

MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN– Elwyn Paton

“May I a small house and a large garden have:
And a few friends, and many books, both true.” (Abraham Cowley 1618-1667)
It was with this little poem in mind that we set about building and gardening on Tamborine Mountain.

As far as the garden is concerned, it is half an acre in area with another quarter of an acre of reserve which I mow and garden along with the rest. Now that I am the lone custodian it is certainly large enough for me.
When we laid out the gardens, we used some excavated soil from the house building to form raised beds running North/South. Some of this soil was bright red sub-soil which I found needed lots of mulch and fertilizer before plants looked totally happy.

We loved camellias. Neil liked red ones and I liked the pinks and whites. So every road trip holiday resulted in many beautiful camellias, mostly japonicas, sasanquas and reticulatas, being planted as part of the “bones” of the garden.

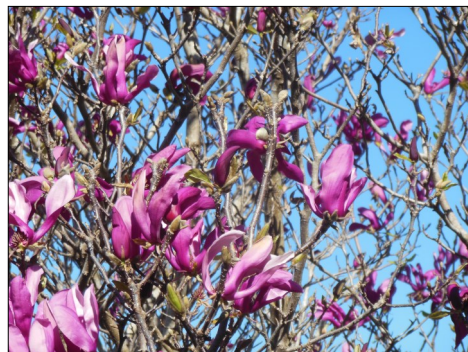


C.sasanqua “Sparkling Burgundy” came as seedlings from my Mt Gravatt garden and now are dropping a copious number of seed pods ready to start another generation.
I visited Tamborine Mtn. many years ago. We had a picnic in Doughty Park and I noticed that some newly released camellias were planted along the perimeter. On reckoning, I think that those sasanqua shrubs are now about 40 years old.

Along with camellias we planted acers, small conifers (not so small now) weigela florida both pink and white, abelias, buddleja of various colours, the tough little raphiolepis, pink and white. Hibiscus, especially syriacus which grows well in cooler areas.

Loropetalum cream and pink varieties and brugmansias, pink and white. Little by little I have added Tea roses some of which grow quite tall. They look healthy most of the time, flower well and last for years without much effort on my part.

Next came the magnolias from Asia. I fell in love with them and they do well in the mountain climate although they are a little confused this season with flower buds appearing way too early. I planted the reliable M soulangiana, pink blossoms on a medium tree and M denudata which I discovered can grow many metres tall and has lovely white blossoms. M Elizabeth is a handsome tree after 6 years with large lemon flowers. I also have several new crosses and am yet to see them flower well.
More to come later. Ellie P



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.
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NEWSLETTER

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May 2016

Thanks to our past president

At a recent committee meeting Di Howard, our current president, presented Margaret Bell, our immediate past president, with a thank-you gift on behalf of the garden club. Margaret has been always a proud and dedicated contributor to this club. Her gracious leadership and hard work as president has been much appreciated. Our garden club sincerely thanks Margaret Bell for all of her efforts over the last two years as president. The club will continue to benefit from her enthusiastic commitment as a member of the committee.



Build your own compost bins

Recently I visited Bob McCathie’s garden to have a look at his composting bins which he has constructed using mostly recycled materials. For those like me, who love a good composting system, Bob’s sturdily constructed bins are a great idea for recycling not only waste but building materials too.

Bob’s system uses three bays with removable slat fronts for easy access to allow for turning and adding materials. Each bay has a hinged lid to control the amount of rain getting into the compost. The bins have room for about one cubic metre of material which is enough mass to allow for the optimal composting temperature to be reached.

The main frame for the bins is built from pallets Bob found for free. Other materials used in the project were leftovers from his and friends’ building projects. Bob spent around \$100 on the few materials he had to buy to complete this project.

Bob and his wife Vesna are currently undertaking a big renovation of their garden which will include a vegetable garden. All the wonderful compost Bob will make is certain to make great fertiliser for his veggie patch. Bob is also keen to plant succulents in his new garden so if you have any spare succulents he may be happy to take them off your hands.



