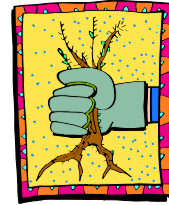
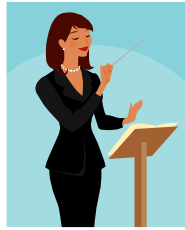




# The Gardeners Compendium



**Karana Downs Garden Club's  
Handy Hints, Recipes & Poems  
from Our Members & Friends**

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# **History of the Karana Downs Garden Club**

## **1987 - 1992**

In February 1993, the Karana Downs Garden Club decided to begin a running record of the Garden Club's events and social occasions. This "History Book" begins with a brief overview of the Club's formation and the early years from 1988 to 1992. It is intended that members will record events often, adding to the "History Book's" pages colourful and personal recounts, associated with the Garden Club.

In 1987 the population of Karana Downs was increasing rapidly and the need for residents with common interests to interact was very evident. Playgroups, Craft groups, the Golf and Bowling Clubs, school activities, scout and guide group and the much-needed Progress Association provided the opportunities for residents to get to know and enjoy each other's company. These groups also assisted the community along the way to provide much needed facilities. Most of us were new homebuilders with barren land around our homes. From this desolate landscape the idea of a garden club was born. In 1987 Joanne Chaplin, a young mother, felt the need to go beyond playgroups and read in a Queensland gardening magazine of Garden Clubs. Joanne contacted Qld Council of Garden Clubs, and through Bernice Brown of Indooroopilly and Kenmore Garden Clubs was able to contact active members of the Kenmore Garden Club, Carole Scheinpflug and her mother, Myrtle Halford. Carole and Myrtle were also new residents of Karana Downs and welcomed Joanne's idea of establishing a garden club in the Karana Downs area.

During 1988 get-togethers were held at Joanne or Carole's homes as ideas and advice were put forth. Kenmore Garden Club was supportive and on a few occasions members participated by offering suggestions.

1989 saw the first official meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February at the Golf Club. We were grateful to them for providing a meeting place. There were thirteen present with two apologies. Of those present five are still active, supportive members. Joanne left Karana Downs for Victoria in 1990 and would be no doubt pleased and proud of the activities and friendships shared by club members up to the present. At the first meeting, Carol Scheinpflug was president, Joanne Chaplin was secretary and Rae Coutts was treasurer. It was decided to model the club's activities on Kenmore Garden Club with friendship through the gardens the main theme. Guest speakers at our monthly meetings have entertained and educated us over 1989, 90,91 and 92.

A library was established with donated books from Kenmore Garden Club to Mt Crosby Hall, where they continued until the end of 1990. We were extremely fortunate to be able to return to the comfortable surrounds of the Golf Club at the start of 1991. The Club has a small group of members who give their time to help maintain gardens at the Golf Club.

In 1990 a small monthly competition of "best Flower" and "best pot plant" was introduced and 1993 this has been increased to include "best pot plant in flower" and "best specified flower". Several trips have been held and enjoyed by members as well as visits to member gardens.

In 1991 and 1992 the Garden Club supported the Mt. Crosby State School's annual Spring Fair by operating a prosperous plant stall with all proceeds being donated to the school.

In the beginning of this year, 1993, the fifth year of Karana Downs Garden Club it is reassuring to see the Club firmly established and serving the community of Karana Downs through common interests and friendships.

### **Mission Statement – Objectives of the Garden Club**

- Learn about gardens and planting techniques through the sharing of information with other members.
- Involve the community and make them aware what garden clubs and gardening in general is all about.
- Establish new and re-ignite old friendships through having a common interest in gardening.

# Summer



**December**

**January**

**February**

# *Coucals of Mt. Crosby*

## *Jan's hints for December*

A good time to stand back, take a good look at the garden and tidy up for Christmas. Deadhead roses lightly, cut back rampant bougainvillea, trim hedges and of course mow and keep lawn edges neat. Check the ponds, if the silkweed or algae is starting to show, use the plastic rake to pick it up and pop it on the garden as mulch. Keep the filters clean in the pumps. Water lilies should be flowering constantly and if a plant looks like overtaking the pond, cut it back or get rid of it altogether. Arrowhead can take over as does bulrushes. To get rid of them cut them below the water surface. You may need to top up ponds due to water transpiration, ideally from a rainwater tank.

Foliar Fertilising is beneficial to keep the flowers coming, best in between the storms when the garden is a little on the dry side. Do the roses as well, they will take all the fertilising you can give them, but do not go near the Proteas and grasses.

The lovely rain is always an invite to plant and fill in those bare spots. Look at what you have in the border/garden and decide whether you need a contrast or maybe make an existing clump larger and therefore more defined. If a section is looking mostly green, add grey or red. If in shade put in some *Strobilanthes*, *Plectranthus* (Mona Lavender) or the beautiful *Plectranthus Argenteus*, for a purple haze or to add red try some *Coleus*, *Hemigraphis*. *Acalypha* comes in various forms and adds pink to red tones but needs some sun, (preferably morning) to colour up, as do *cordylines*, which will give pink, red and purple highlights to the border or garden.

The warmer temperature is a great opportunity to take a few cuttings of the subtropical plants like *Carphalea*, *Crotons*, *Ixoras*, *Eupatorium* and *Mussaenda*. These won't be able to be re-planted until next year, but they will give you fillers for this time next year or you may be considering a new garden.

The Rain Lilies (*Zephranthes*) will be seeding, as will the *Hippeastrums*. Either let them seed naturally or collect the seed and sprinkle them on top of a pot or polystyrene box of potting mix. Pop them under a shade tree or in the bush house and give them a daily watering.

*Salvias* are wonderful fillers in the garden and if you have large clumps, you can simply dig a small clump with roots and spread their cheer around the garden in the bare spots, keeping in mind the size of the clump and the colours. Most *salvias* are sun lovers, so don't put them in the shady spots.

Unfortunately the rain not only brings on the garden plants, but also the weeds, these are perhaps more prevalent in the Rose garden where we have been putting extra fertilizer. To combat this place straw, lucerne or sugar cane mulch around the roses, this will keep the moisture in the ground and also stop any water splashing on the foliage therefore cutting down on black spot and mildew.

Give your indoor plants a rejuvenation by placing them outside under shade where they will get the benefit of the rain. If they are looking a bit pot bound you could divide them into two and you will have an extra Christmas present for someone special or that impromptu invite. Take a look at your patio and hanging plants as well, they may also benefit from a re-potting in a one size larger pot with some fresh potting mix added. Orchids could use a fertilizer at this time, either a slow release in the pot or a foliar one sprayed on preferably early in the morning. If re-potting orchids don't put them into too large a pot, as they prefer to be on the root bound side and will flower better for you. Always re-pot orchids after they have flowered and make sure that the plant is sitting high out of the pot rather than down into the pot. Make sure the orchid plant is watered well for a few weeks after re-potting. Orchids in clay pots could do with a sprinkle morning and afternoon on the really hot days. Like roses they like their foliage dry for night-time so water them before 4 pm.

## Jan's hints for January

Too hot to do energetic work, but if you do get the odd cool day a good opportunity to keep the garden tidy and cut back on rampant growers such as the red bauhinia bush *Bauhinia galpinii*. Roses can be cut back from now through to February and mulched. In this hot weather I find sugar cane mulch the easiest to distribute and cover weeds. All the long non-flowering canes on the roses can be cut right back. So a major pruning is in order to bring on an autumn flush of flowers.

Make sure the beds do not dry out, so you may need to water in between rain showers. If a few days of rain does eventuate and you feel the urge to plant as I often do, don't forget to follow up with water until the plants establish.

I don't worry too much about fertilizing at this time, as the rain will make everything grow, if there is no rain you will need to supplement water, which is more important.

The water lilies love this weather, so make sure they have plenty of room to spread out and show off their beautiful flowers that worship the sun. If arrowhead *Sagittarius japonica* is sending out their long flower spikes, cut them off and this plant can become a weed and a detriment to water lilies and other water plants with its huge root system.

Take cuttings of Azaleas and Gardenias, put them in a good potting mix in the bush house and keep them well watered.

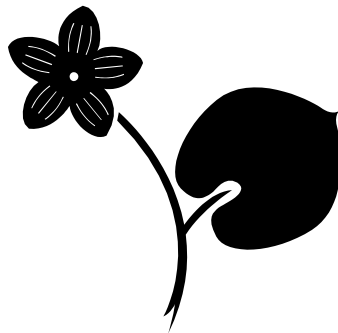
Look out for seeds from the Agapanthus, Zephranthes and Day Lilies and sow them into pots or boxes also in the bush house.

Spread plants such as Coreopsis, Geranium, Pelagonium, Zephranthes, Autumn Crocus, Gingers, Cannas and Dahlias, but keep them well watered until established.

Dahlias will need to be staked as they grow, and deadheaded. Salvias can be cut back as the flowers diminish. Some of these cuttings can be put into pots in the bush house for replacing older plants.

Keep on top of the weeds by simply pulling them out before they seed.

With the hotter weather Orchids will appreciate a watering morning and night. Do the night watering no later than 4 pm. If you have small orchids they should be growing well and could be re-potted from community pots into individual small pots. Make sure that they are not getting too much sun. If they are getting sun burnt, move them to a shadier, but still well lit area.



## *Jan's hints for February*

February is the time gardeners wonder why they took up gardening and consider taking up swimming or reading (in an air conditioned room). If you do poke your nose into the hot, humid air outside you are likely to get bitten by mosquitoes, midgies or march flies, but this is great growing weather for the tropical plants, although the Mediterranean plants e.g. lambs ears could be looking a little languid (like we feel).

The most important thing is watering, particularly if there hasn't been any rain for a week or so. Hopefully the garden beds have been mulched well and this will help retain moisture and keep the soil cooler. Keep an eye on pots, as they will need to be watered more frequently and plants tied in trees such as orchids, elk and stag horn ferns will need a spray regularly.

This is a good time to look at your pot plants and orchids and pot them on into a bigger pot.

Here are some hints for Orchid re-potting:

Only re-pot Orchids that have either:

- filled their existing pot or
- are not looking happy, this may not however be due to potting (see below)
- If re-potting on, only go to one size bigger pot
- If an Orchid is not looking happy, it could be:
  - Wrong position i.e. too much or too little light - *move orchid to better position*
  - Wrong potting media or the potting media has broken down - *re-pot into correct/new potting media and correct size pot.*
  - The pot is too big and therefore could be too much moisture - *re-pot into smaller size pot after cutting off dead roots*
  - I prefer to use terra cotta pots as these do not heat up like plastic ones
  - Terracotta pots preferably with holes in the side to allow air flow
  - The medium must be good hard bark that will not break down
  - Sift out any fine dust/pieces of bark with a sieve
  - The bigger the orchid plant the bigger the size of the bark
  - Water in after re-potting and keep watering morning and afternoon during hot weather
  - Keep the new re-potted orchid in a little more shadier position until established

After re-potting keep an eye on them, if you see new shoots or roots you will know you have done the right thing.

Early mornings can be cool, so if you have perennials that need a trim, this is a good time and will give you another flush of colour in Autumn. Prune Salvias that have finished flowering back to thick green stems. It is also a good idea to put in some cuttings in case you lose any and most perennials need replacing every 2-3 years. Give Heliotrope, Lavender, Nepeta (Catmint), Pentas, Penstemons and Plectranthus a cut back to about half with hedging shears.

I give my roses a good prune in February, particularly if they have any black spot and are not flowering too well. Mid February is a good time to give the roses a feed of Blood and Bone with 10% Sulphate of Potash added particularly if it looks like good soaking rain. This will ensure good blooms in Autumn.

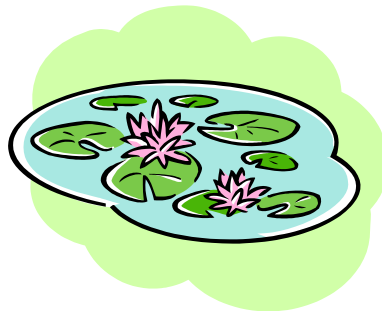
And when it is too hot to be outside, find a nice cool spot and look at those bulb catalogues and plan what to buy to fill your garden with some spring colour. Anemones do particularly well for me, so each year I order and put in some more. Freesias, Ipheion and Jonquils also do well in our Sub-tropics and will also come back the following year. Bulbs usually arrive February/March, so keep them in the vegetable crisper part of the fridge until you are ready to plant them in about April/May.



## *Jan's hints for February continued....*

I am also testing Bearded Iris, which does prefer drier conditions at the front of the border where nothing will flop over them. They like their rhizomes to bake in the sun and they prefer their summers dry so this is a good time to source the catalogues and purchase some for planting in autumn. Dutch Iris are excellent beside a pond where they will get their feet wet now and again and Louisiana Iris are happy in the pond full time. All these irises flower late spring and look good 'en-masse'.

If you are planning to put in more Roses this is also a good time to decide what to buy and make sure you are on a mailing list if you are planning on buying them bare rooted via mail order. They can be ordered in March for delivery in June/July, which will give you plenty of time to prepare the beds for them. I have found the following good in our climate: Duet, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Sophie's Rose, Duchesse de Brabant, Molineux, Crocus Rose, Bonica, Burgundy Iceberg and Crepuscule and Pierre de Ronsard for climbers.



# Recipes

## Ginger Prawns

Joan Jones

### Ingredients:

½ cup soy sauce  
1/3 cup eschalots  
¼ cup sesame oil  
¼ cup water  
1 clove garlic  
1 ½ teaspoons ginger  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
1 kg prawns

### Method:

1. Shell, de-vein and marinate prawns in above for about 2 hours.
2. Thread on skewers, which have been soaked in water with a few drops of oil.
3. BBQ on grill.

\*\*\*\*

## Thai Chilli Chicken with Basil & Coconut Cream

Judith Frost

### Ingredients:

500 grams chicken breast fillets or boned thigh fillets  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 onion, finely chopped  
2 tablespoons finely chopped small fresh red chillies  
1 cup shredded fresh basil  
2 tablespoons fish sauce  
½ cup shredded coriander  
1 ½ teaspoons sugar  
1 cup coconut cream  
1 large clove of garlic, chopped or crushed

### Method:

1. Remove excess fat from chicken and cut into strips.
2. Heat oil in wok or large frying pan, add onion, chilli & garlic, stir-fry until onion is soft. (Do not burn garlic as it becomes bitter).
3. Add chicken, stir-fry until chicken is tender. Add basil, sauce, coriander & sugar and stir-fry for a minute.
4. Add coconut cream and stir until mixture is heated through. Do not let coconut cream boil for a long time as it will curdle.
5. Serve with boiled jasmine rice and bok choy roughly chopped and tossed in sesame oil until wilted. Add a little oyster sauce. (Serves 4)

Note: The perfect dessert for this dish is Coconut Rose Custard.

*I think there are as many kinds of gardening as poetry.*

# Recipes

## Avocado & Prawn Salad

Nancy Rogan

### Ingredients:

1 lb prawns (approx. 500grms)  
2 avocados sliced  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
½ cup seafood mayonnaise  
Salt and pepper

### Method:

1. Mix all ingredients well.
2. Put a few prawns on top for decoration

\*\*\*\*

## Quick Quiche

Carole Scheinflug

### Ingredients:

3 eggs  
1 cup grated cheese  
1 finely chopped onion or shallots  
3 bacon rashers  
2 tablespoons melted butter

### Method:

1. Combine all the ingredients.
2. Bake in a 9" pie plate on 350° for ½ hour.
3. Makes great little quiches – top with parmesan cheese.
4. You can also add extras such as corn kernels.

\*\*\*\*

## Greek Salad

Carmel Blackburn

### Ingredients:

8 oz small tomatoes  
1 diced small onion  
8 oz feta cheese cubed  
½ cucumber peeled & cut into cubes  
4 oz black olives  
1 small lettuce  
4 tablespoons olive oil

### Method:

Mix all ingredients together & toss lightly.

