

# MAKING A GARDEN ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN

After writing last month about plants that love or tolerate alkaline soils, I find that I have opened a real 'can of worms'.

After a bit more delving, I have found many more plants that would like a little bit of lime. Amongst these are Bergenia, Arctotis, Acanthus mollis, (oyster plant), Lavender, Echium fastuosum, Geranium cinereum, (cranesbill).

Bergenia, for me just sat at the edge of the garden and did nothing much. It would flower occasionally. Arctotis also disappeared very quickly but near my new garden it is very happy and flowering between two concrete paths. Echium fastuosum seems to be another short lived plant. I used to put it on a very sunny, well drained bank and it did very well there for maybe two seasons. I used to blame the humid heat of our summers for its demise but maybe with the addition of a little bit of lime it may have been saved.

The same applies to Lavenders. The best Lavender I ever had, came up in the driveway gravel and lasted for years but I didn't know its name. Apart from this lavender, I have found that Lavender dentata, (toothed leaves) or its derivatives have always done well for me. It does get woody eventually. Cut it back by a third every few weeks and maybe it can be coaxed back to health again and then it might be wise to just cut your losses and replace it completely.



How often have you yearned to grow the true geraniums (cranesbill)? I have, and in the past have had high hopes for some beautiful specimens. One geranium recently, called Rozanne seemed to be tolerant of our acidic soils. I planted one in the Botanic Gardens and it did very well for one year but now it seems to have disappeared completely.

Acanthus mollis is another alkaline loving plant. I guess one would expect that when you see it growing lushly in Mediterranean parts of the world. I have seen it looking wonderful in gardens on the mountain, but I have noticed that for me it eventually diminishes instead of extending in size. In the Botanic Gardens it has also reduced from three plants to one precious plant.

Let's look at vegetables. Some of the vegetables mentioned as alkaline loving plants are Artichoke, Arugula-rocket, Asparagus, Lima Beans and the Broccoli family. There are others, but these seem to be the most important. I have tried Artichoke, but it didn't like our humidity and now it seems, would have been much happier in alkaline soil. It grew well to start but became yellow and limp and was then overcome with lots of little black sucking insects. I have grown Asparagus as well for a few years. It had a good healthy crown, but it too pined after some lime.

My Dad used to grow beautiful vegetables. He used to dig trenches in the garden and fill them with layers of leaves and vegetable matter, some animal manure or chook poo from the chook pen, then some back fill, and then a dusting of lime, to 'sweeten the soil', and so on. He claimed that all vegetables need

sweet soil. It worked very well for him.

Spring is here. Pray for rain and bring an umbrella.

Ellie P.



# TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.

PO Box 63, North Tamborine, 4272 ABN 281 058 436 76 [www.tmbotanicgardens.org.au](http://www.tmbotanicgardens.org.au)

# NEWSLETTER

Editor: : Lorraine Bilbie—ellbee1146@gmail.com - 0438 831885 **SEPTEMBER 2018**

It was a cool 11 degrees when we left from Vonda Youngman Centre for the Garden Club Bus Trip. With a 90% chance of rain expected in Brisbane and a cold wind we kept our winter woollies on.

As we arrived at Roma Street Parklands we were pleased to see the rain staying



away for the duration of our morning there.

After our morning tea those of us with dodgy knees and hips were pleased to see the "Parkland Explorer" arrive to carry us to the far reaches of the gardens. The Colin Campbell



display gardens were within an easy stroll and were spectacular. There were plenty of volunteers on hand to guide us through all areas of the gardens.



Then onto the spacious Kenmore Tavern for our lunch, good choices for us all and a dessert option for some. Just a short trip to Brookfield Garden Centre which had quite an impressive display of plants for sale, by the time we got back to the bus the underneath storage was filling up with our plant purchases.



Safely home to Tamborine Mountain and happy to see a shower or two while we had been away.

