

**The Gentle Gardening Guide — Janet Stone**

Early mornings now have that cool, sweet smell of autumn and at last the weather is pleasant enough to spend a few happy hours working in the garden. The ground is still warm enough for planting annuals and other favourites ready for Spring/Summer displays.

**Annuals:** The most memorable aspect of many gardens is the range of colours and the creative ways colour can be used as feature planting. The easiest way to bring vibrant swathes of colour into the garden during spring and summer is to plant flowering annuals. There is still enough time to plant seeds, but healthy seedlings and pots of colour available at plant nurseries give early coverage and take most of the work out of establishing colourful displays.

The number and variety of easy-care annuals is almost endless and can be used to brighten entranceway gardens, while pots, hanging baskets and planter boxes can be used enliven dull spaces or fill gaps while deciduous plants are bare. For late winter and early spring colour, plant ever-reliable cineraria, Iceland poppy, pansy, primula and viola. If planting seedlings or pots of colour, briefly soak them in liquid seaweed solution before planting to help prevent transplant shock, then water in so the solution can activate microbes in the soil and help the plant develop strong roots.

**Ground covers as natural mulch:** Instead of topping up mulch each year, try some low growing plants that spread over the soil as these will help retain moisture, keep soil cool and prevent weed growth, as well as adding an attractive layer of planting to the garden.

For shady spots – Ajuga sends out underground runners that cover the soil fairly quickly while pretty, purple-white native violet spreads well in damp shaded spaces. Heucheras, chameleon plant (Houttuynia) and hostas also do particularly well. Dry, sunny areas need plants that have hairy



or hard leaves that can resist the heat, such as a wide range of prostrate or dwarf casuarinas, grevilleas and wattles. Scaevolas (fan flowers) are among the prettiest native ground covers with masses of fan-shaped blooms in blue, mauve and white. Clumping ground covers spread more slowly than running plants but are very hardy and include day lilies dianellas, liriope and lomandras. Many climbing plants such as hardenbergia and star jasmine are excellent ground covers as long as they are kept away from trees and fences.

Ground covers also brighten rockeries, bare spaces under trees and garden beds. Flowering plants include bacopa, calibrachoa, diascia, gardenia radicans, lobularia, lobelia and verbena. Hardy plants include creeping juniper, erigeron, evolvulus, gazania, variegated jasmine and Zoysia. Edible ground covers include Corsican mint, creeping rosemary, oregano, pennyroyal, sweet potato and thyme. Succulents include dwarf euphorbias, kalanchoe and sedum.

**Lavender:** Blooming from winter to spring, ever popular Lavender comes in three main types, English, Italian and French. Italian lavender has two brightly coloured wings at the top of each flower, while the French variety has serrated leaves. English lavender has perfumed purple flowers with aromatic grey-green foliage, although many new hybrid varieties have extended the colour range through to pink and white. Growing to 80 cm high and 1m wide, this evergreen shrub forms a tight mound if pruned regularly, and thrives as sweet scented hedging along driveways and paths. Lavender prefers full sun, well drained soil, and benefits from liquid fertilizer once or twice during the growing season. It is drought-tolerant once established. Prune in Spring to keep the plant compact and watch for grey mould if summer weather is particularly wet and humid.



**TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.**  
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**NEWSLETTER**

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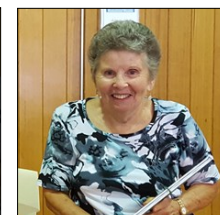
**April 2016**

**2016 Awards**

At my very first garden club meeting I clearly remember Bobby White encouraging everyone to get involved in the club. She stressed the importance of being an active member if the club is to thrive. Bobby also told us of the benefits of the friendships formed in the club.

In March the club awarded Life Membership to: Bobby White and Brain and Chris Davison. Eddie Fenton received the Ron Miller Award. The club would be a poorer organisation without people such as these. These club members have worked tirelessly over many years for our club. They are examples of Bobby's words in action.

The club also thanked retiring committee members Annie Brennan, Di Fenton, Bev Kitching and Robin Pope for their efforts.



**Tibouchina**

Autumn is the season that the Tibouchina really shines in our mountain gardens. It would seem that most gardens have one or two of these beauties, blazing with purple, pink or white flowers at this time of the year.

Tibouchinas hail from South America. In Brazil the massed purple blooms are used to decorate churches during Easter. Tibouchinas come in all sizes from a dwarf shrub to a small tree. Plant breeders have been very busy creating many new varieties. One of the most popular is Tibouchina "Alstonville" named for Alstonville, where the this cultivar was grown. I have found the Tibouchinas to be very hardy and reliable. They respond well to pruning and can be heavily cut back to be renewed when necessary. They like a feed of slow release fertiliser in spring and summer and a drink in very dry times. What a rewarding shrub they are.