*A love of life begins in the Garden.*

# Recipes

## Date & Ginger Slice

Carmel Blackburn

### Ingredients:

4 oz margarine  
1/3 cup castor sugar  
3 cups Cornflakes or crushed Weetbix  
5 oz dates chopped  
60 grams preserved ginger

### Method:

1. Place chopped dates, butter, sugar & finely chopped ginger in saucepan.
2. Stir over low heat until dates are soft.
3. Add Cornflakes & mix well.
4. Place mixture into small slice tray which has been greased or paper lined.
5. Refrigerate until firm
6. Spread with chocolate icing.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chocolate Caramel Slice

Corey, Robyn Batton's daughter, from a Donna Hay book.

### Ingredients:

#### Base :

1 cup plain flour  
1/2 cup desiccated coconut  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
125 grams butter, melted

#### Caramel filling:

1/3 cup golden syrup  
125 grams butter, melted  
2 x 400g cans sweetened condensed milk

#### Chocolate Topping

185 g dark chocolate  
3 teaspoons vegetable oil

### Method:

1. To make base - Place flour, coconut, sugar and butter in a bowl & mix well.
2. Press the mixture into a slice tin lined with baking paper & bake on 180 degrees for 15 minutes or until brown.
3. To make caramel – Place golden syrup, butter and condensed milk in a saucepan over low heat and stir for 7 minutes or until caramel has thickened
4. Pour over the cooked base and bake for 20 minutes or until caramel is golden
5. Refrigerate until the slice is cold.
6. Spread with chocolate topping. Makes 30.

**Method:** Place chocolate and oil in a pan over low heat and stir until melted. Allow to cool a little before spreading on slice.

# Recipes

## Rum Balls

Robyn Batton

### Ingredients:

2 cups icing sugar  
½ cup plain flour, sifted  
½ cup cocoa  
1 cup coconut  
1 cup sultanas  
125 grams melted butter  
2 tablespoons sherry or port  
2 teaspoons vanilla

### Method:

1. Mix the first five ingredients together in a large bowl.
2. add the next three ingredients & stir well.
3. Make small balls the size of a rounded teaspoon & roll in coconut.
4. Keep refrigerated. Makes about 45.

Note : If the weather is hot, refrigerate the mixture before rolling into balls

*He who plants a sunflower, plants joy.*

## Festive Slice

Barb's

### Ingredients:

#### Base

6 oz biscuit crumbs  
½ cup brown sugar  
1 egg  
Vanilla  
4 oz butter  
½ tablespoon cocoa  
1 cup coconut

#### Topping.

1 cup cocoa  
1 pkt pink marshmallows  
90 grams copha  
90 grams cherries

### Method:

- Base** -
1. Melt butter, add sugar & cocoa. Mix well and cool.
  2. Add beaten egg, biscuit crumbs coconut & vanilla.
  3. Place in greased slice tin and refrigerate.

- Topping** -
1. Melt copha, add all other ingredients.
  2. Mix well and spread over base.
  3. Sprinkle with flaked almonds.
  4. Set in refrigerator

# Recipes



## Christmas Cake

### Ingredients:

½ cup water

1 gallon wine

1 cup butter

1 cup sugar

2 cups flour

2 cups dried fruit

1 cup chopped nuts

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 cup brown sugar

4 large eggs

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 teaspoon baking soda

### Method:

1. Sample the wine to check for quality.
2. Take a large bowl.
3. Check the wine again to make sure it is of the highest quality.
4. Pour level cup and drink.
5. Repeat if you're not sure.
6. Turn on the electric mixer and beat 1 cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.
7. Add 1 teaspoon of sugar and beat again.
8. Make sure the wine is still okay. Cry another tup.
9. Turn off the mixer.
10. Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl along with some Watkins Vanilla Extract & chuck in the cup of dried fruit.
11. Mix on the turner.
12. If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loose with a drewscraver.
13. Sample the wine again to check for tonsisticity, pffffffftt!
14. Next sift 2 cups of salt, or something. Who cares.
15. Check the wine.
16. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.
17. Add 1 table. Spoon of sugar or flour or something.
18. Whatever you can find.
19. Grease the oven.
20. Turn the cake pan to 350 degrees.
21. Don't forget to beat off the turner.
22. Throw one bowl out the window.
23. Check the wine again. Go to bed.
24. Who the heck likes fruitcake anyway?



# Poems

*I Remember Aprons – do you? Read by Jan Chapman at our Friendship Day 2008.*

## *Aprons.*

*I don't think kids know what an apron is.*

*The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.*

*It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.*

*From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks and sometimes, half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.*

*And when company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for the kids.*

*And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.*

*Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.*

*Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.*

*From the garden, it carried allsorts of vegetables – after the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.*

*In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.*

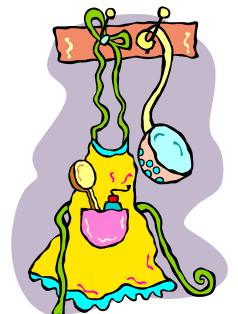
*When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.*

*When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.*

*It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.*

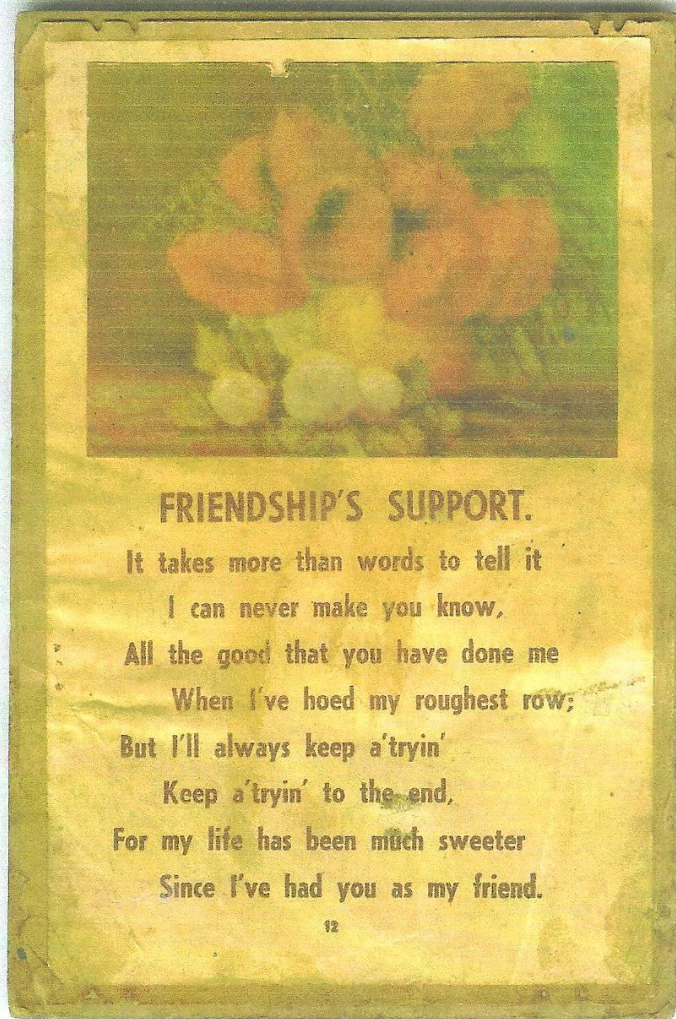
*Remember – Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the windowsill to cool.*

*Her granddaughters set theirs on the windowsill to thaw.*



## Poems

The beautiful poem below was submitted by: Robyn Waltisbuhl



To Eileen  
Morrison  
Best wishes from  
The Galligers

August  
1943

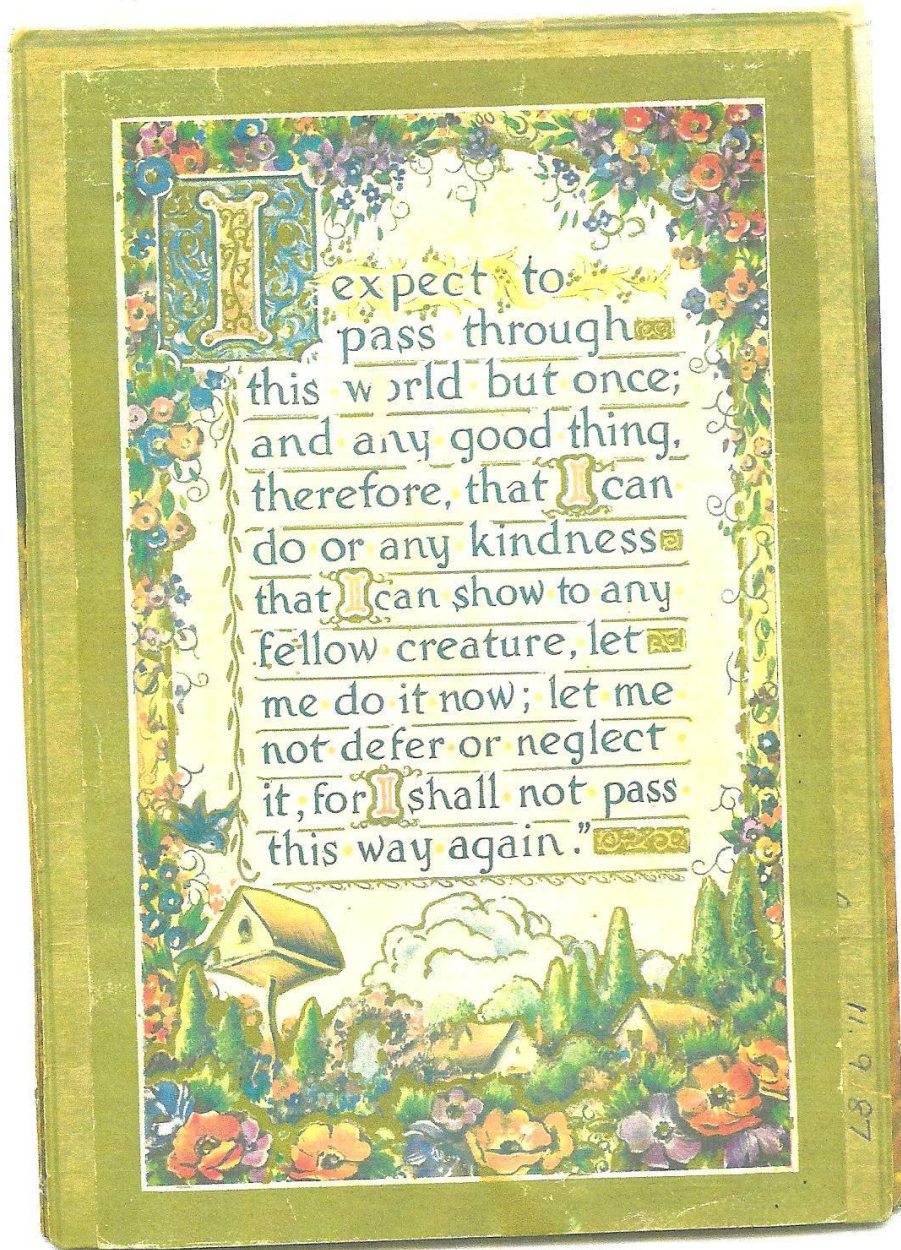




# Poems

Another beautiful piece submitted by: Robyn Waltisbuhl

To Joan May  
Love from  
Alma Eliza Duncan 1962



# **Autumn**



**March**

**April**

**May**

# *Coucals of Mt. Crosby*

## *Jan's hints for March*

I am still spreading mulch, which has composted beautifully with the lovely summer rain and with newspaper is a great way to suppress the weeds, add nutrients and condition the soil all at the same time. The cooler nights and days of the start of autumn are certainly encouraging the garden (and us) to put on a bright new face after the summer heat.

### STAND BACK AND ENJOY

The Dahlias are looking great and I am popping in an extra stake here and there to prop them up and deadheading them. The Lycoris (Spider Lilies) have pushed through the mulch I spread some weeks ago and highlight the autumn garden with their leafless global heads of golden yellow. Plant these lovely bulbs with Agapanthus as they flower in alternate seasons. Japanese Anemones are taller this year with the extra moisture and add luxuriance to the garden with their beautiful leaves whirled around their straight stems showing off the delicate flowers, which also go by the name of windflower.

Some of the spring plants have a smaller flush at this time of year. These include the Leucodendron, Day Lily and Azaleas. The repeat roses put on another great show, enjoying the Autumn rain and cooler nights so fertilize them with blood and bone with 10% sulphate of potash (if you haven't already done so) and give them a light dead heading. The self-seeding annual *Nicotiana Langsdorffii* is really enjoying the cooler weather and extra moisture and is looking statuesque with its spirals of lime green nodding flowers.

The Gingers are just finishing their flowering season, the leaves are still looking lush and tropical and the beehive gingers are great as a dramatic cut flower arrangement inside with few of their own leaves and some similar leaves like philodendron as a back drop. They will slowly go into dormancy as the temperature gets cooler, but don't cut them back.

Spring bulbs of Freesia, Iris, *Triteleia* and *Tritonia* are starting to emerge, prompted by the lovely moist conditions and the cooler night temperatures. A light mulch would be most beneficial to help keep the soil cool. After having a dormant period through our humid summer the *Acanthus Mollis* is breaking through the surface with its strong frilly dark leaves. These leaves and the eye catching tall flower spike will make a statement later in winter and stay well into spring.

If you like *Ixoras*, you will love a shrub that Jim and I discovered in Nambour a couple of years ago. It is called *Carphalea Kirondron*. Unfortunately I don't know a common name, but it is worth searching for. We discovered it blazing in a private garden and I plucked up the courage to go in and ask the lady of the house about it. She had only recently moved into the house, but after so many other enquiries she had found that it was available at Manawee Nursery in Buderim. This is where I managed to procure it and it is now flowering profusely. It is similar to an *Ixora*, bearing large heads of brilliant russet red bracts tipped with small white flowers from Autumn through to Winter. It does lose all its leaves in late winter and likes to be at the front of the border in full sun and grows to about 2 m high by 1.5 m wide. It is slow growing but don't be tempted to cut it back as I know someone who did and lost it.

## *Jan's hints for March continued....*

Both the Carphalea Kirondron and the Ixora are lovely companions to the Pentas, particularly the red one, which tones in well. The Pentas love the heat and are the mainstays of the summer garden but they last well into autumn if they are given a bit of a trim to tidy them up. Do this with the hedging shears, taking off about one fifth of the top and put in some cuttings as well.

### GARDEN QUOTE

Have no patience with bare ground, and cover the border with dwarf plants; do not put them along the front of the border only.

William Robinson (19<sup>th</sup> century English Landscaper)

### ORCHIDS

Reduce watering of orchids as the nights are getting cooler but still water mornings or before 4pm, particularly if the days are also a little cooler.

If any orchids or tropical pot plants need to be re-potted, March is the latest you should do it as that gives the plant a month or so to establish before the cold weather.

### PLANTING

This is the latest month you would want to plant small trees or shrubs that need to establish before winter, particularly if you don't have a good water supply. Autumn is a good time to plant as the cooler temperatures are kinder but there is only 1-2 months left of growing season and unless the plants are very drought hardy you will need to water during winter. I guess after coming through such a bad winter last year with the drought we should show a little caution, as I don't believe we will be able to water with town water like we used to.

This year I am planting out sweet peas (around the middle of March) as I have a fence that I want to hide, so I will plant them 'in situ'. Instead of buying seedlings I am going to sow seeds of Kale, Pak Choi, Silverbeet, Pansy and Godetia. I will sow them now in polystyrene trays in the bush house and transplant them into the garden late March/early April. I grow the vegetables in my flower gardens to add interest and I find that they survive better with the wildlife. In a vegetable garden I may as well put a sign up "smorgasbord, come and get it!" but scattered amongst the roses and dahlias etc the vegetables seem 'incognito' to hares, wallabies and possums.

