

MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN – Elwyn Paton

Recently I visited Bunnings (who doesn't). I bought a pink flowering plant, *Gerbera jamesonii*. It is single, but much improved from the old spidery versions that we have seen in the past. I have started a small collection of Gerberas, planting them in the driest, sunniest and the most well drained spot in the garden. This happens to be on the verge which faces north.



Gerberas are native to Transvaal South Africa and are sometimes called Transvaal Daisy. They are in the daisy family, asteraceae. They were named after the medical doctor Traugott Gerber who was a friend of Carl Linnaeus.

I planted it in the garden, setting it beside the whites, creams and pale pink plants already there. They seem to do well and so far haven't had any crown rot or fungal problems that can attack gerberas.

After all the rain that we have had, I couldn't believe how dry some of my gardens have become. There is a tell-tale sign of dryness which has shown up recently in the form of ant-lion traps. The soil has to be dry and powdery and the little creatures form cone type traps and hide in the soil at the base of the trap. When an ant falls into the soft soil trap, it struggles to climb out falling eventually to the bottom where it is caught by the ant-lion. My Aunt introduced me to this fact and I can remember sacrificing ants to her traps when I was small. What a horrible little kid!!!

When I was researching gerberas, I came across some hints that may be of some benefit to us.

- Prune any diseased or twiggy growth from perennials, such as pelargoniums, cannas and salvias (only prune summer flowering salvias as winter plants are now budding up).
- Allow your dahlias to die down naturally, don't cut them back.
- Feed chrysanthemums regularly with liquid fertiliser, and disbud if extra-large blooms are required.
- Water windflowers to prolong their season.
- Feed zygocactus with phosphorus-based, low-nitrogen fertiliser. This will encourage more flowers and better quality blooms.
- Move your cymbidium orchids out into more sun now that it isn't as strong.

Linaria, pansies, violas, poppies, foxglove, and sweet pea seedlings should all be planted out. Look out for summer flowering bulbs. Lilliums and the like are offered in catalogues. Go for the L A Lilliums. .

There is a small Gladioli which I have found to be very happy in my garden. It doesn't resemble the tall version at all and comes in white with splashes of pink, pale pink and dark pink. I have been adding them to my garden gradually and have planted out groups of fresh bulbs recently and already one group is showing signs of life. I know that at least one person grows this plant as it showed up on the competition bench last year.

Get out there and DIG. Ellie P.



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.

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NEWSLETTER

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May 2017

Growing Turmeric—Lynne Rule

I find it fascinating that certain foods are hailed as super foods and suddenly everyone wants them. Remember goji berries, chia seeds, acai, kale, quinoa and more recently coconut? Well turmeric is now also classed as a super food – although Indian and Asian cultures have known of its health giving properties for the last 4000 years. Turmeric has been recognised by western science as having anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties and therefore is useful in the treatment of arthritis, Alzheimer's disease to name but two. Not too long ago turmeric was used mainly to add a golden colour to curries but now consumption is rocketing – Golden Lattes are now one of the most popular café menu items.



Growing turmeric is easy! What's more the growing plant has a tropical beauty with its large lush green leaves and beautiful white flowers – I cut the leaves for vases in my home, they last for weeks.

Turmeric requires very little to produce so much – a good potting mix if grown in a pot, regular watering and fertiliser and some afternoon shade in hot weather. The plant will flower in early autumn then the leaves will start to die off. Once they have wilted you can harvest the crop of rhizomes and dry them for storage – either freeze or keep in a dark dry place for up to six months. Replant some tubers ready for their reappearance in spring. Of course, you can also gather tubers whenever required much as you would dig for new potatoes – take care not to uproot the whole plant.

With a bumper crop last year I started looking for more recipes and my new favourites are Turmeric and Zucchini Soup (made with coconut milk and kaffir lime leaves) and Turmeric and Zucchini muffins (yes I had a great crop of zucchinis too). I do love Golden Latte too and in hot weather Iced Turmeric Tea. Healthy can be tasty! With so much to recommend it and so little work for a great reward, add a turmeric plant to your garden without delay.



