

MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN – Elwyn Paton

Since writing the February 'back page', many things have happened, not the least of these was the sale of my house and garden. During my clean up, I have found garden cuttings, articles of all sorts and beautiful pictures of other people's gardens. Most of these, sadly, have been consigned to the recycle bin but I have kept a few for reference.

I will share with you some parts of the two 'back pages' written by Phil in 2000.*

For February he wrote— If you plan to plant seedlings for Spring Annuals you can start now. Fast growing plants can be delayed until March. If you plan to buy seedlings these should be planted by about mid- April. It is time to think about preparing Sweet Pea ground. Dig in plenty of compost. Dolomite, Blood and Bone, Potash and Organic Life. (He didn't leave anything to chance) Do not neglect your summer flowers yet, removing spent blooms will prolong flowering.

How is your vegetable garden? It's time to plant cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. If you are in a frost free area, a few late tomatoes and beans are worth- while. Some early peas may be worth a try. And for April he wrote—Autumn is here and the weather is cooler! It's time to move into top gear and get out into the garden. Those plants that have become rampant during the summer can be cut back and the weeds should be removed.

Spring flowering plants should be planted now. Let's hope it rains to keep them growing. (Must have been a dry March).

Don't forget Spring Flowering bulbs. They can be planted now and are very rewarding. Most can be left in the ground for years and will give a good display of blooms every spring.

Strawberry runners should be planted now if you haven't already done so.

Don't neglect the Vegetable garden. Lots of things can be planted now and are easier to grow in the cooler months.

Then he adds--- Come on folks, put your best foot forward and get busy in your garden now so that it will be looking great at Festival time! Don't neglect the plants that you are preparing for the Plant Stall at the Festival.

We won't be having our Festival this year, but it shouldn't stop us from having a lovely spring garden anyway. Good practice for next year?

I sometimes think that the knowledge of planting times for spring flowers have been forgotten with the arrival of flowering spring and summer plants in punnets at almost any time of the year. When we plant them out, we expect them to grow big, flourish and flower, when really they have mostly done their 'thing' in the punnet already.

I'm off to a miniscule garden, a bit of a challenge after a large corner block. We will see!!!!

Ellie P.



* Phil Stephens was a member who wrote for the Newsletter in 2000 Elwyn thinks he lived in Caryota Court.



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.
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NEWSLETTER

Editor: : Lorraine Bilbie—ellbee1146@gmail.com 0438 831885 March 2018

March 2018



This magnificent Bromelaid Ancanteria is growing in member Joan Hughes "Harmony Garden" in Ben Nevis Street Joan spoke to me after the last meeting and invited me to come and look at this magnificent plant.

It has already been flowering since November and had lost some of the white flowers that it had on this photo that Joan took at the time. Some botanical notes about this plant.

Alcantarea imperialis are large bromeliads that originate from Brazil, growing in the mountains close to Rio de Janeiro at an elevation to about 1,500m.

It has a huge base growing to up to 1.5m wide that consists of a dense rosette of wide strap-like, corrugated leaves with a smooth margin.

The plant takes from between 8- 20 years to flower. When it does, it produces a 3m tall flower spike with red bracts along

the stem and racemes of small scented creamy yellow flowers growing from each bract. The flowers spike can last for up to 12 months.



After flowering the mother plant will start to die -back while new pups are produced alongside.

There are many varieties, these include: *Alcantarea imperialis* Rubra - The underside of the leaves are wonderful red colour, place in a raised bed to enjoy the colourful foliage.

Joan's specimen is at least three metres tall.



There will be more pictures coming onto the screen during the meeting today.

Today's Speaker—Marg Simonsen Club Member Historical American Gardens

**CONTACTS: President – Di Howard 5545 2628 | Vice President / Media– Bernadette Brushe
 Secretary—Bev Cheffins 5545 0690 Treasurer – Helen Walsh 5582 7902 | Patrons - Margaret and Roger Bell |**

April Meeting

Tuesday April 10th at 9.30 AM
Vonda Youngman Community Centre
Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker—April, Due to popular demand

Phil Dudman will be on again in April

APRIL COMPETITION TABLE

A flowering native
An exotic tree or shrub
A flowering bulb or corm
A vegetable / fruit
A tropical flower
An arrangement of perennials
A sasanqua camellia flower

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.

