

You will notice lately that there seems to be an over-supply of spiders and their webs in the garden and in the house as well. One of these critters decided to bite me as I watched TV one evening. It started out as painful pricks under my arm. I thought that I had some stinging tree leaves or something similar caught in my clothing. A search of the area revealed nothing of the sort. The next day I purchased some antihistamine and some Panadol which relieved the pain somewhat. Later I found a black spider in a web close to the floor and next to the chair where I was 'bitten'. I sprayed some insect killer on to it and it obligingly died. On taking a photo of it in the light it revealed a distinct red mark on its abdomen. Now what? After contacting a poisons expert I was referred to the Qld. Museum. As I didn't actually see the spider bite me, I could only assume that it came from the redback spider. I was told that my symptoms were consistent with a redback bite, both assured me that I wasn't going to die and that the anti-venom that had been used previously was not used anymore as it was only very slightly better than a placebo. I was to watch for any adverse reactions such as difficulty breathing or swallowing. OK there. The bite area on my arm became red, swollen and very hot and I experienced quite a bit of shooting pain which gradually subsided in a little over a week. So, there you go. I live to write another back page.



Last 'Springtime on the Mountain' there was some interest in growing Irises particularly Bearded Irises. They are the most well known and widely grown group of irises. They grow from a rhizome and are so named because they have a 'beard' along each fall (petal). There are many hybrids of Euro-Asian origin. I have seen large gardens devoted to these plants, mostly in Tasmania and the Southern Highlands of NSW. And I have brought many home to my previous garden only to be left with, after several years, just one sturdy white flowering plant. Good sharp drainage, an open, sunny spot and an alkaline soil is essential for successful growing and flowering of bearded irises. So, it seems that my acid soil was not conducive to growing successful bearded iris. They do say that a light dressing of dolomite lime in winter and low nitrogen fertilizer in both autumn and spring is beneficial. When transplanting Irises, choose a plant with a healthy rhizome attached, cut the foliage back to a fan shape, place the fan and rhizome towards the sun and place the rhizome firmly in the soil without covering it. Do this at the beginning of summer or as close as possible after flowering.



There were a few Dutch Irises grown in one garden. I think that they may be bought in packs on stands at nurseries. Dutch Irises are much slimmer plants and the ones I saw were growing to about 50cms and had deep blue to purple flowers.

When discussing Irises, we mustn't forget the Louisiana Iris which grows abundantly and flowers in colours of white, yellow and violet around the lakes in our Botanic Gardens. They have been bred from species from Louisiana and Florida. The clumps have hard rhizomes on top of the soil and brownish deep green roots. They revel in heat, moisture and an acid soil. The modern hybrids come in many striking colours. It sounds like a good Iris for us on the mountain.

Cheers, *Ellie P.*



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From the President -

Hello everyone,

I hope you're enjoying the Autumn weather. The nights are cooler but the rain persists. I'm in Melbourne for the school holidays where they've had a drought since Christmas. The weather is always topical and variable.

I hope the bus trip went well on Friday. It sounded good.

Happy Gardening.

Alex

Management Committee Members for 2024 following March AGM:

President: Alex Hood
Treasurer: Richard Wistow
Secretary: Kaylene Power

Fellow Committee Members:
Terry Burke
Heidi Reeve
Robyn Hesse
Gill Violett
Debbie Sartori
Irene Ingold
Ann Zarembo
Julie Wilkinson

Springtime Convenor:
Robert Miller

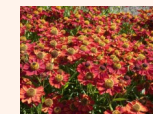
If you have any queries or suggestions do talk to any one of us.

Alex and fellow Committee members

*@ GARDEN CLUB TODAY
Commencing at 9.30am*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

John Rogers
(Botanical photographer)



Julia Cossins
(Arborist)



DISPLAY TABLE THEME:

"Super Sasanqua Camelias"



PLANT OF THE MONTH: "Sasanquas"
Presented by Robyn Hesse



- **Library**
- **Raffles**
- **Share table**
- **Plant Seller: Jill Dockic**

NEXT TM GARDEN CLUB SOCIAL MEETING...

@VONDA YOUNGMAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 2-4 KNOLL ROAD,
NORTH TAMBORINE

9.30 AM TUESDAY 14th May, 2024

BYO Morning tea and beverage or something to share.

Guest Speaker: Terry Burke - Roses



Table Setters: Robert Miller, Maree Morris,
Diane Muscat, Brenda Noble.
Please set 2 tables each with floral.

Welcome Table floral arrangement: Rosemary Stephens

April Garden Walk

Tuesday 16th April



A visit to Richard & Cheryl Wistows's pretty cottage garden.
Colourful, bird attracting with a beautiful red cedar out back.

15 Beechmont Avenue, Tamborine Mountain

Meet at the front gate at 10am.
Friends may accompany a member.

