

Apologies for the “over-exposure” of *Nigel Waistell* this month but it was such a fun photo that came with a big smile....*ed.*



**VOLUNTEER
SNAPSHOTS**

The Rose Lady—Dawn Hooper



The Japanese Garden looked stunning in readiness for a wedding. Thanks go to our hard working volunteers *Man Lin Hiew* and *Geoff Hurling* (pictured). Great work!



The Scenic Rim Regional Council, who substantially fund the Gardens, provide grants to community groups. Thanks to the Council, a much needed blower was purchased with such a grant. Nigel is pictured with our Council employees who work with us on a Thursday.



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN BOTANIC GARDENS NEWSLETTER

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RAIN OR SHINE

There was an almost full house of volunteers over the past few weeks of very wet weather. A steady flow of visitors enjoyed the atmosphere of our Mountain’s misty, wet, sub-tropical weather.

Our dedicated volunteers do an amazing job of maintaining the gardens to a very high standard, for the enjoyment of our local community and visitors from all over the world.

Well done volunteers!



ORDER OF THE DATE LOAF

Nigel Waistell visited the gardens seven years ago during his local government campaigning and has been an energetic volunteer ever since. At morning tea this week he was presented with a humorous poem by *Sandy* and the proclaimed “best-ever” date loaf made by *Bobby*.

Congratulations Nigel!



AROUND THE GARDENS:

* Orchid House extension is under construction — *Eddy, Brian & Jerry*.

* Rotunda to be cleaned and painted in near future — *Scenic Rim Regional Council*

* Rotunda Walk—mini white agapanthus to be harvested and planted near Rotunda.

* Palm grove boardwalk repair and maintenance—*Geoff Hurling* (pictured)



WISTERIA ARBOUR WALK

Unfortunately the beautiful spring-flowering showpiece that was the Wisteria Arbour has been degraded badly by borers and after much deliberation has been cut back to ground level.

Ken and Gary Neilsen, experts in this field, have been called in to remedy the problem. Thanks go to *Hank Van Lieshout* for funding this project.

Graft wood, taken from the healthy wisteria above the car park, have been grafted onto the old root stock. The new grafts are being monitored and maintained as necessary by Ken and Gary. Over time the Wisteria Arbour should look splendid once again.

WEDDING LAWN REDEVELOPMENT

After many years of unsuccessfully dealing with the water problem in the wedding lawn area, experts have been called in to help.

In the near future, work will begin on an exciting new landscape design for this area, which will hopefully resolve the bog and create a year-round beautiful area for weddings and visitors.

Thanks go to our dedicated Gardens Committee who have spent many hours pondering over this issue and the expert input from Landscape Architect Jez Clark and Builder Marty Haynes.

Pictured at right are Marty Haynes, Jez Clark, Roger Bell and Brian Davison.



RHODODENDRON AREA

The flowers of the rhododendrons have been spectacular this year. Recently, we extended the planting to a section along the Rotunda Walk. This will add colour and diversity to the avenue of crepe myrtles which are also looking superb with their coloured trunks and new leaves.

We use a lot of nutrient-rich sugar cane mulch in the Botanic Gardens. It is a cheap and readily available product. The mulch provides a habitat for micro life which feed the fungi and bacteria in the soil and in turn the plants.

A couple of things to keep in mind, though, are that the mulch should be kept back from the trunks of plants to prevent fungal attack of the bark. We should open up any thick deposits of sugar cane mulch that have solidified into a wet mat as this could reduce the amount of oxygen available to the plants. A metal rake or hoe could easily do this. Avoid breaking up the surface of the soil near the plants though, as rhododendrons have a very shallow root system. Nursery labels on Rhododendrons will often say to avoid sugar cane mulch because of the threat of fungal attack on the bark, so if used, precautions need to be taken. If maintenance is a problem, bark chips, although more expensive, could be a better option.

And remember, wet sugar cane mulch can be slippery to walk on when wet. *Brian Davison*



Denby Browning does a great job of looking after our Rhododendron area.

MUSIC IN THE GARDENS...Visitors to our Gardens were recently treated to a wonderful performance by students from Daramalan College in Canberra.