**COLLECTING SEED** Autumn is a good time to collect and put it in envelopes to give away or plant elsewhere in the garden. If you are putting in envelopes, write name of plant, colour and date on the envelope (paper not plastic). Some I collect now are Yellow Cosmos, Agapanthus, Mirabilis and Crossandra.

### MAINTENANCE

Autumn is a good time to clean out the pond. Use a splayed plastic rake to lift out some of the weed if it has become too thick. All the water plants that do not die back in winter can be thinned if they have spread themselves too thickly, e.g. Arrowhead. This will give the fish more room and oxygen, which can also be increased by the use of a small pump and fountain.



## *Jan's hints for April*

Autumn is really with us and the temperate plants are enjoying the cooler nights with less humidity. Now is a good time to divide them or move them if need be. With plants like lamb's ears I usually dig little pieces off the main plant (with some roots) and plant them around. If a plant is not looking happy or 'leggy' it is a good idea to move it. If it looks 'leggy', that is, looking long and weak, it is probably because it is not getting enough light. You will need to move it to a place where it will get more light or if you can, prune what is shading it.

Agapanthus can be divided now. I find it better to dig the whole clump up and tease the bulbs apart. The Dahlias are still looking great and putting on a lovely show, as are the Japanese Anemones. I had to chop the top off one tree Dahlia as it was just too tall and kept falling over with the wind, but it is side shooting now and next year I will keep it bushy and shorter as it is much easier to keep upright.

It is a good idea to give the Pentas a trim as you will get another flush before winter. Artemisias, Angelonias, Heliotrope, Leonotis, Lavenders and summer Salvias that have finished flowering can all be cut back to green wood. Take some cuttings at the same time in case you lose any and put these in a bush house or protected area. It is a good idea to replant perennials every three or four years from cuttings as the old plant does loose vigour and the flowering does reduce.

Plant seedlings of Dianthus, Marigolds, Pansy, Pak Choi, Silverbeet, Eggplant Kohlrabi and Kale. These vegetables look great amongst the flower garden but they all need full sun. The little French Marigolds don't have a nice perfume but are great to deter insect pests, so plant them near vegetables.

Plant seeds of Leek, Shirley Poppies, Beans, Zucchini and shallots. If you have bought spring bulbs, leave them in the fridge crisper until May when the weather will be a little cooler.

Herbs do especially well during this time, so pop in some basil, parsley, mustard, oregano, tarragon, borage and thyme. Not only are they great in cooking but they also look great in the garden amongst the perennials. If you planted out strawberry runners last month, put the borage near them, as it will attract bees, which will help pollinate the strawberry flowers.

Mulch around small young trees, shrubs and citrus spreading it to the perimeter of the water shed area and about 10 cm thick.

If you have any potted plants sitting in a saucer of water (particularly sub-tropical or tropical plants) remove the saucer and keep them drier over winter. I don't sit any potted plants in saucers of water except for water plants and figs at any time, but I know with the drought it was necessary. Sub-tropical and tropical plants can take cooler temperatures better if they are kept on the dry side - like orchids, they hate being cold and wet.

Mealy bug is a fluffy white looking pest that likes to hide in the axes of plants, under leaves and also around the roots, anywhere that is dry. I find they only become a problem if the plant is too protected and not getting enough overhead watering which of course has happened with the drought. For small outbreaks a cotton bud soaked in methylated spirits and dabbed on the mealy bug will turn it a pinky colour and kill it. If it is in the roots of a pot, immerse the whole pot in a bucket of water to its rim for a day. Other than that I believe in going to the root of the cause and moving the plant and giving it lots of overhead watering by hose or rain.

## *Jan's hints for April continued....*

### **ORCHIDS**

Make sure that Phalaenopsis and Hardcane Dendrobiums will have a warm spot for winter. They don't like night temperatures to drop below 10 degrees Celsius. They also expect it a little drier for winter as do the other hardier Cattleyas, Softcane Dendrobiums, Vandas and Cymbidiums so reduce watering.

### **ROSES**

Deadhead roses to keep the blooms coming over the next few months. Check to make sure that you have no suckers from below the graft of the rose. I am digging up a couple of roses that haven't flowered at all this season and cutting out a couple of suckers that have come up beside my original plants. I use a sharp spade to sever the shoot from the original stock and then a fork to dig it out. The leaf is quite different from the original rose so it is easy to detect and it does shoot from below the graft. I spread a little mulch around the roses now before the spring anemones come through and cut back the evening primrose and petunias. Spray any white scale with pyrethrum or brush with a mixture of lime and water.





## *Jan's hints for May*

The days are now much cooler and the nights can get down to 10 degrees Celsius, so growth is slowing down dramatically and therefore the plants and garden are in need of much less water. We start lighting the fire in May and this provides lovely potash for the gardens.

### MAINTENANCE

It is also a time when all the summer flowering perennials and the autumn ones that have finished flowering can be cut back to one third being careful to cut back to green wood only. Take some cuttings of these perennials in case you should lose any or if you need to replace any next spring. These plants include Pentas, Salvias, Heliotrope, Brillantasia, Autemesia and Abutilons. I leave the tropicals (gingers) and the grasses as they look good until late winter, however I do cut the Clerodendron Paniculatum and Bungeii, which sucker rampantly and are going into dormancy because of the cooler temperatures.

Plectranthus and Angelonias just need a haircut with the hedging shears and they will also keep going. This pruning allows more light into the borders and it is amazing what you find that has been 'buried' by the rampant summer growth of the perennials.

With the beds cut back it is a good opportunity to mulch and provide nutrients as well as condition the soil for next spring and it will also help keep in as much moisture as possible over our dry winter. It is also a good time to look at the garden and see what you could plant to give winter interest in these areas. Some shrubs and perennials that look great late autumn are: Whitfeldia, Poinsettias, Red Hot Pokers, Montanoa Daisy, Tree Dahlia and Acanthus Mollis, so plan where you can plant some of these for next year.

Cut back large shrubs like the red Bauhinia and any tree branches that are dangerous or causing too much shade.

If your herbs are flowering, cut the flowers off as this will make them bushier and allow you to keep picking for delicious flavours in casseroles instead of them bolting to seed.

Mulch around small young trees, shrubs and citrus spreading it to the perimeter of the water shed area and about 10 cm thick.

Take cuttings of Coleus and Perilla, as many do not survive the winter. Keep them in a protected spot and just moist.

Divide Agapanthus, Cannas, Clivias, Arthropodium and Hippeastrum if the clumps are too big, as this will encourage them to flower. I think it is best to dig the whole clump up and pull them apart. Replant them allowing about 30 cms between single plants. I keep them in groups as I think they look great 'en-masse'.

### SPRING BULBS

May is an excellent time to plant the spring bulbs, particularly after you have mulched the area where they are to go. Anemones, Ranunculi, Freesias and Daffodils (Jonquils are best for Brisbane) should all be planted in full sun and to a depth of about double their size. Make sure that the pointy end is up except for the Ranunculi, which have claws that should face down.





## *Jan's hints for May continued....*

### SPRING BULBS continued

Hyacinths have the most beautiful perfume and whilst in Melbourne I bought some small waisted vases for my granddaughters and some hyacinth bulbs. The hyacinth bulbs just fit into the top of the vase and we have filled them with water to just below the bulb. After keeping the hyacinths in a dark cupboard until the bulb shoots it will be lovely for the girls to watch their Hyacinths shoot and flower by spring. These can be kept indoors in a bright spot and to add interest you can put coloured water

### PLANT

If you have sufficient water, plant seedlings of Dianthus, Marigolds, Pansy, Primula, Pak Choi, Silverbeet, Eggplant Kohlrabi and Kale. These vegetables look great amongst the flower garden but they all need full sun and plenty of water.

### ORCHIDS

Phalaenopsis and Hardcane Dendrobiums will have flowers and or flower spikes. Keep them in a warm spot for winter. They don't like night temperatures to drop below 10 degrees Celsius. Reduce watering and water as early in the day as possible. Zygopetalums and Cymbidiums will be sending out spikes and Cattleyas will be flowering so keep an eye out for the dendrobium beetle, which loves to eat the flowers.

### ROSES

Deadhead roses and mulch them. If you are planning on buying bare-rooted roses prepare a bed now with plenty of compost. Buy roses that are suitable for this area. Some that have been tried and true in this area: Duchesse de Brabant, Duet, Sourvenir de la Malmaison, Perle de Jardins, Sophies Rose, Crepuscule (climber), Seafoam, Bonica, Burgundy Iceberg, Pierre de Ronsard (Pillar) and of course the Banksia but it is rampant.



# Recipes

## Impossible Quiche

Carmel Blackburn

### Ingredients:

1 cup wholemeal flour  
5 eggs  
1 cup grated zucchini  
1 cup grated carrot or corn kernels  
1 cup grated cheese  
½ cup milk  
½ diced onion  
Sliced celery  
4 bacon rashers chopped

### Method:

1. Mix all the ingredients except the cheese together.
  2. Place into suitable large dish.
  3. Place cheese on top.
- Cook for 30 minutes on 180°.

*A garden is a journey that seems to have  
neither a beginning nor an ending .....*

## Chicken Casserole

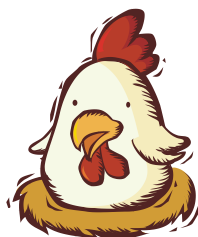
Carole Scheinpflug

### Ingredients:

1 pkt continental chicken savoury supreme soup mix  
1 carton cream (or substitute milk)  
4 chicken fillets cubed  
Garlic crushed  
Zucchini chopped  
1 tin of tomatoes

### Method:

1. Mix all ingredients together
2. Cook for 1 ½ hour



# Recipes

## Dutch Hash (Hachee)

Hilda Groenenberg

### Ingredients:

750gms – 1 kg lean boneless beef or pork diced  
1 teaspoon salt  
Black pepper  
4 tablespoons butter  
2 large onions cut into rings  
5 tablespoons flour  
3 cups beef stock  
2 bay leaves  
2 cloves garlic  
1 teaspoon sugar  
2 tablespoons vinegar

### Method:

1. Toss the diced meat with salt & pepper.
2. Heat the butter and sauté the meat & onions over high heat until lightly browned.
3. Add the flour and cook stirring for 2 minutes.
4. Add the stock gradually, stirring up the brown bits clinging to the bottom of the pan.
5. Add the remaining ingredients, cover and simmer slowly for 1 ½ hours.
6. Serve with rice or boiled potatoes. (4 servings)

*Handy Hint - If a curry is too hot, add one teaspoon sugar, juice of half a lemon & some tomato sauce.*

## Curried Chicken Breasts

Marjory Gaydon (with Fondest Memories)

### Ingredients:

3 chicken breasts or thighs  
1 onion  
Oil  
1 tablespoon curry  
¼ pint of chicken stock  
1 lemon (juiced)  
1 teaspoon tomato puree  
Dash of sweet chutney  
3 tablespoons cream  
½ pint mayonnaise

### Method:

1. Sauté onion in oil, add curry and cook for a few minutes.
2. Add chicken stock, lemon, tomato puree, sweet chutney and bring to the boil.
3. Stir and simmer for 5 minutes.
4. When cool stir in cream & mayonnaise.
5. Steam chicken and cover with sauce.

Extras - Serve with Salad.

# Recipes

## Vegetarian Lasagne

Corey, Robyn Batton's daughter

### Ingredients:

½ butternut pumpkin, steamed and mashed  
1 pkt frozen spinach thawed or 1 bunch fresh spinach blanched  
100 grams fetta cheese cubed  
125 grams soft ricotta cheese  
½ cup grated cheddar cheese  
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1 large tin chopped tomatoes  
1 pkt fresh lasagne sheets  
Oregano, thyme, basil

Béchamel sauce - 2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 – 1 ½ cups milk  
Small handful Parmesan cheese  
Salt & pepper

Method: melt butter, mix in flour  
gradually add milk,  
stirring continually  
over low heat until  
thicken, add Parmesan

### Method:

1. After pumpkin is cooked and mashed, set aside.
2. Combine in a large bowl - spinach, fetta, ricotta, cheddar and Parmesan cheeses, oregano, thyme, salt and pepper to taste, and ¾ tin of tomatoes, mix well.
3. Pour remainder of tinned tomatoes into lasagne dish and spread over base.
4. Place a layer of lasagne sheets.
5. Place a layer of mashed pumpkin.
6. Place a layer of lasagne sheets.
7. Place a layer of spinach, tomato and cheese mix.
8. Place a layer of lasagne sheets.
9. Place a layer of spinach, tomato and cheese mix.
10. Place a layer of lasagne sheets.
11. Pour over Béchamel sauce.
12. Sprinkle with a little extra cheese and place in oven.
13. Cook for approximately 45 minutes in 180° oven.

*“A good gardener always plants three seeds  
- one for the grubs, one for the weather  
- and one for himself.”*

# Recipes

## Banana Slice

Margaret King

### Ingredients:

1 cup self raising flour  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
¾ cup sugar  
¼ teaspoon bi-carb soda  
1 egg beaten  
¼ cup milk  
1/3 cup banana, well mashed  
60gms (2 oz) butter  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
½ teaspoon cinnamon

### Method:

1. Sift dry ingredients together.
2. Melt butter.
3. Add to dry ingredients with banana and milk
4. Spread into greased lamington tin and bake in moderate oven for 25 to 30 minutes.
5. When cold, top with lemon icing & sprinkle with coconut.

*One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides.*

## Orange Jelly Filling for Tarts

Annette Jones

Make your favourite pastry shell and bake. Set aside.

### Ingredients - Method:

Bring to the boil 1 cup water and 1 cup sugar.  
Mix together 1 dessertspoon custard powder, 1 dessertspoon cornflour and the juice of 1 large orange and ½ lemon.  
Add to boiling water mixture and boil for 2 minutes while stirring.  
Take off heat (cook top) and stir in 1 teaspoon butter.  
Pour mixture into pastry shell.



# Recipes

## Date Slice

Carmel Blackburn

### Ingredients:

8 oz dates  
1 egg  
1 tablespoon margarine  
½ cup coconut  
1 cup water  
¾ cup caster sugar  
2 cups self-raising flour  
¼ teaspoon bi-carb soda

### Method:

1. Place dates into saucepan with water & margarine.
2. Bring to the boil, remove & let cool.
3. Beat egg and add dry ingredients & mix.
4. Add date mixture and beat well.
5. Place in bar tin and bake 30 to 35 minutes on 170°.
6. Ice with lemon icing and sprinkle with crushed coconut.



## Irish Cream

Annette Jones



### Ingredients:

1 ½ cups Scotch  
1 can evaporated milk  
1 can condensed milk  
1 teaspoon coconut essence  
1 teaspoon coffee dissolved in a little hot water.

### Method:

Blend all ingredients together and enjoy!

