

**MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN**

I had been wondering recently, why several geraniums and some salvias in my new garden were doing so well through last autumn and during this winter. They maintained heavy flowering until I gave them a cut-back. I was also dismayed by the many concrete shards and lumps that I uncovered, that had been left behind when the house was built.

This got me thinking about a conversation that I had with Caroline Robinson from Tenterfield. Her garden at that time had some wonderful plants growing there and she also had a small nursery. I was bemoaning the fact that I couldn't grow some of her nursery plants even though I had fertile soil and some cooler weather here on the mountain. She told me that we underestimate the importance of soil Ph. She said that her soil was Alkaline and mine would be Acidic.

I then began to think that the soil around my house would be affected by the concrete foundations and the many concrete shards that were left behind would be leaching calcium into the soil. Maybe, in that garden I may be able to grow some alkaline loving plants that I couldn't grow before.

When I did some research into Alkaline loving plants, it was quite a surprise. I can now remember looking hopefully at some of the plants growing in my previous garden and wondering why they weren't looking at their best.



Amongst these plants were Bearded Iris, I could only get the white ones to flower for me, the rest just sat there. Catmint (Nepeta) is another: It would last for one season or two at the most. Aquilegia is another sad case: In other soils it flourishes and reseeds. The list goes on—Delphiniums, Foxgloves, Geraniums, Hostas, Lavender, Helleborus orientalis, (flowered grudgingly), some Salvias, Clematis, Deutzia, Lilac, Spiraea (grew nicely), Tree Peonies (disaster), Viburnum (not bad), European Ash (never a success), Ginkgo biloba (struggled), Ornamental Cherries (not too bad), and of course Pink Hydrangeas.

I suppose that you could grow some of these plants in pots if you are really keen, making sure that you don't use potting mix suitable for Camellias, Azaleas, etc. I think that you have a better chance of a good result especially if you incorporate some lime into the soil. This way you can control the balance in the soil much better.

I bought a Tree Peony in a pot, at a beautiful garden in the Southern Highlands years ago. The owner took me aside and explained that when I got home, I had to prepare the soil adding a pot of lime to the soil and one every year from then on. I think I should have put it into a big pot as it turned out to be a losing battle. Every year, nice new leaves appeared and then bit by bit it lost vigour and died. This garden also grew Lilac in profusion and lots of lovely bearded Iris, making me green with envy.

Sorry to leave you with messages of death and destruction. It is part of gardening I suppose.

Ellie P.

Tree Peony



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

Editor: : Lorraine Bilbie—ellbee1146@gmail.com 0438 831885

**AUGUST 2018**

**SPRING /SUMMER FLOWERING ANNUALS**



When people talk about gardens they've visited, what stands out most in their memory is colour.

A great way to bring vibrant splashes of colour into your garden during spring and summer is to plant flowering annuals.

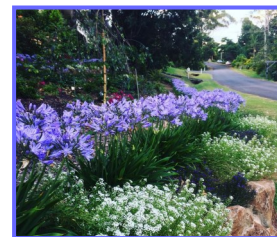
Botanically speaking, annuals are plants that germinate, flower and die in one year. Of course, that puts most vegetables in the same category, but when we refer to annuals, it's usually about flowering ornamental varieties - the ones we use to drag our gardens out of the winter doldrums and remind us that spring is really here.

There's a huge range of flowering annuals. Some popular ones are begonias, violas, salvias and snapdragons. As well, there are petunias, pansies, primulas, marigolds, alyssum, and many others.

This time of the year we are beginning to see them appear in the nurseries. So it's a good time to think about how you can add a splash of colour to your spring garden.

We usually put in primulas and violas first, these are flowering at the moment. These will seed and come up year after year, another favourite is nemesia and these last well into the spring.

I always like to have alternating white alyssum and deep blue lobelia cascading over the rock borders and planted between the "Baby Pete" agapanthus which is a low growing variety and much neater than our large blue aggies. We usually get a couple of years out of the alyssum before it starts to look ratty.



