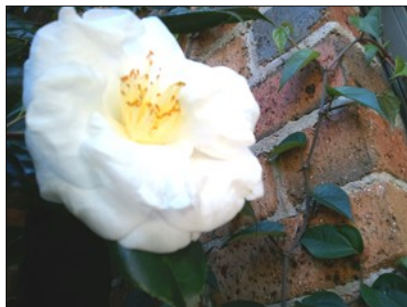


MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN – Elwyn Paton

As I write this article, I can see through my southern window, several mature camellias. Despite being cut back several years ago they are now level with the first floor. They are dripping with fat green buds ready in a few weeks to flower. One shrub is called C. White Nun with huge white open blooms and fat yellow bosses and the other is C. Cara Mia which is a semi-double pink. C. Cara Mia was released in 1960 in California, so I suppose you could call it an older variety. Once they are established in this area, they grow and flower so well, it is a shame that some camellias are no longer readily available.



Because Camellia reticulatas also grow well for me, I am always on the lookout for something different. On my quest, I have found that a number of these plants are now grafted on sasanqua rootstock and naturally attract a much bigger price. I'm not sure that this is a great idea for us. I have (on their own roots), three established reticulatas—C. Ellies Girl, C. Valentine Day, and C. Francie L. and as most reticulatas are pink they follow suit. My camellia book calls them the drama girls of the camellia world.



This season, we can't ignore the amazing show that the sasanquas are having. Perhaps the prolonged dry spell, followed by the inundation has worked some magic. My favourites, "sparkling burgundy" (seedlings from my previous garden) and "star above star" are excelling themselves. Some of the sasanqua hedges recently planted in gardens around the mountain are also giving delight to all who pass by.

It might be a good idea to give all of our camellias a good feed with a balanced, organic fertilizer once they have finished flowering.

Other stars in the winter garden are the red hot pokers, Kniphofia which again have excelled themselves along with the yellow Tagetes lemmonii and the white Euphorbia leucocephala "snowflake".



Tagetes lemmonii, I have found is not named because of the aroma that it has, but named after John G. Lemmon the husband of American botanist Sarah Plummer Lemmon, which is a great relief to me because I could never work out how its distinctive passionfruit aroma could be interpreted as lemon. Some think that it smells awful and others think it fruity. It is native to North West Mexico and seems to grow well in all of the warmer parts of USA and now in Australia.

Wishing you all, a beautiful garden. Ellie



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.
 PO Box 63, North Tamborine, 4272 ABN 281 058 436 76 www.tmbotanicgardens.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bernadette Stacey - bernadette1859@gmail.com 0409 759 838 **June/July 2017**

The Biggest Morning Tea

Thank you to all you fabulous cooks who contributed to our delicious morning tea last month. We raised \$339.15 for the Cancer Council of Queensland. We received a lovely thank you letter which said, "The funds you have raised will help us fund vital cancer research, prevention and early detection programs, and support services. Thank you for your efforts and compassion. Together, we are creating hope for a cancer free future."



Fungi

With the coming of autumn and winter I have noticed an increase in fungi activity in the garden. The Stinkhorns are most common in the mulch in my garden, they are interesting to look at but smell foul. However, fungi are a vital part of the ecosystem. They are the earth's recycling agents, decomposing dead plant material and returning nutrients to the soil.

Along with bacteria, fungi are important recyclers of hard to digest organic matter. They use nitrogen in the soil to decompose woody carbon rich residues low in nitrogen and convert the nutrients in the residues to forms that are more accessible for other organisms.

When you look at fungi growing, you are looking at just part of a fungus - not the whole organism. The rest of the organism (often 90% or more) is underground and consists of a network of microscopically thin "threads" which spread through the soil.

There is a symbiotic relationship that forms between fungi and some plants. The fungi colonize the root system of a host plant, providing increased water and nutrient absorption capabilities while the plant provides the fungus with carbohydrates formed from photosynthesis. Beneficial fungi help create healthy soil biology.



Anemone Stinkhorn



Devil's Dipstick Stinkhorn



Basket Fungus

CONTACTS: President / Springtime Convener – Di Howard 5545 2628 | Vice President / Secretary - Bernadette Stacey - 5545 0605 | Treasurer – Helen Walsh 5582 7902 | Patrons - Mary Wallace, Margaret and Roger Bell

Upcoming events—please see the noticeboard for more detail

Qld Gardening Expo	Nambour Showgrounds	7—9 July
Ipswich Home Gardner's Expo	Glebe Rd & Green St, Booval	26 August
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

May Garden Visit

Our garden visit for May was hosted by Jan Collis on a typical autumn day in glorious sunshine. We all enjoyed sitting on the back deck with our morning tea, overlooking the backyard with that enormous tree in full autumn colours. Thank you Jan. – Glenda Sullivan



June Garden Visit:

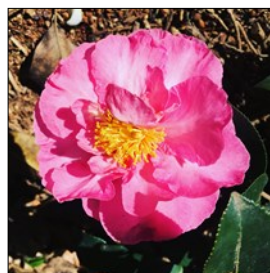
Tuesday 20 June 10am
 BYO Morning Tea
 Mary & Ian Wallace
 25 Slingsby Road
 Tamborine Mt.

Diary of a Springtime gardener

May was a very calm month in the garden. I have really been enjoying the beauty and variety of the camellia flowers. The biggest job this month was shrub and tree pruning. Now that the leaves have finally gone from many of the deciduous trees it was a good time to give some of them a good tidy up. I have removed crossed branches and thinned the overcrowded growth.

The cooler weather has resulted in slower growth of everything, including the weeds. I have put everything in place to have a colourful spring display if all goes well. We are headed off to Europe for the next 5 weeks and I leave my garden in the capable hands of a friend who is coming to house-sit. Hopefully we have a little rain while we are away.

As I will be away for five weeks there will be no newsletter at next month's meeting. Bernadette



July meeting

Tuesday July 11th at 9:30 AM

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker: Leonie Kearney—Roses

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.

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

Sue Austin & Glenda Clark

August Meeting

Tuesday August 8th at 10:30 AM
 Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens,
 Forsythia Drive

This year we will again have our August meeting in the Botanic Gardens, enjoy a sausage sizzle and a walk through the gardens with the Volunteers. We'll commence at 10.30am with a quick meeting before we enjoy the tour and opportunity to buy plants from the Bobby White Pavilion followed by lunch. There's lots to enjoy and appreciate. Do come along and support our Volunteers. If it's a wet day we'll be under cover and walk in our rain gear. Please bring your own mugs for tea/coffee (and your own sausages if you have any food allergies) and we'll do the rest.

No competition table in August

From the President

May was a busy month for the Garden Club and the Botanic Garden Club committee. First we had the Biggest Morning Tea. \$339 was raised and a big thanks to everyone who donated and brought along food. A huge thank you to Margaret Lenehan for setting up the table. It looked like a high tea, well done. It is such a worthy cause and we all know of someone who has been affected by cancer. Every little bit helps to fight this insidious disease.

Next there was BGANZ. What a lovely autumn day to showcase the Botanic Gardens. It was such a happy atmosphere and I served some of the best mannered children on the day, what a credit to their parents. The sausage sizzle and Potty Potters plant sale raised \$1200. I want to give a big heartfelt thank you to the willing band of workers on the day. I won't name you all as it is possible I may miss somebody but you know who you are and are to be commended for your dedication. It is amazing how so few can do so much. Thank you all.

The bus trip to Government House is looming. If you have not paid please do so as we have to pay for the bus in advance. Glenda Sullivan or I will collect the money. Di Howard