Ann Zaremba

*What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have
never been discovered.*
Ralph Waldo Emerson



- Raise the blades on the mower, and fertilize lawns, to encourage good growth before Winter arrives;
- Freshen up indoor potted plants – top up potting mix, trim any shabby foliage and give a good application of seaweed solution;
- Pot up some hanging baskets with winter blooms such as violas, wallflowers and polyanthus for a splash of color;

It's less than six months until our wonderful Springtime on the Mountain Open Gardens Trail!

Happy gardening everyone. *Kaylene Power*

Sources: *The Tamborine Mountain Gardener; Gardening Australia Magazine, Organic Gardener Magazine and Organic Gardening (Annette McFarlane)*

PLANT PROFILE Presented by Robyn Hesse "SASANQUAS"



A species of camellia native to southern, tropical and sub-tropical Asia. They typically grow to five+ metres and up to elevations of 900m. Other well known species are Japonicas, reticulatas, lutchensis (scented) and sinensis — the tea camellia.

Colours typically vary from white to deep pinks and reds with some creamy yellow hybrids eg Brushfield sYellow, and occur in single to double forms. Sinensis are a natural strong yellow.

They were first recorded in Japan during the Edo period (1603 - 1868), a time of relative peace, stability and isolation when arts and crafts flourished. At this time camellias were grown for their practical use (leaves for tea and seed for oil - used as lubricants, moisturisers and for lighting and cooking) - rather than their decorative values. Cultivars began to appear in Japan from 1695 to 1733.

They were not known in the west until the 1820s when sasanqua stricta was taken privately to Kent. From 1869 Dutch traders imported species to Europe. There are now over 220 described species, more than 26000 cultivars and greater than 51000 named and registered varieties.

C sinensis probably originated in SW China/N Myanmar. Tea drinking was mentioned in China from the Tang dynasty (581-618), a period of cultural and artistic flowering. It was not introduced to Europe until the 17th Century but from then it began to be cultivated on extensive, British-owned plantations in India to meet the rapidly increasing demand.

Camellias prefer volcanic soils, rich in humus and plentiful water (50cm pa) but will tolerate extended dry periods. Sasanquas and sinensis prefer more sun than japonicas, reticulatas and lutchensis. All respond to regular fertilising and mulching. Tamborine Mountain provides ideal conditions.

In my experience, once established, they are deep-rooted making relocation/ removal difficult.

April in the Garden



It's April and we are well into Autumn: the days are getting shorter, and the nights are slightly cooler. The Autumnal colors that our mountain is famous for will start appearing soon. As we wait for the leaves to turn those wonderful shades of red, orange, yellow and gold, the sasanqua camellias are blooming beautifully and the tibouchinas

continue to dazzle with those gorgeous colours! The abundant rain we've been having is keeping everything green, and filling our tanks, which is fantastic for Autumn and Winter maintenance. I'm not sure if it's the rain, or prolonged warmer weather, but I've noticed a few late blooming agapanthus and variegated hippeastrums in my garden. Has anyone else? Autumn provides the opportunity to prepare for Winter and plan ahead for Spring.

What to plant in April

In the veggie patch now is the time to sow or plant seedlings of artichoke, Asian greens, basil, beans (French & climbing), beetroot, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chives, coriander, endive, English spinach, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mint, onion, parsley, peas, radish, rocket, silver beet, spring onion, swede, tomatoes or turnips.

For some colour sow or plant seedlings of achillea, alyssum, aquilegia (columbine), brachyscome, calendula, Californian poppy, canterbury bells, carnation, celosia, cineraria, coleus, cornflower, dianthus, everlasting daisy, foxglove, gypsophila, hollyhock, impatiens, linaria, Livingstone daisy, lobelia, marigold, nigella, pansy, poppy, primula, snapdragon, stock, sunflower, sweet William, viola, virginian stock, or wallflower.

Jobs to do

Here's some ideas to get you out into the garden during the Autumn days:

- Collect seeds from your favorite tomatoes – scrape seeds from very ripe fruit onto a double layer of paper towel, allow to dry out completely, cut the dry seed-bearing paper into small pieces and store in an airtight container for spring sowing;
- Pinch off excess buds from chrysanthemums to encourage larger flowers;
- Remove any excess buds from japonica camellias, leaving one each cluster, to encourage larger blooms;
- Prune gardenia, murraya and buxus and follow up with an application of liquid fertilizer;
- Give native shrubs a light prune now to give them time to grow late winter and spring shoots;
- Add some Japanese windflowers to fill in lightly shaded spots and you will be rewarded with their delicate blooms every autumn;
- Remove spent flowers for roses and dahlias to prolong flowering;

MARCH GARDEN WALK REPORT

EAGLEBROOK:

Despite some threatening rain clouds, which did materialise in the afternoon, the morning was brilliant for our visit to 'Eaglebrook', a gated community of mainly freestanding homes surrounded by well-maintained, common property. The homes had a similar style but individual design, and this, together with the omission of front fences, presented an easy continuity and flow of front gardens and a sense of community.

