

# Uki garden club inc.

## Newsletter

Vol. 6, No10,  
March 18

### **President's Rave**

As our visit to Margaret Bailey's bush tucker garden was postponed until next year, the Garden Club met up for our last 'normal' meeting of the year on Saturday, 25 October at Sweetnam Park native demonstration garden at Uki. Julia Hancock explained the history of the garden, which groups were involved in the project and the planting material used there. Members enjoyed a lovely stroll through the garden after the meeting. The raffle prize of 2 attractive pots was won by

This month is the last meeting for the year and as you know, we are having a joint Christmas party with the Nimbin Club at Crams Farm on Saturday 29 November. Please read the details later in the newsletter. As this is the last newsletter for the year, I want to wish all members of the Uki Garden Club, a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Let's hope for a continuation of the good rain and great gardening we are having at the moment.

Cathie Miles

### **Uki Garden Club Christmas Party**

**When:** Lunch on Saturday 29 November, from about 11 am onwards

**Where:** Crams Farm, Clarrie Hall Dam, Midginbil Road (turn off the Uki/Nimbin Road, about 10 minutes on the left coming from Uki. Follow the signs to Crams farm and we'll meet at the Old Dairy.

**Who With:** Nimbin Garden Club

**Food:** Bring a plate of either cold meat, breads, main course dish, salad or dessert, to share with everyone present. If you want to have a barbeque, bring your own meat for this.

**Drinks:** Bring all your own drinks either beer/wine/tea/coffee. Feel free to share a Xmas toast with Nimbin with your own Champagne.

**Etceteras:** Bring all your own chairs, crockery, and cutlery.

**Xmas Present:** From each household, bring one gardening-type present, wrapped or unwrapped, worth about \$5, and we will do a Bower Bird present swap. Great Fun! Check your present in with Cathie Miles on arrival at Crams Farm.

**Games:** Please bring your Boules or Petanque sets, and after lunch we'll have some great fun to see who can win the prizes! Rules of play for boules are included in this newsletter, so no excuses!

**What Else:** After lunch, fly kites, throw horseshoes or go for a walk.

### **A Word on a Weed**

Perhaps many of you know a common weed in this area called Paddy's Lucerne? You know the small tough one that is just about impossible to pull out unless it's small. In the 1930's in this area, Agriculture Dept officers introduced trial crops of various plants to see which ones might do well and offer farmers a good financial return. *Sida retusa* (Paddy's Lucerne) was grown by my grandfather and other farmers at Terranora, as it was thought to be possibly a good fibre crop. Try peeling the bark off the stem and you will find long white, very strong fibres that could possibly make rope. Other *Sida* species were used for this purpose in Sri Lanka, India and China. Unfortunately, Paddy's Lucerne couldn't be grown in sufficient quantities to be a commercially successful crop and is now just an annoying weed to get caught in your brush cutter head. Which just goes to show that one man's weed is another man's fibre!

### **Boules**

1. Opposing teams are made up of 1,2 or 3 players. Each player uses 2 or 3 boules.
2. Teams toss to decide who throws first. Winner selects the ground, draws a circle about 35cm in

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diameter and from the circle throws the jack 6-10 metres.

3. From the circle the same team throws ONE BOULE to approach the jack. Opposition then throws a boule, attempting to get closer – AND CONTINUE TO THROW UNTIL THEY DO

4. When all boules have been thrown the score is added up. Boule closest to the jack wins the end and scores 1 point. Additional points are gained for any other boules the winning team have closer to the jack than the opposition's best boule.

5. Winner of the end draws a circle around the jack and begins a new end playing in the direction of her choice. Play continues until one side scores 13 points. Short games can be played to 7 points.

6. Matches are played to the best of 3 games.

SO – or run out of boules, whichever comes first. Once a lead is established by either side, at any stage of the game, the trailing side are obliged to throw until they regain the lead, or run out of boules.

Otherwise, it can take up to 6 weeks to germinate. The old saying was that it “Went to the Devil & back 6 times before it would germinate”!

After 2 ½ years of writing the garden column, I feel it's time to pass it on to someone else.

The December issue will be my last contribution. I know there are many gardeners out there with much knowledge & experience who could put something on paper. Even the occasional article would be appreciated by The News Team.

### **GARDENING with Dot Francis**

Welcome rains in recent weeks have really livened up plants, which have really felt the effects of the very dry spell over the past few months.

Some of the most noticeable are those awakening from their winter dormancy period.

They are springing to life again with renewed vigour. Early to mid spring is the ideal time to plant out herbs or divide up those amenable to division, but they probably won't suffer too much if it's done in early November, providing the damp weather keeps up.

Mints, oregano, French tarragon, horseradish, chives, garlic chives, mugwort, lemon balm & comfrey are some herbs able to be propagated by division.

If you want to grow parsley from seed, put a hessian type bag over the seed tray after sowing the seed, & pour boiling water over it. This will hasten germination somewhat.

