



# SNIPPETS

Winter 2009

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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.

## "Gardening on the Edge" with Jan Maguire

Over 1200 people visited the Indoor Activity Centre and six open gardens in lovely sunshine on Saturday and Sunday of the June long weekend.

The Specialist Stall Holders at the Indoor Activity Centre had a variety of plants including camellias, antique tools, books, and other wonderful displays. All the stall holders reported great interest in the products they had for sale while the refreshments at the Indoor Activity Centre were provided by the Maleny Hospital Auxiliary Committee. The catering had been outsourced for the first time.

A number of local businesses such as the Swiss Bakery, Maleny Dairies and Maleny Cheese were stationed at some of the gardens selling their local made products. This proved most successful.

Gary's comments from Garden 2 were: *"What gave Christine and I the most satisfaction was seeing people enjoy the garden: they sat and drank coffee in the sun, they ate, they explored, they went off on little private excursions. It was wonderful to see."*

Diana's comments at Garden 5 were: *"We had a marvelous weekend – beautiful weather and delightful people, full of enthusiasm and questions. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves whether exploring, sitting on the deck or selling cups of tea".*

Local businesses were very generous in their support of "Gardening on the Edge" both in sponsorship and the donation of raffle prizes. Their participation was acknowledged with a Sponsors Board in the foyer of the Indoor Activity Centre.

My thanks go to the garden oOwners for offering their gardens, to the GOE Committee and to all those who volunteered their time. I sensed a wonderful camaraderie at the Indoor Activity Centre and believe the same sense of camaraderie was also evident in the gardens.

## A Special Thank You To

Jan Maguire who together with some able assistance completed a herculean task of putting GOE together this year. It would appear that this year's GOE has proved even more successful than those of previous years. Thank you Jan from the MGC. *The Editor*

## Garden Tip



### Wollemi Pines

grow beautifully in containers. Why not plant one as a potted Christmas tree and bring it inside each December.

## Glenrock, a Tenterfield Garden

Glenrock is the glorious 6 acre garden belonging to Carolyn and Peter Robinson. It is a few klm out of Tenterfield, where temperatures can be as low as -6 in winter with 60 to 70 frosts not uncommon. Carolyn's philosophy is to enrich the soil with manure, copious amounts of compost, dolomite and gypsum prior to planting. The results are evident, with an array of vibrant plants, without the use of chemicals.

The garden is divided into different areas, which link into each other. Well trimmed hedges of *Prunus nigra*, *Berberis thunbergia*, small leafed privet, Hornbeam, *Eleagnus* and golden *Lonicera nitida* define many of the garden beds, overflowing with combinations of perennials and foliage in contrasting colours. Pergolas are covered with rambling roses, intertwined with clematis. A variety of deciduous trees are planted strategically through the property, providing height



or defining an entry or avenue. Gorgeous *Nyssa sylvatica*, pin oaks, majestic dawn redwood, claret ash, tulip tree and *Gleditsia* are just a few of the many trees planted.

What was once a difficult sloping site, has been terraced with dry stone walls, constructed by Carolyn. This has now been planted with Heritage roses and summer flowering perennials. Water features throughout the garden. A pier stretches out in the lake on one side, while a platform opposite is a tranquil spot to rest, listen to the sounds of the myriad of birdlife and admire the beauty of the many coloured reflections. The perennial border gardens are enclosed by hedges of small leafed privet and *Leylandii* cypress and entered under a grape covered pergola, through vivid blue gates. Hot colours of red, orange and yellow are at one end, with pastels at the other. A wisteria tunnel has as its focal point, the 'Lady of the Lake' gazing out over the sunken garden, with a flat lawn area, by the water. Zebra grass contrasts well here with the purple foliage of the *Prunus* hedge.

The Grotto, Secret Garden, croquet lawn are some of the other sections of this stunning garden. The prairie borders following the creek bed are the newest section and Carolyn's favourite.

