

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Autumn 2026

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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 our program for the year.

March meeting: Please note the change of venue for AGM Tuesday 31 March 2026 to be held at Maleny Uniting Church.

Maleny Neighbourhood Centre Community Pantry and Kitchen:

The MNC is always looking to refill the pantry at the front of the centre, plus items for the weekly community lunch held on Thursdays. Fresh vegetables and fruit –preferably delivered on a Monday or Tuesday. Plus, nonperishable Pantry Items Thank you for supporting the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre

Fruit Tree Cottage: has relocated to Cnr Parsons Road & Old Maroochydore Rd, Forest Glen

Trading Hours: Thursday - Sunday 8:30-12:30 <https://www.fruittreecottage.com.au>

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.

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

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Sayings from famous people

- Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. **Martin Luther King Jr**
- The growth of wisdom may be gauged exactly by the diminution of ill-temper. **Friedrich Nietzsche**
- No-one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. **Nelson Mandela**

- If you tell a big enough lie, and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed. **Adolf Hitler**
- It's not the people who vote that count. It's the people who count the votes. **Joseph Stalin**
- When the debate is lost, slander becomes the tool of the loser. **Socrates**
- You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks. **Winston Churchill**
- This is not just about women. We men need to recognize the part we play, too. Real men treat women with the dignity and respect they deserve. **Prince Harry**
- If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools. **Plato**
- Details matter, it's worth waiting to get it right. **Steve Jobs**
- Grief is the price we pay for love. **Queen Elizabeth II**

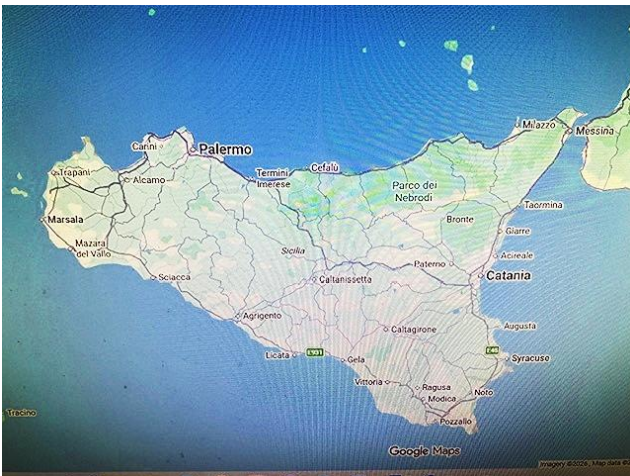
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Our Mediterranean Adventure Spring 2025

You haven't seen Europe till you visit some of the Islands in the Mediterranean; and that is what happened for us in May/June 2025.

We began in Malta. We settled into our centrally located boutique hotel in Valetta, the capital, for the next 7 days. Our first impression was amazing and awesome, as we gazed at the magnificent limestone city walls built by the Order of the Knights of St John who thereby fortified the city. These walls took 5 years to build. They occupied the Island, given by Charles V and Pope Clement for over 250 years. Malta is a treasure trove of archaeological history where neolithic sites date back to 3000BC. This includes the amazing hypogeum only discovered in 1902. This ancient necropolis which allows only 70 visitors a day, shows what could be built using very primitive tools.

A visit to the ancient city of Medina, delights visitors with its charm and beautiful buildings.



We left Malta and took an early morning ferry trip North to Sicily, an Island that supported such civilizations including the Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Normans, and Ottoman Empires. Here we met our driver/guide for the next 9 days. He took the backroads through the countryside abounding with stunning wildflowers at every turn, healthy orchards of olive trees, and cereal crops. We headed for the hill town, Ragusa Ibla, noted for its ancient streets and the cathedral dedicated to St George. During our stay on Sicily, we encountered many groups of school children on excursions. Driving to Ortygia, our stay for the

next few days, we looked at Syracuse with its Greek Archaeological Park. Many modern sculptures have been blended with the ancient tree lined walks leading to the Cave of Dionysius Ear. Many hours could be spent at the large Museum there. On foot we visited the Duomo, a Norman styled Church, which contains Greek columns dating back to BC time, incorporated into the old building.

We headed North to Amerine, bound for Villa Casale, built by a Roman General, and best known for its stunning mosaics. Many are still intact and a popular attraction.

Our hotel at Agrigento overlooked several Greek temples, Juno and Concordia, and Hercules, all illuminated at night. The temple of Concordia has been used as a church for hundreds of years and is still in reasonable condition. Their restoration has been done by a British archaeologist, Alexander Hardcastle. An afternoon visit to Selenate took us to the Temple of Hera. The whole park is beautifully landscaped, with a magnificent view of the sea.

