

MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN – Elwyn Paton

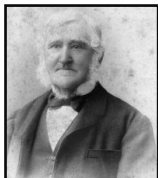


Jacarandas at Queensland University

The Jacarandas are once again in full bloom.

This event can strike fear and trepidation into the hearts of many students sitting for exams. It means also, that some have to cover their fish ponds under the Jacarandas or close off the water entering their tanks tainted with the beautiful blooms. I don't think you can fail to be impressed when the Jacaranda trees on the mountain start to flower. I am also told that the haze of Jacaranda purple is amazing when you fly into Brisbane at this time of year.

We have much to thank a Scot called Walter Hill for these trees. Walter Hill was the first Superintendent of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens and was instrumental in introducing many plants that he felt would grow and prosper here in Queensland. Plants such as Mango, Pawpaw, Ginger, Poinciana and



Jacaranda were all introduced as a result of his association with many plants people and Botanic Gardens throughout the world. He researched and named the native Macadamia Nut tree and promoted its growth in cultivation. (Too bad that the Californians pipped him at the post with that one.) With a colleague, they managed to produce some rudimentary sugar from a trial sugar cane stand that they had been growing and so the plants were dispatched to the north and our sugar industry had begun.

There are records of his trialling grasses for stock, sheep and dairy animals and endeavours to introduce coffee, tea and many other tropical fruits.

When you see a plant with hillii as its second latin name you will know that it is to honour Walter Hill.

Early in his time in the colony of New South Wales, he joined an expedition by ship to far North Queensland. He and a friend left the main group to go collecting plant specimens and came back to find the rest of their party had been killed by Aborigines. The two remaining managed somehow to sail back to Brisbane.

Up until his retirement he lived in a house within the Botanic Gardens. When he retired he built a house at Eight Mile Plains which in those days was quite a distance from Brisbane City. It still is, but today we don't travel to it in a horse and dray. He described it as a lovely place with a running creek at the bottom of the property. He named the house, Canonbie Lea. This house still exists along the old Pacific Highway. I have noticed and admired it for as long as I can recall. It has had its ups and downs during that time but has been carefully converted to business premises.



The 'lovely running creek' has of course been piped and no longer exists. I passed it recently with my son who said that he also had loved it as he passed it on the way to the coast. I was able to tell him of its history.

Somehow Walter Hill's work and knowledge in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens has slipped under the radar, unlike the works of other Botanists in Southern Botanic Gardens. Thankfully, Walter's grandnephew, Gordon Smith has written an account of his life and work. It is called "Walter Hill of Brisbane's Botanic Gardens" with the Foreword written by Ross McKinnon.

Until next year 2019, I wish you Cheers and many Blessings at Christmas and New Year. Ellie P.



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.
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NEWSLETTER

Editor: : Lorraine Bilbie—ellbee1146@gmail.com 0438 831885 NOVEMBER 2018



REPOTTING CYMBIDIUM ORCHIDS

Cymbidium orchids are very rewarding plants. They're easy to grow and produce beautiful flowers. But over the years the pots can become congested with bulbs and this limits flowering and increases the likelihood of disease. When they become too crowded it's time to divide.

Dividing

Remove the clump of plants from the pot and look for healthy bulbs - they will have green leaves growing from them. When dividing a cymbidium orchid, aim to have between three and five healthy bulbs in each division as that will ensure the plant flowers again next year. Remove any bulbs that are soft when you squeeze them. If it's divided up any smaller it will take longer to flower.

Remove older bulbs that have no foliage. These are called 'back' bulbs and although they may reshoot they take about three years to do so.

Remove any damaged roots and trim the leaves by about a third to prevent water loss. Remember to wipe tools with methylated spirits between plants

Repotting

For tropical gardeners, you can use large or medium orchid bark, some polystyrene chips will help aeration. Orchids prefer to be grown in a smaller pot, so select one that will fit the roots and allow a couple of years of growth.



Add a handful of potting mix to the pot. Place the plant in position and backfill around it. Place the plant in the shade for four to six weeks to allow it to establish.

Care

Check new divisions regularly for moisture. After about a month, feed them with slow-release organic fertiliser and, at the end of summer, feed monthly with liquid fertiliser to encourage winter flowering.

The cymbidium in large pot pictured above was divided in October resulting in 14 new good sized divisions to grow on.

TODAY'S MEETING—Christmas Wreath Making with
 Mary Grange. Elwyn Paton and Marj. Simonsen.