CONTACTS: President –Di Howard 5545 2628 |Vice President - Terri Taylor 5545 4564
Secretary - Bernadette Stacey - 5545 0605 | Treasurer– Glenda Sullivan 5545 1714 | Springtime Convener - Margaret Pile - 5545 0869 | Patron - Mary Wallace

June 2016 Meeting

Tuesday June 14th at 9:30 AM
 Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine
Guest Speaker: Damian Draper, Red Belly Bush Care, Dealing with weeds. Please bring along samples of weeds to get some advice from Damian.

- 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. 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.

June Morning Tea
 Sue Stewart & Suzie Leahy

What's on today Guest speaker: Lee Thorneycroft: Begonias, Plants sales, Raffles, Library, Book Sale, The Biggest Morning Tea

May garden visit
 Tuesday 17th May – 10am – BYO Morning Tea
 Joan & Leon Hughes
 19 Ben Nevis St

From the President

I would like to give a huge thanks to Marg Bell for being 'caretaker president' in my absence. Marg is a valuable member of the club and has worked tirelessly. The garden club has prospered under Marg's guidance and we should feel honoured that Marg still holds a position on the committee as her knowledge is invaluable. Hopefully the Bells are enjoying their travels as it is well earned. After being overseas and having to pay to visit botanic gardens in both Spain and Morocco it is just amazing to come home and see how wonderful our gardens are. The bonus is that they are free to all. The volunteers who give so much time are to be commended and they deserve a medal. What a wonderful place we call home. Di Howard

April Garden visit
 We had a lovely morning at Glynce Lynch's garden. Glynce and her husband Tony, have spent a lot of time and effort, planting mostly from tube stock, to create a lovely garden from what was previously an orchard and horse paddocks. Well done and thank you for allowing us to view your garden. Glenda Sullivan



Old Tools Wanted
 In conjunction with the botanic gardens open day on May 29 there will be a sale of old tools. If you have any tools that you no longer require the garden's crew will be happy to take them off your hands. You could drop them down any Thursday morning before the sale or give Roger a call on 55453815.



Upcoming events—please see the noticeboard for more details

Brisbane Plant Collectors Fair	Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium	21 & 22 May
Gardening on the Edge 6 Open gardens	Maleny Showgrounds	11 & 12 June
Esk Garden and Lifestyle Fair	Old St Andrews Church Ipswich St, Esk	18 June
Qld Garden Expo	Nambour Showgrounds	8-10 July
Toowoomba Camellia Show & Garden Expo	Toowoomba TAFE Horticultural Pavillion	16 & 17 July
Laidley Spring Festival - Flowers and Orchid	Laidley Cultural Centre	8 - 10 Sept
Clivia Show	Toowoomba TAFE Horticultural Pavillion	16 - 21 Sept
Brisbane International Garden Show	Pine Rivers Park, Strathpine	6 - 9 October
Montview open garden (485 roses)	Cnr Oak & Rose Sts, Killarney	Open Wed to Sun in October

Use The Fork!
 Lawn grass can hide a multitude of soil problems that can result in poor lawn performance. One of these problems is compacted soil, which can be caused by repeated foot and pet traffic or if a car is parked on the lawn. During May, it's a great time to loosen up the soil underneath your lawn. This allows more air down into the soil (and the grass roots), improves water penetration and also makes it physically easier for grass roots to grow. It's as easy as pushing a garden fork down through the grass and around 10cm deep into the soil, then gently lever the fork back and forth a little to open up the holes the fork tines have made. Do this multiple times all over the lawn. For large lawns, mechanical aerators can be hired. After loosening up the soil, a quick and easy application of hose-on Yates® Waterwise® Soil Wetter over the lawn will help break down the waxy, water repellent layer that often develops on the soil surface during the warmer months. Applying a soil wetter will help get moisture evenly and deep down below the soil surface and into grass root zone where it's needed. From www.yates.com.au



On Autumn
 Autumn adds such wonderful touches of happy accident that, when it comes, really comes, a wise man [or woman] leaves his garden alone and allows it to fade, and wane, and slowly, pathetically, pass away, without any effort to hinder or conceal the decay. Indeed, it would be worth while having a cultivated garden if only to see what autumn does with it. Alfred Austin, 1894

