

MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN – Elwyn Paton

My top garden near the boundary never seemed to be very inspiring, no matter how hard I tried to make it so. But, over the last week through no effort on my part, it has been truly beautiful. Over many years, Hovea shrubs have self-seeded here and this year two Hoveas have made their appearance and are drooping under the weight of violet coloured pea blossoms.

The correct name for these lovely plants is Hovea acutifolia. They grow naturally in wet forests and rain forest margins from SE QLD to the central coast of NSW. They are relatively short lived.

Near the Hovea grows a Zig-Zag wattle, which has also self-seeded and which I considered removing because it was growing close to a standard cherry. When I noticed flowers starting to form, I let it have its head. It is also flowering very well. Alas, after flowering it will have to go and certainly before seeds appear.



Unlike the Hovea, it is not a local but comes from Central Queensland near Chinchilla. It is called Acacia macradenia.

Cool to warm climate conditions enhance a strong flowering effect. It is inclined to be invasive and has shown to have crossed with other acacias on its travels. It has succumbed to heavy frosts in some inland areas such as Canberra. It is amazing what Google can tell you.

I have replaced a rusted arch and seat with a small wrought iron bench and altogether with three flowering Camellias the purple Hoveas, some flowering Hawthorne and a cascading yellow Acacia this area looks very pleasing indeed. Another pleasant surprise came in the form of a deep pink flowering cherry growing in the lower



garden. This plant has been in the ground for at least seven years. It is deciduous and has flowered at the end of winter every year. This year it is special.

It is Prunus campanulata, so named for its hanging clusters of bell flowers. I was given it as a seedling from a friend. It is commonly called the Formosan Cherry. I think the "Potty Potters" had it for a while so it is possible that there are a number of them somewhere on the mountain.



I have been told that it will do well in warmer parts of SE Qld.

Spring is around the corner, so...

GO FORTH AND GARDEN! - Ellie Paton



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.

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NEWSLETTER

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Care for camellias after flowering.

Camellias make their major spurt of growth after flowering, so it's best to feed them when the last flowers are coming to an end. The end of winter is still the optimum time to give sasanquas a feed. Use a specific camellia food (such as Thrive Granular) or, better still, some Dynamic Lifter Advanced for Camellias, Azaleas & Rhododendrons. Potted camellias should be fed with a plant food that's safe for pots. Yates Acticote would be a good choice.

Camellias have shallow root systems that can dry out readily during summer so, after fertilising, spread a layer of mulch – such as Yates new GroPlus Organic Mulch – around the base of the plant. Avoid direct contact with the stem of the plant.

Pruning

Even if you never pruned your camellias they'd continue to grow perfectly happily, but there are times when the secateurs or clippers should come out. Sasanqua camellias are often used as a formal hedge or shaped as a topiary and an end-of-winter haircut will give them a fresh start for the season. Hedges will also need to be trimmed occasionally over the growing season to retain a neat outline. Japonica camellias can be pruned to restrict their size or to thin crowded branches and open up the plant.

Reticulata camellias are best left to develop their natural tree shape but under-pruning, removing lower branches to create a clear trunk, can sometimes improve their appearance.

Watering

Established camellias are remarkably drought tolerant but the plants will perform at their best if water stress is kept to a minimum. Mulching, as mentioned, will help, as will an application of Yates Waterwise Soil Wetter. Scrape away existing mulch, apply soil wetter and water well afterwards. Then move the mulch back into place. Potted camellias will appreciate the addition of some Waterwise Water Storage Crystals in the root area. These will help hold extra moisture. From www.yates.com.au



Honorary Members

At the July meeting the club recognized the long time contribution and support of Ray and Margaret Buchanan to the garden club. We thank them for their efforts.



CONTACTS: President – Di Howard 5545 2628 | **Vice President** - Terri Taylor 5545 4564
Secretary - Bernadette Stacey - 5545 0605 | **Treasurer**– Di Fenton 5545 0236 | **Springtime Convener** - Margaret Pile - 5545 0869 | **Patrons** - Mary Wallace, Margaret and Roger Bell

September 2016 Meeting

Tuesday September 13th at 9:30 AM

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker: A representative from APT Tours, Botanic Garden Tours

September Competition table

A flowering native
An exotic tree or shrub
A collection of 6 flowers- bulb, corm, tuber
A vegetable / fruit
A bunch of sweet peas
A Tussie-Mussie
A raceme of wisteria

September Moring Tea

Sue Tomkins, Meredith Arnold

From the President

Haven't we had a lovely cold spell. The bulbs love the cold so hopefully there should be a lovely display come spring. The magnolias have been spectacular and many are still flowering. What wonderful trees we can grow here on the mountain. The garden owners who are opening their gardens during Springtime must be pleased with the great rain we have had.

It saddens me to say that Kay and Geoff Ilet have sold their home and are leaving the mountain to be closer to family. Kay and Geoff have lived on the mountain for 21 years and have been volunteers at our gardens for 20 years.



They could always be found in the hydrangea beds, which Kay helped to establish. I know I learnt a lot from Kay whilst helping to prune the shrubs. Kay has a wealth of knowledge regarding plants. Lately you could find them both in the bromeliad gardens working on the steep slope. It won't be the same wandering through the gardens and not seeing them there on a Thursday.

At Springtime they both worked tirelessly for the club. Their garden was opened during Springtime and club garden visit days. Nothing was too much trouble for the Ilets.

I have known them for only a short time but I have seen firsthand how caring they are. For many of our members who have known them a longer time I am sure you would be proud to call them friends.

Thanks for the memories and the enormous contribution you have made to this club. We wish you all the best as you settle in to this new phase of your life. Di Howard



August garden visit

Tuesday August 16th – 10am
BYO morning tea
Meredith Arnold
24 Adelaide Court
Nth Tamborine

Upcoming events—please see the noticeboard for more details

Ipswich Home Gardeners Expo	Glebe Rd & Green St, Booval	27 August
QCGC Fashion Parade	Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Auditorium	31 August
Beaudesert Districts Orchid and Foliage Spring Show	School of Arts Hall Canungra	10—11 Sept
Laidley Spring Festival - Flowers and Orchid	Laidley Cultural Centre	8 - 10 Sept
Coucals Open Garden and High Tea	8 Belah St, Mt Crosby	10 & 11 Sept
Tani Tei En Garden Opening	519 Currumbin Creek Rd Currumbin Valley, Gold Coast	18 Sept
Toowoomba Geranium Society Show & Sale	Masonic Hall, 58 Neil St	17 & 18 Sept
Toowoomba Bromeliad Society Show & Sale	Sacred Hear Primary School, Cnr North and Tor Sts	17—19 Sept
Logan City Garden Club Friendship Day	Logan Central Community Centre 9 Jacaranda Av	20 Sept
Boonah District Club Friendship Day	Kooroomba Vineyards and Lavender Farm, FM Bells Rd, Mt Alford via Boonah	28 Sept
Clivia Show	Toowoomba TAFE Horticultural Pavillion	16 - 21 Sept
Brisbane International Garden Show	Pine Rivers Park, Strathpine	6 - 9 October
Stanthorpe Gardenfest	Stanthorpe Christian Fellowship 207 Amosfield Rd	7 & 8 October
Montview open garden (485 roses)	Cnr Oak & Rose Sts, Killarney	Open Wed to Sun in October

July garden visit

We had a gorgeous winters day for our July garden visit at Margaret & Roger Bell's garden. Although they have taken out over 10 trees, you couldn't tell. But what you could tell, is the amount of work that they put in to keep their garden looking top notch. Thank you for our visit. Glenda Sullivan

