

## MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN – Elwyn Paton

Hello to 2017. Aren't the summer months, the times when you sit under a shady tree with a good book and appreciate the results of your spring labours? I don't think so.

Just about a week before Christmas, a rather large branch came down from my gum tree (henceforth called THE TREE) and smashed into two gardens almost demolishing a nice *Salvia melissodora* and a golden privet topiary. This problem was solved by a couple of men with a chain-saw and a rather large mulcher. The plants will recover with time, I hope.

In between sorties to Sydney and Coolool I haven't done any real gardening. I have a number of plants waiting to be planted and the heat and humidity have been such that I think that I would be expecting too much of their survival.



I have, however reluctantly, picked up much bark from THE TREE, filling a trailer to overflowing. Thankfully, much of the bark came down one wild windy night.

Mowing was out of the question due to the frequent January showers making the grass too wet. Even with the dry and hot February I swear that I can see the grass growing as I type.

Last September, I was in Washington and Philadelphia. As it was late summer there, I was surprised how warm and humid it was. Some days were in the low 30c and some of the gardens grew similar plants to ours. The similarities ended there. Come autumn, the gardeners would be busy taking cuttings from the tender plants and potting up and hauling the pots into warm houses or conservatories. One gardener, said he buys and

replaces all the plants in his garden in spring that do not survive winter. (He was a time strapped doctor). Winter means 3-4 feet of snow.

I try to remember the trials of other gardeners in other parts of the world before I get too carried away with my problems.

Our summer days bring the *Agapanthus* flowers. For obvious reasons this is our Garden Club Flower Emblem. In some parts of the world they seed madly, not a problem here. I believe that if a plant grows well here, it is a good idea to seek out other varieties of the same plant.

One great variety is the small white *agapanthus* "Snowball", which is strong, very floriferous and makes an amazing show in the Botanic Gardens along the Cherry Tree Walk.

I get a real buzz when my clump of tall white aggies decide to flower all at once and without any other invading colour.

There is a small blue variety and I recently found a small blue and white one. There are several, tall, dark blue types. One of mine is called "Wavy Navy" sourced from Sydney years ago.

If you like large clumps in your garden, source "Queen Mum" with large blue and white flowers which look all the world like the hats that the late Queen Mother used to wear.

Another recent arrival in my garden is a plant with lavender blue flowers that look like pendulous blue balloons, though the blue "balloons" don't seem to open and I suspect won't appeal to everyone.

Sadly, now is the time for bending the back and cutting back the spent summer blooms.



# 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

February 2017

### Summer rose pruning

Be doubly rewarded by giving your roses a summer prune – a second flush of beautiful blooms in autumn and less pruning work come winter.

Winter is traditionally the time to give roses a thorough prune, however great results can be achieved by also pruning roses in summer. Not only does it promote a fresh flush of new growth and flowers, it also helps to reduce the amount of pruning needed in winter.

Rose pruning can appear slightly daunting, with thorny stems trying to attack you and not knowing exactly how to go about it. So what's the easiest way to summer prune roses? Remove around a third of all the growth. Don't worry about which way the buds are facing, just prune! Sharp secateurs will really help the pruning go smoothly – there's nothing worse than battling with rusty old and blunt secateurs.

Fiskars has a great pair of secateurs called the 'Quantum Pruner' which can cut through stems up to 2.5cm diameter. Great for cutting through tough old rose stems! It has sharp, precision-ground blades, a rust resistant, low friction blade coating to make pruning easier, tough all-natural cork handle pads to reduce weight and create a comfortable grip and the blade tension can be adjusted to your hand strength and pruning needs.

After pruning, it's an ideal opportunity to give roses a summer clean up spray with Yates® Lime Sulfur, to control the sap sucking pest two spotted mite (which is very common during hot summer weather) and also the diseases rust and powdery mildew. Apply Yates Lime Sulfur at the lower (non-winter) dilution rate and spray the pruned rose thoroughly.



