



SNIPPETS

Autumn 2009

President Harry Rowland 5494 4700	Hon. Secretary Babs Groves 5429 6694	Hon. Treasurer Christine Crocker 5435 2842 Andrea Long 5499 9581	Editor Peter & Margaret Owens 5429 6789
--	---	---	--

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.

From the President

Hello to all Maleny Garden Club members. It is great to have Snippets back on line and for this I give a heartfelt thankyou to Margaret Owens for coming forward to help with its production. Thankyou also to Lisa Plucknett and Margaret Moss for previous editions of Snippets – these were always well received and that is why we want so much to keep this great publication going.

As I said at the last meeting, this publication is only really possible with the input from members. It does not necessarily have to be anything to do with your garden, it could be something to do with a trip you have just done, or an animal or bird you have seen in your garden, a favourite recipe. If it is something to do with your garden, whether it be plants, weed control – anything really that could be of interest to other members.

Our Christmas party at Tranquil Park in December was very enjoyable to all who came along, especially with the renovations that have been carried out in the last year. This made for much cooler conditions, and the food also was more suitable. Lots of laughter and good fun was had by all.

There have only been a couple of meetings so far this year, and unfortunately we were unable to have the February meeting in our own garden – as gardeners, we should never curse the rain – but sometimes it is a little inconvenient. Fortunately the Old Witta School is always available, and once the new carpark is completed, car parking will be much easier. The guest speakers have been interesting, personally, I really enjoyed Nick Clancy's presentation. Gail Denver (Malpan) and Prov. Les Hall, (Green Hills) gave us updates on the Maleny Precinct land. Having both sides of the story, we now need to give some thought to the direction the Maleny Garden Club wishes to pursue.

Thanks again to Jan Maguire for taking on the role of Convenor for Gardening on the Edge 2009, and we look forward to a successful event.

Happy gardening. *Harry Rowland.*

Bus Trip to Brisbane

On 28 Feb this year a number of members met at the rear of IGA. The 21 seater bus with its trailer left on time and picked up four members of the Peachester Garden Club at Beerwah.

Our first call was the Bay Plant Shack Nursery where we had morning tea, or coffee. There was a wide range of plants on display where advantage was taken of discounts offered. We then had a smooth ride to Brisbane Botanical Gardens at Mt Coot-Tha. Over the past four decades trees have matured and more features have been added to make the experience more interesting and a popular facility for residents and visitors. We made for the auditorium where the Queensland Horticultural Society had organised a display of plants, publications, garden tools and other items. More plant purchases were made and left for safe keeping while members had lunch and explored the gardens. Most of us found our way to the Japanese Garden which is popular with visitors. Some of the fauna, notably a water dragon and several birds, were obviously used to visitors in their territory. The trailer was filled with more plants and we headed for the Aspley Hypermarket Nursery. Some members made further purchases and we left with a full trailer; we stopped en route at Beerwah to farewell our colleagues from Peachester and returned to Maleny.

A pleasant and memorable day was had by all; the weather was fine and pleasant; many plants were purchased; it was an excellent opportunity to meet some new members; and some people made their first visit to Mt Coot-Tha Botanical Gardens.

P Gollidge

Snippet

A willingness to sacrifice today is what brings Autumn's harvest and winter's provisions. *Anon*

Garden Tip



To fight aphids and whitefly naturally make a spray by mincing 3 cloves of garlic and mix with 2tsp of vegetable oil, let sit for 24hrs. Strain and add 1litre of water and 1tsp liquid soap. Use this entire batch in 1 session to treat infestations as the mix will not keep. Test on a single leaf before dousing large areas to check the solution is not too strong.

Margaret Owens

Recipe Lemon Ginger Marmalade

750g (6 large) limes
6 cups water
7 cups sugar (approx)
2 tsp finely grated ginger

Slice limes thinly and remove the seeds. Put limes in a bowl of water, cover and stand o/n. Next day, transfer mixture to a large boiler, bring to the boil and reduce heat to a simmer, cover and simmer gently for about 1 hr or until tender. Measure fruit mixture and allow 1 cup of sugar for each cup of fruit mix. Return fruit mix to heat, pour in the sugar and stir until it is dissolved. Bring to the boil and boil rapidly uncovered until a tsp of the marmalade jells when tested on a cold saucer.

