

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Summer 2025

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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.

President's Report.

The stars were aligned for us for our Spring Festival on 4th October, 2025. Our subcommittee had done a tremendous job – not only organizing everything beautifully but providing a great range of merchandise to attract an enthusiastic crowd to open their wallets and enjoy. Jan, as Events Convenor, certainly developed an engaged group of team members and the results speak for themselves. It is never easy to take something that already running well and make it even better – time after time. So, on behalf of all the Club – our heartiest congratulations to Jan and her Events team.

Which brings me to something else – a new year is just around the corner, and we will be holding our AGM and Committee elections in March for the 12 months ahead. The Club, of course, belongs to all the members and it is therefore important that fresh ideas are continued to be brought forward and one way to do that – is to have a few new members on the Committee each year. In that way you achieve a mix of experience and new ideas. So please think deeply about how you can contribute to the Club – not only for today but also for the future.

The Maleny Garden Club has a storied history and having just celebrated its 73rd birthday it is still young. Your involvement therefore in its future for the generations to come will be of great value. Alan Boyle

The Man Who Nailed the Gympie Mail.

(A Christmas Fantasy)

There was movement at the station,
For the word had got around;
That Santa Claus was coming,
On the fastest train in town.
He didn't have a reindeer,

He didn't have a sled;
And so he had to take a punt,
On Queensland rail instead.

They were passing Tibrogargan,
On the Gympie Mail Express;
When Santa pulled the Stop Cord,
"I've left behind my fancy dress!
I need my set of whiskers,
I need my bright red suit;
Need my "4 X" for survival,
And I need my rubber boots!"

The train it shuddered to a stop,
The guard came thundering through;
"Whoever pulled the Stop Cord,
I'll have a word with you!
The Beerwah cops are boarding soon,
The Landsborough boys as well;
Annastacia, Katarina,
We all will give you hell!"

"We fear it could be terrorists,
We've alerted Albanese:
The Feds are flying as I speak!"
(And poor Santa he felt queasy.)
"We know someone in this carriage,
Has done this dirty deed;
Come clean and tell us who it was.
And onward we can speed."

The commuters all were silent,
They knew who caused the pause;
But none of them were mean enough,
To dob in Santa Claus.

The cops they all came wandering through,
The press from Glasshouse News;
And someone took a photo,
Of the stunning mountain views.

The strawberry pickers had a rest,
Then ambled to the train;
They traded several punnets,
But the guard was still a pain.
"Get off my train" he roared at them,
"This is not a comfort stop!
I'll give you thirty seconds,
Then hand you to the cops!"

Then Santa saw he had a choice,
And alighted with the pickers;
And someone told the guard "He's gone!"
And gave the guard "Two fingers."
Then the Gympie Mail continued,
And Santa gave a wave;
He'd joined the Strawberry pickers,
And was trying to behave.

He even rang his Union rep,
"It's too hot for this job!
So I've joined the strawberry pickers,
They're a really a friendly mob.
And I guess that when the Gympie Mail
At last got to Gympie North;
The guard filled in his paper work.
And homeward sallied forth.

Re, the day I stopped the train;
And joined the strawberry pickers,
And regards to Queensland Rail."

*Yours faithfully, former Santa
By Lisa Plucknett*

Some Of the Best of Churchill.

*"If you're going through hell, keep going".

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts".

*"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat".

*"Democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time".

*"The people of England are never so happy as when you tell them they are ruined".

*"The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter".

*While Churchill was walking with his wife in the market, she stopped to have a long conversation

with a street vendor. When they resumed walking, he asked her about her conversation. She replied that she had known the man since they were young and that they had been fond of each other at the time. Churchill laughed and jokingly said "If you had married him, you would now be the wife of a street vendor, with all respect to his profession!" His wife responded with a straight face, "No, if I had married him, he would have been Prime Minister." Touché.

Anon

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Adventure on Kangaroo Island.

The island is fascinating in all respects - its history, its people, and the work done in recovering from the bushfires that raged across the island a few years ago.

There were no Indigenous people living on Kangaroo Island at the time of its discovery by Matthew Flinders in 1802. However, there is clear archaeological evidence of occupation going back thousands of years. This continued up till about 400 years ago. The Island was originally connected to the mainland, making it accessible to indigenous people, but was cut off when the water levels rose some 10,000 years ago.

The first day was spent exploring the national park. Our first stop was Rocky River where we walked and saw 4 Koalas , some Cape Barren geese and roos. There were lots of wrens and crimson rosellas too.

