



NEWSLETTER

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

March 2015



The Gentle Gardening Guide

“A conversation with anyone who loves a garden” Janet Stone

Life begins the day you start a garden and when you need

recharging, the garden is a good place to find new energy. Gardens designed to feed the soul come in many forms: some with formal principles like Zen or Feng shui; carefully constructed contemplation gardens; or simple places of abundance which make you happy.

Zen garden: is traditionally a flat, dry landscape using stylised arrangements of natural features surrounded by sand or gravel raked to resemble water ripples. A Zen garden is usually a small, self-contained space meant to be

viewed from a seated vantage point. A few carefully selected natural items of wood, rock and vegetation, each with some significant appeal such as colour or shape, is placed off-centre and partially buried in a landscape of level, raked sand or gravel. A peaceful Zen garden can make a feature of oddly shaped spaces and out-of-the way pockets in the garden.

Feng shui garden: is based on an identified centre of the garden and the direction of eight compass points radiating from the centre. Each point identifies a sector of life and is represented by five elements – earth, fire, water, metal, wood.

The centre of the garden is usually marked with an earth feature such as a sculpture, statue or large rock. North is identified with water, water features with a wavy shape or kidney shape and flowers in various “water” shades of blue and purple. South is identified with fire, pointed shapes and “fire” colours. A fire pit or barbecue is suitable here as are plantings of red, yellow

or orange flowers. East and south-east are wood directions and favour anything tall or rectangular in shape or made from wood, while green is the preferred colour including foliage plants, fruit trees and veggie patches. West and north-west are metal directions and favour anything made from metal especially in round/domed shapes, and white, silver or gold colours are preferred - simple planting such as lawn is suited to the north-west sector. North-east and south-west are earth directions. Anything square and made from earth or is earth coloured such as terracotta, ceramics and brick paving are suitable.



Curved lines are preferred, so corners can be softened by the placement of birdbaths, ponds or water features, while dark areas should be lightened with painted features, mirrors or light-coloured flowers. Cluttered paths or seating areas should be cleared up, and feathery grasses, soft leaved plants and a variety of seasonal flowers should be planted

throughout the garden.

Contemplation garden: is usually a garden within a garden, or a series of contemplation “rooms”. The garden has four principles: clarity of purpose - having a defined boundary, a clear point of entry, and focal point or feature; complexity – providing a reason to enter by using a mix of plant colours, smell, shapes, sizes and textures with a balance of planted and open spaces; mystery – achieved by curved paths and careful planting to create glimpses of features not immediately visible but inviting further exploration; and refuge – giving a feeling of protection and comfort with a space for sitting. (Thanks to Carol Wallace, freelance garden writer, Pennsylvania, USA for these ideas from her contemplation garden.)

The February garden visit was at Rhonda & Maurice Laarhoven's beautiful garden . The recent find of a fountain in a shed has complimented this well laid out garden perfectly. Their 10 years of hard work creating this garden, is certainly a credit to them. I'm sure the visitors at Springtime will definitely enjoy seeing this in September. - Glenda Sullivan



What's on today—Guest Speaker Lawrie Smith AM, Landscape Architect and Botanic Gardens Master Planner. Raffle, Potty Potters plant sales, competition table, borrowing library

Club History—Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting February 2nd 1982

The inaugural meeting of the Tamborine Mountain Garden Club held on February 2nd in the Progress Hall, was well attended, resulting in a membership of 40. Mr. Lloyd Maiden chaired the meeting and explained to members that a copy of the rules of the Constitution of the Club would be given to them when they were printed. There was a discussion on programmes for the year, including guest speaker subjects and outings. The subscriptions were discussed and decided to be \$5 double and \$3 single for the year. From the next meeting there will be a monthly show of pot plants, cut flowers and fruit and vegetables as per schedule. These will be judged and points awarded for 1st and 2nd in each section. The floral art programme is delayed because of the lack of a teacher, the acting secretary is trying to remedy this. The election of office bearers will be held at the next meeting.

Thanks to Chris Davison for this article.