Remove from the heat, add ginger and stand for 10 mins before pouring marmalade into hot sterilised jars. Seal when cold. This makes about 8 cups. A lemon can be substituted for 1 lime.

Pat Powell

A Time to Weep

A time to love
And a time to die;
But alas no time
To say goodbye!

No time to flee
No place to hide;
Conflagration
Far and wide.

The tree change in the forest
Becomes a funeral pyre;
The scenes will never leave us,
Victoria's darkest hour.

The phoenix of Victoria
May never rise again;
Nature's wrath exploded
To inflict the greatest pain.

No flowers will bloom in Flowerdale
Marysville - no longer merry
Just piles of ash and rubble,
Acrid smoke -and silence eerie.

"A sunburnt land" the lady said,
"Of drought and flooding rain"
Black Saturday - the worst of all,
The prayers for rain in vain.

Two thousand families homeless,
Two hundred souls are lost:
And those who said "Thou shall not clear!"
Alas - must count the cost.
Lisa Plucknett (March 2009)

Maleny Garden Club Inc presents "Gardening on the Edge"

The Maleny Garden Club is once again delighted to present "Gardening on the Edge" on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June 2009, from 9.00am to 4.00pm each day. Six local residents have generously offered their beautiful gardens for the public to wander through, enjoy and be inspired by, as part of *Gardening on the Edge*. The experience begins with a visit to the Maleny Indoor Activity Centre (adjacent to Maleny High School) where Tickets @ \$10.00 per person can be purchased for entry to all gardens. The tickets allow visitors entry to:

➤ *Six Gardens (under 18 free)*

The Indoor Activity Centre will have *garden related stalls, a Camellia Flower Display, Daily Raffle Prizes, and Homemade Refreshments* can be purchased to enjoy at the Centre or to have as a picnic in one of the six gardens on display.

A *Map* will be provided to Ticket Holders with directions to the gardens. *Volunteers* are required to support the event, please call Jan Maguire on 5499 9010 to register as a volunteer or email Jan at: jcmaguire@aapt.net.au

Your support is greatly valued, let Jan know if you are available for Saturday or Sunday, or both days and if you would prefer a morning or afternoon shift, if only available for half a day. Also please advise where you would like to volunteer, at the Centre or in one of the Gardens.

REMEMBER this is YOUR EVENT, YOUR SUPPORT is VITAL.

Jan McMaguire

HINTS

To kill ticks use Listerine. It will kill them and disinfect the wound.

To make candles last longer, cover with a plastic bag and place in the freezer for 24hrs before lighting.

Margaret Owens

Cooking with Sage

Pat Powell

Grow sage either coloured or the usual lovely grey green for the kitchen and medicine cabinet, to make calming teas or as an inhalation for asthma. Add to shampoos and cleansing lotions. Pick sprigs that are young and tender rather than leaves. It is a natural preservative, hence the use in sausages. The young leaves fried in butter until crisp, can be broken into pieces before adding to pasta, salads, cooked veggies or meat dishes, scones or sage vinegar. Dry well before adding to vinegar and harvest before the sun is too strong. Steep for 3-4 weeks.

Use the blue flowers for garnish. Sage grown in full sun, well drained slightly alkaline soil will reward you with a beautiful bush that can be pruned after flowering.

St Fiacre
The Patron Saint of Gardeners

Emblem: The Spade

Around AD 670, a young boy named Fiacre, who loved the green fields of Ireland, was kept confined inside his father's Castle. When he was old enough, he sailed over to France in quest of solitude, so that he might devote his life to God's service. He arrived in Meaux, near Paris, where St Faro, the bishop of the city gave him a solitary dwelling in a forest called Breuil.

Legend has it that St Faro offered him as much land as he could turn up in a day and that Fiacre, instead of driving his furrow with a plough, turned the soil with the point of his staff, clearing the ground of trees and briars instantly. Fiacre made himself a cell and built an oratory in honour of the blessed Virgin and

made a hospice for travellers, which developed into the village of St-Fiacre in Seine-et-Marne.

Many went to him for advice and poor for relief. He cured many people with his use of herbs and kindly nature.

