

# Glebe Garden Club (Ipswich)

## September - October 2015 Newsletter



### October Meeting

Our planned guest speaker for this month unfortunately wasn't feeling well and was unable to give his presentation on native bees. As many people were looking forward to this, we shall be getting Russell back again soon to speak on this topic. Luckily, our good friend Chelsea van Rijn from Trevallan Lifestyle Centre was a willing and able substitute, stepping in at short notice to help us out of a pickle. (Thank you Chelsea!)

Chelsea gave a tremendously interesting talk covering a range of subjects. The dreaded fruit fly was the first topic that held us all enthralled. She spoke on the lifecycle of the fruit fly and some of the various methods of control and extermination. Next was the importance of soil wetters and fertilisers, with now being a good time to treat your lawns, gardens and pots. She then showed us some of the new-release plants and perennial seedlings, followed by the new selections of mixed punnets of herbs and vegetables now available. A most enjoyable presentation with great questions afterwards!

Our Show and Tell segment this month was given by Judy Nicholls who brought in a green bat plant and some Tillandsias (air plants) which she had

expertly attached onto wreaths, one of which doubled as a Christmas decoration with the addition of some fairy lights. Most impressive and a good craft project to try.



*Chelsea van Rijn speaking on the lifecycle of the fruit fly and methods of control. The colour yellow attracts both male and female fruit flies.*



*Judy Nicholls with her 'Show and Tell' Tillandsias crafted onto wreaths for display and her green bat plant.*

### 2016 Club Function Program

It's that time of year when we are busy trying to put together next years function program and book our guest speakers for 2016. You, our members are an integral part of this and we need your input! During our October meeting, David introduced a handout sheet that asked for your suggestions. These included topics that you would like to hear about and/or potential guest speakers. We would also like your ideas for next years bus trip locations. Although the cutoff date for submissions was 16<sup>th</sup> October, you may be able to sneak your ideas in if you see David at our November meeting, call him on 3288 8467 or email them to [secretary@glebegardenclubipswich.com.au](mailto:secretary@glebegardenclubipswich.com.au)

### Friendship Days

#### Forest Lake Area Garden Group By Lee Martin

It was my pleasure to attend and represent our club, along with David and Desleigh Murphy, at the Forest Lake Area Garden Group (FLAGG) Friendship day. It was the first time I had attended such an event and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Upon entry we were greeted



with a newsletter, a beautiful corsage, a choice of seed packet and raffle tickets, followed by morning tea and a generous plant and craft stall.

The first feature presentation was from Wendy Skelton from Just Geraniums. Wendy gave an informative talk on Geranium care, disease control and how to make geranium jellies and pot pourri, which she then demonstrated with a selection of scented geraniums. There were certainly some wonderful aromas floating around the room!

Next was a demonstration in floral art with four stunning arrangements, each representing a particular season. These were later auctioned after the raffle draw.

The function concluded with a delicious lunch and a slice of Birthday cake, as the Forest Lake club was also celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thank you to FLAGG for an enjoyable day and wishing the club a very Happy Birthday.



*Wendy Skelton demonstrating how to make scented geranium pot pourri.*



*The autumn floral arrangement*

The Halloween tradition of carving pumpkins originated hundreds of years ago in Ireland.



Back then, jack-o-lanterns were made out of turnips or potatoes. It wasn't until Irish immigrants arrived in America and discovered the pumpkin that a new Halloween ritual was born.

### **Logan City & District Garden Club By David Murphy**

On 15<sup>th</sup> September, Desleigh and I attended the Logan City Garden Club Friendship Day. The guest speaker was once again Kevin Willcock, a florist, who was the guest speaker at a recent Friendship Day at the Beenleigh Garden Club. The event was well represented by members of many garden clubs from the Brisbane and surrounding areas. Attending these events, one gets to know many people from other garden clubs who attend these functions all the time. We have also found out by attending these functions, many clubs hold the Glebe Garden Club in high esteem, and often talk about the Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo.