Do you have any old or unusual containers that you could grow a few annuals in to brighten a dull corner? At around \$3.00 per punnet they give "plenty of bang for your buck"

Stack up some pots or plant up your old wheelbarrow. Look for dwarf varieties of snapdragons and zinnias for a good show.

As the summer arrives petunias always look great. Remember to give them some soluble

fertilizer and dead head regularly to extend the flowering



**TODAY'S MEETING—BOTANIC GARDENS**  
**Sausage Sizzle and Physio with Gary Brooks**



**CONTACTS: President – Leonie Rowe –5545 4353 | Secretary—Bev Cheffins 5545 0690**  
**Vice President / Media– Bernadette Brushe 0407 176 052 | Treasurer – Helen Walsh 5582 7902**  
**Patrons - Margaret and Roger Bell**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Tuesday September 11th at 9.30 am  
Vonda Youngman Community Centre  
Main Street, North Tamborine

**Guest Speaker**—Dan Willman

ROCKY POINT MULCHING

**SEPTEMBER COMPETITION TABLE**

A flowering native

An exotic tree or shrub

A selection of 6 flowers-bulb, corm or tuber

A Vegetable/fruit

A bunch of sweet peas

A Tussie-Mussie

A raceme of wistaria



**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 for your gardening questions, Use your experience to help someone else.

**SEPTEMBER MORNING TEA ROSTER**

Vesna Mc Cathie  
Lynne Rule

Remember to bring your own cup



**AUGUST GARDEN VISIT Tuesday 21st**

Christine and John Youngman  
268 Long Road  
TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN.  
10 am Bring your own Morning Tea.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:**

Merry Christmas.



On Thursday 26th July the club hosted 48 of its members for our Christmas in July celebrations. It's far too hot to eat hot turkey in December, but winter is just right, and who can wait to the end of the year to celebrate.



The Manor on Long Road was full to bursting with a jolly atmosphere of merriment and Christmas spirit, with lucky door prizes, bonbons, carols and Christmas baubles. Members were treated to a traditional 2 course Christmas inspired lunch and beautiful white Christmas sweets were provided by The Manor.

People got right into it and sang along with Darren.

We now know who has a rather wonderful voice.

Joan Hughes has been hiding her light under a bushel, no more!

Feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive and we thank all those who attended. A special thank you to our very own "Beacon Belles" who entertained us with a couple of line dancing routines.

So much fun in one day, what will your garden club committee think of next!!

Leonie Rowe  
President

**JULY GARDEN VISIT**

Our July Garden visit to the glorious garden of Lorraine and Roy Bilbie was a feast for the eyes Winter colour everywhere, camellias to die for... Rare plants and potted colour extending onto the verges. What a credit to you both, thank you for sharing.

Lorraine Millar—  
Garden Visit  
Co-ordinator

Cymbidium Orchid



**COMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

Ipswich Home/Garden Expo	Corner Glebe Road and Green Street Booval.	Saturday 25th August 8.30 am—3 pm
Logan & District Orchid Soc. Annual Show	Springwood State School 120 Springwood Road, Springwood	Saturday 25th August 8.30—4.00 Sunday 26th August 8.30— 2.00
Brisbane Organic Growers Fair	Peace Hall, 102 Mc Donald Road, Windsor.	Sunday 26th August 9 am—3 pm
Garden Club Bus Trip Roma Street Parkland Kenmore Tavern—Lunch Brookfield Garden Centre	Meet at Vonda Youngman Centre. 8.00 am Bus Departs at 8.15 am	Tuesday 4th September
Coucals Open Garden	8 Belah Street. Mt Crosby.	Saturday 8th September Sunday 9th September 9.00 am—4.00 pm



**PLENTY OF CHRISTMAS CHEER GOING ON HERE**



Left—The "Beacon Belles"  
LtoR Vesna, Elaine  
Leonie and Lynne



Right— some of the great door prizes.  
Photos-Glenda Sullivan

