lunch was criticized,
"The weather wasn't nice."*

*Now – we've known for years that we were wrong,
That Christ was born in May;
So – the Forum is now open
Feel free to have your say
(If you want to – change the day.)*

*But – Jan. and Feb. are still too hot,
And March – the March flies come;
And April time – is April showers,*

Which could make some feel glum.

*And May – we may be all away,
June's "G.O.E." and tax;
I veto "Christmas in July"
It's boring – that's a fact.*

*Then there's Carnivals and Festivals,
Holidays jaunts and trips,
I do my best to keep my cool,
But gripes give me the pip.*

*And Christmas in the Sunshine State
Means storms and surf and sand ;
And wine and watermelon,
It's all part of Gods plan.*

*Like "Four X" prawns and barbecues,
And nights too hot to sleep;
It's all part of our tradition,
And one I'd like to keep.*

*But ring me if you have a gripe,
The robot's on the phone;
But DON'T go ringing Susan ,
'Cause Susan isn't home.
You may even catch me hovering,
Though my wings are slightly clipped,
But do not bank on it my friend,
MY BUDS AREN'T EVEN NIPPED!*

More cheers from Sandy (Via Lisa)

THAILAND TRENDS by Rebecca Anderson

During my visit in late July, I was amazed at the influence of plants from Asia being imported to Australia. One of the reasons for this is that the growing conditions we have on the Queensland coastline are similar to those of many Asian countries, such as Thailand.

The magnitude of different colours of Ixoras was astounding. Only now are we starting to see new colours creeping into Australia, such as white, bicolour pink/white-similar to Pentus candy Stripe- and many miniature or dwarf varieties. It can be expected that in the near future we will see the prostrate or ground cover version of Ixoras, however the colours in this species are limited. Also, the variegated leaf version in the standard size should hit the market within the next three years.

Lately we have seen Bougainvilleas' becoming popular again. Due to our wet conditions on the mountain, we need to consider how and when we plant them in our gardens. The flowering periods are long and provide a lovely flush of colour. The key is good drainage and very little watering. The more stressed the plant is, the better and more prolific the flowers. Avoid overwatering as it can kill them.

In Thailand we observed bougainvilleas as large standardized plants, some with twisted stems. Multi-grafting in various colours has increased the flowering period, by selecting varieties that flowered at alternating times or with complimenting colours. Bougainvilleas were displayed in hanging baskets or pots mounted to walls on buildings. Many colours and varieties will eventually make their way to our gardens.

The Phuket Zoo has a spectacular orchid selection, worthwhile visiting. It is filled with cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, papiopedilums and phalaenopsis. The perfume can be overwhelming, almost intoxicating. I took many photos in this garden, trying to capture the colour ranges in some species. There is a small collection of bromeliads in the Orchid Garden, about 500 specimens. I've since learnt from Ross McKinnon that some of these plants are being imported here in the form of tissue culture.

Ross McKinnon is planning a 10 day garden trip to Thailand around March 2008, with an optional two day stop-over in another Asian country. This trip is for keen gardeners. Exclusive private botanical gardens and many collectors/breeders' gardens will be specially opened for this tour. It was difficult for us to see private gardens, as we did not have the contacts at the time. Rebecca.

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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.