

MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN – Elwyn Paton

Are there ‘knees’ on your swamp cypress (Taxodium distichum)? Knees are woody projections sent above the normal ground level, roughly vertically from the roots, with a near-right-angle bend taking them vertically upward. I have a large swamp cypress which doesn’t have any knees, but on inspecting our Botanical Gardens specimens, they certainly do. We have five beautiful trees at the entrance to the gardens and they exhibit both tapered and round knees at their bases.



When I was in the North East of USA in September, we saw these trees away from their usual habitat of the sub-tropical and swampy areas of Florida. It was very warm and humid at the time but they will be subjected to four feet of snow come winter. As a result they were nothing like the height and leafiness we see here, but they did have knees.

There have been several explanations for this type of growth. It was suggested, the knees provide oxygen to the tree when the roots become submerged or very wet, very much like the growth of mangroves. But, scientists have since proved these knees incapable of supplying oxygen to tree.

More likely, the knees provide stability to the trees which, in their native environment have to contend with high cyclonic winds and water inundation. The

jury is still out on this one, but in the meantime we can enjoy their change of foliage colour to rust, subsequent fall in Autumn and the wonderful return of bright lime green lacy leaves in Spring.



The Dawn Redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) also grows on the mountain. On Beacon Rd. there are a couple on

the footpath and I dare say that you may also have one growing in your garden. I have a great deal of trouble distinguishing this tree from the swamp cypress. They are both deciduous and because I haven’t compared them side-by-side the leaves seem similar. I thought that they were all swamp cypress until one day, my neighbour, the late Ken Baker informed me that there is a difference, and it requires a closer look.

Whilst I was in the Northeast USA, I was surprised by the warm and humid weather. Some days easily reached 32°C in the early part of September. We were constantly reminded that in that part of the world they had experienced the hottest and driest summer on record. One gardener told us that he was 15 inches of rain down on previous years coupled with a low snowfall in the previous winter. The fruit orchards didn’t bear any fruit with a few exceptions, because a late killer frost last spring burnt off all the blossoms. Only a very few of the late flowering trees bore apples or pears. It made my woes of gardening pale into insignificance.

In the meantime, Happy Gardening.

Ellie Paton



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.
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NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bernadette Stacey - bernadette1859@gmail.com 0409 759 838 **November 2016**



**Tamborine Mountain Garden Club
 Christmas Luncheon**

At
Mt Tamborine Vineyards & Winery

128 Long Rd
 Gallery Walk

Angle parking at the rear
 with convenient parking on the
 left and side for the less able bodied

Tuesday 13 th December

Arrival 11.30 Luncheon 12.30

\$45 pp

Tickets available at Oct & Nov meetings
 Payments can also be made via the website using
 PayPal

Contact Secretary Bernadette Stacey 0409759838

A garden is not made in a year; indeed it is never made in the sense of finality. It grows, and with the labour of love should go on growing. Fredrick Eden, 1903

October garden visit

Our last garden visit for 2016 was to Sue & Bob Stewart’s garden. The garden was looking its best after a lovely drop of rain the night before. We entered via ‘the red gate’ and what an entrance it was. The garden has only been developed since 2013 the hard work, love and attention was certainly evident. We all walked away with some great ideas for our own gardens. Well done and thank you both very much for an inspirational morning. – Glenda Sullivan



**CONTACTS: President – Di Howard 5545 2628 | Vice President - Terri Taylor 5545 4564
 Secretary - Bernadette Stacey - 5545 0605 | Treasurer– Di Fenton 5545 0236 | Springtime
 Convener - Margaret Pile - 5545 0869 | Patrons - Mary Wallace, Margaret and Roger Bell**

February meeting

Tuesday February 14th at 9:30 AM

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker: TBA

February Competition table

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.