Faith welcomed a large contingent of club members at the front gate and invited us to wind our way through five gardens finishing at her own. Each of the gardens presented something different. Each was reflective of the owner's particular plant preferences, their garden's aspect and their sense of style or theme. For example, some focused on vegetables; others, pot plants; while others featured flowers; or easy-care shrubs and small trees, or a mix. In planning the community, care has been given to privacy. This has been achieved by fencing on the side boundaries only. All rear gardens face the common areas that most either overlook or are terraced into it.

Arriving at Faith's we were met with a very welcoming and substantial garden. There was much of interest and everything was growing vigorously, indicative of Faith's care for her plants and varied interests eg from decorative maples at the entrance, creepers such as mandevilla and purple bow-tie vines, orchids, flowering begonias, potted plants and a flourishing vegetable garden.

Faith's hospitality did not stop with her garden; a substantial morning tea of hot cross buns with tea or coffee was laid out on her rear patio. A lovely conclusion to a very interesting visit. Thank you very much Faith,

Robyn Hesse



Photos by R. Hesse, D. Sartori

NOTICE FROM TMGC TREASURER

Dear TMGC Members,
Our annual memberships expired on 31 January 2024, which is the end of our Financial Year for 2023-24.

Many thanks to members who have paid their 2024-25 Membership fee for this coming year, (Feb 2024 to end Jan 2025).

Renewal, unchanged at **(\$30.00 per adult)** is expected within 2 months of expiry. To avoid cash/last minute payments at Vonda Young Community Centre club gatherings, payment by Direct Deposit on-line can be made, (as soon as you are able) to our account, details below. In addition, payment by credit/debit card can be made at the meeting with the Treasurer. We still accept cash payments, but please try to have the correct cash on the day.

Direct deposit for credit of:
Tamborine Mountain Garden Club Inc
Bank: Suncorp
BSB: 484-799
Account No 481195514

Please enter your name as the identifier in the payer reference field, so we know who has made payment. Thanking you all in advance.

TMGC AGM 12th March 2024

Treasurer's Report 1st Feb 2023 to 31st Jan 2024

A brief report from the TMGC Treasurer on the end of year financial report for 2023/24:

The bottom line, our financial situation is strong with a total bank balance of \$74,486.87 to the end of January 2024. Details of the Balance Sheet and other reports are available from the Treasurer.

Income for the period Feb 2023 to Jan 2024 was \$44,244, made up mostly from Membership fees, Bus Trip payments and Springtime on the Mountain. Operating expenses for the same period were \$30,932, leading to a net profit of \$13,312 for the last financial year. A great turnaround from a net loss of -\$9,306 the previous year. Missing from these 12-month figures are donations to the various organisations agreed to by the club, these had not been finalised at the time of this report period. (These will be shown in the March 2024 report). The breakdown of all costs can be seen on the Profit and Loss chart.

In this last year the TMGC moved to a new accounting system so the income and expense categories are slightly different to the old system, these new categories will now line up over the next 12 months. I am more than happy to explain in more detail to any club member requiring further information. The good news is as we head into this new financial year, we are in a substantially better situation than the previous two years and have the added flexibility to further subsidise members costs on Bus Trips, equipment updates, etc., as well as investing in better marketing and advertising for Springtime 2024.

Richard Wistow TMGC Treasurer

UPCOMING GARDEN EVENTS FOR PLANNERS

Wondai Autumn Garden Expo 20-21 April 2024

@Wondai Sportsground, Bunya Hwy, Wondai

wondaigardenexpo.com

Qld Rose Society Autumn Rose Show 18-19 May 2024

@ Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens

qld.rose.org.au/calendar

Esk Garden Fair 15 June 2024

@Old Esk Railway Station, Brisbane Valley Rail Trl, Esk

eskgardenandlifestylefair.com

Queensland Garden Expo 4,5,6,7 July 2024

@Nambour Showgrounds

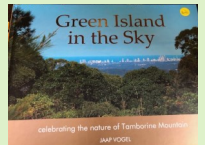
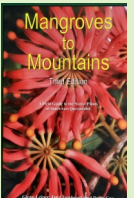
qldgardenexpo.com

Landcare's "Piccabeen Bookshop" 15 Main St—at back

Last month's Guest Speaker Judith Roland filled us in on what Landcare does on the mountain and the success of the Piccabeen Bookshop.



For members new to the mountain it was a great way to find out about Landcare and its second hand bookshop which sells a wide range of quality fiction & non fiction along with cds and dvds at very reasonable prices. The community donates all the books etc and volunteers, some of whom are Garden Club members, run the shop which is owned by Landcare. All profits go to rainforest regeneration projects and natural history related causes across Tamborine Mountain. Free booklets currently available The Snakes of TM and Weeds of TM are a great resource especially for new residents. New books Green Island in the Sky which is only \$20 showcases the mountain & Mangroves to Mountains is an excellent reference book. *Debbie Sartori*



NEW GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS

Welcome

A warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the club for the first time or are returning:

Relma Adlam Susan Belford Pam Glucina Jenny Kenneally Sarala Lee
Thian Sykes Sue Weier Lynda White Jen Wilson