As was the case at the Beenleigh Garden club, Kevin Willcock created many different arrays of floral presentations which were auctioned off to the members during the event. While the arrays of flowers Kevin created were brilliant, we didn't think they were quite the same calibre as those that he had created at the Beenleigh Garden Club, however; he was once again outstanding in his presentation. The Logan City Garden Club Friendship Day was an excellent and very successful event with a fantastic lunch presented to all those who attended.

If any members of the Glebe Garden Club are interested in attending these Garden Club Friendship Days, please let me or any committee member know, as these functions are not necessarily for committee members to attend. These functions are made available for any club member to attend. If club members are interested in attending these events, it would be a good opportunity to attend

these friendly and well run functions that you will thoroughly enjoy, and you will make new friends.



*Kevin Willcock giving his floral arrangement presentation with a sample of his work below.*



## Glasshouse Project Update

**By David Murphy**

The Glass House in Queens Park, Ipswich, is a heritage listed building that was restored to its former glory in 2006 by the Ipswich City Council, after several years of not being used.

The Glebe Garden Club accepted responsibility for the re-stocking and maintenance of the plants, with regular working bees being conducted. This is carried out by an enthusiastic Garden Club sub-committee on a rostered basis.

Since then, the Glass House has been filled with thriving and colourful tropical and subtropical plants as well as many local rare and endangered species. All plants are listed with their scientific and common names for the benefit of the public and collectors. It has become a haven of beauty! This work has been

continually on-going and the Glass house is expanding and changing all the time with the help of those very dedicated club members.

The glasshouse has attracted several hundred local people and visitors to our city since its official opening on 19th November 2006 by the Ipswich Mayor, Cr Paul Pisasale. The Glass House has attracted several Garden Clubs that have visited by bus.

The Glass House is open to the community on the third weekend of each month, both Saturday and Sunday from 12.00pm to 4.00pm, on Public Holidays and other days by appointment. I recently re-visited the Glass House and took these photographs, and if you have not visited the Glass House in Queen's Park, you can be assured you will not be disappointed.

For visits, contact Mavis Wakefield on (07) 3281 0665 for opening times, and more information.



*The restored Queens Park Glasshouse*



## Your October garden and vege patch

With the weather heating up and summer soon on its way, now is a great time to mulch, mulch, mulch before it gets too hot. Mulching is one of the most beneficial practices a gardener can use for better plant health, helping the soil maintain moisture and improve soil conditions.

Make sure your soil is weeded, then lay your mulch between 10-15 cm deep to discourage weeds. If using hay or straw mulch, remember to keep it shy of vegetables, stems and trunks to prevent rot.

Now is a good time to plant tomatoes and their companions Basil and French Marigolds. Other veges to plant include capsicum, choko, cucumber, eggplant, French beans, lettuce, pumpkin, radish, spring onion and zucchini.

Flowering plants will attract pollinators and beneficial insects to your garden. Try nasturtium, dianthus, daisies, verbena, snapdragons, petunias, chrysanthemums, cleome, cosmos, portulaca, salvia or celosia.

Feeling fruity? There is still time to plant passionfruit, paw paw, avocados, banana, citrus, guava and macadamias.



## What's bugging you?

If you're like me, then you really enjoy the peace and serenity of a garden. You can admire the beauty of the plants and flowers, enjoy the visiting birds and wonder in the beauty of the butterflies... that is of course, until you realise the butterflies are white and headed straight for your cabbages and broccoli!



*You need to look closely to pick off caterpillars, as they are well camouflaged.*

So what can you do to deter them? There are a number of control measures you can use. The most effective is exclusion, when you can cover your crops with fine vegetable mesh. If this isn't an option for you, then try the following:

- Scatter eggshells around the garden. This confuses the butterflies and they lay their eggs on them.
- Plant strong scented plants and herbs close to your crops to confuse and deter, such as sage, dill, coriander, marjoram and oregano.
- Encourage beneficial bugs such as lady birds, lacewings and assassin bugs.
- Cut up used milk bottle containers in the shape of butterflies and place around your crops – the more the better! The cabbage white butterflies are territorial and

prefer not to lay where other butterflies are. This is a good rainy day project for the kids or grand kids.