Given the size of the island and its small



resident population, a lot of the country looks like this:

The Wool Tour.

We booked a tour to Kangaroo Island Wool - supposed to be for 1 hour but we were there for 2.5 hours .

Sheep farming began in 1836 with the import of Merino sheep to the Island. In the middle of the 1990's 2 vets formed the KI Sheep Production Group with the aim of lifting productivity, sustainability and profitability for the island's sheep farmers using scientific methods and research. By 2011 the 2 vets had teamed up with 18 farmers to form Kangaroo Island Wool Company. Today the group is 22 farmers, 2 vets and a sales and marketing manager. The Fires in 2020 destroyed a lot of sheep, and some farmers left; but with Govt support from all levels they were able to build their present factory.



They buy wool from the farmers and then process it on site. They use no chemicals in scouring and cleaning the wool, and the grass seeds are removed by blowing air through the wool. All aspects of wool processing occur on site, except for the dyeing.



On the table is a selection of wool: 17-micron fleece at the front, then a 28-micron (the yellowish one at the back) and a 38-micron fleece (the grey one at the back left). The Company only uses 17 micron merino fleece.

This is a 17 micron merino fleece.

Samples of their yarn: 8 ply on the Left (below) and 4 ply on the Right (below).

Interestingly their garments are manufactured without seams, so you can see the whole garment emerge from the knitting machine.



Contributed by Sue and John Cotterell.

Terms of Cricket

Several years ago, I placed this same article in Snippets but as we have another Ashes Series this year, I'm hoping you will forgive me for repeating it in this issue. For the uninitiated!!

Dropped: You will be if you miss this one.

Draw Stumps: Local Umpire is part-time Dentist.

Square Leg: Very hard to obtain runs if you have one.

Caught In the Slips: Another party raided .

Shout For a Quick One: Batsman requires urgent refreshments.

Dolly Catch: Local mixed cricket match.

No Ball: The Captain has forgotten it again.

Silly Mid On: Only name one can use for this position.

Byes: What the team shout to each other when going home after the game.

Leg Glance: Wife feels hurt if this happens too often. *Anon.*



Miracles of Nature

Some Gardening Trends for 2025

Recent years have seen Australians increasingly striving for gardens that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also environmentally responsible and reflective of personal styles.

Native Plant Revival.

One of the most significant trends is the resurgence of native plants. Gardeners are increasingly recognising the value of indigenous species, which are well-adapted to the climate and require fewer resources to thrive. This not only reduces water usage but also supports local wildlife, fostering biodiversity. Expect to see a blend of contemporary designs incorporating iconic Australian plants like kangaroo paw and bottlebrush.

Edible Landscapes.

As the locavore movement gains momentum, edible landscaping is becoming a popular choice for many homeowners. Imagine gardens that blend beauty with functionality—fruit trees, aromatic herbs, and vegetable plots incorporated into ornamental landscapes. This trend reflects a shift towards self-sufficiency and sustainability, allowing Australians to enjoy homegrown produce while reducing their carbon footprint.

Smart Gardens.

Technology is increasingly playing a role in efficiently managing gardens. Smart irrigation

systems, soil sensors, and automated lighting are becoming integral to maintaining vibrant gardens while conserving resources. As tech integrates with gardening, 2025 will see more homes implementing smart solutions for optimal plant care, offering convenience and efficiency.

Outdoor Sanctuaries

With a focus on wellness and mindfulness, creating outdoor sanctuaries will continue to be a priority. Australians are investing in spaces that promote relaxation and stress relief, integrating elements such as water features, hammocks, and secluded seating areas into their gardens. The use of natural materials like timber and stone aids in cultivating a serene, garden retreat atmosphere.

Urban Green Spaces

For city dwellers, maximising limited space is key, and the trend of urban green spaces is showing no signs of slowing. Vertical gardens, rooftop gardens, and balcony green pockets provide city inhabitants with their own slice of nature. These small-scale green spaces contribute to improving air quality and provide mental health benefits, making them an essential element of urban living.

In summary, Australian landscaping and gardening in 2025 will emphasise sustainability, personalisation, and the harmonious integration of technology. By promoting native plants, creating edible landscapes, and nurturing urban green areas, gardeners are paving the way for more resilient and enriched environments.

<https://www.atmoscape.au/landscaping-trends-whats-new-in-2025/>

Editor's Note:

Thank you to those who have contributed to this month's Snippets. To Sue and John Cotterell, Lisa Plucknett and Alan Boyle a special thank you. If you have an interesting article or travelogue of your recent travel, please remember me. Margaret.

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

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