On the SW coastal region of Sicily, lie 2 large towns, Marsala and Mazara, conquered by the Saracens. Also along this coast are found extensive salt pans, the salt still being harvested today. The Arab architecture is very striking here.

Moving North to Segesta, on arrival we walked to the Temple which looked magnificent in the morning light. This temple has never had a roof. A shuttle coach drove us up the mountain to the see the well-restored Greek theatre with a stunning water view and used during the summer months. Still continuing North and close to the West coast, we can see Erice in the mountains ahead. We drove up to see the Church, which was packed with tourists trying to observe the lace work on the Church ceilings, high above us. The walls were crammed with frescoes of biblical stories. Erice is largely medieval with narrow cobbled streets and buildings that have been present from the Middle Ages. Late afternoon we arrived at the Monastery of Morreale. This is a wonderful and unique design of church, The mosaics along the walls and altar are wonderful

and the floor has an Arabic design and is original. The cloisters reflect Arabic patterns on the pillars. It was obvious in this area of Sicily that the Arabian and Byzantine cultures merged, often in their architecture. That afternoon we drove into Palermo; we were staying at an old Palace in the heart of the city. Most popular attraction here was the Palatine Chapel with its lavish Byzantine mosaics, but the grand Cathedral, dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, provided shelter for 100's when it began to storm while we were there.

We left Palermo the next day, and drove East to Messina, bypassing the Aeolian Islands and Mt Stromboli, sadly, due to inclement weather. The Messina Museum houses a couple of Caravaggio paintings, and the beautiful automaton Cathedral clock tower which drew our attention at Noon, depicting a story of the town's history.

Heading South from Messina, we called in to see the village where some of the Godfather movie was filmed, and then continued on to Taormina, a very popular tourist town, located at some height above the sea it faces. Our departure was imminent from Catania, but we still had the iconic Mt Etna to visit. Not many days later we heard it had erupted! We left Sicily and flew to Lanaca, in Cyprus, with more of our travels to be continued.

Contributed by Gemma Tonkin

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2026 Garden Club March Mystery Tour

Our mystery tour could well have been described as a history tour. Convicts, famous families, floods, war, bankruptcies; all were players in the story.

We began at New Farm Park, where Gerard, a local historian, spoke briefly on its history. The name comes from the convict days when the growing settlement required farmland to grow food. The area's soils and location led to the area being cleared for cultivation. In 1915 the city council took control of the park and named it New Farm Park. It served as a military camp in

the early 1940's when our link with the US was established, and when General MacArthur ruled the country for a while. In that period, about a million US soldiers and sailors brought their smart uniforms, their cigarettes, their accents and their money into Brisbane, and impressed the local sheilas. The Aussie lads could not compete; and they fought the yanks in local punch-ups like the one in Creek Street where someone was killed. You may Remember the saying of the time: "they're overpaid, over-sexed and over here".

Then we inspected the rose gardens, for which



the park is known. The roses shown may be Queen Adelaide.

The head gardener, Robert, explained their work. He is responsible for all the Council gardens.



A significant player in Brisbane's history is the river, and Diana cleverly underlined its role by getting us on a river Cat to sail from New Farm Park to Brett's wharf.

From there we ambled across the road to the Hamilton Hotel for luncheon.

We then travelled to historic Newstead House, a grand building enclosed by wide verandas,



located on a hilly rise above the Brisbane River at its junction with Breakfast

Creek. The early settlers chose wisely. And the surrounding park with its gracious old trees is a joy.

The house was the residence of the Wickhams for some time. Mr John Wickham was captain of



The Beagle on Darwin's third voyage. He bought Newstead House from his brother. He had acted as interim governor from Newstead house, and as a magistrate "he was inflexibly just and honourable". Despite his fine reputation, he was overlooked as governor of Queensland and the mantle fell on Thomas Brisbane.



The traditional plant call was at Issy's - a farm tucked away under the impressive Crookneck. Silent grandeur.



We arrived back at the Showgrounds at dusk and reflected on the great variety of settings in our March mystery tour. A park, a river cruise, a historic house, a classic pub, and a tiny farm. Wow!

Many thanks to Diana for creating a great tour!

Contributed by John Cotterell



Please let me join in!



Editor's Note:

Thank you to those who have contributed to this month's Snippets: To Gemma Tonkin, John Cotterell, 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

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

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