# Poems

*This poem was written for Kerry Faber's Mum over 25 years ago by her friend Leith Johnston.*

*If you've never had a garden, then you've missed a lot in life  
To me it's like a bachelor who has never had a wife.  
There is something special missing tho' it could be for the best  
But you'll never know the answer 'till you put it to the test.  
To create a lovely garden takes a lot of thought and care.  
You just don't buy a heap of plants and pop them anywhere.  
There is soil and situation and a dozen things to know.  
But it's really worth the effort as you watch your garden grow.  
I remember Mother's garden with roses by the fence  
All the hollyhocks and pansies and the creepers green and dense.  
Just a simple thought in passing to recall where're you roam  
A house is only bricks and mortar but a Garden makes a home.*



## Poems

*Turkeys in the Garden* - by Jan Flanigan, Coucals of Mt. Crosby

*Turkeys in the garden are driving me insane!  
I hear the Mickies' warming cry, oh no, they're at it again!  
They've re-designed the rose garden, put in a huge big mound  
Exposed the irrigation system and re-arranged the ground.*

*We've thrown rocks & sticks arrows and nets all to no avail,  
They're determined to build their nest and come back without fail.  
The pansies I planted yesterday have been flung far and wide  
I see my beautiful petunias have sadly not survived.*

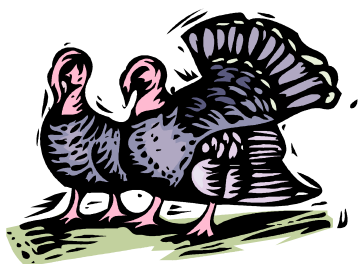
*For the turkey is relentless in his quest to build a nest.  
He has to build a bigger one than any of the rest.  
We've had our share of Possums, Wallabies, Bandicoots and Hares,  
They don't make a mess in the garden, with them, we'll gladly share.*

*My friends missed seeing me and rang to see if all was right.  
I tell them, "No, I'm on turkey patrol from morning, noon till night.  
I've trained our little terrier to chase them when I call.  
He thinks it's fun to chase and chase, no problem for him at all.*

*The Kookaburra makes his laughing call and we are up at dawn,  
We stagger out of bed, into the cold with a sigh and a yawn.  
We have to beat that turkey before he starts to scratch.  
Oh, if only we could find a way, this pestilence to catch!*

*We sent for re-enforcements. Into action went the terrier pack,  
They chased them down the gullies, but the turkeys still came back.  
The turkeys became very cunning and into the trees they flew,  
They perched on the neighbour's roof; they knew just what to do.*

*We have to look on the bright side, I know we shouldn't curse  
Gardeners put up with many things, Emus would be worse.*





## Poems

*You Can't Help It - Joh Matulich*

*You are a born Gardener,*

*If - You are dressed in your best, ready to get into your car, when you just have to go and stake that Dahlia which is falling over.*

*If - You are walking in the Botanic Gardens and find yourself bending down to pull out a weed.*

*If - You are admiring an "Open Garden" where everything is perfect, but you see a geranium which needs deadheading, so you pick it.*

*If - You are walking the dog at dusk and see an unusual plant poking through a fence.*

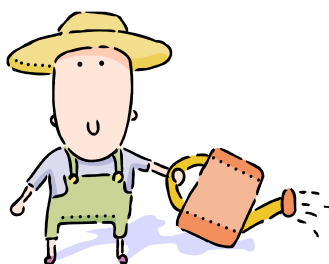
*You carefully break it off to make it more tidy, but then you may as well take it home and strike it.*

*If - You see a neglected garden in a house for sale and you must investigate in case*

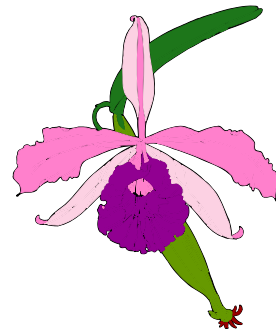
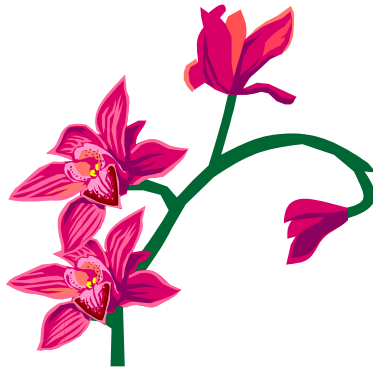
*There's some old plant which needs saving and would be much happier in your garden.*

*If - You walk around your garden and greet the plants which friends have given you.*

*So that special Begonia conjures up Sally & Ruth pops up from the Eucharis Lily. Then your garden is alive with old friends who are born Gardeners like you.*



# ***Winter***



***June***

***July***

***August***

# *Coucals of Mt. Crosby*

## *Jan's Tips for June*

The garden is looking a little lack lustre at this time but it is a good time to take stock of the garden and see what is where and what is doing well and not so well and what needs to be moved. With everything cut back it is also a good time to mulch and lovely cool days makes it a pleasure to work in the garden.

The spring bulbs from last year starting to make an appearance and the irises are of to a flying start, even the Ornithogalums that I bought past their prime last year and popped in are now shooting so care must be taken not to trample these little treasures.

With drought conditions and watering restrictions it is a must to see what is doing well in the garden and replicate those plants in other areas of the garden.

Mediterranean Plants are enjoying the cooler less humid weather and are recovering well from our wet summer. These plants include Lamb's ears, Helichrysum, Statice and Pelargoniums and they actually thrive in the dry so this is a good time to create an edging with them. They do better at the front edge of a garden as this is usually drier and gets more air movement.

### MAINTENANCE

Deadhead the Chrysanthemums that have finished flowering and cut back the autumn salvias. Take cuttings of both and put them either straight into the garden if it is moist or in pots where they will get watered. I like the Ajania Pacifica Chrysanthemum as it has a bit of variegation in its leaves with a silver back and looks good even when it is not in flower. If you were given Chrysanthemums for mother's day or like me were tempted to buy some, chop of their heads and plant them straight into the garden in full sun. I have some in the paddock that I must have planted 25 years ago from a mother's day present and this year they flowered their heads off!

Nasturtium seedlings will be popping up if you had them flowering during summer and this is a good time to dig them up and spread them around the garden. I put them at the front of the border so that they can sprawl over the edges (rather than over plants).

I don't cut back my autumn gladioli's until they are completely brown and have developed their seeds as I can spread these also and pass them onto friends.

### TROPICAL PLANTS

In these dry times people are turning to natives. Immediately natives are mentioned one thinks of Grevilleas and justifiably so as many of the Grevilleas do well in our area and withstand dry times. Another group that are often overlooked but offer a lot of colour and foliage variation are the tropical natives. The reason they do so well in our area is because they do expect a dry winter and as long as you protect them from frost and mulch them well they will reward you with beautiful colour and interest.

My absolute favourite is Alloxydon flammeum or the Tree Waratah from the Proteaceae family because it puts on such a spectacular show in September with its vivid red Waratah like flowers. It is not a huge tree and will flower when only 2-3 metres high.

The other tree that always attracts interest in my garden is the Little Evodia as it is such a neat small tree with glossy leaves and the unusual habit of flowering along its branches. The parrots adore the nectar and this small tree also is happy in amongst other plants.

## *Jan's Tips for June continued....*

### COLOURFUL WINTER PLANTS.

The Pink Dombeyas are the stars of my garden in June regardless of weather conditions and the drier the conditions the more they seem to flower. They flower for several months which is an added bonus and then their flower bracts turn brown, even that doesn't detract. They are not easy to propagate which could be the reason you don't see them in nurseries.

Of course June being the month with the shortest daylight hours stimulates the poinsettias into full bloom. Starting with the white snowflake which is really at home in Brisbane and then the larger reds and yellows strut their stuff. A lot of the newer hybrids are smaller, more compact and bushier so they can be easily incorporated in borders or smaller garden beds.

The Red Hot Pokers certainly add a glow to areas particularly under trees and are loved by the birds. The Mexican Daisy adds drama with its huge white blossoms and don't be in a hurry to cut these back as the seeds are just as lovely as the flowers and stay on the plants for ages before turning black which is a cue to cut them back.

### ORCHIDS

Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, Phalaenopsis, Hardcane Dendrobiums and Zygopetalums are all bursting with colour, perfume and emerging spikes to be enjoyed and anticipated. There are few pests at this time and watering is at its minimum so they really can be displayed and enjoyed.

### ROSES

June/July is the best time to prune back the roses remembering the three 'd's'. Cut out all the Dead, Diseased and Dying stems. I cut weak, thin stems and stems going inward right back, good healthy fat stems back by about half to one third. Roses like good air movement so keep the centre of the plant as open as possible. Any good cutting pieces with pencil thickness and about 30 cms long I have been sticking in around the rose bushes and have even layered some down into the ground. Generally the older the rose or the more growth it has put on the more it can be cut back. My newer roses I just give a light trim whereas the old ones with thicker trunks can be cut right back.

If you are planting new roses into a garden bed where roses have grown or if you are not sure, pot the new rose into a cardboard box with good new soil and plant the box with the rose in it in the garden bed after removing the original soil from the bed. New roses will need to be watered in well over the next few months. I will leave the fertilizing (Blood and Bone with 10% potash) until July or when we get some really good rain but I am throwing the ash from the fire around them in the interim.



## *Jan's Tips for July*

The garden is looking refreshed after the beautiful rain in June. The plants are so overjoyed that many are putting on new growth and are flowering their little heads off without a care that it is the middle of winter. The azaleas think spring has come early and are in full bloom.

The spring bulbs have also loved the rain, they got the boost they needed and are coming on in leaps and bounds. Our sub-tropical bulbs are beautiful in spring, but there is something special about the jonquils, anemones, hyacinths and freesias that flower for us very early. The anticipation of seeing them merge after their hibernation all summer long (or sitting in the fridge for 2 or 3 months) then burst through the soil in our winter is exciting to say the least. Watching them grow when most of the other plants are dormant and the final crescendo of seeing them flower before all the other bulbs is what gardening is all about.

### MEDITERRANEAN PLANTS

The Mediterranean plants are just begging to have cuttings taken. So much so that the ones I trimmed some weeks ago, the 'bits' are taking root in the moist soil around the plants. These include Pelargoniums, Marguerite Daisies, Heliotrope and Lavender. Divide lamb's ears, Tulbaghia and Statice. Also spread Nasturtiums, Coreopsis, Acanthus Mollis, and Cosmos sulphureus around as all the little seedlings are popping up everywhere. They really do enjoy the cold and wet situation. Make sure you plant them where they will be the driest in summer, as they like to be dry and hot and struggle with our humidity. They also like a lot of sun, so front of the border is the perfect place for them.

The Renga Renga lily hails from New Zealand but also relishes the cooler weather and looks stunning in shade where its glaucous leaves are a nice contrast with many other plants in the border. This bulb can also be divided now, as can the Arum lily.

### MAINTENANCE

Cut back the Iboza Riparia (Nutmeg bush) by about half and any Salvias that have finished flowering. I have been spreading Mushroom compost around the borders to give them an organic boost and have also put some on the Hippeastrums as they do a dying swan act at this time of year just before they start to shoot again. Daylilies, Clivias and Agapanthus have all put a spurt on and would appreciate the same treatment.

Cut back the Montanoa Daisies by half and Tree Dahlias to the ground once they have finished looking good. Cut the fatter canes into 30cm lengths with a 'node' or two in each piece and place them on top of potting mix in a shaded spot or in the bush house.

### COLOURFUL WINTER PLANTS

The most beautiful tree at this time of year is the Magnolia Soulangeana, which flowers on leafless stems giving it an ethereal look. The flowers range from white to shades of pink, mine being a soft pink with a deeper lilac exterior. Planting azaleas around them in a similar colour really does give a 'total look'.

It is even more precious as it did succumb to the drought and does have die back, but is gallantly fighting back.

## *Jan's Tips for July continued°....*

### VEGETABLES

Vegetables certainly need constant water and the seeds planted in May/June are off to a great start. Seedlings of Chinese vegetables, Brassicas, Beans, Onions, and Zucchini's can still be put in. It is important that the bed is well manured and watered consistently to keep the vegetables growing well. Speaking of mulches, I have gone back to using Mushroom compost as the Green Waste I was using doubled in price. The Green Waste was not composted and when it did compost it of course reduces in size to about half, so I figured that the Mushroom compost was the same price and no waiting for it to compost. It is beautifully rich in organic manures but is inclined to be alkaline so keep it well away from azaleas and camellias.

### ORCHIDS

Cattleyas are putting on a beautiful show, as are Cymbidiums, Phalaenopsis, Hardcane Dendrobiums and Zygopetalums. Don't be tempted to over water and definitely don't water the Softcane Dendrobiums or else you won't get flowers for spring.

It is still too cold to re-pot unless you fear that an orchid is suffering root rot because the medium has broken down and being too wet. In this situation it is better to re-pot immediately into a smaller pot with new orchid medium.

### ROSES

This is the last chance to prune back the roses, if you haven't already done so. If you pruned yours in early June, like I did this year because they were suffering with the drought, they will be shooting after the rain, so will appreciate a boost of fertilizer.

This year I cut all my older roses back to hard wood and have been rewarded with lots of shoots so I will be ruthless again next year. Fertilize with Blood and Bone with 10% potash added and give each rose a good cup full.

New roses should start arriving if you ordered bare rooted ones. Unpack them immediately they arrive and keep their roots covered in damp peat moss or sawdust until you are ready to plant them. Don't fertilize them until February or so, but water them in well when you plant them, which should be as soon as possible after their arrival. When you plant them dig the hole bigger than necessary and don't plant them too deep. Some I have planted are really too low because I mulch so much. The graft should be above the soil level.



## *Jan's Tips for August*

Well if that was winter, it certainly was a great one for us here in the south east corner. With lovely rain and warmer temperatures the garden thinks it is spring already and is about a month ahead of normal.

The Red Cedar has already burst through with new red shoots and the euphorbia cotinifolias are showing off their burgundy spring dress. The coleus really didn't have too much trouble with cold this winter either and have already put on a lot of growth giving the border some lovely colour in the form of soft frilly mounds.

### TRIM AND TIDY UP TROPICALS

*Now that the coldest weather has passed*, we can start on the tropicals, such as gingers, heliconias, allamandas, mussaendas and poinsettias. The poinsettias can be cut back as soon as they have finished flowering and the gingers and heliconias can be nourished with some mulch and blood and bone (or mushroom compost, which does both jobs nicely) and the old stems that have 'spent' ends, cut off at the base. This is also a good time to divide them if the clump has got too big for their area or are too 'congested'.

Speaking of dividing, I decided to get stuck into some of my old clumps of bromeliads that were so congested that the pups were cramped for space. The bromeliads with stolens I used secateurs and the others a sharp trowel did the trick. It certainly made the clumps look better and with some mulch for encouragement they were off to a good start. I don't take the 'old mother' away as sometimes it will re-shoot, or if not provide nourishment for the pups.

Another clumping essential for our gardens is the rhoeo in its many forms. This can also be divided and spread around the garden to form large swathes in and around palms or at the front of a hedge to add colour and dimension.

The allamandas and mussaendas need a light prune to encourage them to bush out and produce more flowers for their summer display.

### MAINTENANCE

Cut the old fronds off maidenhair and nephrolepis ferns at the base and repot them or put some fresh compost on the top of their pot. Divide aloccasias, calla and canna lilies.

Before the water lilies get a go on, this is a good time to clean out the ponds. Many water plants become too rampant in ponds and need to be removed. I have had a tarpaulin over the lagoon for the last two months to try and suppress a spreading plant. The cover did not kill the plant but weakened it sufficiently to allow me to rake it off the surface of the water as it had formed a mat, taking over most of the lagoon area. I put this 'weed' mat straight on the surrounding gardens which will compost well.

A pair of wood ducks visits our lagoon this time each year. I am not sure what they like, maybe the water chestnuts but they spend a lot of time feeding on something. They are very quiet, don't do any damage and are a delight to watch.

The lovely rain has encouraged the weeds in the beds as well, so a few leaves of newspaper can be placed over the weeds and then about 10cm of mulch on top of the newspaper will do two jobs in one.

## *Jan's Tips for August continued....*

### PLANT

Plant out Coleus to fill in gaps and add colour here and there. The perillas are hardier than the coleus although a close relative and respond well to a light trim with the hedge shears. Everything is growing so well that I am not worrying about putting in annuals this year and they do need a lot of water. If you are looking for extra colour, asylum, lobelia, pansies, gaillardia and petunias seedlings can be popped in.

### VEGETABLES

The vegetables sown in winter are coming on nicely and being encouraged by the worm compost tea which I dilute 1:4 with water. Seeds of lettuce have been sown and talk about instant germination, they were visible after a matter of days. I am keeping the water up to the vegetables as this ensures tenderness with constant growth.

### ORCHIDS

The Soft cane Dendrobiums have lots of flower spikes, which will start to open as the warmer weather arrives. If you let the canes hang down from baskets (like I do) they will put on a fine display looking like many butterflies.