- Try some Bacillus thuringiensis bacteria to kill the butterflies and caterpillars (this bacteria doesn't hurt other species). You can buy this pre-packaged from good nurseries.
- Try some insecticidal soaps like home made chilli soap.



*The cabbage white butterfly is very territorial. Try making some decoy butterflies out of milk containers. Hang them using twine or use skewers to place around crops. Females have two spots on each upper wing and males have one.*

## Beneficial bugs

Here are some common beneficial insects that you want to encourage in your garden.

### Lady Beetles

Adult lady beetles eat aphids, mites and mealybugs and their hungry larvae do even more damage to garden pests. Plant angelica, dill, fennel and yarrow to attract them.

### Lacewings

Both adult lacewings and their larvae eat aphids, caterpillars, mealybugs, scales, thrips and whiteflies.

Angelica, coreopsis, cosmos and sweet alyssum will bring lacewings to your garden.



*Adult lacewing (above) and lacewing eggs (below)*



### Minute Pirate Bugs

The quick-moving, black & white patterned minute pirate bugs will attack almost any insect. Goldenrods, daisies, alfalfa and yarrow will attract these bugs.



*The adult minute pirate bug. Their eggs are rarely seen as they are laid singly into plant tissue.*



Did you know?

Think humans are complex beings? A potato has more chromosomes than you! (Humans have 46 and potatoes 48). The adder's-tongue fern has the highest chromosome count of any living organism with 1,260 chromosomes!



## Committee members

If you have any ideas that may be beneficial to our club functions and/or activities, our committee members would love to hear from you. Perhaps you have some club news or gardening advice you would like to share in our newsletter. Feel free to contact us by phone, by person or via email.

**President:** Rev. Peter Arnett  
0400 774 890

**Vice President:** David Murphy  
**Secretary:** David Murphy  
3288 8467

**Assist. Secretary:** Faye Wright  
**Treasurer:** Faye Wright  
3288 8420

### Committee Members

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Mavis Wakefield | 3281 0665 |
| John Harle      | 3818 0564 |
| Dell Harle      | 3818 0564 |
| Judy McLaughlan | 3816 0704 |
| Desleigh Murphy | 3288 8467 |
| Lee Martin      | 3129 6062 |

**Email for all matters & inquiries**  
Secretary, David Murphy  
[secretary@glebegardenclubipswich.com.au](mailto:secretary@glebegardenclubipswich.com.au)

## About our club

The Glebe Garden Club (Ipswich) was formed in November 1999. While it is an outreach ministry of the Glebe Road Uniting Church, its primary role is that of a garden club servicing the community and open for anyone in the community to join and become a member. The club operates in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, is

multifunctional in its activities and does not specialise in any particular area or plant species. It is a general garden club!

The Glebe Garden Club conducts its club functions on the first Saturday of every month (except January) commencing at 1.30 pm.

We meet in the big hall of the Glebe Road Uniting Church, cnr Glebe Rd and Green Street, Booval.

While the program for each club function varies, the format revolves around a guest speaker, helpful hints, gardening news, question time, birthday club, lucky door prizes, and afternoon tea. The cost of each club function is \$2.00 per person. Members can also become financial members at a cost of \$10.00 each year, or \$15.00 per couple.

Club activities have not been limited to in-doors, but also outdoor activities, some being bus trips, visiting personal gardens and parks, and presenting horticultural displays at various shows. The club has also taken on a project, in conjunction with the Ipswich City Council, to refurbish and re-open Queen's Park Glass House to the public. The focus of the club has, and will always be, people. Because the club involves members from many walks of life, it is totally focused towards the sensitivity of its members. It is often in sharing and working alongside others that the greatest bonds of friendship are built, and meaningful dialogue takes place. You are most welcome at the Glebe Garden Club!

Until next time...  
Happy Gardening! 😊  
(Editor)