Two garden tours in 2017 led by Gerry Gimpel

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show Tour 25/03/17 to 31/03/17

Melbourne International Garden Show and touring days spent visiting Daylesford, Mt Macedon, Mornington Peninsula, Yarra Valley and the Dandenongs.

Garden 'n Gourmet 01/10/17 to 07/10/17

Southern Highlands and on to Canberra and Floriade. A day trip to visit the Private Homestead gardens of the Monaro is included.

From the President

After spending four weeks in Egypt and Jordan it is so good to be home. While we saw wonderful things we found Egypt very different. Being in a such a country reinforces just what a wonderful country we live in.

We had a quick stop in Singapore to recuperate and after a visit to the gardens we felt refreshed. The Singapore botanic gardens were lovely. There were lots of green areas to sit and ponder and a visit to the orchid house was inspiring. The many colours and varieties of orchids must like a hot and humid climate. It was very hot while we were there. I can only imagine what it like in the middle of their summer.

This will be our last meeting for 2013; where has the year gone? Christmas lunch is on 13th of December so don't forget to get your tickets. Di Howard

Tamborine Mountain Garden Club
Fashion Parade
 At the home of the President
 Di Howard
 28 Ben Nevis St
 Tamborine Mountain
15 November 2016
 \$8 pp—for a delicious morning tea
 Fashions by Whispers Boutique

Interested?

To get a detailed itinerary and confirm your booking
 Contact Gerry
 on 0437 694 009
 or email
 tours@educatours.com.au
 ggimpel@optusnet.com.au

Beating the bite of our pesky local beasts!

Mosquitoes and ticks are a natural part of the Australian environment but sometimes they make their way into our backyards too.



Nuisance-biting by mozzies is enough to annoy even the most tolerant person but their bites can be more than just an annoyance. Thousands of Australians are infected with Ross River virus each year following mosquito bites. While it won't kill you, it can make you very sick. Fever, rash, and joint pain are common symptoms and in severe cases, you can be bed ridden with fatigue for many weeks or months.

The best way to protect yourself from mosquito bites is avoiding being outdoors at dusk and dawn. Unfortunately, this is also the best time to be out gardening in the backyard. Mosquito coils aren't particularly effective, best to go with a topical insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. These generally provide longer lasting protection than tea-tree oil, lavender and other essential oils. Skip the mosquito repellent wrist bands too, they don't work.

Ticks becoming of increasing concern as people are living closer to bushland and making contact with ticks more common in the backyard. Ticks cause a range of problems, from the transmission of pathogens to allergic reactions to their bites through to the perplexing development of mammalian meat allergy.



Some insect repellents will help protect you against ticks but best to cover up. Tuck your pants into your socks, you long sleeved shirt into your pants. Treating clothing with insecticide can also help stop ticks finding some bare skin to bite. Inspect yourself regularly and if you spot a tick crawling about, flick it off.

If you do find a tick attached, remember, "freeze don't squeeze"! The recommended way to remove a tick is to freeze it with a commercial wart treatment product, kill it in place and then remove with fine tipped forceps. If you try to remove it with your fingers, you run the risk of the tick injecting more toxins and increase the changes of a more severe allergic reaction.

There is plenty to love about summer in our gardens, even if the occasional bloodsucker tries to spoil the fun from time to time. Luckily there are plenty of ways to beat their bite!

Dr Cameron Webb is a Clinical Lecturer and Principal Scientific Officer at the University of Sydney and NSW Health Pathology. He spends his summers in gumboot chasing mosquitoes and is the lead author on the recently published "A guide to mosquitoes of Australia" (CSIRO Publishing). You can follow Cameron on Twitter (@mozziebites) and read about his latest mosquito and wetlands research, science communication and public health advocacy at his website: <https://cameronwebb.wordpress.com/>

Christmas Wishes

As this is our last newsletter for 2016 we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and New Year. May your Christmas stockings be overflowing and your celebrations joyful. Let us hope for plenty of refreshing summer rain and no wild storms. Best Wishes from the Committee.