His relics at Meaux are still resorted to and he is invoked against all sorts of physical ills, including venereal diseases. *Margaret Harper*



Seasonal Tasks –

Pat Powell

March

- Strawberry runners planted out now in well prepared beds will establish them before the cool weather sets in.
- Borage and nasturtiums, two reliable self seeders attract bees for pollination of the strawberry flowers.
- Test your soil with your ph. kit and add dolomite at the rate of 1 handful per m² if ph. is below 5. If above 7 add powdered sulphur will make the necessary nutrients available to your plants..
- Add fertiliser rich in potash to your deadheaded roses to improve their Autumn flowering.
- Place your bulbs in well labeled containers in your frig's crisper.
- Pansies and violas like an early start so near the end of March, plant out.
- Prepare your soil for winter borders or crops. Dig soil, add rotted animal manure or blood and bone. Then cover with mulch. Worms will do their bit for you.
- Grow calendulas for colour in your veggie patch for the kitchen and medicine cabinet. Gather flower heads after the dew has dried, pull to pieces and scatter on paper before placing in warm place out of direct light. When dry store in air tight jars.

April

- Reduce your nitrogen rich fertiliser, substituting one rich in potash now that growth is slowing.
- Plant established seedlings of broccoli and cabbage into your garden beds. Remember only plant enough for your needs and continue each month to provide a succession of produce.
- One of the most productive varieties of pea is the sugar snap. Climbing if possible. Use whole or sliced when young and shelled as they age. .

- March is ideal for sowing onion seed. Hunter River Brown and Red Salad Onion succeed in our area.
- After Anzac day plant out your spring flowering seedlings. The tall beauties which do well are larkspurs, foxgloves and hollyhocks. Have a gamble with the beautiful delphiniums, some have luck.
- Plant broad beans in previously fertilised areas that are well drained, with full sun. Allow for supports as they grow and fertilise in late winter. Harvest when young and use as bush beans as a green or added to casseroles or soups. Shell when older as a vegetable or added to salads after steaming.

May

- When your deciduous trees lose their leaves rake into piles and spread them onto earthen paths in your veggie garden. When the traffic mulches them add to your garden – no pain!
- Gradually reduce the watering and restrict liquid fertilizer to all but winter flowering pot plants.
- Prepare beds for late sowing of vegetables including garden peas.
- Ornamental, decorative frilly kale is such a wow border plant. It is usually edible being an interesting garnish. Only use edible garnishes on food eg. nasturtium leaves and flowers, pansie, heartsie, violet flower, roses or lavender.

.....

Health Matters

Just a quick reminder that if you are not drinking at least 2 litres (8 glasses) of pure water a day your body will most likely be dehydrated! (Note that coffee, juice and vitamin waters do not count in this total).

- ☐ Make sure you have a sipper bottle at your desk to make sure you get your 2 litres.
- ☐ If you are not a water drinker just give it a go for a week and you will feel so great and not get headaches that you will not want to stop drinking!
- ☐ You have 100 trillion cells in your body and they are all crying out for water!
- ☐ When you feel thirsty it is too late - you are already dehydrated, you need to drink before you feel thirsty
- ☐ Some people refuse to drink tap water, but then go and have a coffee which has infinitely more damaging things in it!!!! Just drink any water and it will be a million times better than not drinking it.

Margaret Owens

.....

One For St Patrick's Day.

McQuillan walked into a bar and ordered martini after martini, each time removing the olives and placing them in a jar. When the jar was filled with olives and all the drinks consumed, the Irishman started to leave.

"S'cuse me", said a customer, who was puzzled over what McQuillan had done, "what was that all about?"

"Nothin", said the Irishman, "my wife just sent me out for a jar of olives!"

.....

Top Home Tips.

To cover scratches on wood furniture or floorboards make a thick paste of instant coffee and a little water. Rub it into the nicks and scratches. You may need to apply several layers before the scratch is covered. Allow to dry then apply a layer of furniture polish. Shoe polish is an excellent alternative and comes in a variety of colours.

.....

Thank You

Peter and Margaret Owens would like to say a big thank you for those members who have contributed (at short notice) to this month's SNIPPET magazine. May I ask those of you who have or are proposing to visit any gardens in Australia or overseas we would appreciate a short paragraph or two to place in our magazine and if you have some helpful hints or recipes that are tried and true do let us have them. A reminder that in order to fit articles in we may have to edit them from time to time.

.....

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.

All contributions to: Margaret Owens
email: margaret.owens@bigpond.com

Disclaimer

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