



The Gentle Gardening Guide Janet Stone

Warm weather with occasional heavy storms has arrived, and rapid spring growth now means extra attention is needed in the garden to retain soil moisture, mulching to keep roots cool, and maintenance pruning to keep plants healthy and well-shaped for the hot weather to come.

Growing in shade: Now that deciduous trees are in full leaf again, greenery has returned to the Mountain and revealed those shady garden spaces which are ideal for



plants that prefer dappled light or part shade. All plants need light to live, but careful choices to match suitable plants to the level of shade can result in some interesting garden features.

Deep shade is difficult, but plants with deep green colour and large leaves can cope with low light conditions - try anthurium, aspidistras, birds nest fern, bromeliads, clivias, Daphne, hellebore, heuchera, New Zealand Rock Lily (*Antropodium curatum*), some philodendrons, and Silver Spurflower (*Plectranthus argentatus*). Some natives can grow in deepish shade, such as rainforest Lemon myrtle, but may not flower well and will need close pruning to keep a compact shape. Groundcovers include ajuga, common ivy, lamium and native violet. Vampire-like deep shade is best left to ferns, or fringed at its outer edges with a low growing hedge of dappled-light loving plants as a contrast feature against the shade.

Dappled shade favours azaleas, Brunnera macrophylla, clivias, coleus, fuchsia, hostas, Natal paintbrush, parlour palms, renga renga lilies, and rhododendrons.

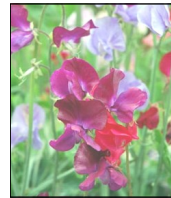
Shady areas under established trees with deep root masses are best left to lush looking, but hardy growing ajuga, aucubas, bromeliads, common ivy, hare's foot fern, hostas, and renga renga lilies.

Azaleas: are ideal shrubs for dappled shade, and come in a range of heights and colours, with different sized flowers/leaves, deciduous or evergreen types that are suited as individual feature plants, hedges, pot plants, and even bonsai. Azaleas need fertile soil, adequate moisture and regular mulching and grow best in the company of other plants to provide shelter and humidity. Azaleas can grow in pots indefinitely in a good humus-rich potting mix and not left to dry out.

Perfumed plants: are delights in all seasons whether in the garden or as cut flowers indoors. For all year fragrance grow Arabian jasmine (*Jasmine sambac*), and for Spring to Autumn fragrance grow frangipani, heliotrope, mock orange (*Philadelphus coronaries*) and murraya. In Summer grow buddleia, gardenia, lavender, lemon myrtle, Mexican orange (*Choisya ternata*), stephanotis and orchid cacti hybrids; in Autumn grow lemon myrtle and jonquil; in Winter grow freesia hybrids, Oregon grape (*Mahonia* hybrids), stock and wallflower (*Erysimum cheiri*); and in Spring grow boronia, dianthus, henna (*Lawsonia inermis*), lilac, lily-of-the-valley, native frangipani, port wine magnolia and primrose. Combined with a range of Daphne, lilies,

magnolias, osmanthus, roses, star jasmine, sweet peas, tuberose and violets your garden will be fragrance-filled year round. Aromatic herbs grown as hedges beside pathways will enhance this joyful sensory treat. For an easy care aromatic solution for difficult spaces, scented leaf pelargoniums will always work wonders and come in a range of scents including almond, apple, coconut, lemon, peppermint, rose, strawberry and spice.

"Perfume is the key to our memories" Kate Lord Brown - let's plant some memories this coming year.



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.

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NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bernadette Stacey - bernadette1859@gmail.com 0409 759 838 **November 2015**

A special flower

The poppy is a flower beloved by gardeners here on the mountain. It is the simple red poppy which carries symbolic meaning for many. This small red flower inspired John Ruskin 1819 –1900 to write the following beautiful description of the poppy.

I have in my hand a small red poppy. It is an intensely simple, intensely floral, flower. All silk and flame: a scarlet far away, like a burning coal fallen from heaven's altars. You cannot have a more complete, a more stainless, type of flower absolute; inside and outside, all flower. The poppy is painted glass; it never glows so brightly as when the sun shines through it. Whenever it is seen - against the light or with the light—always, it is a flame, and warms the wind like a blown ruby.

