



The Gentle Gardening Guide

“A conversation with anyone who loves a garden” Janet Stone



“Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas.” Elizabeth Murray.

GARDEN ART is more than classic statuary and expensive bronze sculptures.

Works of art in the garden include any focal point which catches the eye and gives impact to a space, enticing the viewer to enter and explore. Effective garden art reflects the personality and style of the gardener and adds character to landscape spaces by presenting interesting chosen objects varying in size, height, shape, colour, texture, purpose, or just fun.



Destinations: Art adds another dimension and experience to a garden, drawing the viewer to a special place by creating a focal point in a long vista; by framing a special view; defining zones or rooms within the garden; and guiding further exploration with glimpses of almost hidden places.

Statues and fountains: whether traditional or contemporary, should be in keeping with the style of the garden around them. These features can present a place for pause or reflection if seating is placed nearby.



Frames: arches and pergolas, flat trellises, obelisks, tripods, tepees and even old ladders can be used to frame a view, define an area, act as a marker for an eye catching feature or plant, or attract and lead the walker.

Paving: the options are endless with single use or combinations of various surfaces and patterns of hard or porous pavers; natural stone slabs; plain, patterned or decorated concrete; bricks; large, medium and fine grade gravels of various colours; crushed stone; packed clay; coloured and textured mulch; timber rounds, logs and sleepers; or interplanted. Paths and paved areas guide us

through the garden so the materials selected need to suit their function as well as being attractive.

Plant sculptures: architecturally interesting or fetchingly coloured and textured plants planted individually or in creative combinations, make show-stopping statements in the garden. Carefully staged in their own open space, feature plants add a powerful artistic impact to a landscape.

Pots: large or small, coloured or plain – but always thoughtfully placed and decoratively grouped - give dark or lonely spaces a bright highlight

and can be moved around to suit the needs of the season. Lightweight plastic pots can be made attractive by painting them in stone finish paint which gives them a rustic, bagged concrete look, but easy to move about.

Pruning: topiary is the most obvious way to create art through pruning, but hedging is an easier option. Whether a formal shape or rounded, waved, or square cut, a hedge of well pruned plants can define an area, edge a pathway or frame a special view.

Mosaics and wall hangings: bring some bling to the garden through any number of fanciful creations using brightly coloured and glossy glass, ceramics, plastics or other durable materials. This is an ideal holiday activity for grandchildren and will add joy and fun to any space.

Seasonal features: interesting bedding shapes and colour selection of seasonal plants is a spectacular way to create a highlight in a prominent area of the garden. Most public and competition gardens use feature designs to guide planting.

Living art: the best garden art is the presence of insects, birds and native animals which live in and visit their favourite spaces, and of course the family and friends who share the joy of your garden.

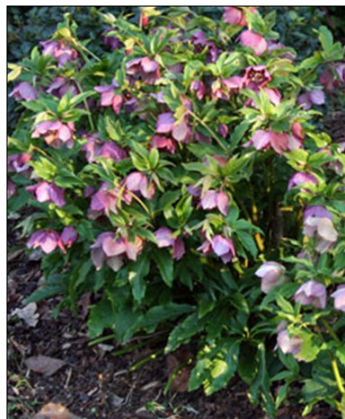
HELLEBORES: Winter Beauties

Once thought of as dull coloured shade plants with hard to see pendulous flowers, hellebores are making a popular resurgence in winter gardens as new hybrids with a wider range of colours, interesting markings, and more upright growth are becoming available. Hellebores are part of the Ranunculaceae family which includes other attractive easy-care plants such as anemone, aquilegia, buttercup, clematis and delphinium.



Hellebores are fairly tough winter-flowering perennials which grow in clumps, self-seeding through shadier beds in the garden and requiring little attention other than an annual clean-up of dead foliage in March. Ideal for planting under deciduous trees or along the shady side of the house, hellebores prefer dappled light but can withstand full sun during winter. Flowering from winter to spring, hellebores can be displayed indoors as cut flowers floating in a shallow bowl.

Planted in well-drained soil with plenty of worked-in compost or well-rotted leaf mulch hellebores can take care of themselves for years, only needing to be watered during dry summer periods. Hellebores enjoy the same growing conditions as clivias and have similar growth patterns. They are rarely affected by pests and can be planted among shrubs with complementary colours to highlight the spectrum of colours and markings that are available in new hybrid varieties.



Hellebore seedlings which pop up after flowering finishes can be transplanted when very small while they can still tolerate their roots being disturbed. Established clumps can be lifted and divided in autumn or spring but prefer to be left undisturbed to spread naturally.— Janet Stone

What's on today

Guest speaker: Jan Rozanski - Horticultural Therapy Library, Raffles, Plant sales

CONTACTS: President - Margaret Bell 5545 0797 | **Vice President** - Di Howard 5545 2628
Secretary - Robin Pope - 5545 2205 | **Treasurer**— Di Fenton - 5545 026 | **Springtime Convener** - Margaret Pile - 5545 0869 | **Patron** - Mary Wallace

July 2015 Meeting

Tuesday July 14th at 9:30 AM

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker Neil Bell Physiotherapist – Looking after your health in the garden

Competition table

- A flowering native
- An exotic tree or shrub
- A flowering bulb or corm
- A magnolia flower
- A winter bouquet
- A vegetable
- A citrus fruit

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.

July morning tea

Brenda Noble & Robyn Hesse

June garden visit

Roy & Lorraine Bilbie's, 1 Areca Crt (cnr Contour Rd) Eagle Heights 10 am, 16 June, BYO morning tea



From the President

We have just had a most enjoyable road trip through western New South Wales, Victoria and into South Australia and around the three peninsulas. We had every possible type of horrible weather imaginable thrown at us but still we enjoyed it all. Autumn colour was everywhere, the coast line was fabulous, the National Parks were great and an abundance of seafood, particularly on the Eyre Peninsula, made the experience terrific. We even managed to visit a few wineries!

Every time Roger and I go away from the mountain I come home with the same feelings of excitement and enthusiasm. This is such a wonderful place to live and I think we need to go away so that we can fully appreciate our home town. It's just so good to be able to enjoy the seasons here. We've come home to camellias looking wonderful, magnolias budding up, the flowering cherry is a mass of buds and generally everything is looking happily content. So it should after all that rain!

My thanks to Di Howard for so capably holding the fort during my absence; and also thanks to Bernadette for covering for Robi. *Margaret*

Upcoming Events

Qld Garden Expo, Nambour, 10 – 12 July
 Ipswich Home Gardeners Expo'29 August
 Toowoomba Geranium Society Inc. Show and Sale 19-20 September 2015

May garden visit

We had a lovely morning enjoying Sandy & Frank's little piece of paradise on our last club garden visit. They have been working on this garden for the past seven years. They had to take trailer load after trailer load to the dump first before putting their own stamp on the garden. It is a real credit to them. The garden features lovely pieces of marine life which are a tribute to Frank who was mariner, in a previous life. Thanks Sandy & Frank for opening your garden to us.



Thoughts on gardening

The love of dirt is among the earliest passions, as it is the latest. So long as we are dirty, we are pure. Fondness for the ground comes back to a man [or woman] after he [she] has run the round of pleasure and business, eaten dirt, and sown wild-oats, drifted about the world, and taken the wind of all its moods. The love of digging in the ground is as sure to come back to him as he is sure, at last, to go under the ground, and stay there. To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds, and to watch their renewal of life, - this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do. Charles Dudley Warner, 1876



If only one were as good a gardener in practice as one is in theory, what a garden one would create! Vita Sackville-West, 1937