CONTACTS: President / Springtime Convener – Di Howard 5545 2628 | Vice President / Secretary - Bernadette Stacey - 5545 0605 | Treasurer – Di Fenton 5545 0236 | Patrons - Mary Wallace, Margaret and Roger Bell

June meeting

Tuesday June 13th at 9:30 AM

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker: Jez Clarke: Landscaping

Competition table

- A flowering native
- An exotic tree or shrub
- A flowering bulb or corm
- A vegetable or fruit
- A camellia
- A perfumed flower

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.

June Morning Tea

Vegies to Plant Now

Broad Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Onions, Lettuce, Radish, Turnip,

Flowers to Plant Now

Alyssum, Calendula, Cineraria, Cornflower, Dianthus, Heart's Ease, Hollyhock, Larkspur, Linaria, Lobelia, Lupin, Nasturtium, Nemesia, Nigella, Pansy, Petunia, Snapdragon, Stock

May Garden Visit

Jan Collis
56 Wongawallan Road, Eagle Heights
Tuesday 16 May 10am – BYO Morning Tea



From the President

For those of you who are wondering why I have not been out and about, I recently had an operation on my heel. The best news was that I must maintain non-weight bearing and off my heal for 6 weeks. I have gained a huge respect for those in wheelchairs and the difficulties it places on daily living activities. The catch cry has been "poor Rob" and I must agree. He has taken over cleaning, washing and most of the cooking. What a man.

Isn't the cool change a welcome relief from the seemingly endless heat of summer. Autumn has definitely arrived and the foliage of many trees has begun to colour. I really miss driving around the mountain and seeing the changes.

In conjunction with the botanic open gardens day (BGANZ) on the 28th May there will be a sale of tools. If you have any tools you no longer require the garden's crew will be happy to take them off your hands. If you need us to collect them give Rob Howard a call on 0408 764 612 and he will be happy to collect them.

Let all your friends know about the open day. There will be a sausage sizzle, Matt Bird demonstrating his chain saw carvings, the Botanic Artists and Julie Weisfelt will be organising activities for children in the Sooty Owl Walk. As usual a highlight will be the Potty Potters plant sale. They tell me the plants look fantastic. We hope it will be and enjoyable and successful day.
Di Howard



April garden visit

Thank you Stephanie for our visit to your garden on a magnificent autumn day. The members enjoyed strolling through your magnificent mature garden. —Glenda Sullivan

Upcoming events—please see the noticeboard for more detail

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| Brisbane Plant Collectors Fair | Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium | 20 & 21 May |
| Qld Herb Society Annual Show | Albion Peace Hall, 102 McDonald Rd, Windsor | 28 May |
| Gardening on the Edge | Showgrounds, Maleny | 10 & 11 June |
| Cactus & Succulent Show | Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium | 10 & 11 June |
| 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 |

Open day at the botanic gardens



Once again our Botanic Garden is joining with BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand) in inviting everyone to visit their local Botanic Garden on Sunday 28th May, 9.00am to 2.00pm. Come along and soak up the ambiance. Be proud to be a part of this Garden Club endeavour.

There will be a succulent sausage sizzle, chain saw sculptor, botanic artists, plant sales and pre-loved garden ware. For this last stall we need more items. It's a great opportunity to clear out your garden shed of utensils or pots etc. that you no longer need (but no plastic pots). They can be dropped at the Botanic Garden shed anytime, if that is not possible call Sandy Silabon 5545 3116 to get items picked up.

Treloar Roses—a generous gift

The front cover of this year's Springtime on the Mountain brochure features a beautiful Peach Profusion rose. Lorraine Bilby has contacted Treloar Roses who have donated five of these lovely for our rose garden in the Botanic Gardens. The Garden Club would like to thank Lauren and Gary from Treloar Roses for this generosity. They will be a delightful addition to the gardens.



Diary of a Springtime gardener

This past month I have been busy mulching most of our gardens. I put down a lovely thick layer of sugar cane mulch. It is a very satisfying job. I have also planted annuals for a splash of spring colour. The falling autumn leaves have also provided me with much material for compost. Autumn has also brought a lovely feeling of rest and calm to the garden. Bernadette