



# SNIPPETS

SPRING 2008

**President**

Harry Rowland  
54944700

**Hon. Secretary**

Andrea Long (Min) 5499 9581  
Marie Williams (Corr) 5478 65

**Hon. Treasurer**

Susan Myring  
5494 4153

**Editors**

Lisa Plucknett 54943295  
Margaret Moss 54942669

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.

**MEMORIES OF SANDY*****From Harry Rowland:***

*Sandy Slack will never be forgotten, and it is with shock and sorrow that I write this column. She was dynamic and committed, and many of the innovations we now enjoy in the club, i.e. Gardening on the Edge, Sip'n Sip, Snippets can be attributed to Sandy.*

*Sandy made the most of every moment of her life, and left us with a vibrant, active club. I am sure that we will all work together to maintain this standard of excellence, and promote*

*enthusiasm for gardening, and most of all for friendship.*

*In the pipeline, we are working with Sandy's family to have a lasting memorial to Sandy, a place where we can all contemplate the special beauty of Maleny and its gardens.*

***"I don't know where you think you're going"***

*.....At my first Garden Club meeting, I listened with trepidation to a prolonged discussion on tea rosters. Then Sandy swung into action, and it was moved along at a brisk pace, done and dusted, all sorted. I regret knowing Sandra for such a short time as she was such a special person, and I had come to admire and respect her very much. I loved those words (the above) as people tried to decamp before some poor wretch did her 5 minute talk! .... Rosemary*

*Sandy did make us all laugh,.... I have the deepest respect for Sandy and all she did and her zest for life. I will really miss her. Deidre.*

***Such a vibrant personality.....***

*I find that when I sit here to write a few words regarding Sandra's untimely demise, a very difficult exercise, I can't come to terms with the fact that she is no longer with us, to organize and conduct our meetings.*

*Sandra was such a vibrant person who held the reins of our Maleny Garden Club in her hands for the last few years with great expertise.*

*We will miss her. Joyce Butterfield.*

***An empty place in our midst....***

*Like many of us I am still coming to terms with the tragic death of Sandra, and am half expecting to see that energetic figure and hear that voice at our meetings. Sadly that is not to be, but I feel blessed to have been associated with her. I admired her spirited enthusiasm for life and her willingness to work so hard for our club and*



others. She seemed able to meet every challenge with a positive outlook. Her frankness and honesty, so often touched with her own humour, seemed to me to come from a deep conviction of what was right and fair. Sandra was a great believer in the fellowship of our club, and will be sorely missed....Christine Crocker

### **Favours to Sandy never forgotten**

*When I saw Sandy at a recent Open Garden, she reminded me of a favour I'd done her about 15 years ago, that I'd long forgotten! I'm hoping that the yellow daisy I bought from her that day will thrive in her memory in my garden....Lyn, a fellow teacher.*

### **A case of priorities**

*Sandra arrived at school staff room with an impressive briefcase. She opened it and took out the only content – a box of Coco Pops. She proceeded to have breakfast... Cathy Barry.*

### **REMEMBERING SANDY**

She had such pizzazz, such passion,  
Such style, such joie de vivre;  
That she should just whiz off and go  
Is too hard to believe.

When we hear a magpie singing  
At dewy break of day,  
We'll think how Sandy made her mark  
In her special Sandy way.

And when we see a shooting star  
Flash across the evening sky;  
We'll know that Sandy's with us,  
In our hearts she'll never die.

We'll remember how she sparkled,  
Her wit, her love, her mirth,  
And we'll know she made the very most  
Of every day upon this earth.

Think of Sandy in the autumn,  
A leaf-drifting in the breeze;  
Remember Sandy in the garden,  
Maleny mud upon her knees;  
Think of Sandy in the summer,  
Titian hair now burnished gold;  
Think of Sandy as forever young,  
Never to grow old.

And be joyous that you knew her,  
A spirit – soaring free.  
..... Lisa Plucknett



### **The 2008 Melbourne Flower Show or the Great Exhibition Halls Potato Picnic**

Lots of study of trams the night before Bev, Kay, Rhonda and I headed off confident of our travel plans. After many troubles - we should have opted for the taxi- we were finally at the entrance to a very windy Flower Show site. Lots of oos and ahhs and our travel woes were instantly gone.

Issued with showbags we were on our way. The colours and the displays took our breath away. There were shrieks and gasps as we passed new roses and the beautiful and delicate clematis and all the wonderful and rare bulbs and perennials. We passed gadgets sculpture, waterfalls, fertile garden additives, \$10 bargain loppers, girly pink raincoats, cheap gloves, bumping into Susan Myring and co along the way.