This description makes it a perfect flower to use for Remembrance Day. During the First World War, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground. The sight of poppies on the battlefield at Ypres in 1915 moved Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the poem *In Flanders fields*

In Flanders fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields. *John McCrae (1872–1918)*



What's on today's

Guest speaker: Jed Plunkett—Composting
Plant Sales, Raffle, Library
Christmas lunch payments

CONTACTS: President - Margaret Bell 5545 0797 | **Vice President** - Di Howard 5545 2628
Secretary - Robin Pope - 5545 2205 | **Treasurer**— Di Fenton - 5545 0236 | **Springtime Convener** - Margaret Pile - 5545 0869 | **Patron** - Mary Wallace

February 2016 Meeting

Tuesday February 9th at 9:30 AM

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker TBA

Competition table

- A flowering native
- An exotic tree or shrub
- A flowering bulb or corm
- A vegetable / fruit
- An arrangement of foliage
- A dahlia flower
- A climber flower

Specimen table

Bring along a specimen; unusual, interesting, beautiful, unknown. Include a question if you like.

Question and answer segment

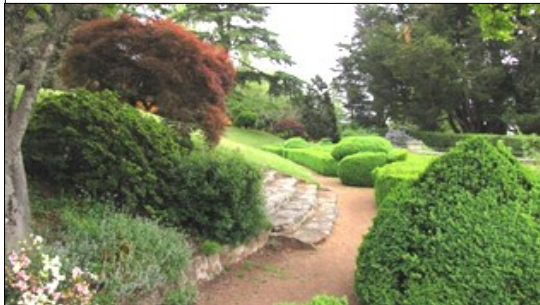
Get the answers you need to all your gardening questions. Use your experience to help with someone else's problems.

From the President

Roger and I have had a quick tip to Bowral, in the Southern highlands, since the last meeting. It was a lovely drive via Tamworth, the countryside looking amazingly lush with the last of autumn still visible in a few areas.



Bowral is a similar elevation above sea level to our mountain but it must be the cooler conditions that make the Rhododendrons so magnificent. Also the flowering fruits, cherries, almonds, pears and crab apples were superb. These trees ranged from 6m high and 4m wide to 7 m high, just fantastic. We visited some beautiful gardens and I just wished it was not so far away, what a great bus trip it would be.



And speaking of bus trips, sadly the Bells will not be able to go tomorrow but we'll look forward to the photos and reports. I do hope you all have a wonderful time, sincere thanks to Michael and Suzi Leahy, Min Taylor and Margaret Pile for their expertise in co-ordinating this trip. **Margaret**

October garden visit

With around 30 garden club members, we all enjoyed our visit this month to our newest member, Pam Hawthorne's garden in Alpine Terrace called 'Tamaroo' which is around one and a half acres. Pam's love of heritage roses was plain to see, but there was nothing plain about her roses. They were absolutely stunning.—Glenda Sullivan



Pam standing next to a William Allen Richardson rose.



The stunning Bunya Nut trees on either side of the driveway were grown from seed and planted by Pam 10 years ago.

November garden visit

10 am Tues 17 November
Noel Hovelroud
54 Power Parade, Mt. Tamborine,
BYO morning tea

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

As this is the final newsletter for 2015 the garden club committee wishes all members a happy and safe Christmas. May you all enjoy the company of family and friends during the festive season. Let's hope the storms are gentle on us and the weather is not too hot as we enjoy the next few months. Thanks to everyone who contributes to this newsletter. A special thanks to Janet Stone for her column which is always a great read. We will look forward to returning in February refreshed and ready for 2016.



On behalf of the garden club Margaret Bell thanks Margaret Pile for her work with Springtime on the Mountain at the October club


Tamborine Mountain Garden Club's
Christmas Luncheon
 at
Mt Tamborine Vineyards & Winery
 128 Long Road
 "Gallery Walk"
 Ample Parking at rear with convenience parking on left hand side for the less able bodied
Tuesday 8th December 2015
 Arrival time 11.30 am Luncheon 12.30pm
\$40.00 p.p
 Tickets available at Oct & Nov meetings, via website using Pay Pal or by contacting Secretary Robi 5545 2205
 Lucky door prizes