


TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB INC.

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NEWSLETTER

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November 2014


The Gentle Gardening Guide

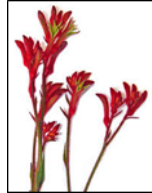
"A conversation with anyone who loves a garden"

Exceptionally warm weather and little rain have left gardens exhausted and in need of carefully targeted care to help vulnerable exotic plants through tough times. Take this opportunity to decide what really isn't working and replan or replant particularly difficult areas. Interspersing selected natives or common more acclimatised plants through the garden will allow for year-round colour, fill struggling spaces, and reduce the need for extra watering. Many new native cultivars produce compact, longer-lived plants which fit comfortably into any climate and garden design. As landscape consultant John Stower says: *Common plants, grown well and occasionally with flair, produce a much better garden.*

Bearded Iris: Appropriately named after Iris, Goddess of the rainbow, with spectacular flowers available in a glorious range of colours, these plants are surprisingly tough and have flowered particularly well during the warm, dry weather. Irises need full sun and well-drained soil with the rhizome positioned partly above the ground. Planted on a mound of soil free of mulch or fertilisers, and left exposed to sunlight, irises produce their best flowers. Once they have finished flowering, the old rhizome will not re-flower but each plant will produce several "babies" of new growth. Crowded mounds can be lifted and divided every 3 or 4 years in early May, given a dose of slow-release plant food during winter and left to bake in the sunlight ready for flowering in spring.



Kangaroo Paw: Kangaroo Paw have also flowered well in this weather. To keep them flourishing through to January, tall and dwarf kangaroo paw need to be treated differently. Tall kangaroo paw planted in the ground do not like wet feet and should not be watered in humid, rainy summer weather. Once they have stopped flowering in late summer, cut all faded stems, black or dying leaves back to ground level. Plants will revive when watered during late autumn and winter. Dwarf kangaroo paw were bred to flower continuously in pots and need on-going water and soluble fertiliser, although they will grow well in the ground with continued attention. Remove spent flower stems regularly and the plant will continue flowering for about 3 years.



Summer To Do List: Weed, weed, weed. Mulch, mulch, mulch. Regularly dead-head spent flowers to extend flowering displays, and apply all-purpose fertiliser to agapanthus, fuchsias, hibiscus and hydrangeas. Citrus trees need frequent soaking and regular checking for Bronze orange bug. Caterpillars, fruit fly, lace bug and red spider mite should be removed and controlled. An excellent source of recipes for natural pest control is Colin Campbell's **Gardening Australia Fact Sheet: Home – made remedies** located on abc.net.au/gardening/stories from Series 20, Episode 22 (27.06.2009) - Janet Stone



Springtime

At the October meeting the final wrap up for another successful Springtime was completed. Pictured below are the committee, the Potty Potter's Bobby and Margaret, and Val Oakley, Secretary of T.M. Rural Fire receiving donation of \$1,800 from the Club President.



What's on today!

Guest speaker—Bob Dobbs
Curator, Roma Street Parklands

CONTACTS: President - Margaret Bell 5545 0797 | Vice President - David Somerville 5545 3347
Secretary - Robin Pope - 5545 2205 | Treasurer- Margaret Pile - 5545 0869
Springtime Convener - Glenda Sullivan - 5545 1714 | Patron - Mary Wallace

October Garden Visit

Garden club members had a great time visiting Janet Stone's garden on October 15. Janet has worked tirelessly over the last three years to create a charming, colourful garden. It was lovely to sit on the patio, looking over the delightful garden and have a cup of tea in the company of Janet and her very well behaved butcher birds and magpies. When we visited Janet was especially enjoying the huge pink blooms on the hippeastrums and her bright iris flowers.



Next Garden visit:

Tuesday 19th November 10 am

BYO Morning Tea

Rolf Rekort and Carole Tiling-Rekort,
44 Central Ave and Beachmont Ave,
Old Eagle Heights. 55450224



The Orchid group members met recently to continue to learn about how to grow and care for their prized orchids.

Christmas Party Lunch

9th December 2014 – 12 noon

Venue : Witches Chase Bistro

165-185 Long Rd, Eagle Heights

Cost per person: \$35.00



From the President

I've never known a year to go as quickly as this one, here we are planning Christmas when it seems that we have only just got over Springtime!

Plans are in place for our Christmas lunch on Tuesday 9th December and we'd love to see everyone at the Witches Chase Bistro, Long Road. Robi has been working hard to arrange this and it should be a very enjoyable festive gathering. Please register and pay at the membership desk today or make other arrangements with Secretary Robi. It's a great opportunity to mingle and enjoy each others' company and reminiscences.

To those of you who are unable to be at the lunch, my very best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas and may your presents be 'good rain'! See you all at the February meeting, stay safe and well.

Your committee will be busy now arranging guest speakers and activities for next year so if anyone has a suggestion please talk to me (or phone 5545 0797) so we can factor it in.

Best wishes, Margaret

The Festive Season

Christmas is coming and so are family and friends. For a quick and stunning spruce up of gardens around the entry, outdoor dining and entertaining areas consider some bright feature spots of colourful amaranthus, dwarf cannas, calibrachos, dwarf dahlias, daisies of any kind, gazanias, pelargoniums, petunias, sunflowers, and zinnias. All currently available in small pots they can be planted in groups in the garden, displayed in a decorative planter or hanging basket, or in troughs placed as low hedges or features along a veranda railing or path.

Christmas gifts: Plant seedlings now in pretty pots - selections of herbs, mini-vegies, micro-greens or summer annuals will make attractive personalised gifts. Festive red and green: a gift pot of basil and a cherry tomato; red and green capsicums or chillies; a stunning geranium or variegated bromeliad. Use the pots as festive table decorations and give them to guests as they leave.- Janet Stone



Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th February at 9:30 AM - Vonda Youngman Community Centre

Competition table : a flowering native, an exotic tree or shrub, a flowering bulb or corm, a vegetable / fruit, an arrangement of foliage, a dahlia flower, a climber flower