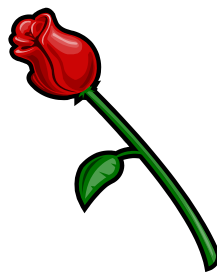
The native orchids will also have spikes and you need to watch carefully as some don't flower for very long and you can miss the display.

Water the orchids only on sunny days, if they are dry, and mid morning, so they have time to dry before nightfall.

### ROSES

The roses have also enjoyed the winter rain and have put on lots of leaf with buds and flowers. With all this new growth, fertilizing is a must, as it will give them the boost they need to keep flowering throughout spring. I have given mine mushroom compost but blood and bone with 10% sulphate of potash is also fine.

This year I planted all my new roses into cardboard boxes and then planted the rose in the cardboard box in the garden, 'holus bolus'. The new roses were more of the heritage roses as I am thrilled with the ones I planted last year. They certainly are much bushier with much better leaf growth than the David Austins.





# Recipes

## Pumpkin Soup

Coral Larsen

### Ingredients:

1 ½ kg pumpkin, sliced  
3 medium onions, sliced  
1 tomato, peeled & sliced  
5 chicken stock cubes  
5 cups water  
Salt and Pepper  
300ml cream

### Method:

1. Place all ingredients except cream in a large saucepan and bring slowly to the boil.
2. Cook steadily for 35 minutes without a lid stirring from time to time.
3. Cool soup and then puree in blender.
4. Stir in cream
5. Serve hot, garnished with either nutmeg or pumpkin seeds.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Cauliflower & Bacon Soup

Marg and Jack Harvey

### Ingredients:

30 grams butter or margarine  
1 leek, chopped  
3 bacon rashers, chopped  
500 grams cauliflower, chopped  
3 cups water  
2 chicken stock cubes  
½ cup cream  
1 teaspoon butter, extra  
1 bacon rasher, chopped  
2 teaspoons fresh parsley, chopped

### Method:

1. Melt butter in pan, add leek and bacon and cook stirring until leek is soft.
2. Add cauliflower, cook while stirring for a further 2 minutes.
3. Stir in water and stock cubes.
4. Simmer covered for about 15 minutes, until cauliflower is soft.
5. Blend until smooth and then return to pan.
6. Stir in cream.
7. Heat extra butter in pan, add extra bacon stirring until crisp, drain on absorbent paper.
8. Sprinkle soup with crisp bacon and parsley.

Note: Serve soup with crusty bread if desired. Recipe can be made 2 days ahead and it is suitable to freeze and microwave.

# Recipes

## Delicious Savoury Chops

From Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen's Classic Country Collection of Recipes  
via Margaret Walker.

### Ingredients:

6 lamb stewing chops (lamb leg chops are best)  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
2 onions  
2 carrots  
2 tablespoons of tomato sauce  
2 tablespoons vinegar  
2 tablespoons plain flour  
1 teaspoon sugar  
½ teaspoon curry powder  
½ teaspoon mustard  
½ teaspoon ground ginger  
½ teaspoon mixed spice

### Method:

1. Brown chops in pan with vegetable oil.
2. Put chops in casserole dish and add chopped carrots & onions.
3. Mix tomato sauce, vinegar, flour sugar, curry powder, ground ginger, mustard and mixed spice, with 2 cups of water.
4. Pour over chops.

Cook in moderate oven (180 – 200° C) for 1 ½ - 2 hours or until tender.  
Serve with mashed potatoes.

\*\*\*\*

## Sloppy Joes

Carmel Blackburn

### Ingredients:

375 grams minced beef  
1 tablespoon oil  
1 finely chopped onion  
2 diced sticks celery  
1 medium sized can of baked beans  
1/3cup tomato sauce  
2 tablespoons bar-b-que sauce  
4 bread rolls

### Method:

1. Heat oil in saucepan
2. Add onion and celery & cook until soft.
3. Add mince and cook until brown.
4. Add baked beans and sauces and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes.
5. Toast split rolls, butter and serve with mince mixture poured over them. Yum!

# Recipes

## Chicken & Olive Casserole

Margaret Walker      This is an easy recipe that you just cook in one dish in the oven. Prep. time 20 minutes.  
Serves 4

### Ingredients:

1 no. 16 chicken or 1 ½ kg chicken pieces  
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil  
1 teaspoon sea salt flakes  
1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper  
1 onion cut into thin wedges  
2 small fennel bulbs cut into thin wedges (if not available use celery)  
6 garlic cloves peeled  
2 roma tomatoes chopped  
1 cup of green olives  
1 cup dry white wine  
8 thyme sprigs

### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 220 degrees.
2. Cut chicken into serving sized pieces.
3. Rub olive oil into each chicken piece and season with salt and pepper.
4. Put onion, fennel, garlic, tomatoes, olives, wine and thyme in a casserole dish.
5. Arrange chicken on top and bake, uncovered for 45 minutes, or until the chicken is golden.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Tuna Mornay

Sally Shaw

### Ingredients:

½ litre white sauce (onion optional)  
1 small cup grated cheese  
1 x 425 gram can tuna  
1 small cup soft, white breadcrumbs  
Brown breadcrumbs for topping

### Method:

1. Mix top four ingredients together and put in casserole dish.
2. Spread with brown breadcrumbs and dot with butter or margarine.
3. Cook in moderate oven for 40 minutes.



# Recipes

## Apricot & Date Slice

Carmel Blackburn

### Ingredients:

½ cup chopped dried apricots  
1 cup coconut  
1 cup caster sugar  
3 oz melted butter  
1 cup self-raising flour  
1 egg  
½ cup chopped dates

### Method:

1. Melt butter in microwave.
2. Add sugar, apricots, dates & coconut.
3. Beat in egg and then flour.
4. Press into greased slice tin and bake in moderate oven for 20 minutes.
5. Ice with lemon icing.

\*\*\*\*

## Quick & Easy Date Roll

Julie Minisini

### Ingredients:

1 ½ cups self-raising flour  
1 cup chopped dates  
½ cup sugar  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 teaspoon ground ginger  
1 teaspoon bi-carbonate of soda  
¾ cup boiling water

### Method:

1. Put dates, sugar, butter, ginger, and soda in a bowl. Pour onto this the boiling water.
2. Sift in flour, blend well.
3. Put mixture in a greased bar tin. Bake in a moderate oven (190 C or 375 F) for about 45 minutes.

\*\*\*\*

A FEW LITTLE GEMS - *From Carmel Blackburn*

*I eat merely to put food out of my mind.*

*My advice if you insist on slimming is, eat as much as you like, just don't swallow it.*

*Food is an important part of a balanced diet.*

*When friends call unexpectedly, the impression they will keep evermore, is not what they ate, or the state of your home, but the welcome they got at the door.*

# Recipes

## Egg-less Chocolate Cake

Annette Jones

### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons margarine  
2 tablespoons syrup  
4 tablespoons sugar  
2 cups self-raising flour  
½ cup cocoa  
1 teaspoon bi-carb soda  
1 ½ cups milk

### Method:

1. Cream margarine, syrup and sugar.
2. Add flour, cocoa, bi-carb soda alternately with the milk.
3. Bake at 170° fan forced for 30 – 35 minutes.

\*\*\*\*

## Impossible Pie

Carmel Blackburn

### Ingredients:

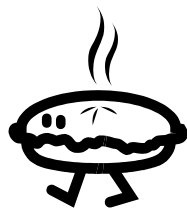
4 eggs  
½ cup plain flour  
1 cup caster sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
½ cup margarine  
2 cups milk  
1 cup desiccated coconut

### Method:

1. Blend all ingredients and pour mixture into a greased casserole dish.
2. Bake in oven 180 -200° for 1 hour or until the centre is firm.

Note: The flour settles to form a crust and the coconut forms a topping and the centre is an egg custard filling.

*One of the healthiest ways to gamble, is with a spade and a package of garden seeds*



# Recipes

## Two Fruit Impossible Pie

Sheila Warner

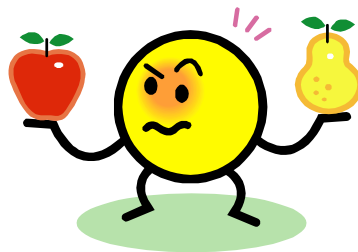
### Ingredients:

2 cups milk  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup coconut  
125 grams melted butter  
½ cup plain flour  
4 eggs  
2 teaspoons vanilla essence  
415 gram can of two fruits, drained

### Method:

1. Beat all ingredients except the fruit in a large bowl until smooth. Fold in fruit.
2. Pour into a 23cm deep pie dish and bake in a moderate oven (180°) for 40 45 minutes, or until firm.

Note: Serve in wedges with ice cream or custard.



## Apricot Bar

Coral Larsen

### Ingredients:

1 cup of sugar, white or brown  
1 cup self-raising wholemeal flour  
1 cup coconut  
1 cup chopped apricots  
1 cup milk

### Method:

1. Stir all ingredients together, put into 2 bar tins and cook at 180 ° for 30 minutes.

# Poems

*My garden Genome - by Joh Matulich March 2008*

*I'm possessed by departed Grandmas & Aunts,  
Who were diggers and delvers  
And loved all their plants  
To such a degree  
They continue their passion in poor little me.*

*If I should lie in bed too long,  
I hear their old familiar song –  
Up you get and out you go  
There are weeds to dig and seeds to sow.  
Feed the Iris, deadhead the roses,  
Sweep the path and divide the Moses-  
in-a-Basket. Remove old Lobelias  
and spray for blight on Azaleas.  
Feed and tie up the Begonias,  
Sweep the path and tidy the Fittonias.  
Cut back the straggly Allamanda  
and water the pot plants on the verandah.*

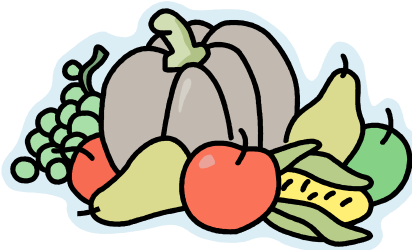
*I think I'll take a holiday,  
on a Garden Tour, somewhere away  
From all this work – a well-earned rest.  
But then I hear – Of course you jest!  
For that naughty thought that's in your head  
There is a cure –  
Just remember you have to spread  
Five bags of lovely cow manure!  
Sometimes I wish I had the means  
To oust the digger and delvers in my genes.*



## Poems

### *Sheila's Thoughts on Garden Club Day - by Sheila Warner*

*What a busy life we lead  
No time to stop or even heed  
From dusk to dawn we drip and toil  
We pray for rain to help the soil  
It's garden club, we need a flower  
Secateurs in hand, "Oh why do they cower"  
Our pride and joys they look so bright  
A prize I'm sure would make it right  
Votings on - "could I have won?"  
Not that important if we have fun  
Home at last what can I say?  
Friends and gardens make my day.*





## Poems

### *Laidley Friendship Day - by Sue Wilson*

*To Laidley we trekked, they had said, "Bring a carload,"  
Just drive west past Marburg and follow the main road.*

*We're all friendly folk and we're having a special day  
To celebrate friends and they'll come from a long way.*

*So four of us turned up to join in the party.  
We were met with a cuppa and lots of food so hearty.*

*The stalls were brimming with great plants so cheap  
And home-made craft work we all longed to keep.*

*Then inside the hall such a sight met our eyes  
The place was ablaze with nature's floral highs.*

*Each table sported some hand painted plaques  
Bearing gems of wisdom which cut to our hearts.*

*Such as "Friendship is the most valuable gift one can give",  
And "Friends are the flowers in the garden of life".*

*Wilhemina told us all about her mini goats so cute.  
Then Rev. Ian sang us a round of songs real beaut.*

*Rod Hultgren from ABC told a fatherly joke  
And went on to give us great tips – what a good bloke!*

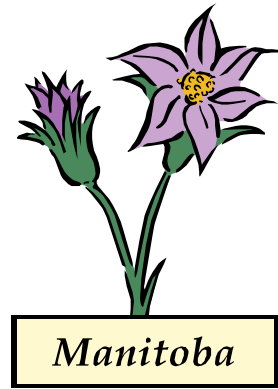
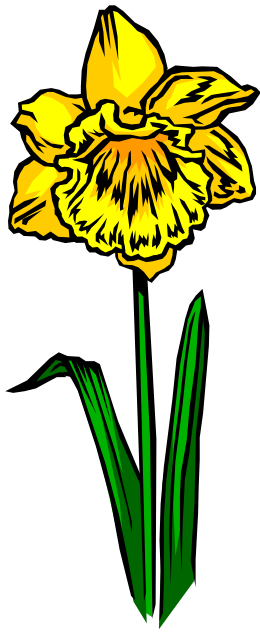
*Prizes from the raffle went on, on and on.  
Then luncheon was served, great food by the tonne.*

*Then right after lunch Jim MacDona took the mike  
And told us about native flora and fauna and the like.*

*We'll go on our way full of food, friendship and cheer  
And look forward to coming again another year.*



# Spring



**September**

**October**

**November**

# *Coucals of Mt. Crosby*

## *Jan's tips for September*

Spring is finally here and everything is waiting for their queue to flower. The Wisteria has to be the el-supremo of September with the white one setting the pace and then the mauve ones following suit, to bring on a wonderful scene and a perfume that takes many people's memories back a few years.

Beneath the Wisteria the Softcane Dendrobiums hang their long canes with their butterfly like blooms trailing all along to the tips, in colours from white to pink and yellow with contrasting throats. The flowers will continue the whole of September, outlast the Wisteria and will try and rival the Cymbidiums, which are also putting on a great show, flaunting their beautiful racemes displaying the huge flowers.

The native orchids *Dendrobium speciosum*, *kingianum*, *falcorostrum* and *gracilicaule*, put on a great, but short show, early in September - you must be quick to catch them as they don't last as long.

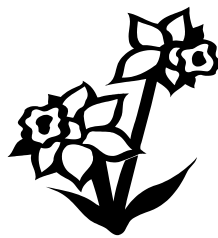
In the borders, the jonquils, anemones, hippeastrums, tulbaghias, azaleas and eupatoriums (mist flower) are giving a great colour show and are backed by the Banksia Rose, White and Pink Bauhinia Trees, Orange Coral Tree, Orange/Red Tree Waratah and Schotia (Drunken Parrot Tree). The Echiums add blue to the border and are accompanied by many of the Salvias, which are always happy to oblige with flowers. Blossoms are provided by the May bush which are slow to start and waiting for warmer weather whilst the azaleas are putting on a second flush.

Nasturtiums come in wonderful shades of yellow, through orange to red and have done well with the winter rain. Some are happy to form little round mounds and others are more adventurous and send out long runners, which always remind me of Monet, as he loved them in his Grand Allee. The *Osteospermum* and *Argyranthemum* daisies, Lavender, Statice and Heliotrope with its beautiful vanilla perfume are more Mediterranean plants that are looking good now and enjoy the cool nights and warm days.

Roses have enjoyed the winter rain and extra mulch and are putting on a great show. The (water) irises are making a move to open, as the Jacaranda and Fiddlewood trees are yellowing and losing their leaves, which add even more colour to this sub-tropical spring.

Adding a red note to the scene is the *Loropetalum* bush and the *Euphorbia cotinifolia* trees are showing their vivid burgundy new shoots, as are the maples and Red Cedar tree. In a beautiful contrast to this the *Robinia pseudo-acacia* 'Frisia' is starting to show its lime green new foliage.

All in all it really is a beautiful time to visit open gardens and enjoy your own, wander around the gardens, take in the little delights of what is flowering, relax, have a cuppa on the verandah and survey the whole of the garden from a bigger picture.



## *Jan's tips for September continued....*

### **WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN?**

I think September is the nicest time of the year in your garden and a good time to enjoy the benefits of all the hard work you have put in throughout the cooler months. Deadhead to keep the flowers coming, and feed, weed and mow the lawn if we get rain. The warmer temperatures will start to wake up the gingers, calatheas, costus and heliconias, which could be divided if the clumps are too big. I cut back my calatheas at this time if they are looking untidy and trim up the gingers.