CONTACTS: Vice President/Media Bernadette Brushe 0407176 052
I Secretary - Bev Cheffins - 5545 0690 | Treasurer – Helen Walsh 5582 7902
Patrons - Margaret and Roger Bell |

DECEMBER MEETING

Tuesday 11th December
 9.30 for 10.00 am start
 Vonda Youngman Community Centre
 Mail Street, North Tamborine
**There will be no guest speaker
 But we will be spending time
 Planning the future of the club for next
 year. Please show your support.**

DECEMBER COMPETITION TABLE

There is no competition scheduled for December, bring along a specimen; unusual, interesting, beautiful, unknown Include a question if you like Question and answer segment. Get the answers you need for your gardening questions, Use your experience to help someone else.

NO GARDEN VISIT FOR DECEMBER

GIANT BOOK SALE ON TODAY



VALE' STEPHANIE COX

Our dear friend and member Stephanie Cox passed away suddenly from a heart attack on Monday 22nd October. Many of us have spent lovely times in Stephanie's garden. She will be sadly missed on the mountain and at the meetings. Our condolences were sent to Les and the family.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Bernadette Brushe

Leonie Rowe has resigned as President of the Garden Club. We thank Leonie for all the work she has done this year, and the new ideas and enthusiasm she brought to her role. We wish her well for the future.

The tenure of some other committee positions are also now up, so we are looking for new volunteers to fill these roles as outlined below.

Tamborine Mountain Garden Club Inc
 Management/Executive Committee Positions

Vacant 2019

- President**
- Vice President**
- Secretary**
- Treasurer**

Committee Members Positions

- Membership**
- Garden Visits**
- Guest Speakers**
- Facebook page/Promotion**
- Springtime Convenor (if applicable)**

Any members interested in undertaking one of these positions and wishing more information may phone Patron Margaret Bell 0409 263 666 who will happily help you.

Remember, involvement results in great friendships and satisfaction, don't deny yourself

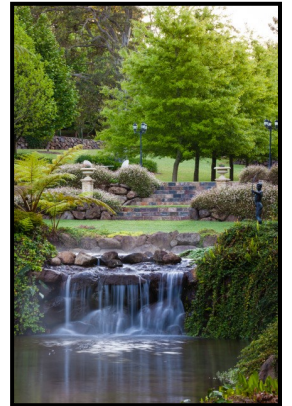
.Most importantly if these positions are not filled we will not have a Club and how tragic would that be?

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.
 — Sherry Anderson

COMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

"Riverrun" Open Gardens Killarney	24 Hoffman Road Spring Creek, Killarney	15-16-17-18 November 9am—4pm
Wintle Giving Garden Open Garden and Plant Sale	5 Carlton Court Birkdale	17-18 November 8.30am—4.30pm
Tropical Foliage Festival	Belmont Shooting Complex 1485 Old Cleveland Road Belmont	24 November 8am-3pm 25 November 9am-2pm
Concert in the gardens of "Glenloch"	42 Yuulong Road Tamborine Mountain	25 November See below for times and directions

The gates will open at 10.00am as usual and the live music will start at 11.00. Pack your picnic lunch and bring your friends to enjoy the day under the trees. You may of course bring tables and chairs, or rugs and cushions to make your day more comfortable. Parking will be either on the road or down at the corner shops, which should be empty on Sunday. If you would like to drop off your picnic / tables & chairs at the top of the driveway, Rob will collect them and deposit them down to the main area, where you can reclaim them. Once again, **entrance is free** but we will be have a single **raffle, to raise funds for charity** during the day. As last year, we have chosen the Rural Fire Brigade on the Mountain as the recipient of the takings for the raffle. After the resounding success of last year's concert and the significant feedback we received, we have again engaged both **The Piano Man (Dale Thorley), and Don't Fret, who are also bringing their fabulous Sax Player.** We will also have the wonderful coffee van keeping us supplied with a caffeine fix when necessary. Rob and Caroline Tolmie



OCTOBER GARDEN VISIT—GREEN LANE COFFEE PLANTATION

Despite the weather, which in fact did not impact at all on a very interesting morning, as we could see the trees up close from shelter and the explanation and demonstration by Sam Williams on the labour intensive cropping, drying, roasting and blending of the coffee beans was in the shed with some very impressive machinery. It was also a bonus to enjoy a coffee and cake in the café afterwards. A really enjoyable morning was had by all. Lorraine Millar—Garden Visit Co-ordinator.