And to encourage the new leaves and flowers that will develop after the summer prune, feed each week with Yates® Thrive® Roses & Flowers Liquid Plant Food. It's rich in potassium to encourage lots of autumn flowers, which will arrive in around 6 – 7 weeks time.

Read more at <http://www.yates.com.au/garden-calendar/january/roses/#DjjXIG3TqzoL0tBz.99>



**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

**March meeting**

**Tuesday March 14th at 9:30 AM**

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

**Guest Speaker:** Dan Willman from Rocky Point Mulch

**Competition table**

- A flowering native
- An exotic tree or shrub
- A flowering bulb or corm
- A vegetable / fruit
- Perfumed leaves – one cut
- An hibiscus
- A rose

**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.

**February Garden Visit**

Anne & Kerry Jones  
22 Eagles Close  
Eagle Heights  
Tuesday Feb 21 - 10am BYO morning tea

“A garden is a grand teacher, it teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.” Gertrude Jekyll



**From The President**

Welcome back to another year of the Garden Club. I hope everyone has had a safe and happy festive season and are now ready to face 2017. The committee aims to see you all enjoying club activities and being involved.

What a scorching hot summer we have had. Hopefully autumn is on the way with cooler weather. Our gardens must be so stressed by the high temperatures and very little rain. Oh for a real wet season.

Next month is our Annual General Meeting and a number of the existing committee members have nominated to continue. At this stage we do not have a treasurer. This role is pivotal to the running of the club. Without someone offering to fill this position we may not have a club. I am sure there is someone with skills to assist. Any potential treasurer would not be left to flounder as one of the proposed committee members has an enormous amount of experience and would be able to offer advice and assistance. Please do not focus on what the club can do for you but what you can do for the club.

On a more sombre note Vale John Brennan. John's daughter Annie informed me that he had passed away in January. John and Helen Brennan were members of the club from 2001 – 2012. Our condolences go to the Brennan family.—Di Howard



Club Fees are Due in March—Don't forget to pay your dues by next month. \$25 for a single and \$40 for a couple. Pay at the meeting, by Paypal on the website or cheque.

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

Jonica Gardens Open Day	39—63 Derby, Logan Reserve	18 & 19 Feb
Orchid and Foliage Show	School of Arts, Canungra	11 & 2 March
Brisbane Plant Collectors Fair	Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium	20 & 21 May
Gold Coast Gardening Expo	Country Paradise Parklands, Nerang	3 Sept

**Phenomenal Cauliflowers**

Cast your mind forward to cooler weather in late autumn when roasts and soups will start to be on the menu. Cauliflower is a brilliant veggie to use in so many warming recipes and if you start sowing seed now, you'll be eating home grown cauliflower in a few months time.



Yates® Cauliflower Phenomenal Early is a popular, early maturing and easy to grow variety. It produces large, firm heads in 14 – 18 weeks. It's best to start cauliflower off in trays of Yates® Seed Raising Mix and transplant the seedlings out into a sunny veggie patch when they're around 7 cm high.

To help grow big healthy cauliflowers, after transplanting the seedlings feed each week with Yates® Thrive® Veggie & Herb Liquid Plant Food (dilute 1 – 2 capfuls into a 9 L watering can and water over the plants and surrounding root zone). As the white heads (called a 'curd') develop, fold the leaves over the top to prevent yellowing.

**Diary of a Springtime Gardener**

This year we will open our garden for the first time at Springtime. I feel like such a novice gardener surrounded by so many fabulous gardens on the mountain. Luckily gardening is a something I love to do. Must be in the genes I think, my parents and grandparents were all keen gardeners.

Currently I am in the process of tidying up the rampant summer growth. The camellias I pruned months ago have put on much scraggy growth which looks decidedly untidy. Some of our trees have needed the thick lower growth removed to allow the under planting to shine through. I have given the poinsettias a light prune to encourage them to thicken up. Many other shrubs have had a touch up with the secateurs.

The dreadful heat has taken its toll of the both the gardener and the garden. I have so many plans and jobs to be done but the heat has made it impossible to work outdoors after about 10am. I am longing for cooler weather so I can really get stuck into my list.  
- Bernadette Stacey