"Wonderful, Wonderful" were the comments I heard while leaving the bus.

Thanks to Rhonda for planning such a thoroughly enjoyable outing for us all.



**Today's Speaker—Dan Millman—Rocky Point Mulching**

**CONTACTS: President – Leonie Rowe –5545 4353 | Secretary - Bev Cheffins - 5545 0690**

**Vice President / Media– Bernadette Brushe - 0407 176 052 | Treasurer – Helen Walsh 5582 7902**

**Patrons - Margaret and Roger Bell |**

## OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday October 9th at 10.00 am

### Guest Speaker—

John Gallo—President -Probus Club  
“Ecology of Volcano Flows and understanding the underground water”.

## OCTOBER COMPETITION TABLE CHALLENGE:

### A GARDEN IN A TEACUP

#### 4 Categories

#### Herb Garden

Arid - could be a succulent, cacti etc.

Annual- anything like a pansy, alyssum

Whimsy - once again anything, but be creative (maybe even a Bonsai)!



Succulents—Arid



Whimsy



Herbs



Annuals

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our August meeting in the Botanic Gardens. This year The Gap Garden Club who were enjoying a bus trip to our little part of the world, joined us and enjoyed a talk from one of our local Physio's Gary Brooks. Brian Davison gave a very informative talk to all about what had been happening and flowering in the gardens as well as what the volunteers hope to achieve by year's end.

Members enjoyed morning tea and a sausage sizzle cooked by Mr BBQ Extraordinaire Eddie who was assisted by Brian Davison & Jon Rowe. The Gap Garden club brought their own morning tea along however, Eddie could have sold a lot of sausages to them as the smell coming off the hot plate was almost too much. The Potty Potters enjoyed a good morning with the sale of plants. All in all it was a very successful day and my thanks to all who helped make it so.

Spring is now with us and I was revelling in the recent rain (20mm down the south end of the mountain) but my joy has been short lived. It is back to being bone dry with the grass under foot crackling as I walk around. I am hand watering some of my precious plants because I do not have a bore but I need to ensure I do not run my tanks dry. I must not whinge but be grateful for what we have. Let's think about our Aussie farmers and what they are currently facing and hope the weather changes soon.

Happy watering....



Vale - Our past President Michael Leahy sadly lost his battle with cancer recently. He and his wife Suzi were responsible for organising some terrific bus trips which most of our members will remember with great fondness. R.I.P. Michael.

## COMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Gold Coast District Orchid Society Spring Show	Albert Waterways Comm. Centre. Cnr Hooker and Sunshine Bvds. Mermaid Waters	Fri. September 14th 8am-4.30pm Sat. September 15th 8am-3.00pm
Botanical Bazaar Community Garden Festival	Country Paradise Parklands 231 Beaudesert-Nerang Road Nerang	Sunday 16th September 9am-4pm
Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers	See website <a href="http://www.tcof.com.au">www.tcof.com.au</a> for full details	21st-30th September
Ipswich Garden Spectacular	Silkstone State School Prospect Street, Silkstone	Sat. 29th September 8.30am-3.00pm Sun. 30th September 9.00am-2.00pm



## AUGUST GARDEN VISIT

Photos by Glenda Sullivan

Christine and John Youngman's garden is one of the most impressive and varied on the mountain.

From the avocado orchard, through the original rainforest, then onto their beautiful garden and the views to the coast past huge fountains and rotunda.

They have rare and no longer available plants, shrubs and trees and magnolias everywhere. Thank you both so much.

Lorraine Millar -Garden Visit Co-ordinator

### OCTOBER MORNING TEA ROSTER

Robyn Morphet  
Di Howard

### BYO CUPS

### SEPTEMBER GARDEN VISIT

Tuesday September 18th 10.00am  
Bev Cheffin's Garden  
441 Long Road (Cnr of Lahey Rd)  
Tamborine Mtn. **BYO MORNING TEA**