**CONTACTS: President** –Di Howard 5545 2628 |**Vice President** - Terri Taylor 5545 4564  
**Secretary** - Bernadette Stacey - 5545 0605 | **Treasurer**– | **Springtime Convener** - Margaret Pile - 5545 0869 | **Patron** - Mary Wallace

**April 2016 Meeting**

**Tuesday May 10th at 9:30 AM**  
 Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

**Guest Speaker** Lee Thorneycroft: Begonias

**Competition table**

- A flowering native
- An exotic tree or shrub
- A flowering bulb or corm
- A vegetable / fruit
- A spray of autumn leaves
- A camellia flower
- A potted plant

**Specimen table**

Bring along a specimen; unusual, interesting, beautiful, unknown. Include a question if you like.

**Question and answer segment**

Get the answers you need to all your gardening questions. Use your experience to help with someone else's problems.

**May Biggest Morning Tea**

Di Fenton, Robin Pope  
 Please bring a plate to share

**What's on today** Guest speaker: Des Warnock plant health, Plants sales, Raffles, Library, Book Sale

**April garden visit**

Tuesday April 19 – 10am – BYO Morning Tea  
 Glenyce Lynch  
 417 Main Western Road, (Opposite Showgrounds entrance)  
**N.B. Please park outside showgrounds and we will car-pool down the escarpment to this garden.**

**From the President**

As President Di Howard was still overseas when we went to press, we didn't have the usual column but for those of you who were not at the March meeting, here is a list of the new Committee

- President** *Di Howard*
- Vice President** *Terri Taylor*
- Immediate Past President** *Margaret Bell*
- Secretary & Newsletter** *Bernadette Stacey*
- Treasurer**
- Botanic Gardens Manager** *Roger Lenehan*
- Grants Officer** *Bob McCathie*
- Springtime on the Mountain Convenor** *Margaret Pile*
- Membership & Garden Visit Days** *Glenda Sullivan*
- Website & Speakers** *Lorraine Bilbie*
- General Committee** *Jan Collis*

Other positions necessary to make our Club run so well are:

- Morning Tea Convenors** *Margaret Lenehan and Jan Mc Kinnon*
- Library Convenors** *Helen Lynch & Sue McConnell*
- Raffle** *Sandy Silabon & Faith Whear*
- Meet & Greet Hostess** *Rhonda Laarhoven*
- Competition & Specimen Table Organiser** *Elsa Rasmussen*

- Projector & Slide Show** *Not sure but hoping Heather Hislop will continue!*
- Hall set-up** *David Somerville*

All these positions are vital and sincere thanks go to all of the above members for taking on these responsibilities, our club could not operate successfully without you.

Don't forget that contact details can be found on our Website which also is regularly updated with interesting and important information.

**Upcoming events—please see the noticeboard for more details**

QCGC A Garden A-Fair	Auditorium Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha	16 & 17 April
Pittsworth Open Gardens 10 gardens	Pittsworth Function Centre Hume St	14 – 17 April
Wondai Garden Expo	Wondai Sports Ground	16 & 17 April
Coucals Open Garden	8 Belah St, Mount Crosby	30 April & 1 May
Banora Garden Expo	Centaur SS, Cnr Leisure & Eucalyptus Dr, Banora Point	1 May
Gardening on the Edge 6 Open gardens	Maleny Showgrounds	11 & 12 June
Esk Garden and Lifestyle Fair	Old St Andrews Church Ipswich St Esk	18 June
Qld Garden Expo	Nambour Showgrounds	8-10 July
Laidley Spring Festival - Flowers and Orchid	Laidley Cultural Centre	8 - 10 Sept
Clivia Show	Toowoomba TAFE Horticultural Pavillion	16 - 21 Sept
Brisbane International Garden Show	Pine Rivers Park, Strathpine	6 - 9 October
Montview open garden (485 roses)	Cnr Oak & Rose Sts Killarney	Open Wed to Sun in October



At our next meeting May 10 we will raise funds for the **Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea**. Please bring along a plate of goodies to share and make a donation to help people in the community who are battling with cancer.





**Thirsty Citrus Plants**

Unless you're getting regular autumn rainfall, give your citrus a deep drink each week. Inadequate soil moisture can affect ripening fruit, so it's important to ensure the water is getting down into the soil. It's as easy as mixing 15ml of Yates® Waterwise Soil Wetter Concentrate into a 9L watering can and watering over the root zone (or potting mix for container grown citrus).

This will help the water penetrate below the surface and down into the roots where it's needed. And to help keep citrus leaves healthy and green and nourish the developing fruit, feed each week with Yates® Thrive® Citrus Liquid Plant Food. Just mix 2 capfuls into a 9L watering can and apply around the root zone of in-ground and potted citrus.

From [www.yates.com.au](http://www.yates.com.au)

