

The Gentle Gardening Guide Janet Stone

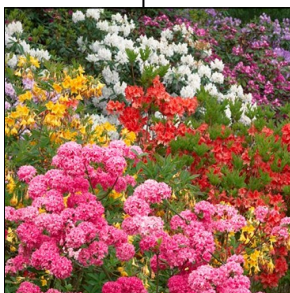


Spring at last and all the "forgotten" plants in the garden, and those that never seem to

do anything have taken off and are filling the garden with colour and the sweet smell of nectar. *Springtime on the Mountain* is a great opportunity to find inspiration and joy for the many jobs that can be done in your own garden over the next few weeks.

Year round interest: the key to good garden design is to build on previous plantings each year by adding new plants that enhance the range of features such as large shrubs for impact, flowers for colour and scent, bulbs and small plants for under-planting and filling small spaces. Seasonal surprises such as annuals and non-invasive climbers keep the garden looking fresh as colours and textures come and go through the weeks. Instant style and impact are achieved by progressively using annuals in long swathes that lead you through the garden, in tiny spare spaces, along pathways and borders, in large pots and window boxes, around ponds and water features or wherever a bright boost of colour is needed. Thoughtful planting to allow for various heights, shapes and flowering times of perennials will also help disguise ratty foliage as bulbs and annuals die down naturally. Spring may be the show-stopper season but planning for flowers, berries and eye-catching features in each season keeps the garden full of life year-round.

Light pruning and feeding: the benefits of heavy pruning dormant shrubs during the cooler months will start to show now with fresh growth and compact shapes emerging.



September is the time for light pruning of azaleas, camellias, diosma, fuchsias, gardenias, hibiscus, pelargonium, plumbago and poinsettias.

Established passionfruit vines and any other leggy plants will also benefit from light pruning, and don't forget pond plants which respond well to pruning and a dedicated water plant fertiliser pellet with rapid new growth.

All summer flowering shrubs need compost and fertiliser/manure now to ensure a good coverage of healthy blooms; this includes agapanthus which will also benefit from a small helping of wood ash from the last

cool-weather fires. As bulbs finish flowering give them a boost for next year with a complete fertiliser before they become dormant. All flowering shrubs need compost and a complete fertiliser as they finish flowering, and if gardenias are yellow from magnesium deficiency a tablespoon of Epsom Salts around each plant, well watered in, will bring back their dark green colour.

Planning: repot containers and houseplants; dig up chrysanthemums, discard old crowns and take cuttings from healthy stems; divide clumping plants if necessary, trim back the roots and leaves then replant in new spaces; take 10cm long soft-wood cuttings from any non-flowering shoot or from shrub prunings; relocate, give away or discard any plant that has been unhappy over the last year – neither you nor it need continue the misery.

Spring is such a forgiving season, so this is the time to plant anything that you've never tried before, or something new that will give you joy. Get ready, the days of composting, fertilising, mulching and weeding – and the magic of gardens and gardening, are back again!



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.

PO Box 63, North Tamborine, 4272 ABN 281 058 436 76 www.tmbotanicgardens.org.au

NEWSLETTER

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

August garden visit

Our visit to Jasmin Organics was very informative with a tour of the facility given to us by one of the co-owners, Gordon Chalmers. This property was one of the original farms on the mountain. Jasmin Organics started back in 2005 to become a totally organic skincare range selling worldwide. Next year, they hope to be totally off the grid with power, and recycling their water. We were shown a brief documentary which aired on the 'Great South East' last November. There was also a presentation of the development of the property and manufacturing facility where they distil the essential oils. We wandered through the gardens which featured the 'Alba White Rose', lavender, geranium and the orchard with 'Winter Chill' plums and avocados.



As we have the Springtime Festival coming up next month, there will be no garden visit for September.



Springtime on the Mountain 2015
Open Gardens Trail - Friday 25th to
Sunday 27th September
9 am to 4 pm

What's on today

Laurie Baxter, President of the Logan and District Orchid Society. - An introduction to growing orchids, library, raffles, plants sales from the Potty Potters.

CONTACTS: President - Margaret Bell 5545 0797 | Vice President - Di Howard 5545 2628
 Secretary - Robin Pope - 5545 2205 | Treasurer - Di Fenton - 5545 026 | Springtime Convener - Margaret Pile - 5545 0869 | Patron - Mary Wallace

October 2015 Meeting

Tuesday October 13th at 9:30 AM

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker Peter Rice—Ferns

Competition table

- A flowering native
- An exotic tree or shrub
- A blossom
- A vegetable / fruit
- An hippeastrum – one cut
- An african violet in a pot
- A rose

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.

October morning tea

Bernadette Stacey & Amanda Hay



Tawny frogmouths at the gardens



Garden club members tour the gardens.

What's on

U3A two concerts at the Zamia Theatre – 7.30pm Saturday 12 September and 2.30pm Sunday 13 September 2015. In support of the Rural Fire Brigade

Rotary Club of Murwillumbah Open Garden at Brimardon 12/13 September 10am to 4pm
Bromeliad Society of Qld Bromeliad & Tropicals Show and sales 14/15 November Brisbane Table Tennis Centre

West-Side Garden Day Visit 30 September 2015
Ipswich Orchid Society Inc. Spring Garden Spectacular 3/4th October

African Violet Society of Qld Inc – African Violet & Gesneriad Annual Show & Plant Sale 17/18 October Auditorium Botanical Gardens Mt Coot-tha Toowong

Buderim Garden Festival 2015
Saturday 17/18 October, from 9am to 4 pm at the Buderim War Memorial Hall, cnr King and Main St, Buderim.

From the President

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our August meeting in the Botanic Gardens. 86 members and visitors enjoyed morning tea and tucked into the rolls, sausages, bacon and onions cooked to perfection by Eddie, Bob and Roger B. The Potty Potters sold plants and Gardens manager, Roger 'Lend-a-hand', organised guides from the volunteer ranks to take groups through the gardens. All in all it was a very successful day and my thanks to all who helped make it so. There is always a lot of work to make these occasions successful and with this in mind and Springtime almost upon us, it makes me think of the setting up and cleaning up that is needed at the showgrounds.

On Thursday 24th September we will need 'manpower' to assist pitching the tents and setting up the trestle tables for the plant stall as well as help with kitchen set up for the cafe and tea/coffee booth. PLEASE think about how you can help out and either phone Convenor Margaret Pile or just turn up from 8am. It does not end there either! We need help late Sunday to pack up too, 3ish! On the Wednesday prior, all the road signage goes up and we also need some fit men to help and learn the ropes for that. We'll have 2 crews so it won't take more than a morning – anyone with a utility will be extra welcome. Signs come down Monday morning. Helping out, even in a small way, can be a lot of fun and is a great way to meet new people.

During the Springtime weekend Margaret Pile 0458 102 344 and Annie Brennan 0417 733 085 are available to put out any fires and I am always contactable on 0409 263 666. If for any reason you are unable to work your shift, phone Margaret Pile ASAP.

Please note that current club members are entitled to a \$10.00 Trail Pass but must produce their 2015 Membership Card, so make sure that it is in your wallet! Trail Passes are available at all Open Gardens and the Botanic Gardens - they are NOT transferable. All volunteers will receive a Volunteer Pass but if for some reason you haven't got yours, it is your responsibility to contact Margaret Pile and arrange to collect one.

Don't forget the Tamborine Mountain Show, we should support them by entering one or more of the many categories – plants, vegetables, fruit, art, cooking etc. Pick up an application form at the sign-in desk. The more entries the more successful the show will be.

Here's to a very successful Springtime and thank you all for your support. **Margaret**

