

# The Gentle Gardening Guide Janet Stone



September – so full of garden inspiration, and now October - time to start planning and putting a work schedule in place for the coming seasons. Orchid, clivia and bromeliad exhibitions, Toowoomba's *Carnival of Flowers*, Canberra's *Fioriade* and our own very special *Springtime on the Mountain* have demonstrated the glorious results of thoughtful planning, planting and on-going maintenance in the garden.

**Planting:** one clear message from exhibition gardens is that plants don't always have to be rare or hard to grow to make a garden special. Many common, locally sourced plants can give a better looking, and more manageable garden if thoughtfully placed with creative combinations of colour, texture and height. Growing plants suited to local conditions makes for less demanding gardening, and experiments that result in "unhappy" placement or combinations are easily changed by transplanting or removing struggling plants to a more suitable microclimate. Mass planting also makes for a spectacular display, and can be achieved over time by propagating seedlings and cuttings. Underplanting with easy-care groundcovers adds visual impact and reduces weeding. Strategically placed feature plants, structures, statuary and pathways build the bones of the garden for year-round interest and form the focal point for special displays.

**Preparation:** Mid/late Spring is the time to refresh soil by digging in aged manure or pelletised fertilisers, mulch, compost and a little potash to boost microbial activity. Areas of heavy clay benefit from an application of raw gypsum or dolomite to unlock nutrients and sweeten soil. Regular topping-up of organic matter, mushroom compost and aged animal manures keep soil productive, especially in vegetable gardens and flower beds which are continually cultivated. Conditioning, mulching and feeding garden soil is



the key to successful plant growth especially when the rewards are healthy foliage, abundant crops and prolific flowering.

**Planting:** tube stock planted in late Spring will establish more quickly than mature plants, with shrubs and trees reaching at least a metre in height within a year. Seedlings and rooted cuttings taken earlier in the year will thrive now that the soil is warmer, and watering with a seaweed solution at the time of planting assists in rapid acclimatisation and growth. A tent-shaped covering of fly screen gauze protects young plants from hot sun or heavy rain and keeps out snails, slugs and other pests.

**Filling the gaps:** daisies! In every colour, shape and size, and so forgiving as to be almost indestructible, daisies are the ideal gap filler in every garden: new gardens bulked out until long-term plants mature; raw areas covered in old gardens being culled or made over; steep slopes pinned to prevent soil erosion; colour in blank spaces; cheerfulness where nothing else will grow. When all else fails, a daisy will cover the cover the problem and look as though it was always meant to be there.

**Vegetable gardens:** often relegated to out-of-the-way places, ordinary vegie plots usually shrink behind more spectacular flower displays in most gardens. One exhibition gardener suggests making the vegie garden more visually creative by using unusual planters: old suitcases, a chest of drawers, wooden crates, tin tubs or disused planters for shallow rooted strawberries, lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli, and cabbage; deeper travelling trunks and wooden boxes suit deeper rooted carrots, sweet potatoes, parsnips, tomatoes and rhubarb; and rusting gazebos, old ladders and unused garden furniture are ideal for climbers such as peas, beans and passionfruit. Filled with rich, organic soil mix and compost, with good drainage holes, and placed throughout the garden in sunny places, unusual containers add creative features and quirky interest to the garden and add humour and seasonal variety to its overall visual impact.



**TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.**  
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## NEWSLETTER

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

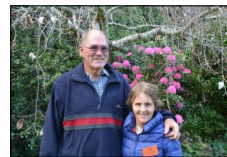
### Springtime Report from our Convener

Our 2015 Springtime on the Mountain festival was, once again, a great success. Despite some bouts of inclement weather around 3000 visitors attended.

The success of the festival relies on the generosity and efforts of the marvellous people who open their gardens to thousands of visitors from near and far. Having a garden ready for the festival takes months of careful planning, preparation, and lots and lots of very hard work. The efforts of the gardeners certainly paid off with universal admiration and praise for each and every garden. Congratulations and our sincere thanks to all the gardens owners who opened their garden gates to let the visitors in to share and explore their beautiful and inspirational gardens.

The car park at Tallaringa kept our parking attendants on their toes throughout the weekend and we had to quickly add extra transport for the crowds wanting to visit Carinya. The ride through the rainforest was a great talking point. The showgrounds, too, proved a great drawcard.