CONTACTS: President - Margaret Bell 5545 0797 | Vice President - David Somerville 5545 3347
Secretary - Robin Pope - 5545 2205 | Treasurer- Margaret Pile - 5545 0869
Springtime Convener - | Patron - Mary Wallace

April 2015 Meeting

Tuesday 14th at 9:30 AM

Vonda Youngman Community Centre Main Street, North Tamborine

Guest Speaker

Jan Rozanski on Horticultural Therapy

Competition table

A flowering native

An exotic tree or shrub

A flowering bulb or corm

A vegetable / fruit

A tropical flower

An arrangement of perennials

A sasanqua camellia 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.

April Morning Tea

Nanette Creswell & Amanda Hay

Fashion Parade

There will be no garden visit in March, instead all are invited to annual Fashion Parade at 10am on 17th March at Di Howard's home, 28 Ben Nevis Street. The cost is \$5 for a delicious Devonshire tea. In the event of rain the venue will be the Vonda Youngman Community Centre.



Tamborine Mountain Garden Club Bus Trip to Rosevale and Killarney

Wednesday 8th April 2015

Cost \$50 per person, includes morning tea and lunch

Departs 7am Vonda Youngman Community Centre

Upcoming Events

Wondai Autumn Garden Expo, Wondai Sportsground, 18 & 19 April

Qld Garden Expo, Nambour, 10 – 12 July

Welcome to new and returning members

Marilyn McPhail, Susan Elliot Joan Kahler, Vivien King, Geraldine Lucas, Lynne Rule, Julie Wilkinson, Wayne & Sylvia Hinze,

Ticks

Recently Catayst (ABC TV 17/2/2015) produced a segment which was very informative about the relationship between the tick bites and allergic reactions. In order to avoid the possibility of developing future problems ticks must not be squeezed with tweezers to remove them. Squeezing the tick allows the allergens to enter the bloodstream which can cause the development of an allergic reaction. The advice is to use Wart Off or Medi Freeze Skin Tag remover to freeze the little blighters. This kills them and they can be brushed off after about 10 minutes. Similarly tiny larval ticks can be killed with the application of Lyclear Scabies Cream which contains permethrin. These too can be simply brushed off once they are dead. Remember dab them, don't grab them.



2014 President's Annual Report



It has been another successful year for this active club and all those who've been a part of it should be very proud and satisfied. Finding myself back as president was certainly unexpected. However, I have managed to fit everything into our busy lives. I do enjoy the involvement and feel honoured to lead such a wonderful garden club.

The past year has brought us many new and enthusiastic members and has taken some of our favourites too, some relocated, others now at rest. Our current membership is almost 180 which is fantastic. I believe our success is a result of the hands-on input from so many, just to run a meeting requires approximately 24 to 30 people. Additionally we have committee meetings, guest speakers to arrange, newsletters to prepare, springtime to convene and run, the Botanic Gardens to administer and physically maintain and outings such as the wonderful coach trips, the fashion parade, sausage sizzle and the list goes on. These all require members' assistance and hard work. My sincere thanks to all of you who have been so involved this past year and to those continuing on in those roles in 2015.

Springtime 2014 was a great accomplishment and the use of the showgrounds proved to be a very popular decision. This is a huge event to organise and we need all the help we can get so please be generous with your time and skills in any way you can, in the lead up and over the three days.

The bus trip to Walcha was another great success. The bar is being set so high that our organiser will be under continual pressure to maintain this standard. Heaven help us when he resigns, there will be big shoes to fill.

One of the year's greatest highlights is the new website which has taken many months of taxing input but the final result is amazing and makes it all worth the huge effort. The site is very professional and user friendly and already, I'm told, members are using it to pay membership fees.

The continuing progress in the Botanic Gardens is proof of the dedication of the managing committee and the volunteers and added to that, the incredible efforts of the Potty Potters raised \$22,000 this year. It's always a joy to me to see the terrific camaraderie at the gardens. There is always a need for more volunteers at the Wednesday and Thursday working bees and any new recruits would be made very welcome. It really is an excellent way to learn more about what grows well on our mountain and gardening in general. Why not give it a go and reap the rewards!

I extend my sincere thanks to my committee, we'll miss those who are retiring but look forward to welcoming their replacements. I am looking forward to another enjoyable and productive year and will welcome any suggestions or requests any of you have.

Thank you for your support.

Margaret Bell