April Morning Tea Roster:

Robin Hesse and Sue Tomkins

March Garden Visit: Rhonda Laarhoven

2 Beechmont Avenue, Eagle Heights
Tuesday March 20th at 10.00 am
BYO Morning Tea.

Our February Garden Visit was attended by 20+members
To a non-members garden Patricia in Manitzky Street has been working on this garden for about 5 years mostly on her own,
Well Done Patricia.

At the request of our Librarians I have asked some members to do some Book reviews of some of the new books in the library. If you would like to submit a review please talk to me. Lorraine B.

BOOK REVIEW— by Dawn Hooper

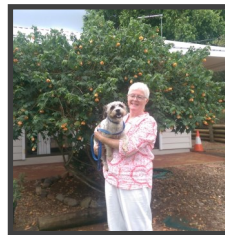
Women in my Rose Garden - The History, Romance and Adventure of Old Roses

A beautiful Coffee Table Book for rose lovers and

anyone who enjoys reading about amazing women who had roses named after them.

The stories of women like Jeanne de 'Arc, Empress Josephine, Queen Victoria, Mary Queen of Scots and many more (34 in fact) are very interesting along with details of their roses.

The book is by Ann Chapman who lives in New Zealand and has developed 13 acre garden which has 125 roses named after women.. Any gardeners and rose lovers will enjoy delving into this book.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Brisbane Garden and Plant Expo with Costa Georgiadis, Hampden Street, Ascot, Friday 16 and Sat 17 March, 8.00am till 5.00pm
Tamborine Mountain Show, Tamborine Mountain Showgrounds, Saturday 17th March, Gates open 7.30am, Fireworks 8.00 pm

From the President

2017 has been another successful year for all our enthusiastic and energetic members. Finding myself as president has been a steep learning curve and I have really appreciated all the help from the members who have an enormous amount of experience. Fitting in everything has been a challenge but it all seems to come together. It has been a privilege to lead such a fantastic garden club.

March saw Glenda Sullivan receive the Ron Miller Award. Our August meeting was held at the Botanic Gardens. Members enjoyed seeing all the fantastic work being done by the volunteers at the gardens. I do not know what the club would do without this group of hard workers lead by the committee, Roger Bell, Margaret Bell, Eddie Fenton, Brian Davison, Sandy Silabon, Geoff Hurling and Rob Howard. These people spend hours on the tedious planning and reporting that has to be done and are to be congratulated.

Springtime on the Mountain, as always, attracted over 2500 visitors and is such a credit to all involved. Downsizing the event did not appear to detract from the enjoyment of those who attended. One of the repeated comments was "Oh we come every year". This is a huge event to organise and I never envisioned being President and convening Springtime. However, it all came together and once again was a success.

Unfortunately, the Executive Committee had to make the decision to cancel the Festival for this year. This was a heart wrenching time as for 33 years the general public have come in their droves to enjoy the open gardens. However, we were unable to source new gardens and also we were conscious of the ageing volunteer workforce. So the decision to "rest" Springtime was made. Who knows what next year may bring.

April saw a day trip to Government House for morning tea and a tour of the gardens.. Later in the year we headed off to the Sampson Valley to Leonie Kearney's lovely property. Our Christmas lunch was at the Heritage Winery and was catered beautifully. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day. To everyone who went above and beyond for this club at meetings, Springtime, the volunteers at the gardens, opening your gardens for field days and the Biggest Morning tea, planning wonderful bus trips, maintaining our web page, producing our newsletter, greeting members, raffle table, specimen table, arranging guest speakers, grant writing, library, publicity and promotion - I hope I have not missed anyone, my sincere thanks to you all.

Our committee has been wonderful and worked so well together. To the outgoing members Bernadette Stacey and Di Fenton, thank you for your valuable contribution over the past four years. You will be missed. To Helen Walsh, Treasurer and Bernadette Brushe, Media, I cannot express how much you helped me this past year.

I am thrilled to know that Leonie Rowe is taking the reins in April. I know that will enjoy the wonderful support that I did and I wish her well.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be your President and I finish my two years with a sense of enjoyment and satisfaction. Rob and I are now embarking on a venture to caravan around Australia. We are looking forward to this but will return full of enthusiasm and commitment to the Garden Club.

Thank you all - Di Howard