



EXTRACT FROM MY DIARY

It is amazing how things can turn around so quickly. From a very bleak outlook six months ago, when I seriously doubted I could make money in this country let alone create a garden here, today we were simply drenched in rain. It has not stopped raining for the past four to five months, and the result is a healthy, thriving garden and one very well-adjusted gardener fortified with enthusiasm.

Yesterday I spent possibly the happiest day of my time here at Stonefields. As I sat at my desk writing, I was able to glance out to the garden and observe the most amazing variation in light patterns. The day was always changing, and reminded me of a typical spring day of my childhood, when I can distinctly remember the phrase 'sun showers' was often used. The weather vacillated from overcast and drenching rain to sunshine and then back to grey and overcast. With every new period of sunshine I could almost see the plants and grass growing, and as the light changed from a drab grey to bright green, the garden appeared to glow. From my study window I can see the lawn and the pool and over to the valley below. For this brief period of the year, the green of the lawn and the valley floor merge in a verdant haze, amplifying the effect of the lawn floating in space. My Bangay buttons of box flanking the pool are no longer regimented and precise but now shaggy and unruly, and bursting with the health of new growth. As the sun burst forth from each break in the clouds, the minute amounts of gold in the green tiles of the pool made it appear incredibly vibrant in colour and texture.

Life is indeed good this spring, and I feel so privileged to be able to enjoy it here in my own patch of paradise.