Bromeliads have grown well this winter and if the clumps have got too big they need to be divided and re-planted or given away. I find a sharp long knife is good for this job and a pair of gloves as you need to get down to the base of the pup and edge it away from the mother plant. If it won't come away easily use the knife and cut down to the base trying to get some of the roots and as close to the mother plant as possible without damaging either plant. Pop the new pup into your existing garden or into a pot using a fibrous/woody mulch. You can leave the pups in a shaded area for a couple of days before potting up or re-planting in spring and summer and filling in any gaps.

### **PLANTING:**

Gauras, Coreopsis, Asters, chrysanthemums, cosmos, penstemons and solidago plantlets are coming through in profusion now and could be gently divided and planted elsewhere in the garden. Seedlings of zinnia, verbena, torenia and coleus can be popped in to continue the colour throughout spring and summer and fill in any gaps.



## *Jan's tips for October*

As we are enjoying the last of the cooler days, this is the last opportunity for any heavy work, and of course mulching. If it does rain this is a good opportunity to plant trees and shrubs. When looking for a suitable site for a tree or shrub, imagine how big the tree/shrub will be in 5 or 10 years time and ask yourself will it have enough room to grow to its full potential? Do you want that area in shade (if it grows tall) will it lose its leaves, how will it benefit and fit in with the other plants in that area? When you have selected the right site for the size and for the cultural requirements of the plant, dig a hole 2 to 3 times bigger than the pot and put water into the hole. I like to see how long it takes the water to drain from the hole, as this will tell you how good the drainage is. If the hole doesn't drain at all you will need to choose another site or put in a raised garden bed. Place the plant in the hole so that the plant is at the same level in the soil in the ground as it was in the pot. Fill in the hole with good friable soil or potting mix, add some mulch on the top and water in well. Keep the plant well watered until it is 'established', that is showing signs of new growth and vigour and looking happy.

Plants can tell us so much if we take the time to look and take note of changes that happen, particularly after planting. This is easily done because a newly planted shrub, tree or seedling needs to be watered constantly until established. If I am not sure of where to place a new plant, I will leave it in its pot and monitor it firstly in shade and then see how much sun/water it will take by moving it around in its pot. I may even re-pot it and try and find out as much as I can about the plant from other gardeners or books. Not only do we need to know which country a plant comes from, but also what sort of environment it thrives in, in that country. For instance it may come from a tropical country, but if it thrives 1000 meters up a mountain, its requirements could be sub-tropical, rain forest or dry alpine, growing on limestone rock or in leafy moist gullies.

If you have a plant that does not look happy in situ, move it. Some of my plants have been moved 2 or three times (preferably when they are small).

If you planted pansies, primulas or 'cold climate' spring bulbs, they will be starting to turn up their toes with the onset of the warmer weather. Replace these little gems with dianthus, lisianthus, nierembergers, torenias or verbenas, which will see you through the hot months. Don't cut back the foliage of the bulbs, as they need to re-generate for next year, give them some blood and bone and some mulch and leave them to die back.

### **JOBS TO DO:**

Cut back Salvias, Brillantasia, Poinsettias, Spiraea, Photinias, Banksia Rose and Eupatoriums that have finished flowering and deadhead roses. It is always wise to take cuttings of perennials or if you want more plants put in cuttings, pot them up and put them in a shady place and keep well watered. The Poinsettias will do better if they are left a week to dry out a bit. Early morning is the best time to take cuttings. Cut a piece of stem about 50 mm below a good node and cut the top of leaving a cutting about 30 cm long. Cut any leaves off the stem and place the node about 50mm below the level of the potting mix.

If we are lucky enough to get good rains fill in any gaps in the borders with cuttings taken earlier. Now is the time to plant Dahlia tubers and tree dahlia canes at the back of a border for an autumn display and coloured spinach, alteranthera and amaranth at front of the border to add colour to the garden.

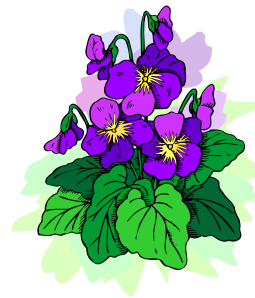
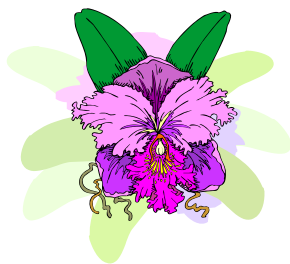
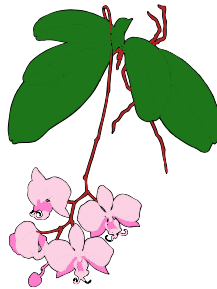


## *Jan's tips for October continued....*

### **ORCHIDS:**

Repot Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums Vandas and Oncidiums if they have outgrown their pots or the medium has broken down and they have finished flowering. I don't think it is a good idea to break orchids up. I keep re-potting them into the next size pot (Terracotta of course). Once the plant gets too big for its pot I start looking around to incorporate it into the garden. I did this a couple of years ago with some large Oncidium Sphacelatum. I put them in a sunny spot in the Bromeliad garden, raised up on logs in leaf mould and bark chips and they flower each November in their new location. In 2005 I saw Vandas grown in garden beds in Singapore in full sun. They were staked and in raised beds covered in sawdust. In 2006 I extended the Bromeliad garden and made an area on the Western side of the Bromeliad garden but the eastern side of the house. I put in shale rock and broken brick, placed my largest Vandas in and around stakes made of bamboo and then placed larger (about 15cms in diameter) sandstone rocks around their base. They have survived the winter and flowered. I water these lightly every morning and afternoon (before 4pm) in the late spring and summer and 2 or three times a week in the morning during the cooler weather.

Make sure that the Phalaenopsis, Hardcane dendrobiums and any small orchids are misted daily on the days that are hot and sunny. This should be done early in the morning



## *Jan's tips for November*

This is the month when our Spotted Gums make their presence known; they lose their bark and shed it everywhere. It is a small price to pay however as these 80ft giants are the pillars of our garden and being big it is hard not to notice their beautiful trunks changing colour throughout the year. At the moment their trunks are blue and the bark dropping off in bits and strips show off their white new skin, which will over summer turn to pink, then to back to blue over winter and the process starts all over again. The bark does add mulch to the lawn, as it is thin and easily crushed with the mower and of course to the gardens.

Some plants that we have planted for drought conditions e.g. *Plectranthus* (dog bane) and some succulents could become weedy, so it may be better to dig them out and put them in the rubbish bin before they become a nuisance.

The warmer temperatures and spring storms are a catalyst for the gingers to spring into action. The more tropical gingers are just making an appearance but the hardier ones are sending up new shoots everywhere like the beehive gingers, which have started producing their little beehives. Now is a good time to cut back the old brown shoots of gingers and heliconias as the new shoots are appearing. I cut the spent stems up and leave them around the plant to break down and add mulch. Most gingers enjoy some light shade and a lot of room around the base to send up the delightful spikes; the beehives look great in a vase arrangement and last for ages. The costas are a close relative of the ginger family and look good planted with gingers and palms giving an area a real tropical look especially teamed with bromeliads, cordylines and crotons to add a bit of colour throughout the whole year.

Another tropical plant, the *Calathea* and their close relatives the *Maranta* and *Stromanthe* will also be sending up new shoots after good rain and high humidity and their old leaves can also be cut right back allowing the lovely new foliage to unfurl and show off their beautiful markings.

The storms will prompt a profusion of Rain Lilies (*Habenaria*) to pop up everywhere and this is a reminder to plant more as they make such an impromptu delightful appearance after a heavy deluge of rain. I have planted some in front of the roses and in front of the borders, where they don't mind the dry front edge. Another good plant, tolerant of the front dry edge of the garden, which in my case edged with sandstone rocks, is Valerian (*Centranthus Ruber*). It is a darker pink than the Rain Lily but they compliment each other well. Of course the ivy pelargoniums ranging in colours from white through pink to burgundy have front edges. Lamb's ears are much happier in the dry but I have spread them around in front of the borders to form a nice clump of soft fluffy silver colour, which ties in with the more voluptuous silver *Artimesia* 'Powis Castle' which effervesces over the rocks and onto the lawn.

When looking for a front of a border plant, you can't go past Mondo Grass (*Ophiopogon*) for hardiness as an edging plant, either standard or miniature ranging in colours from black to variegated with leaf margins lined with cream. This plant is clump forming and is grown for its grass like appearance rather than its flowers. Easily propagated, now is the time to divide it and use it to define an edge in front of a border particularly in a tropical/rainforest area. Dahlias and Gladioli are starting to make an appearance and this should prompt us to pop in a couple of punnets of the dwarf Dahlia variety in any empty spots. Place a couple of small bamboo stakes to remind you where they are during winter (their dormant time) as they very reliably come back each spring. The Dahlias will take over when the Day Lilies finally finish their wonderful job of adding highlights throughout the garden. Day Lilies do this without any demands and increase each year with just a top dressing of mulch added to the beds in winter.

## *Jan's tips for November continued....*

Gladioli will give delightfully autumn colouring in April so pop in some more corms of them now towards the back of the garden.

Speaking of Lilies, this is a good time to spread some of those Asiatic Lilies around if you have a clump which has multiplied. I love the brilliant oranges, which compliment the yellow Day Lilies. Around the edge of a clump of Asiatic Lilies you will find some smaller 15-20 cm high ones which can be carefully separated from the clump, making sure you dig deep enough to get the bulb take a minimum of say 3 and plant them together in an area where they too will have room to spread.

Torenia's are a good annual for our climate giving purple, lilac, pink and white colour. Plant them en-masse in part to full sun and they will last until well into winter

When it comes to dry, you can't keep a good Agapanthus down. The ones I split up and planted en-masse in a new garden in March are flowering beautifully. I have put white ones beside the lagoon to highlight the water now that the irises have finished and blue in the bulb terrace garden. With the blue Agapanthus I have added drifts of yellow cosmos and planted red Pentas at the back to give a bright and cheery look.

The Roses appreciated the October rain. Roses are certainly the 'prima donnas' of the garden, demanding constant feeding and watering and of course the pruning in order to put on a show, but it makes it all worthwhile when you do get the blooms. A light dead heading will suffice to keep the blooms coming and the bushes healthy. Another feed of Blood and Bone with 10% sulphate of potash added now will give another flush for Christmas.

Look out for seedpods from frangipani, garlic vine, hippeastrums, day lilies, rain lilies and other trees and vines. These seeds can be thrown on top of mixture of peat and soil in a poly styrene box in the bush house and will give you extras to pop in the garden, giveaway or create a new area later on.

Keep an eye on the level of the ponds. The higher temperatures will mean greater evaporation, so you may need to top them up, if you have a rainwater tank. Arrowhead (*Sagittaria*) is sending out its long curving spikes of white flowers and unless you want a lot more clumps of Arrowhead in your pond, I would cut these off as close to the base of the plant as possible. If you have irises near your pond that have seeded, keep a close eye on the large seed pods. You can allow them to naturally seed in the pond or if you can place these pods in a large pot of sphagnum moss once the seedpods start looking a little dry and yellowing. Keep the pot in a shaded spot in the pond near the edge where you can keep your eye on them. Once they are about 15-30 cms high you can locate them on the edge of the pond, in a bog garden or simply a pot sitting in a saucer of water.

If the May bush (*Spiraea*), Banksia Rose, Eupatorium and Wisteria have finished flowering, this is a good time to prune all the stems that bore the flowers. This will not only tidy them up but also give you more flowers for next spring. The pink *Dombeya* has not stopped flowering since May, but I also cut it back now to tidy it up and give it a rest and chance to shoot for next season.

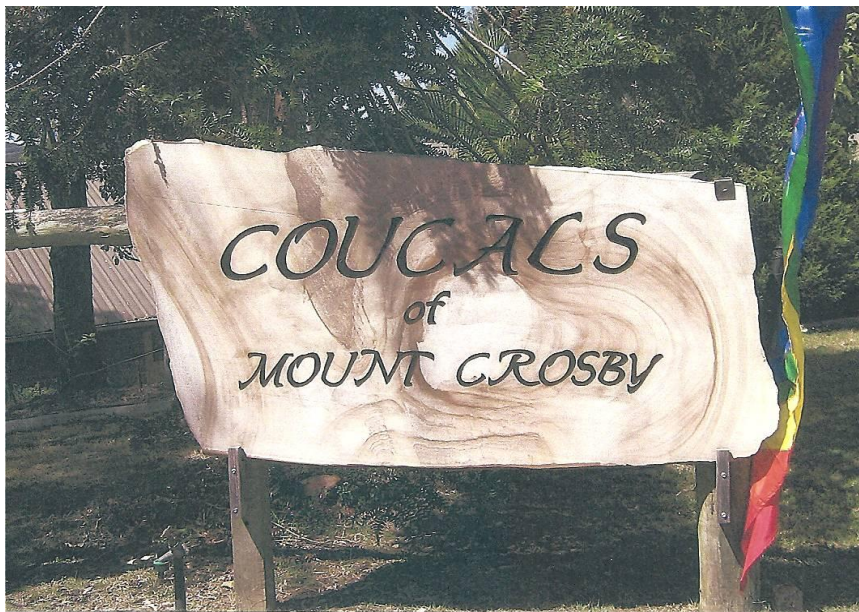
In November the Little Evodia springs into action and one may be forgiven for thinking it has suddenly caught some dreaded disease as all along its branches little nodules appear and slowly get bigger until they erupt into a profusion of pink blossoms which the nectar feeding birds love. Thank goodness this beautiful tree is only 'little' as the sight of this is easily seen at eye level. Even when not in bloom this is a delightful tree and I am constantly asked its name. Being a tropical from North Queensland it does not mind the dry.



## *Jan's tips for November continued....*

Orchids will need an eagle eye to find and destroy the Dendrobium beetle and mealy bug. The dendrobium beetle will be outside on flowers of Cattleya and Vanda and on the new leaves of Denbrobium speciosum. Mealy bug will be in the axes of Phalaenopsis, hard cane Dendrobiums and baby orchid plants. Pyrethrum spray will control both or you can squash Dendrobium beetles between your fingers. A cotton bud soaked in methylated spirits will also control mealy bug, a check every morning and evening for beetles at this time of year is advisable.

You may need to water the orchids morning and night (before 4pm) if the temperatures are staying above 30 degrees Celsius. All orchids should be putting out new growths and this is a good time to re-pot Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Vandas and Dendrobiums into one size larger pot if they have been in their existing pot for a couple of years. Some of the bigger Vandas and Cymbidiums I have planted out into a garden as an extension of the Bromeliad Garden, using rocks and bark as medium and they are putting out new shoots. The Oncidiums (dancing ladies) will be in flower by the middle of this month and can be kept in a pot or in a raised mulch bed with Bromeliads where they can really clump up to give a spectacular show.



# Recipes

## Mini Wellingtons

Sally Shaw

### Ingredients:

Pieces of very thickly cut fillet or rump steak  
Cracked pepper or pepper sauce  
Fried onions  
Mushrooms or smoked oysters  
Puff pastry

### Method:

1. Heat griller till very hot and brown steak quickly without cooking much. Let cool.
2. Trim off fat and cut into individual pieces.
3. Spread with cracked pepper or pepper sauce.
4. Top with fried onions and either mushrooms or smoked oysters.
5. Wrap each piece in sheet of puff pastry.
6. Bake in 200° oven till pastry is cooked.
7. Serve with gravy and vegetables.

\*\*\*\*

## Curried Prawn, Beef or Chicken

Annette Jones

### Ingredients:

1 onion	2 tablespoons margarine	prawns, beef
½ capsicum	2 teaspoons curry powder	or chicken
1 stick celery	1 pkt cream of chicken soup	
1 grated carrot	½ cup water	
½ cup peas	2 cups milk	

### Method:

1. Sauté onion, capsicum, chopped celery, and carrot in margarine.
2. Stir in curry powder.
3. Mix together soup, water and milk and add to other ingredients.
4. Add cooked peas and then prawns, cooked beef or cooked chicken.