Morning tea time came, and it was time to meet Sandy, Di and Rosemary at the Yates tent. Now what to eat? Food halls outside the exhibition stall were packed and not tempting us, seven women to please. Decision made- we would all have a potato at a stall back in the centre of the show site. We took barely 5 steps and crash! We looked behind to see a flagpole off the Exhibition Hall roof, about a foot thick and 3-4 metres long, and it had landed where we had been standing! We were so lucky!

As we lined up for our potatoes, the loudspeakers instructed all people at the show to proceed to the Exhibition Hall "IMMEDIATELY". Kay and Bev ever so obliging went straight to the hall. Sandy said she wasn't going yet, or words to the effect of "bugger them I'm hungry" and went to get a potato, Rhonda and I were happy to wait too, as we were hungry, so we stayed with our fearless leader. As the wind swirled the loudspeaker was more urgent. Finally with



potatoes in hand we dodged overhanging trees back to the Exhibition Hall. We met up with Di, Kay and Bev amongst all the crowd, found a corner and sat down on the floor to eat, crossing paths with Susan and her national trust friends again. After our impromptu picnic, the loudspeaker informed us that the show had been cancelled for the day and we could either get a ticket for re entry or a refund. Disappointed, but not put off, while the hordes of people were exiting, we looked around the Exhibition hall Floral Art displays. We farewelled Sandy, Rosemary and Di with their over laden shopping bags... What a day! Deidre Phipps

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 7<sup>TH</sup> October** AGM Maleny Garden Club  
Old Witta School 10.30am
- 28<sup>th</sup> October** Meeting at 109 Maleny-Kenilworth  
Rd- Mollie Cock 9.30am
- 25<sup>th</sup> November** 26 Nadi Lane, Nth Maleny  
Brian & Joyce Butterfield. 9.30am.
- 9<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Party – Tranquil Park

#### **TEA ROSTER to be advised**

#### ***The Cultivation and Propagation***

*By Rebecca Anderson*

*Imagine being able to cultivate or propagate a beautiful specimen and improve on it in subsequent generations. Actually, each one of us gardeners has the ability of achieving this, and may be doing just that, even though we may be unaware of it! Now that I have your attention, I can reveal that I am talking about inspiring children, your own or someone else's, to take an interest in gardening.*

The cultivation of a specimen (potential gardener) can bring joy and passion in one's life. I still have fond memories of walking through my grandmother's and great-aunts' gardens, beautiful places filled with plants, each having a special and loved place. When I would ask the name of a plant, they would often tell me a little more about it, such as its common name, type and conditions of growth. We would also visit Botanical Gardens, nurseries and Society shows. At times I thought it a little boring, but now I appreciate what they were instilling in me... a love of plants and an appreciation of gardening. Now that I have a little "specimen" (otherwise known as Christopher), I am passing on what I received – the love and passion of gardens. I

can see how much CJ loves being in the garden, discovering the creatures such as snails, worms, lizards, butterflies and birds. Have you ever seen a child discover a new thing...like sniffing a flower. Just take time to watch how they react.

As there may be many Club members who are actual or stand-in grandparents, this may be worth considering. A way to encourage the interest of a child is to plant a special plant for them. There are many flowers named for people, such as the "Christopher" Hippeastrum, or the "Susan" Magnolia and so on. Giving a child ownership creates respect and love for the plant. Or you might give a child a small garden, to grow seedlings or vegetables, as the child can see and take delight in their quick growth. There are so many possibilities and rewards, when cultivating a future generation of gardeners.



#### **Garden Tips**

*By Pat Powell*

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Plant potatoes either in soil which is organically rich and dug into furrows or a large rubbish bin filled with compost and mulch.

Tidy up citrus trees and spray with horticulture oil if leaf miner is prevalent. Older trees can cope with a little miner but young ones with limited leaf need spraying. Healthy leaves = healthy plant.

Test soil to be used for summer crops or flower beds and add dolomite to combat acidity. A handful per square meter is a general rate. Leave at least two weeks before planting up the garden.

Clean up flax plants and winter flowering red hot poker. An old bread knife does this difficult job.

Mid month plant tomatoes, capsicum, egg fruit plants and cucumber seeds into pot ready for the garden next month. Place in a warm position.

Divide wind flowers and other late autumn flowering perennials.

