

Maleny Garden Club Inc.

SNIPPETS

Spring 2010

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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.

From the Editor.

Well another 3 months of 2010 has passed and we are into the spring edition of Snippets. While the aim is to make each 'Snippets' as interesting and entertaining as possible, this is more achievable when a regular supply of articles are received to fill its pages.

If you have travelled recently, write a few paragraphs and tell us about it. If anyone would like to give me an article on Garden Tasks for that month or for the next 3 months for each 'Snippets' that would be much appreciated. Just make your article around 200-300 words, that leaves room for others to be included.

A special thanks to Lisa Plucknett, Pat Powell, Joyce Butterfield and Kath Marshall who as usual are always ready to provide articles or poems for Snippets. If you have already supplied an article that has been 'put at the bottom of the pile' please let me know and I will see that it gets into the November 'Snippets'.

Also don't forget if you have any garden tools for sale or you need to lease or buy any, let me know and I will endeavour to put your request in the newsletter.

Happy Spring Gardening!

Margaret Owens

Bowood House and Gardens

Joyce Butterfield

We visited Bowood House, Wiltshire, family home of the Marquis of Lansdowne in the spring of 2008. The gardens are quite beautiful, encompassing almost every period of English garden design. There is an Italianate theme throughout with a Grecian Temple across the lake that creates a lot of interest. A mausoleum housing tombs of family members is situated on a wooded ridge surrounded by rhododendron walks. Azalea, roses and flowers fill the garden spilling out of huge urns along the balustrade

surrounding the upper terrace. Two beautiful bronze stags that recline on pedestals on either side of wide stone steps from the house leading to another lower garden.

'Capability' Brown designed the 2,000 acre park with trees, lawns, lake and views beyond to the Wiltshire Downs. To complete the scene is a quaint stone cottage by the lake.

The park also included an Adventure Playground for children with a Pirate ship, slides swings and trampolines. Inside this mansion, that is open to the public, is a beautiful chapel with an aisle leading to the altar, pews on either side and a magnificent pipe organ. A laboratory, now used as a library, is where oxygen was discovered in 1774 and Dr Jan Ingenhousz discovered the process of photosynthesis and also worked on finding an inoculation against smallpox. A very interesting place to visit indeed.

Quick Quiz;

1. What is bas-relief?
2. What is the botanical name for English lavender? And where does it originate?
3. What was the fate of Narcissus in Greek mythology?

For answers see back page.

***Spring Reading.**



"Shrub Gardening for Flower Arrangement"
by Sylvia Emerton.

As the title suggests this book has been written for those interested in floral art by a floral artist. Sylvia Emmerton describes how to get an abundance of widely varied material for indoors, whilst enjoying an all round the year spectacle in the garden, by substituting shrubs for flower borders. Emmerton describes the trees and shrubs she

has selected after many years of experiment, giving much useful information about their cultivation.

The description of the shrubs nominated in the book are grouped according to colour and flowering periods, there is also a section on variegated foliage, together with sections on planning a garden, micro-climate, keeping records and a warning on purchasing plants.

Although this is a book written for the British climate many of the shrubs can be grown in Australian conditions and the principles noted in the book are applicable to this country.

Peter Owens.

Tea at the Ritz.

Scones...after the sandwiches come the scones, those austere little cakes, perfect vehicles for jam and cream. The Ritz scones are not baked until early afternoon on the day on which they are to be served, to make sure they are as fresh as possible.

Here is the Ritz scone recipe:

1½ cups self-rising flour	1 tsp cream of tartar
½ tsp bicarb of soda	½ tsp salt
3-4 tbsp butter	150mls milk

Sift the flour, cream of tartar, bicarb of soda and salt. Rub in the butter, fingertipping the mixture into large flakey crumbs. Stir to a soft moist dough by mixing with a knife. Roll out to a thickness of 2cm or just over and cut into rounds with a pastry cutter 4-5cm in diameter. Arrange on a baking sheet fairly close together and powder their faces with flour. Bake in a preheated oven of 220°C for 12-15mins or until golden. Excellent served warm.

..and Cakes.. cakes and pastries at a Ritz afternoon tea are airy and Frenchified, extremely pretty, creamy and rich. Crisp shells of *pâte sucrée*, choux and puff pastries are filled with whipped cream and embellished with feather-patterned fondant icing or thin slices of sweet fruit. The Head Pastry Chef and his staff of seven produce a fresh fleet of these cakes every day.