## How to make Buttermilk or sour milk - from Annette Jones book of hints

1 ½ tablespoons vinegar or lemon juice, plus enough fresh milk to make 1 cup, let stand for 5 minutes before using.

# Recipes

## Meat Loaf

Wyn Peggie - Preparation time 5 minutes, Cooking time  
1 hour, Serves 4.

### Ingredients:

12 rindless bacon rashers  
1 kg lean beef mince  
4 eggs  
1 cup breadcrumbs  
2 brown onions finely spiced  
2 carrots peeled and grated  
1 cup grated mozzarella cheese  
1 bunch parsley finely chopped  
¼ cup teriyaki sauce, ¼ cup tomato paste  
Juice of 2 lemons  
Salt and pepper to taste

### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 170° C. Using either two 1 litre loaf tins or one 2 litre tin, arrange the bacon rashers in the tin/s so they are overlapping. The rashers will hang over the sides of the tin.
2. Mix mince, eggs, breadcrumbs, onion, carrot along with the remainder of the ingredients, then place in tin, bring overlapped rashers back over mince and place a piece of foil over the top, place in oven to cook.

Note: Any left overs make a great sandwich the next day.

\*\*\*\*

## Waldorf Salad

Robyn Batton

### Ingredients:

3 cup diced apples  
½ cup chopped celery  
½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans  
¼ cup raisins  
½ teaspoon lemon peel  
¼ teaspoon dry mustard  
¼ teaspoon ginger  
1/8 teaspoon mace  
Dash cardamom  
2 teaspoons lemon juice  
½ cup mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon light cream

### Method:

1. Place diced apples, celery, nuts & raisins in a bowl.
2. Combine the remaining ingredients, pour over apple mixture and toss.
3. Serve in lettuce cups if desired

# Recipes

## Pasta Bake

Robyn Batton

### Ingredients:

1 small pkt spiral pasta cooked (can use any preferred pasta)  
1 jar Bertolli Sun Dried Tomato and Sweet Basil sauce  
1 – 2 cups mushrooms sliced  
1 onion finely chopped  
125 grams diced ham or bacon (approx)  
1 cup tasty cheese grated  
1 cup mozzarella cheese grated  
Cherry tomatoes halved  
Olive oil or butter  
Salt and pepper to taste

### Method:

1. Place cooked pasta into a casserole dish.
2. Lightly sauté onion, mushrooms and ham or bacon in a little oil or butter.
3. Remove from pan and mix through pasta along with sauce mix and tasty cheese.
4. Sprinkle mozzarella cheese over the top of the pasta and decorate with halved cherry tomatoes.
5. Bake in moderate oven until cheese has melted and started to brown.

Note: Serve with Garlic or Herb bread and a tossed salad

\*\*\*\*

## Fig Chutney

Wyn Peggie

### Ingredients:

250 grams fresh or dried figs, chopped  
1 orange peeled and chopped  
½ cup raisins  
1/3 cup cider vinegar  
¼ cup water  
1 tablespoon brown sugar  
1 teaspoon grated ginger

### Method:

1. Place figs, orange, raisins, vinegar, water, sugar and ginger in a saucepan.
2. Cook stirring occasionally over a low heat for 20 minutes (longer for fresh figs)
3. Transfer mixture to a warm sterilised jar.
4. Seal and label when cold. Store in the refrigerator until required.

Note: A delicious accompaniment to cold meats or cheese. Make about 2 cups.

# Recipes

## Maryian's Sweet Potato Loaf

Maryian Jack

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup cooked, mashed sweet potato
- 2 cups self-raising flour
- ½ cup Bran
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1 cup seed dated chopped
- 1 tablespoon treacle

### Method:

1. Blend all ingredients together and then add 1 cup warm water.
2. Mix well and cook in a loaf tin in a moderate oven for 40 minutes.



*Friendship is a plant which must often be watered.*

## Health Slice

Carmel Blackburn

### Ingredients:

- ¾ cup raw sugar
- ¾ cup desiccated coconut
- 1½ cup sultanas
- 1 cup wholemeal self-raising flour
- 4 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 eggs
- Nutmeg or cinnamon

### Method:

1. Mix all dry ingredients except the nutmeg or cinnamon.
2. Make a well and add melted butter, eggs and mix thoroughly.
3. Spread mixture on greased slice tray and sprinkle with either cinnamon or nutmeg.
4. Bake in a moderate oven 180 -200°C for approx. 20 -25 minutes.

*“A favourite of the birds” means to avoid planting near cars, footpaths, or clotheslines.”*

# Recipes

## Continental Cherry Slice

Marg King

### Ingredients:

250 grams (8oz) wheatmeal biscuits

½ cup sugar

1 egg

½ cup coconut

125 grams (4oz) melted butter

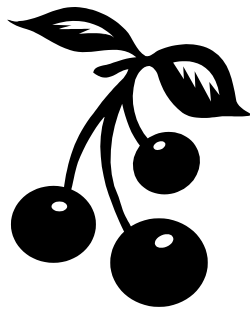
Filling: 2 cans pitted sour cherries

250 grams (8oz) cooking chocolate

300ml carton cream

### Method:

1. Crush biscuits.
2. Add sugar and coconut.
3. Add beaten egg and butter.
4. Press into large slab tin.
5. Bake in moderate oven for 30 minutes. Cool.
6. Drain cherries well and place over base.
7. Chop chocolate and melt in double saucepan or microwave.
8. Add cream and continue to cook for 10 minutes, stirring until mixture is very smooth and slightly thickened.
9. Pour over cherries and spread evenly over base.
10. Set in refrigerator and cut next day.



*Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.*

*The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.*

*There is always music amongst the flowers and trees in the garden,  
But our hearts must be very quiet to hear it.*

## Poems

### *The Gloom of an Old Gardener - by Joh Matulich*

*The worst thing about growing old  
Is seeing my friends who have sold  
Their souls to the Devil of Disease.  
As their bodies wear out inevitable,  
They lose their old identity  
And become the sickness that assails them.  
Like my lovely friend Louise  
Who is now just a pair of swollen knees.*

*And dare-devil Jim  
Who climbed Alps and stood on the rim  
Of a seething volcano,  
Faced dangers galore,  
But not any more ----  
He's thrown in the towel  
and sadly become his lower bowel.*

*I thought I'd visit my old friend Simone  
Who's witty and bright and well known  
For the way she tells a funny story.  
But alas! All I heard was a gory  
Account of her recent operation.  
So now she's Mrs. Triple Bypass  
On multi-medication, too serious to laugh.*

*So I think I'll stay home  
and try not to groan  
When my back starts to ache  
As I lean on the rake,  
and my heart gives a flutter  
When I clean out the gutter,  
Which is just a reminder  
Not to become poor Mrs. Angina.*



## Poems

*Pat's Poem - submitted by Pat Kelly*

*If you want to be happy for a day or so –  
Then join in the fun of the passing show.  
Eat and be merry – dance and sing,  
Follow the music and have your fling.  
You will find many pleasures along the way –  
If you want to be happy for just a day.*

*If you want to be happy for years not hours,  
Then get you a garden and grow some flowers -----  
A garden to love, year in and year out  
For there you will find as time goes by –  
A joy that will last till the day you die.*



*Step into My Garden - submitted by Maryian Jack – author unknown*

*Step into my garden, step in and you will see,  
A measure of peace and tranquillity.*

*It's the scent of the blossoms, the buss of the bees,  
The sweet song of birds, as they sing in the trees.*

*The sweet scent of roses, their petals so new.  
As they glisten and sparkle, with the fresh morning dew.*

*Run your toes through the grass, beneath a canopy of trees.  
Hear the rustle of leaves as they blow in the breeze.*

*Let the beauty of Springtime fill your soul with great peace.  
Take it with you and share it with each one you meet.*





## *The Rhyme of the Ancient Gardener*

*(with apologies to Samuel 5*

*It was an ancient gardener  
Who rang me for advice.  
He'd had a bit of trouble with  
A horde of pesky mice.*

*They'd found his shredded paper  
He'd been saving to compost,  
And made themselves a lovely nest  
To keep away the frost.*



*And Mum had given birth to eight  
Or maybe even more,  
They crawled around his shed and even  
Fouled his garage floor.*

*But this was not the reason  
That he rang me for a chat,  
For he was not afraid  
Of these small cousins of the rat.*

*'Twas t'other piece of fauna  
they attracted to his yard,  
a mighty Monty Python  
who'd inspired this here bard.*



*It curled itself inside a stack  
of pots he'd yet to fill,  
And scared the poor old geezer so  
I'm sure he's shaking still.*

*It also spread its dubious charm  
To neighbours left and right,  
And our old friend heard chilling screams*

*Now neighbours girls and gardener's guests  
Refuse to leave the house,  
And you should hear the language  
That poured forth from gardener's spouse.*

*So gardener felt he had to act  
To free the damsels fair,  
Who voluntarily were locked  
Inside the python's lair.*

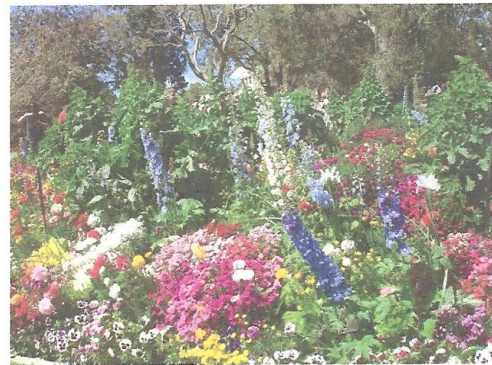
*He swallowed fear and faced the beast  
Armed with his trusty spade,  
And slammed it down where he was sure  
Had been the carpet jade.*

*But oh alas! The snake had fled  
He'd be no target ripe!  
And gardener's tool came down with force  
And broke the sewerage pipe!*

*Water ,water, everywhere  
And all the ground did stink  
Water, water, everywhere  
Nor any drop to drink!*

*Now two months on the mice had gone  
And Monty vanished too,  
But look at what has sprung up where  
Escaped that awful poo.*

*A garden fair with flowers bright  
where none had been before  
And pythons now are favoured guests  
outside our gardener's door.*



## *Hints for the Garden*

Jan's lists of Salvias that grow well in this area (Karana Downs, Mt. Crosby etc)

### *Salvias*

Yellow	<i>Salvia Africana lutea</i>
Purple with purple calyxes 2 m	<i>Salvia Black Knight</i>
Mauve with grey foliage	<i>Salvia canariensis</i>
Apricot – annual seeds okay	<i>Salvia coccinea 'coral nymph'</i>
White – annual seeds okay	<i>Salvia coccinea 'white'</i>
Red	<i>Salvia confertiflora</i>
Blue flowers in autumn only to 2m	<i>Salvia Costa Rican Blue</i>
Purple	<i>Salvia Desley</i>
Purple with green calyxes grey foliage	<i>Salvia discolor</i>
Pink - Fruit Salad Sage	<i>Salvia dorisiana</i>
Mealy Sage White and Blue	<i>Salvia farinacea</i> treat as annual
Cerise	<i>Salvia gravida</i>
Red	<i>Salvia gesneriiflora</i>
Pink	<i>Salvia greggii 'lara'</i>
Yellow	<i>Salvia greggii yellow</i>
Blue with black calyxes	<i>Salvia guarantica 'Black &amp; Blue'</i>
Blue - a hybrid of farinacea	<i>Salvia Indigo Spires</i>
Pink	<i>Salvia Involucrata 'Bethelii'</i>
Pink smaller bunches but more of them	<i>Salvia Involucrata 'Joan'</i>
Pink	<i>Salvia Involucrata 'Mulberry Jam'</i>
Pale Pink	<i>Salvia Involucrata 'Pink Icicles'</i>
Darker pink 2-3m	<i>Salvia Involucrata x Karwinskii</i>
Salvia Pink	<i>Salvia Iodantha</i>
Mauve/Purple	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>
Yellow	<i>Salvia Madrensis</i>
Blue	<i>Salvia Marine Blue</i>
Mauve	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i>
Scarlet Red	<i>Salvia miniata</i>
Pink fluffy	<i>Salvia oxyphora</i>
Mauve/white - darker form of Waverly	<i>Salvia Phyllis' Fancy</i>
Pink	<i>Salvia spathacea</i>
White to pink to purple - many crosses	<i>Salvia splendens</i>
A large splendens hybrid all colours	<i>Salvia van Houtii</i>
Purple 30cm ground cover for roses	<i>Salvia verticillata 'purple rain'</i>
Pink 2-3 m	<i>Salvia Wagneriana</i>
Mauve and white form of Phyllis' fancy	<i>Salvia Waverly</i>
Cerise pink 50 cm	<i>Salvia x jamensis 'Raspberry Royale'</i>

# *Hints for the Garden*

## *Roses*

Jan's lists of Roses that grow well in Karana Downs, Mt. Crosby area

Abraham Darby	Pink DA Rose
A Shropshire Lad	Apricot DA Rose
Bewitched	Pink
Bonica	Pale-pink cluster
Boule de Neige	Cream Bourbon
Burgundy Iceberg	Burgundy bush
Cecile de Brunner	Cream
Crepiscule	Climbing Noisette - small yellow cluster
Crocus Rose	Small bush DA Cream
Duchesse de Brabant	Pink Bourbon Shrub
Duet	Carmine Pink
Evelyn	Pink DA rose
Graham Thomas	Tall DA Yellow
John Clare	Pink DA
Lamarque	Cream Climber
Leander	Apricot DA pillar
Lorraine Lee	Pink Climber
Mme Antoine Maree	Pink
Mme Gregoire Staechelin	Pink Climbing
Mme Isaac Pereire	Carmine Bourbon
Mme Pierre Oger	Pale pink Bourbon
Mistress Quickly	Pink cluster DA
Molineux	Yellow DA small bush
Mrs B R Cant	Pink Old Tea
Pat Austin	Orange DA
Pegasus	Apricot cluster DA bush
Perle de Jardins	Lemon double
Pierre de Ronsard	Climber double pale pink
Rosa banksiae 'Lutea'	Yellow Climbing
Rozette delizy	Yellow to pink old tea
St Cecelia	Pink DA
St Swithuns	Pink DA
Sally Holmes	Cream single
Seafoam	White climbing small white clusters
Sophies Rose	Medium bush DA Crimson
Souvenir de la malmaison	Pale pink Bourbon
Tamora	Apricot DA small bush
Vol de Nuit	Mauve Floribunda

## *Hints for the Garden*

### *Sprays and other Remedies for the Control of Pests, Diseases and other Weeds.*

- Mildew on Lavender – to stop, sprinkle with lime
- Powdery Mildew prevention: spray weekly with 3 level teaspoons of bicarb of soda in 4 ½ litres of water.
- Blackspot and Mildew Prevention: Alternate with carb. soda mix (above) and Condy's Crystals spray: 5 grams of Condy's with 5 litres of water, used at once.
- Blackspot, Brown Patch and other fungal diseases: Make a mixture of 5 teaspoons of bi-carb. soda in 4 litres water and 1 litre of liquid soap (to act as a surfactant.) Spray the affected plants.
- White Fly: Hang strips of yellow paper covered with Vaseline in the garden.
- Black Beetle: To kill Black Beetle on Hibiscus, spray with diluted solution of dog flea shampoo.
- Pest barrier for tomato plants: Spray a weak mixture of baking soda around your tomato plants to keep away pests. It also lowers the acid in your crop, keeping them sweet and juicy.
- Pest Barrier for you favourite plants: Pour a continuous line of baking soda around the pest's favourite plants – they'll avoid the alkalinity like the plague.
- Prevent caterpillars eating your favourite plants: Sprinkle with white pepper, also cayenne should keep them away.
- Weeds in your pathways: To prevent tedious weeding, sprinkle paths with kerosene or salt.
- Weeds in concrete cracks and brick pathways: Another remedy is to sprinkle a generous amount of baking soda over the areas and then sweep the powder into the cracks. The sodium will prevent the grasses and weeds from growing.
- Weeds in paving cracks and driveways: Yet another remedy to get rid of those pesky weeds is to spray with a mixture of water and vinegar or salt water. Make sure you don't spray your plants, or they will suffer the same fate.
- Newspaper keeps the weeds away: As you start planting seedlings etc, wet newspapers and place in layers around the plants, overlapping as you go. cover with mulch and forget about the weeds.
- Garlic spray – make your own: Combine 3 cloves of crushed garlic with 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil and leave overnight to soak. Strain the mixture and add to 1 litre of water and 1 teaspoon of liquid soap. Use full strength, shake before use and spray regularly. It can be bottled and stored in a cool area. Beware – it can cause damage to good insects and bugs so care is needed.
- Companion planting: Garlic is probably the most useful companion plant available; grow it randomly around the garden. It will help protect tomatoes from red spider, and roses from aphids and black spot. Garlic spray can be used against ants, spiders, caterpillars, aphids, cabbage moth and mosquitoes. Do not grow garlic near strawberries, cabbages, peas or beans. Thyme – should be planted in odd corner of the garden as it attracts bees and is generally of benefit to neighbouring plants. Lavender is of general benefit to the garden as it is very attractive to bees and butterflies, but will deter fly and beetle pests.