Ornamental grasses, along with shrubs and tough perennials make for a generous display. Three particular plants were outstanding on the day of our visit- the perennial phlox, three feet high, the vivid pink agastache and *Sedum*, 'Autumn Joy', with hundreds of bees busily at work and tiny green frogs basking on the flowers. An outstanding tree was *Arbutus andrachnoides*, an evergreen tree with unusual orange bark. In 2005, Glenrock won the Best Garden in Australia on Better Homes and Gardens. Words don't do it justice. It is a garden lover's Paradise.! A visit to this area would be a great two day trip for the club, as Tenterfield, Stanthorpe and Warwick have some amazing gardens. Tenterfield also has a very good nursery.

Margaret Harper

### What's In A Name?

**Sweet Pea** – *Lathyrus odoratus*

*Lathyrus* is the Latin form of the Greek word for pea. *Odoratus* means sweet scent.

### Top Home Tips;

Choose glass or stainless steel bowls not plastic for whipping egg whites. Plastic is a porous material that can hold fat from previous mixtures while glass and stainless steel are impervious. Plastic will prevent the egg whites from beating to a stable airy foam that you need for light soft meringues and to make soufflés to rise.

### SNIPPET

For a combination with a difference, combine a gold-tinged conifer with mauve or purple blooms like catmint.

### Do You Know?

1. In the language of flowers what do violets mean?
2. How do you rid yarn of moths?
3. Which dancer had a fatal accident with a scarf?

(Answers on back page).

### Recipe -

#### Orange-Calendula Biscuits –

makes 3 - 4 dozen

- 6 - 8 fresh calendula blossoms
- 1/2 cup butter (room temp)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- grated rind 2 oranges
- 2 tablespoons orange juice (room temperature)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup almond halves

Preheat oven to 180 C or 350 F. Pull petals off calendulas and set aside. Cream butter, sugar and orange rind until fluffy. Add orange juice and vanilla Mix in eggs and stir until blended. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Blend calendula petals and dry ingredients into creamed mixture. Drop teaspoonfuls onto baking tray covered with baking paper and press an almond half into each biscuit.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes until golden brown. Cool on wire racks and seal in airtight containers when cold.

Pauline Sheather



## Winter Reading.



### David Austin's 'English Roses.'

Did you know that a lot of English Roses are not English Roses at all!

The Damask Rose originates from the Holy Land and was brought back to France by Robert de Brie, the Gallicia Rose came from Rome and Greece, Centifolia Roses are Dutch and the Bourbon Rose origins are from Mauritius. All eventually found their way across the English Channel and became famous. These fascinating facts are recorded by the author but most of all this book is a bible for any passionate rose grower with its exceptional illustrations and comprehensive advice on any aspect of the subject, from characteristics to cultivation to diseases and pests and flower arranging. To borrow this book from the Library contact 5499 9581. *J. Long.*

### The Lady Who Was Here Before.

There are some people I hate,  
They gather at my garden gate;  
Discussing till I'm sick and sore,  
The Lady Who Was Here Before.

They stand and whisper: 'What a shame.  
I'm thankful Mrs What's-her-name  
is dead, poor dear and doesn't know.  
She used to love her garden so.

They've thrown away those lovely rocks  
She got from Cheddar - and the Box  
She planted round her heart shaped plots  
of Heartsease and forget-me-nots,

They've moved her Salpinglossis bed,  
and planted Primulas instead.  
They've put an ugly Poplar tree  
Where that nice Privet used to be.

They'll get me so upset some day,  
that I shall spring at them and say  
This is my garden. GO AWAY.  
*Reginald Arkell.*

### On the Road

Ever noticed that anybody going slower than you is an idiot  
And anyone going faster than you is a maniac?

*George Carlin*

## Health Matters

As winter has started there are some simple things you can do to keep warm and stay healthy

- Use a little cayenne pepper on your meals instead of pepper. Cayenne is great for increasing circulation which keeps you warmer.
- You will get a better night's sleep with fresh air, so leave the window open for better air flow. Just put a thicker duvet on your bed.
- Resist the temptation to eat those warming comfort foods like chips, burger and fried things. Keep eating fresh and healthy!
- Don't cut back on exercise! You need it the most for your immune system and to keep your circulation going. Just wear a jacket! While there can be a lot of rain in Maleny, winter is usually dry with plenty of fine spells where you can exercise outdoors.
- Take advantage of the winter sun and spend time outdoors. It will boost your spirits.
- Decide to be positive and happy regardless of the weather. It is your choice, don't be controlled by outside factors.