The London Ritz Book of Afternoon Tea

About Banksias

Banksias are an icon of Australian flora and a beautiful tree for the home garden. Although they are not high maintenance they do have special needs.

Banksias will grow in full sun or part shade. They mostly originate from windswept coastal headlands with natural sandy soils and must have perfect drainage to minimise the possibility of root rot. If your soil is heavy clay, it can be improved by adding gypsum or beds can be raised by building up a layer of horticultural sand mixed with

compost to a level at least 30 - 40cm above the original soil level.

Although the spent heads of banksias have a fascinating appeal of their own, removing them will promote further flowering.

Iron deficiencies are fairly common in banksias and can be recognized by new leaves turning yellow. This may be because the soil is too alkaline or simply iron deficient. Iron chelate applied at the recommended rate should solve the problem.

ATG Issue 53

Ever Wonder?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on planes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called Apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call an airport the terminal?

Why? Good question.

Top Home Tips

To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.

Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

If you accidentally over-salt a dish while it's still cooking, drop in a peeled potato and it will absorb the excess salt for an instant 'fix-me-up.'

Thoughts

supplied by Kath Marshall

. You see things and you say "why?" But I dream things that never were, and I say "why not?" (George Bernard Shaw)

. Sometimes we stare so long at a door that is closing that we see too late the one that is open.

(Alexander Graham Bell)

. Treat the earth well, it was not given to you by your parents, It was loaned to you by your children (Proverb)

. . A person can only grow as much as his horizons allow. (John Powell, whoever he is)

**"Making Merry in Maryborough"(15/5/2010)
(and I am not "The Late Lisa Plucknett")**

*I wasn't first at all you know,
Pipped at the post by Pam;
Behind every "late-ish" woman
There's a very punctual man.
And I haven't died – I'm much alive
Oh yes I really am.
(In fact, planning my pre-funeral wake
Where I'll dish out curry cake,
To those who infer I'm always late.)*

*And my ear ring which I thought I'd lost,
Found in my underwear;
And though well frisked by Gemma T
We knew not it was there.
And Baddow House was brilliant
Though the Mary River muddy,
And just to make this nonsense rhyme
It looked like the Iarrowaddy.
And to Malcolm and to Nancy
Big Thanks from everybody.*

Lisa Plucknett (fading fast, but not yet gone.) May 2010



Garden Tips

When pruning your hedge make the base slightly wider than the top. This will help sunlight reach the lower branches, encouraging thick even growth, even growth from the ground up.

About the Garden ATG

Our Southern Highland Fling (April 2010)

In April this year Kevin and I enjoyed a conducted coach tour of the Southern Highlands, NSW. The culmination and highlight of this tour was the 'Bundanoon is Brigadoon Day'. Our tour was called the 'Southern Highland Fling' and the event was the 35th 'Gathering of the Clans'. All signs including the railway station in this tiny mountain town, south west of Bowral, are changed to Brigadoon for a day. Approximately 25 kilted pipe and drum bands make a procession through the town to the Sport's Oval where a day of Scottish Games (throwing the caber etc) is enjoyed by about 10,000 people who flock to the town for the day.

Steam excursions from Sydney and Canberra puff their way into town while the streets of Bundanoon are lined with tour coaches. The sight of about 500 pipers and drummers marching in formation across the oval playing 'Scotland the Brave' etc is a thrilling moment

that is equal to the Edinburgh Tattoo. We also had the thrill of staying at an exclusive Pepper's Country Resort near Bowral. The home that is over 100yrs old was originally the estate of the landed gentry and was the epitome of a gracious bygone era. We climbed the 104 steps of the 'Illawarra Fly', a cantilevered tower where we looked across an extensive valley to the coastline. As we journeyed home through the New England Plateau we viewed the forests of wonderful autumn bronze and gold colours and will never forget our Wonderful Fling.

Lisa Plucknett

Health Matters.

It is important to get some true rest on a regular basis. I am not talking about sleep, but conscious rest. A rest where we can breathe deeply and not be under pressure and feel relaxed.

Escape from technology, e-mails, ipods, media and phones. You will feel so good having a true rest.

Here are 8 ways to get some true rest ...

. Take a walk in one of Sunshine Coast's great parks or sit by a waterfall for an hour.

