



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN BOTANIC GARDENS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

Editor: Denby Browning denby.b@imprintmedia.com.au
 Manager: 0488 033 239 www.tmbotanicgardens.org.au

Patron: Bobby White



Azalea garden gets tough love treatment



As once it was —
and will be again

Working bee crew from left: Margaret Bell, Narelle Cresswell, Jan Collis, Sandy Silabon, Rob Howard (seated), Geoff Hurling, Sonia Wagstaff, Harry O'Neill and Margaret Pile.

The azalea garden was in need of something more than tender, loving care to rejuvenate it and bring it to glorious bloom so a working bee was organised in March and, in a few short hours, the

tall bushes were reduced to stumps. The ground was cleared, treated with fungicide, weeded and fertilised. The good news is that green shoots are already appearing on all the bushes.

Relief after Cyclone Debbie

Thoughts of Cyclone Oswald in 2013 were in the minds of most Tamborine Mountain residents, and especially our Botanic Gardens volunteers, when the remnants of Cyclone Debbie swept south towards south-east Queensland.

Fortunately, the damage was relatively minor, but our volunteers were quickly into action to restore the Gardens to their normal glory.

“We were lucky,” says Botanic Gardens Manager Roger Lenehan. “Many of the areas surrounding us



Sandy Silabon working hard on clean-up.

More on page 2



Michael Hiew (left) and Geoff Hurling help clean up pathways.

Relief after Cyclone Debbie

From Page 1

suffered significant damage. Even so, our volunteers were faced with a big clean-up. “After a few days of hard work and many truck-loads of debris taken to the green waste tip, our visitors would not have known that anything had been amiss.

“It was exciting to see the number of visitors who did come to the Gardens on the weekend after the cyclone had passed. It seems that not even a washed-away bridge at the bottom of the Mountain and the effects of torrential rain can keep people from visiting!” Roger paid tribute to the Gardens team of volunteers. “It is their Botanic Gardens in so many ways. And to work together with everyone through the mud and rain was an inspiration. No wonder we have such a great Botanic Gardens.



Rob Howard and Mal Longton building new steps up to the expanded Festival Shed.

Festival Shed construction completed

Contractors have completed their work to build the extension of the Festival Shed near the entry to the Botanic Gardens.

The shed holds all the equipment required by Tamborine Mountain Garden Club to conduct the annual “Springtime on the Mountain” open gardens festival, including signage, tables and supplies. The old shed was bursting at the seams so the much-needed extension will give volunteers plenty of room to store and access everything they need much more efficiently.

The extension has been funded in part by a Federal Government grant.



Farewell Jill and John

Jill and John Gallagher have stepped down from the volunteer group. Jill made the mosaics, designed by their grandchildren, on the path of the Sooty Owl Walk. She also designed and made the mosaic depicting the Gardens logo that is in The Hub. Roger Lenehan describes John as “a happy painter, painting seats, tables, and wooden screens throughout the Gardens”. Jill and John will be missed.



A new donation of orchids

The expanded orchid house is quickly filling up and now we have received a donation of a range of wonderful orchids from Barry Roberts and his family.

Sonia Wagstaff inspected the new collection where they were staying in the Bobby White Pavilion before being readied for transfer to their new home.



New display box for Potty Potters

Mal Longton has built a fabulous new display trolley for the Potty Potters.

Easy to move around on its own wheels and built of sturdy steel, it even includes a cash collection box.

Bobby White is delighted and already the money is rolling in.





New volunteers

A warm welcome to two new volunteers, Hazel Baxter (left) and Lee Currie, seen here hard at work on the post-cyclone clean-up.

What were those pink ribbons?

Pink ribbons appeared on a number of trees in the Gardens recently. They were not, as one was suggested, markers for trees to be chopped down. These trees were suffering from borers and a contractor was employed to inject them—the trees, not borers.



Sooty Owl “Thong Pipes” are now more musical

The crowd-pleasing “thong pipes” in the Sooty Owl Trail are now even more musical with the addition of the final set of golden pipes.

While the originals were deep-throated, the latest installation are tuned as “tenor pipes”, much higher pitched.

Brian Davison (pictured above) designed and built the installation.

“Now our composer and musician visitors can really experiment with sound,” he says.

The installation originally included eight wide pipes on one side only. The completed project has another eight. Thong soles are included in the installation.

“I have tuned the new pipes to a musical scale,” says Brian.