*Margaret Owens*



### Safety Tips

#### Guard against tetanus

In the garden, tetanus bacteria may lurk in soil at the roots of the finest rose as readily as on a rusty garden fork. Make sure that your tetanus injections are up to date and that you know when the next booster is due.

### Eye protection

We all know to wear eye protection when using power tools but are we aware of just how important it is to protect our eyes during general gardening? Damage can occur when dirt flicks into your eyes when you are digging and weeding; when leaning forward into sharp branches or twigs and when foliage whips back as you push through it.

*Wear safety glasses or your sunnies.*



### Garden Tips

- Try using strips of flax or some such textured fabric for plant ties.



- Azaleas are, more often than not, pot-bound when purchased from the nursery or garden center. Tease out the roots before planting.
- When planning paths, if possible, allow a minimum width of two metres for ease of access. Also you won't have to prune the shrubs back from the path so often. There's nothing worse than having the path a shade narrower than the wheelbarrow legs.
- More impact is achieved if beds are planted in single colours.
- The garden will look better in winter if evergreen shrubs in groups of threes or fives are planted under deciduous trees.
- If moving house, be patient and see what happens to the new garden over the period of a year. Light, shade, wind direction etc. have quite an effect on gardens.
- If you're in a bad mood, go out into the garden for a while, as it's wonderful therapy.
- If starting a new garden, don't be too ambitious. Plant 'easy to grow' things first and once established then be a bit more adventurous.

### Garden of Friendship

*When I feel a bit lonely or just a bit low  
To lighten my spirits out gardening I go.  
It's a garden of friendship  
Each plant that I tend reminds me of someone  
And each one a friend.  
When I gaze at the beauty, friend's faces I see  
And I think of the plants they have given to me.  
The bulbs and the seedlings, the cuttings and all  
If it wasn't for friends I'd have no flowers at all.  
In my garden of friendship midst colour and scent  
My friends are all with me and I am content.  
Joshua Brian*

### Seasonal Tasks –



with Pat Powell

#### June

- \* If your shopping list has a camelia featuring, now is the time to choose one as they are in flower.
- \* It is important that it flowers well in our area so it pays to purchase from a reliable nursery Roses which do well on our Range are few and far between. The old fashioned

heritage ones are the most reliable. Garden Club Members who grow roses are always willing to share their knowledge.

\* Before planting roses, citrus, azalias and magnolias soak them in a container of water and seaweed solution for about 30 minutes. When you have the plant in the hole and back filled use the solution to water the plant in.

\* Water early in the day rather than the afternoon.

Raise the mower blades during the cool months to allow a higher stronger grass.

#### July

\* This is the month for preparation and maintenance. Take a walk around your garden with a very critical eye. Some plants require serious maintenance, others require thinning out while some you might like to dispose of altogether.

\* Feed your geraniums with super phosphate now and in the spring use a mix rich in potassium to promote flowers.

\* Gather fallen citrus and bury to keep the fruit on the tree healthy. Inspect your tree while gathering fruit from your trees for gaul wasps. Cut the wasp out and place into a plastic bag or into your fire. Gaul wasp can damage a citrus to the point of having to destroy it.

\* Fertilise your leafy vegetable crops with a high nitrogen fertilizer to promote growth.

#### August

\* Replace the mower blades if any are damaged before spring when the mower will be in more use.

\* Now is the time to prune your roses and give them a complete fertiliser and mulch.

\* Passionfruit vines should be pruned to promote growth as they fruit on new wood.

\* Take a pH reading of your garden while preparing your garden for spring crops. If the reading is below neutral it is acid and can be brought to neutral so the plants can take up the nutrients you provide. Azaleas, magnolias, camelias and gardenias require an acid soil.

\* A bed of potatoes planted in August should supply a welcome addition to the Christmas table.

#### Answer to quiz on P.2.

1. Modesty and faithfulness
2. Heat the yarn to above 48° C for at least 30mins or freeze below -7° C for several days.
3. Isadora Duncan. A famous dancer in the 20<sup>th</sup> century died when her scarf was tangled in the axle of the car in which she was travelling.

#### 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.

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#### 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.