### **November jobfile**

- Prune banksia roses immediately after flowering because they need an entire growing season to produce next year's flowers.
- Plant beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet corn, pumpkin and zucchini, fertilising regularly as they start to grow.
- Clean out spring annuals such as pansies as they cease flowering. Use spent plants as mulch.
- Clear away foliage from bulbs such as jonquils, muscari and Spanish bluebells once it is completely brown and dry. (Cut it off when it is still green and you will be robbing your bulbs of all the green goodness from the leaves that they reabsorb into the bulb for next year's flowering.)
- Buy one of Delece and Cathie's fabulous hydrangeas that they have propagated themselves. Look for them at the Saturday market at Uki Village Hall or speak to them at

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the next meeting. Hydrangeas come in pure white or pink/blue that can be manipulated into the colour you want by tinkering around with the pH level of the soil they are growing in. A spot in semi-shade with regular water will suit them best.

- If you are tempted by the gorgeous fuchsias that are starting to appear in garden centres, give one a go. Put it in a shady spot where it is protected from heat, wind and heavy rain and keep it well watered. Fuchsias like a monthly feed with Thrive, Aquasol or Nitrosol. Tip prune them when not in flower to keep them bushy. Watch for rust in humid conditions and spray with milk or seaweed solution (Maxicrop, Seasol).
- Controlling weeds in lawns is a huge problem this year because while the lawn turfs suffered in the drought, weeds thrived and set lots of seed. Hand weed out broadleaf weeds before they can set seed and use a selective bindii and clover herbicide for the rest. Applying it after rain when the lawns are growing lush is more effective than applying it to a bone dry and stressed lawn.
- Protect yourself from spider bites – always wear gloves. And always check the insides of your gardening boots or shoes before slipping your feet in.
- Even on a cloudy day, always wear long garments to protect your precious skin.

### Remember the election

This is an early reminder that the Tweed Shire Council election is happening in March, and as it is expected to be closely contested it's essential to vote. If you have moved house in the last six months make sure you re-register your new address with your nearest Post Office.

### For sale

Three sheets of heavy-duty, framed lattice, 230x78cm, very sturdy, painted brown, excellent

for privacy screening or supporting climbing plants. \$40 each or all three for \$100. Phone Julia on 02 6679 5414.

### Pause for contemplation

**May beauty be ever above and below and all around you; May you tread with grace on the lovely face of our Mother Earth.**

Native American prayer

### Food Group

9.30 am Tues 9<sup>th</sup> December @ Kevin & Merle Munsie's home at Kinnenboon.  
Ph 0266727691

To get there from M'Bah - Take Queensland Rd, go past the showgrounds and over the bridge. Turn Left at Numinbah Rd. and then Right 300metres along this into Brooks Rd. Travel 1.3K along this and turn Right into Baromi Rd. Turn Right again at the end into their driveway. Bring Chairs. ENJOY.

### An extra from Dot.

I've just been given a Liquidamber, dug out from a friend's garden, to pass on to anyone wh'd like it.

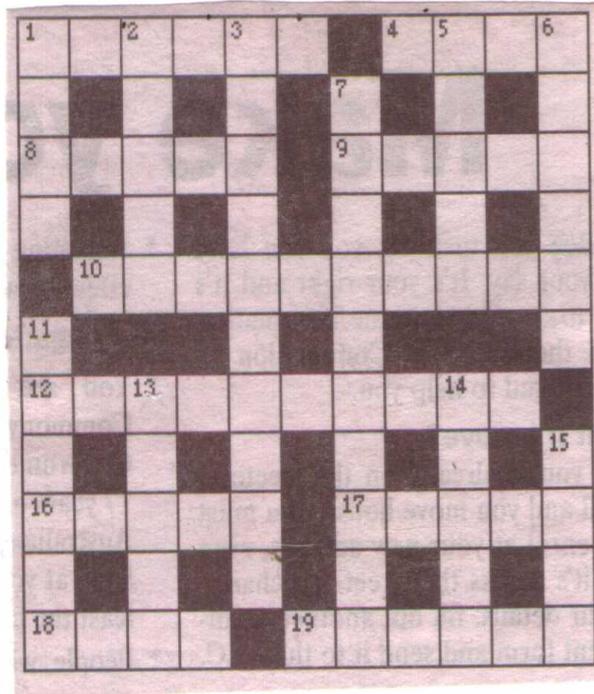
It's approx. 3 metres high, with a fair sized root ball (it won't fit in a pot).

If anyone in the garden club would like it (perhaps a donation to club funds). Please ring me and arrange to pick it up.

Alternatively, if they'd like it but don't have a trailer, I will deliver. Ph 6679 2164

Regards,

Dot Francis



### ACROSS

- 1, 4. Uki organisation (6), (4)
8. Military jacket (5)
9. Bring on oneself (5)
10. Plant sex-life fulfills (10)
12. St talking tuber? (4), (6)
16. Greek island (5)
17. Throw (5)
18. Slippery guys. (4)
19. Work-shy guys (6)

### DOWN

1. It provides garden access (4)
2. A Starr Beetle (5)
3. Flus. tree genus (10)
5. Not forbidden (5)
6. Stem tendrillers (6)
7. Leaf with shallow indentations of margin (10)
11. Suspended frozen water (6)
13. Of ear (5)
14. People with common ancestor (5)
15. Eons. (4)

Don Edwards