. Visit the Maroochy botanical gardens, smell the fresh air and the flowers and be amazed at all the different varieties of plants, trees and shrubs.

. Take a trip to Australia zoo and see the personalities of all of the different animals.

. Schedule a holiday this weekend somewhere - accommodation is inexpensive this time of year. Trips to the Gold Coast for a few days are not that expensive.

. Take a day off and read a great autobiography in your lounge.

. Call 5 friends you have not talked to for a while and laugh together about old times.

. Take a boat ride on the canals at Mooloolaba and help feed the pelicans--there is something soothing about water.

. Treat your spouse to a night in a hotel or bed & breakfast.

It is a unique experience acting like a tourist in your own area.

Take an afternoon off (when the sun is shining) and go for a run on some distant track on the range. It is great not only to get the exercise and fresh air and views, but it is so relaxing being somewhere with virtually no one around.

Adapted from Revive.co.nz

Food for Thought.

If lawyers are debarred and clergymen are defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked and dry cleaners depressed?

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Herb Profile - Nasturtium

Nasturtium plants were discovered in the jungles of Peru and Mexico in the 16th century. They are easy to grow, edible, cheerful and they are great companion plants as well. Nasturtiums help deter aphids, whiteflies, squash bugs, cucumber beetles and other pests. Plant them with tomatoes, radishes, cabbage, cucumbers and under fruit trees.

They come in vibrant colours or muted tones, variegated or plain. Some are fairly dwarfed while others can be used as a vine, climbing up to 2 metres or more.

The trick with nasturtiums is to keep them watered during the entire growing season especially when in containers. They love full sun but don't do well in drought-like conditions.

Try mixing assorted salad greens with a handful of nasturtium petals or top dish with a flower. Nasturtium vinegar is wonderful as well. Add several blossoms and some leaves to a jar with a clove of garlic. Fill with vinegar and allow to sit for 4-5 weeks.

Margaret Owens

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Plant Now for Autumn Glory!

For stunning colour plant deciduous trees now. If you have dreamed of owning a beautiful autumn foliage tree – well now is the time to go shopping.

Deciduous trees are a very good choice for a sustainable home and garden. Plant them where they will screen your home from westerly sun. They will help keep the summer temperatures down and in winter they'll let the sun stream through, just like nature's own reverse cycle air-conditioning!

For best colour they require full sun and quality, well mulched soil. Position them where they will be protected from hot or drying winds. In warm areas mulch to keep the root zone suitably cool.

As deciduous trees tend to lose their leaves in one big dump, you can count on a regular annual supply of organic material for mulching or composting.

Try one of these Japanese maples:

- *Acer palmatum*. These maples have beautiful, elegant leaf forms and interesting architectural branching patterns. Autumn tones range from burgundy to yellows to oranges

- *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory'. In Autumn the dark green leaves of this maple change to a dark red before turning a vibrant lipstick pink-red. The underside of the leaves turn a grey-pink. It is said to colour up better than other maples in warmer zones.

Better Homes and Gardens Spring 2009

Did You Know?

Purple is considered the colour of royalty while lavender is the colour of femininity – you could call it a grown up pink.

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September Tasks –

- Plant veggies and flowers for a spring and summer of blooms and bounty.
- Put in shrubs, vines and trees before it gets too hot.
- Repot hanging baskets to get rid of the old 'concrete' soil so water absorbs and doesn't run off.
- Poke salvia or hydrangea prunings into the ground (about ½ should grow).
- Plant a sprouting choko so the vine can clamber up a tree or fence. Look up choko chutney recipes for autumn.
- Place four sleepers and six bags of compost on a sunny bit of lawn for an 'almost instant' veggie garden.
- Sit and smell the roses and the scent of newly cut grass.

Women's Weekly Sept 2010

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Take That!

The policeman couldn't believe his eyes when he saw a woman drive past him on the motorway busily knitting. Quickly he pulled alongside the vehicle wound down his window and shouted "Pull over." "No" the woman yelled back cheerfully "Socks."

Reader's Digest

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Answers to Quick Quiz:

1. Bas-relief is a type of sculpture in which the design projects slightly from a flat background but without any part being totally detached from the background.
2. The botanical name for English lavender is *Lavandula Angustifolia* and originates from the French Alps near an area called Grasse
3. He fell in love with his own reflection and died of starvation when he wouldn't look away. *Better Homes and Garden.*

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.