# *Hints for the Garden*

## *Garden Pots, Cleaning Bird Baths, Removing Moss, Trouble with Ants:*

- Prevent Ceramic or Terra-cotta garden pots from oxidising: Spray with WD40
- Rejuvenate scratched garden pots: Cover with a thick paste of baking soda and water. Let it stand and wash it off. The scratch won't be as obvious.
- Cleaning scummy birdbaths: Give them a simple clean every so often by sprinkling with ½ cup of baking soda and scrubbing with an old kitchen scrubber. Wash out the residue and refill as usual.
- Removing moss from concrete: Apply neat methylated spirits with a stiff brush and scrub.
- Ants causing you trouble: Place small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. they eat it, take it "home," can't digest it and it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains. It will not harm small children or pets.
- Another remedy for ants: Tip baking soda over the area early in the morning or just after rain, wait ½ an hour, then pour some vinegar over the same area.

## *Water Saving Ideas, Tonics for Plants, Gardening Equipment.*

- Save the water from boiling vegetables, let it cool and use to water indoor plants or garden pots.
- Save the water from boiling eggs to water your plants as it contains nutrients, but wait for it to cool down first.
- Water your garden in the evening or early morning; this lessens evaporation.
- Save the water when cooking spaghetti or potatoes, let it cool and water your plants with it; they love starch.
- Prevent wasting water with hanging pot plants overflowing: Place a piece of sponge at the bottom.
- Worn-out household sponges are excellent drainage material and help hold moisture in bottoms of pot plants.
- Tonic for indoor plants: Give them a drop of olive oil once a week. It makes them grow faster and gives the leaves a glossier green.
- Tonic for ferns: Weak tea is a good tonic for ferns, use once a week. Another tonic is a weak solution of ammonia, which adds nitrogen.
- WD40 is magic on gardening equipment: Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades and other tools. Lubricates gearshift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on rider mowers.
- Sharpening a spade: Use a file to sharpen a spade on the bevel edge of the surface only: a few light strokes of the front of the blade will have it cutting like new.

*A Gardener's Prayer.  
Lord give me the tenacity and  
Determination of a weed!*



# *Hints for the Garden*

*Mulch:* by Carmel Blackburn.

- Chook pens can be strewn with old hap to keep the ground drier on wet days and then this can be used on your garden beds, fully fertilised by the hens. Leave a few weeks before using, to enable to manure to age.

*Fertiliser:* by Sally Shaw.

- Save your left over tealeaves from the teapot as a fertiliser for your garden. Tea is especially good for roses, azaleas, violets, hydrangeas and even parsley and passionfruit. Loosen the soil and sprinkle the leaves around the plant.

*How to make a Garden when the Soil is Unmanageable.* by Sue Lees.

I have done this a few times and it works well. For a single tree, enclose the area with straw bales either whole or cut in half. Loosen the soil inside as much as you can, then top with gypsum. If there are weeks you can put newspaper on top. Then fill the enclosure with a bag of horse manure, some imported soil compost, worm castings and some worms, food scraps and lawn clippings.

Continue to add to the layers over a period of time – it can take up to six months. By that time you can plant into it and you have a friable soil. You then use the composted straw bales around the plant. You don't need to water this, the straw bales keep it moist.

*Managing our Worm Farm.* by Sue Lees.

We made a worm farm from three deep plastic crates bought at Bunnings. They sit inside each other and holes were put in the two top ones. We also put a tap in the bottom one.

In the middle one I put some straw just so they had something to hide in when they travel up and down. In the top one I started it with a mixture of lawn clippings, sand, soil and compost. I put an old damp hessian bag on top.

I don't chop everything up for food but am careful what I give them. They love watermelon or rock melon, they bunch up under the skins. Also avocado, bad tomatoes and pumpkin. I don't give dairy products as they attract flies – also they don't like citrus or onions.

Every few months I put the food only on one side. After a while they migrate to that side, then I use the worm castings on the other side (now free of worms) in the garden. When I've used that up, I put in fresh material. This stops the farm from going stale. Sometimes I put in Dolomite to sweeten it and water it when it gets too dry.

Compost worms don't do well in the garden so I only put them in my compost bin. The worm juice, I break down to about one to ten and use it in the garden or for pots. Having a worm farm is easy to do and gives lots of benefits in the garden.



*All Gardens are a form of Autobiography*

# *Hints for the Garden*

***Grey Water:*** by Dept. of Natural Resources booklet – Waterwise Gardening with Grey Water.

- Plants that tolerate grey water are: bird of paradise, melaleuca, dietes, lirioppe, yucca and hibiscus.
- Plants that don't tolerate grey water are: grevillea, bougainvillea, camellias, lavender, herbs, ferns, citrus, azaleas and vegetable seedlings.

***Old Batteries:*** by Betty Levenspiel.

Placing old batteries round your hydrangea helps them to maintain their blue colour.

***Coffee Grounds for your Garden:*** from Starbucks Coffee, via Kerry Faber.

- Coffee grounds can be applied directly to your garden as a top dressing to nitrogen loving plants like azaleas, lettuce, most perennials and allium plants. Adding brown material such as leaves and dried grass to the mulch will help balance the nutrition of your soil.
- Mixing grounds in your compost: Coffee grounds act as a green material and combined with browns such as leaves and straw, coffee grounds generate heat and will speed up the compost process.
- Using coffee grounds in your worm bin: Worms fed with coffee grounds and other vegetarian materials will flourish.

***Unused Plastic Garden Pots:*** by Merrell Mackay. Merrell was the first person to submit an item for our book.

- Cut the bottom out of the plastic pot.
- Upend the bottomless pot over seedlings or small plants in the garden. The same process could be used with larger pots and plants. The plastic pot will protect the plant while it becomes established.

Note: These pots protect Merrell's plants from the neighbour's chooks.

***A home for green frogs*** - Merrell has found her self-watering hanging baskets have become homes for lots of beautiful green frogs. She doesn't over water the plants at all, but the frogs just love the cool surroundings.



*What sunshine is to flowers, Smiles are to humanity*



# *Hints for the Home*

***Goodbye Fruit Flies:*** from Betty Levenspiel

To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass, add ½ inch of apple cider vinegar & 2 drops of dish washing liquid, mix well. You will find those flies are drawn to the cup where they drown and are gone.

***Storing Gardening Gloves:*** from Margaret Walker an extract from Lady Flo Bjelke Petersen's Classic Country Collection.

Fold the tops of gardening gloves over twice and secure with a clothes peg. It keeps out any creepy crawlies.

***Rust Stains:*** from Annette Jones

To clean a rust stain from a bath, make a paste of cream of tartar and peroxide about the consistency of toothpaste, spread over the stain and scrub with a stiff brush. Rinse well in clear water.

***Cleaning Golf Irons, Deodorizing Golf, Gym Bags and Shoes:***

Sprinkle baking soda into golf or gym bags and shoes to deodorize them. Leave them a while and then shake it out. Also to clean your golf irons without scratching them, make up a paste of baking soda and water, apply and rub off with a soft sponge.

## *Car Care*

***Battery Acid:*** Neutralize battery acid quickly in case of spills with baking soda. The soda kills off the acidic enzymes and will stop any further damage from the acid on paintwork, clothes and even the skin. Make sure you rinse with fresh water quickly.

***Scuff marks:*** If you have a scuff mark on your car bumper, a damp cloth, a little work & plenty of baking soda will take it off without scratching the body work.

***Tar:*** To remove tar from car paintwork gently rub with eucalyptus oil.

Another remedy for removing road tar and grime from cars is to spray with WD 40.



*Friends are the flowers in the garden of life!*





# *Hints for the Home*

## *Cleaning*

### *Paint Brushes* - Joan Jones

If your brushes are still coated in old paint.....don't throw them out. They can be cleaned. Dissolve 150gm of washing soda in hot water and soak the brushes, working the solution through the bristles. It's also a good way to clean the brushes after you paint.

***Brass Cleaner:*** Mix up a paste of flour, salt and vinegar. Apply paste and then rub off with a clean cloth.

***Soil Stained Hands:*** Clean soil stained hands by rubbing some olive oil and sugar between your palms.

***Getting the most out of your Washing Detergent:*** Dissolve your washing detergent in water before you add it to your clothes, otherwise the wash cycle will be half over by the time the detergent starts to do its job.

### *Cleaning Hints with Lemons:* from Sally Shaw

- Halve a lemon and put it in an upright holder in your dishwasher – it smells fresh, helps cut grease and is far more eco-friendly than plastic lemon shaped fresheners.
- Remove lime scale from draining boards and tops – use half a lemon to rub over stainless steel draining boards and tops - leave a minute, rinse and shine with a dry cloth.
- Clean a bench top – just mix lemon and salt, rinse & shine.
- Remove garlic, onion or fish odour from your hands by rubbing them with a piece of lemon coated in salt.
- Mix lemon juice and baking soda for an effective stain remover - it even removes stains from berries, beets or ink from hands and clothes.
- Clean copper pots or remove rust stains with half a lemon dipped in salt.
- Keep insects away from stored clothing by using dried lemon rind.

### *Cut Flowers:*

Add sugar to the water of strong smelling flowers, such as marigolds, to remove the strong odour, while dropping a piece of charcoal into the water will keep it sweet.

### *Home Remedies:* Margaret Walker, Kerry Faber, WD 40

- If you have a prickle or splinter which is difficult to remove, using Ichthammol ointment overnight will draw the most stubborn prickle out by morning. The ointment is an old fashioned one, but still available from chemists.
- Rub eucalyptus oil into arthritic joints – knees etc.
- Arthritis sufferers spray WD40 onto their arms, hands, and knees for pain relief.

# *Hints for the Home*

*More WD40 Home Cleaning & Maintenance Hints:* from Margaret Walker

- Protects silver from tarnishing.
- Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
- Restores and cleans chalkboards.
- Removes lipstick stains
- Loosens stubborn zippers.
- Untangles jewellery chains.
- Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
- Removes tomato stains from clothing.
- Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- Keeps scissors working smoothly.
- Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes.
- Removes splattered grease on stove.
- Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
- Removes all traces of duct tape.
- WD 40 is great for removing crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean rag.
- Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.

n.b. The basic ingredient of WD 40 is fish oil.

*To get real enjoyment out of a garden,  
Put on a straw hat, dress in old clothes,  
Hold a trowel in one hand,  
A cool drink in the other, and  
Tell the man where to dig.*



# *Etiquette*

*Following are some lovely reminders of times gone by, but hopefully never forgotten or passed over. These items are taken from lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen's Classic Country Collection & submitted by Margaret Walker.*

## **A Good Restaurant:**

A good restaurant will only have prices on the menus supplied to the men.

## **Car:**

The gentleman always opens the door for a lady to enter first, then, should alight first and open the door for the lady on arrival at the destination.

## **Giving Up Your Seat:**

A gentleman should always give up his seat for a lady, or an elderly man. A young woman or man should give up his or her seat to the elderly.

## **Introductions:**

When introducing a person, always introduce by their title, ie. Mr. John Brown or Mrs. John Brown. An acquaintance should be called by surname, unless invited to do otherwise. If a man is sitting down, he should always stand when being introduced.

## **Mail:**

When addressing envelopes a married lady should be addressed by her husband's initials and surname. Any person under 16 years should be addressed as Master or Miss.

## **Plates:**

Plates from each course are only removed when everyone has finished eating.

All plates are placed at the left-hand side of the person being served and are removed from the right.

## **Seating:**

The ladies are always placed on the right-hand side of a gentleman at the dinner table. This was to enable the gentleman on her left to be in attendance to her using his right hand. When a lady arrives at a table, the men should stand, and the nearest man assist her with her chair. This also applies when she leaves the table.

## **Walking in the Street:**

A gentleman always walks on the kerbside of the woman. This is an old custom carried over from the days of unformed streets and the gentleman protecting the lady from being splashed by the carriages passing by.

## **When on a First Date:**

On a first date, or having a business meal, the lady may offer to pay for half of the meal.

*To have ideas is to  
gather flowers.*



*To think is to weave  
them into garlands.*

# Acknowledgements

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*How about this*

**T**O polish bronze ware, rub over with a mixture of machine oil and olive oil, then polish with a soft clean cloth.—Mrs Simpson, Nyngan, N.S.W.

\* \* \*

**W**HEN moving into a new house, temporary shelves can be erected quickly by placing two bricks, one on top of the other, at each end of the space available, and balancing a shelf on them. Several further tiers can be raised in the same way, and you can vary the space between them by using a different number of bricks.—Mrs J. Cole, Orchard Hills, via Penrith, N.S.W.

\* \* \*

**L**ET the children wear rubber gloves when it's their turn for washing up. They think it's fun, and the water can be hotter than their hands can normally bear.—Mrs J. Lack, Thirroul, N.S.W.

\* \* \*

**W**HEN flowers are scarce, members of the succulent family make attractive substitutes. In a suitable container, place several lumps of charcoal (to keep the water sweet), add water and arrange the succulents. They will send out roots and will grow in the water for months.—Mrs N. McKilligan, Junee, N.S.W.

\* \* \*

**T**O prevent garage doors from closing while backing the car out, get two 12in "T" gate hinges. Fasten one to the bottom of each door with the long piece trailing on the floor as the doors are pushed open. The hinge-tips will dig into the ground if the doors tend to shut. A piece of wire or cord is fastened to a screw hole in the trailing hinge and its other end to the door, about waist high, to release when closing.—W. G. Scott, Springwood, N.S.W.

\* \* \*

**W**HEN threading rope or string through a relatively small hole, bind the end with a short length of sticky tape. This forms a firm point and prevents unravelling.—Mrs B. Dawson, Cremorne Point, N.S.W.

\* \* \*

**B**EFORE painting wood-work, coat door-knobs and locks with petroleum jelly. Paint splashes will wipe off easily. This also applies to windows.—Mrs A. McCall, Eastwood, N.S.W.

\* \* \*

**B**EFORE drilling in a cement-rendered (or plaster) wall, place an "X" of sticky tape over the spot to be drilled. It prevents plaster falling away and leaves a clean edge.—J. Kuipet, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.

\* \* \*

**T**O quieten and comfort a fretting puppy at night (one just weaned from its mother) wrap a clock with a loud tick in an old sock or soft cloth and put it in the box with the puppy. It will think the ticking clock is its mother's heart beating and will settle down and stay quiet. (A hot-water bottle is handy, too.)—Mrs M. G. Chapman, Cronulla, N.S.W.

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"101 handy uses  
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Your paint or hardware store has stocks of our well-known one-pint cans of Raw or Pale Boiled Linseed Oil with non-drip pourer. Get a can so you'll be ready to make full use of its uses.



*God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done.*