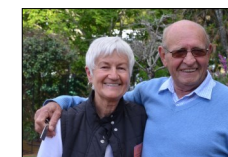
A massive thanks is due to everyone who volunteered through the long weekend. Special thanks to Suzi and her team at the cafe who worked incredibly long hours every day. The gate captains, attendants and Potty Potters were outstanding as always, polite, energetic and enthusiastic with our thousands of visitors. Thanks also everyone who helped with banners, signs, setting up and packing up. Planning has already begun for 2016 so, if anyone knows of an outstanding, innovative garden on the Mountain, we would be delighted to hear from you. Margaret Pile



The Youngmans



The Taits



The Laarhovens



M. Campbell

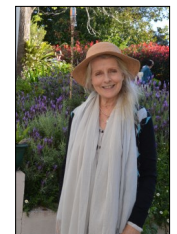


The Coopers



The Smiths

2015 Garden owners.



J. Weisfelt

**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**

**November 2015 Meeting**

**Tuesday November 11th at 9:30 AM**

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

**Guest Speaker** Jed Plunkett—Composting  
**Competition table**

- A flowering native
- An exotic tree or shrub
- A flowering bulb or corm
- A vegetable / fruit
- A daylily flower
- Three different roses
- A succulent or cactus in a pot.

**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.

**November morning tea**

Robyn Morphett & Jill Brush

**From the President**

It's always such a thrill to write about yet another highly successful 'Springtime on the Mountain' and to congratulate all involved. This club has to be unique, so many members get involved and that's what makes it such a success.

Roger and I worked the Botanic Garden gates each morning, as we've done for many years, and it's almost like catching up with old friends as we greet the familiar faces. "We wouldn't miss Springtime for anything, we come every year". If we heard that once, we heard it dozens of times. Then wandering through the gardens each afternoon we heard only happy and appreciative comments from the many visitors. Our festival certainly has a wonderful profile and we should all be very proud of our achievements.

My sincere congratulations and thanks to Margaret Pile, 2015 Convenor, who has done an outstanding job and to her 'right hand' Denby. I think Margaret rather enjoyed the challenge and will go around again next year, Yippee!!

To everyone who helped out in all areas and I won't attempt to name you in case I miss someone, please accept the club's thanks and appreciation.

We can all rest on our laurels now and look forward to Michael's bus trip in November and our Christmas Party on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Don't be disappointed, book them both today. **Margaret**



**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

**A recipe from Terri Taylor**

During Springtime Terri gave cooking demonstrations at the showgrounds. They were very well received and participants certainly enjoyed the samples Terri provided. Here is one of the dishes Terri prepared. Why not give it a try?



**Rhubarb with macadamia crumble and Rosewater custard.**

**Crumble** - 150 g butter, 150 g plain flour, 150 g roasted macadamias, 150 g sugar  
**Apple and Rhubarb** - 1 bunch of rhubarb, 1 green apple, ½ cup of honey (to taste), 1 orange rind and juice, 1 stick of cinnamon

**Crumble** - Soften butter and pulse in a food processor with flour, nuts and sugar until coarse breadcrumb consistency. Spread out on a tray and bake in a moderate oven (180 C) stirring every couple of minutes until golden brown. Break up the crumble and keep in a sealed container in the fridge.

**Apple and Rhubarb** - Peel and dice apples and slice rhubarb into 2 cm pieces. Place in a pan with the cinnamon honey, orange juice and finely grated rind. Cook with the lid on until soft, about 5 minutes.

**Rosewater custard.**

500ml milk, 2tbsp of custard powder, 2tbsp honey, 1 stick of cinnamon, 1 tbsp of rosewater, Grated rind of ½ an orange

Heat 450ml of the milk in a saucepan with the cinnamon, rind and honey. With the remaining 50ml mix with custard powder. When the milk comes to a simmer stir in the custard powder. Remove from the heat once it thickens, and stir through the rosewater.

**The Spotted Lady**

Nola Woodward won the "name the spotty lady" competition that was held at the Potty Potters plant stall during Springtime. Nola chose RUBELLA which was a clever nod to spots, colour and beauty. Nola won the lovely hippeastrum plant.



Alison MacPhail braved the cold on a gate at Springtime with a knee rug that was provided courtesy of Rhonda.

**October garden visit**

10 am , Tues 20 Oct, Pam Hawthorne's garden' 8—10 Alpine Terrace, Tamborine Mountain, BYO morning tea

**What's on today's**

Guest speaker: Peter Rice—Ferns  
 Plant Sale, Raffle, Library  
 Christmas lunch and bus trip payments