#### **OCTOBER**

Prune hibiscus by about one third.

Examine potted plants. If when turned out roots are very crowded repot and leave in a cool area until the plant settles down. Water with Seasol. After a few weeks fertilise with slow release

. Grow parsley and marigolds throughout the garden.

The strong aroma helps to deter nasties. Keep water up to citrus to prevent fruit drop. Tidy up your hedges or topiary. Growth will be rapid from now on.

Spring flowering shrubs which have ceased flowering benefit from pruning to allow new growth for next year

Plant beans, capsicum, tomatoes cucumber, zucchini, lettuce (small non hearting variety),



rocket and for a quick result Asian greens.

## NOVEMBER

Continue to feed roses and lightly prune them after each flowering. Vary the fertiliser programme with complete food having a high potash component. Spray azaleas for lace bug with Confidor. Heavily infested branches should be removed to the bin.

Grow herbs in free draining, risen garden beds or between roses, vegetables and throughout the garden to help deter aphids and other bugs. The tiny flowers of herbs encourage the good insects in our gardens.

The lawn benefits from a dressing of lawn food. Lift the blades on the mower for summer growth which helps to nourish the root system.

Grow blue flowers near your vegie garden to attract bees for pollination.

Use seed raising mixture for growing seedlings. Water with 1 teaspoon of Epsom salts to a bucket of water. Any left over can be used on your fruit trees, tomatoes, vines or roses to add magnesium.



## The Ways of the Bushwalker- On foot in Australia

by Melissa Harper.

Reviewed by Margaret Harper.

*(We had to overcome Margaret's resistance to writing this review for us, but for lovers of Australian countryside and history, it's a great read. Maybe the author inherited her writing talent! Ed.)*

In this book, Melissa, a lecturer in Australian Studies at the University of Queensland, has expanded on her thesis, *Bushwalking in Australia*. You may consider that bushwalking is a comparatively recent recreation, but our bush has been explored from the time of early settlement. The Australian bush represented a new experience and impenetrable barrier for those in the new colony at Sydney Cove. With only six horses in the First Fleet, walking was the only method of going in search for fertile land, studying the flora and fauna, seeking suitable timber and making contact with Aboriginal people. Surgeon, George Worgan rambled through the Woods and enjoyed his overnight forays. Perhaps he is the first European bushwalker. Remember, the natives had been traversing the country for years before British settlement.

Have you considered that quintessential Aussie figure, the swagman, humping his swaggie, whilst wandering the countryside, seeking work along the way, as a

bushwalker? Some well-known folk, who were perhaps unlikely bushwalkers were the composer, Percy Grainger, who would walk from one venue to the next, often shedding his clothes to be at one with nature, academic, John Le Gay Brereton and General John Monash.

Much valuable information on early bushwalking has been sourced from diaries, stories written in newspapers and old photographs also proved useful. With the formation of Bush Walking Clubs in 1890s, records were kept, thus it was much easier to track activities of the serious bushwalkers.

The Depression saw the advent of the Mystery Hikes organised by the railways and sponsored by businesses in all capital cities. On Sundays, (except Adelaide, the City of Churches) thousands boarded trains and were transported to a mystery destination to experience the local bushland. There was a carnival atmosphere at these events, with bands and food and drinks being sold. Naturally, these walks were not regarded as true bush walks by the purists, who believed one should not keep to designated paths, but use map and compass.

By 1920s, the bush walking movement was increasing in popularity, mostly undertaken by the middle class. These clubs played a part in conservation and worked towards the declaration of National Parks. Myles Dunphy was a staunch advocate of protecting certain land areas, a mission continued by his son, Milo, who introduced former NSW Premier, Bob Carr to bushwalking.

One of the last bush walking clubs to be formed, in 1948 was the Brisbane Bush Walkers.

Clothing was an issue. Imagine walking the rough bush tracks – men wearing suits and ties and women in long sleeved, ankle length dresses! In religious circles, eyebrows were raised when women donned 'masculine' clothing.

In her research for this book, Melissa interviewed some early bush walkers, such as Dot Butler, who was known as the *Barefoot Bush Walker* and Dot has written a book with this title. Enid Rigby also provided valuable information and much material was sourced from club records. Some of the early photographs throughout the book are amazing. You will notice from the notes and bibliography at the end of the book, just how much research has gone into this publication. Final chapter poses the question 'Whose bush is it anyway?' Author Tom Griffiths says, "Slip this book in your swag – and step into Adventure"

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