

## MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN – Elwyn Paton

I was inspired by a visit to Sissinghurst, Kent, UK to plant my own the white garden. My white garden is on a much smaller scale of course. The Sissinghurst garden has some wonderful white flowering plants most of which, with the exception of white roses and Queen Anne's lace, won't survive here.

An opportunity to make a white garden here on Tamborine Mountain came when we bought two white Camellias, Commander Mulroy and Lovelight and planted them on the south side of our garage. C. Lovelight has grown to a sturdy, glossy leaved plant with blooms of white open petals and a yellow boss centre and has been flowering for about eight years.

C. Commander Mulroy took his time and had one double bloom last year but shows promise for winter flowering this year.

I planted two white cane Begonias beside them and two variegated Dracaenas as well. This was the beginning of my white garden or more likely my green and white garden.

The smaller plants in front include the small white Agapanthus planted in clumps. There is a silvery green Begonia that makes a lovely groundcover and Zephyranthes or Autumn Crocus which flowers at this time of year. Other additions include a variegated Plecranthus, an Ardisia which produces white berries instead of red and a Justicia with frothy white blooms. Several Madonna Lillies flourish and flower for a long period of time. I have a less vigorous, variegated version which needs a bit more attention.

I have infilled with two white Azaleas. If they flower before the warmth of Spring, they will miss the

dreaded petal blight. Beside the Azaleas is a white Plecranthus, one of the Mona Lavender group, almost at the end of its life span and needs replacing.

As I became more ambitious, I extended the garden and planted a Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*). It is deciduous and flowers in Spring with white balls of blossom followed by nicely shaped leaves. It shares the garden with a white Abutilon and a shrub of Justicia. This Justicia bears candle like spikes of bracts veined with green. It doesn't flower very much but when it does I try to ignore the presence of pale pink blooms.



I have a couple of Rengarenga Lillies (*Arthropodium cirratum*). They never fail to produce lovely spikes of starry flowers. I also planted a Cherry Pie, (*Heliotrope*) which technically has the palest of blue flowers but most of the time looks white to me. I have the White Cats Whiskers and a double white tree Dahlia also. I don't find them remarkable, but I know in some gardens they do very well.

I have found the scope for a white and green garden is boundless once you start the quest.

Happy Gardening—Ellie P.



# TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.

PO Box 63, North Tamborine, 4272 ABN 281 058 436 76 [www.tmbotanicgardens.org.au](http://www.tmbotanicgardens.org.au)

## NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bernadette Stacey - [bernadette1859@gmail.com](mailto:bernadette1859@gmail.com) 0409 759 838

April 2017

### Growing Garlic—Lynne Rule

Garlic is a great crop to try. It is relatively undemanding, apart from some initial soil preparation and a little attention. Two aspects which appeal to me are using the growing shoots for a more delicate garlic addition to salads and scrambled eggs, while the garlic is developing underground. The other immensely appealing aspect is not having to net the crop or try to prevent looting by night marauders of the furry digging or pilfering kind.

This will be my third season of growing garlic using the cloves I have saved from last year (stored in paper bags on the pantry). I think the Italian Red variety is good for our warm temperate situation. I am also planting the Dynamite Purple variety for its long storage life.

Garlic likes fluffy soil with a handful of dolomite lime added. I am going to try backfilling with soil over the growing shoots this year as apparently that will lead to larger bulbs. For warmer climates an April start is best with the crop being ready in six months. Harvest the crop when most shoots are yellow.

Throughout the growing time, water and fertilise regularly. The shoots don't give much indication of water stress but they are quite a thirsty plant and regular water will really make a difference. Reduce watering and let the soil dry as the crop starts to yellow. That way you will reduce the risk of the bulbs rotting as they mature.

Dry the bulbs thoroughly out of direct sun for 3 weeks then remove the shoots and roots and store in a cool, dark place. You could try plaiting the shoots and bulbs into a decorative plait but this is something I have yet to master.

I love having a supply of organic, fresh -grown garlic. This year I experimented with making garlic confit and garlic-infused olive oil. Both very successful for very little work. Confit garlic is basically garlic poached gently in olive oil then stored in the fridge. It keeps for a long time and is a wonderful addition to salads or squashed onto toast. If you have ever had to use bottled or powdered garlic instead of fresh, you already know the huge difference in taste. So go one step further and grow your own!



Cancer Council  
Australia's  
Biggest  
Morning  
Tea

At our next meeting May 9 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 raise funds for this important cause.

**CONTACTS: President / Springtime Convener – Di Howard 5545 2628 | Vice President / Secretary - Bernadette Stacey - 5545 0605 | Treasurer – Fred Rodrigues 5545 3428 | Patrons - Mary Wallace, Margaret and Roger Bell**

**May meeting**

**Tuesday May 9th at 9:30 AM**

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

**Guest Speaker:** Carole Kerkin—Salvias

**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 Morning Tea**

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, please bring a plate to share.

**Vegies to Plant Now**

Carrots, Cabbage, Kale, Garlic, Onions, Lettuce, Radish, Spinach, Silverbeet, Strawberry, Turnip, Peas

**Flowers to Plant Now**

Alyssum, Calendula, Cineraria, Cornflower, Dianthus, Delphinium, Heart's Ease, Hollyhock, Linaria, Lobelia, Lupin, Nasturtium, Nemesia, Nigella, Pansy, Petunia, Snapdragon, Stock, Sweet Pea

**April Garden Visit**

Stephanie Cox , 24 Alpine Tce  
Mt. Tamborine Tuesday  
18 April at 10am , BYO Morning Tea

**From the President**

I hope everyone survived the heavy, but welcome rain, our gardens certainly needed it. Damage appeared to be minimal so I think we escaped lightly compared to other areas.

During March, Bernadette and I attended the QCGC Presidents' Morning Tea at the Mt Coo-tha Botanic gardens. The guest speaker was the Governor Paul de Jersey who spoke about the important place garden clubs have in the Qld community, We also took the opportunity to distribute the 2017 Springtime brochure to representative of other garden clubs.

For those members who were not at the March meeting here is a list of the new committee:

President and Springtime Convener: Di Howard  
Vice President, Secretary and Newsletter: Bernadette Stacey

Treasurer: Fred Rodrigues

Membership: Di Fenton

Garden Visit Days: Glenda Sullivan

Website, Speakers and Slide Show: Lorraine Bilbie

Grants Officer: Bob McCathie

Meet and Greet: Rhonda Laarhoven

General Committee: Lorraine Millar

Other important positions which are vital and necessary to make our club run smoothly:

Morning Tea Convener: Margaret Lenehan

Raffle: Sandy Silabon and Kayleen Winnem

Library: Sue McConnell and Helen Lynch

Hall Setup: David Sommerville

My sincere thanks to all of the above for working to make our club exceptional. We look forward to another successful year.—Di Howard



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

|  |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| Wondai Autumn Garden Expo                      | Sportsground, Bynya Highway, Wondai               | 15 & 16 April |
| Qld Orchid Society Easter Orchid Show          | Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium            | 14 & 15 April |
| Bromeliad & Tropicals Show & Sales             | Genesis College, 12 Youngs Crossing Rd, Bray Park | 22 April      |
| Floral Art Society Fashion Parade              | Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium            | 24 April      |
| Viola's Patch Open Garden                      | 280 Beaudesert Beenleigh Rd, Bahrs Scrub          | 29 & 30 April |
| Brisbane Plant Collectors Fair                 | Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium            | 20 & 21 May   |
| Gardening on the Edge                          | Showgrounds, Maleny                               | 10 & 11 June  |
| Qld Gardening Expo                             | Nambour Showgrounds                               | 7—9 July      |
| Gold Coast Gardening Expo                      | Country Paradise Parklands, Nerang                | 3 Sept        |
| Clivia Show                                    | TAFE Horticultural Pavilion, Lindsay St Toowoomba | 15—20 Sept    |
| Toowoomba Bromeliad Society Spring Show & Sale | Sacred Heart School Hall Cnr North & Tor St       | 16—18 Sept    |
| Toowoomba Geranium Society Show and Sale       | Masonic Hall, 58 Neil St                          | 16 & 17 Sept  |

The Ron Miller Award recipient Glenda Sullivan with President Di Howard.



Outgoing committee members Margaret Pile and Margaret Bell received certificates of appreciation



**Diary of a Springtime gardener**

Goodness me, when I asked for a nice rainy week I had no idea that we would be sent Ex-Cyclone Debbie. Luckily for us our garden sustained no great damage. The heavy rain scoured away the mulch in places on my gardens exposing the topsoil. I will need to remedy this problem soon or the weeds will take over.

This past week I have planted a lot of bulbs in the hope they will make a lovely spring display. I also had the good luck to attend the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Festival and came home with my suitcase brimming with fresh additions to the garden. I also want to thank Lorraine and Roy for a box of great plants. These too have found a home in my garden.

Along with all the planting, I have also fertilised the garden this month. I endeavour to fertilise at the change of each season. All in all I am pretty pleased with the progress in the garden this month. – Bernadette

