

Uki garden club inc.

Newsletter

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President's Rave

Garden Club members were undeterred by hot windy weather on Saturday 27 September, when they attended our monthly meeting at Bill and Adrielle Landsdown's spectacular garden overlooking the Smiths Creek valley, Mt Warning and the general Uki area. Despite a smoke filled valley due to a large fire on the side of Mt Uki, members enjoyed walking about Adrielle's colourful garden and admiring the fantastic views, after participating in a long meeting.

The raffle prize of a set of secateurs and pruning saw, was won by Sheila Stevenson, and various people won copies of the *Our garden* magazine. Pauline was a very welcome visitor. Members resolved to have the Christmas party as a "bring-your-own-drinks-and-meat, plus a plate (salad? dessert? etc) to share with the Group". More details next newsletter. Next meeting, please write down the name of your contribution to the Sales Table, on the list provided, so everyone knows the names of the plants on the table.

Just a reminder for next year, for members to consider having a Garden Club meeting at their garden. With such lovely soaking rain this last week, Spring has really sprung up a notch, so good gardening till next month.

Cathie Miles

Did you know?

One chilli boasts 100 per cent of the daily recommended dose of the antioxidant beta-carotene plus as much as 200 percent of that of Vitamin C. Both these nutrients help fight free radicals and therefore help protect against heart disease, cancer and early ageing. They also strengthen immunity. In addition, chillies contain a plant chemical called capsaicin, which not only creates their fire but also helps prevent high LDL cholesterol in the blood. Throughout history chillies have been used to relieve pain as well.

Recent research shows capsaicin has the ability to temporarily block chemically transmitted pain signals in the body. This is why you will find it in natural ointments used to relieve arthritis and nerve pain. There is good evidence that capsaicin may even soothe pains of the mind and soul since it appears to trigger the release of the mood-enhancing endorphins in the brain.

From *Cook Energy* by Lesley Kenton

Flower arranging

The next flower arranging meeting will be held at 9am on Tuesday 21 October at the Seventh Day Adventist church, North Tumbulgum. This month's theme is an arrangement incorporating sea shells. Bring all materials and \$2 fee.

Open Garden Scheme

18-19 October, The Lily Ponds, Lot 60 Hinchinbrook Road, Burringbar

A permanent spring-fed stream feeds lily ponds and massive three acre lake. Native and exotic shrubs thrive at lakeside and two islands are wildlife havens. A large vegetable garden and orchard containing subtropical and temperate fruits and vegetables. An area of rainforest is being regenerated. Directions: turn off Tweed Valley Way into Burringbar and travel 1.3km, turn left into Greenvale Crt, right into Hinchinbrook Road. Open 10am-4.30pm \$4.50. Morning teas and lunches available.

25-26 October, Beechwood, 29 Pinegold Place, Nunderi

A well designed garden on one acre takes advantage of opportunities of undulating site. Front formal garden of agapanthus and clipped hedges, flanking banksia-smothered rose arches. Contoured beds contain foliage plants including cordylines, ferns and bromeliads. Shade garden; creek canopied by giant brush box and mature hoop pines. Directions: travelling north on Tweed Valley Way from Murwillumbah turn right into Clothiers Ck Rd; travel 1km and turn left into Eviron Rd, right into Norths Lane, left into Garden Ave; follow road into Pinegold

Place. Open 10am to 4.30pm, \$4.50. Light refreshments available.

25-26 October, King Garden, Lot 27 The Grove, Nunderi.

Many-faceted garden developed on gently sloping site. Foliage of cordylines, ferns and iresine for year-round interest; effective combinations in colourful flower garden. Spring-fed dam provides ideal growing condition for bamboos, palms, tree ferns and willows. Attractively landscaped pool area. Directions: travelling north on Tweed Valley Way from Murwillumbah turn right into Clothiers Ck Rd; travel through Nunderi and turn left into Norths Lane, first right into the Grove. Open 10am-4.30 \$4.50. Plants for sale.

Static water supply

This is just a reminder to those members with swimming pools to consider putting themselves on the fire brigade's Static Water Supply database. This year looks to be an exact repeat of last year in terms of bush fire threat and it could save your house and your neighbours in times of bush fires if the brigade knows there is a water supply on site. If the brigade uses any water, they replace it free of charge after the event. To get more info and to arrange for someone to come and fit the SWS sign on your front gate (this is a free service) call the Fire Station on 6672 8305 or Eddie Fuller on 0418 612 186. Remember...be prepared.

Tweed on Speed dinner

A fabulous night was enjoyed by all members who participated in this charity event. The evening was extremely well organised, the food was great and the company convivial. In fact it was such a success we are considering holding a similar event in Uki in 2004 to raise funds for the village hall and the Buttery. We'll keep you posted.

October jobfile

- Clean out the debris from all your gutters – remember we are under serious threat of bushfires and every little bit of preventive action now is worth taking to avoid more serious problems in the event of trouble.

- Watch how the sun falls on your pot plants and baskets around the patio. During winter you may have positioned them to get more sun, but the sudden heat is causing leaf scorch in some tender species. Move any susceptible plants to a shadier spot, and increase their water supplies.
- Aphid numbers are exploding, so keep a close eye on your rosebuds and remove the offenders before they can do any damage.
- Raise your mower blades to avoid scalping. Consider fitting new blades to make mowing easier and more effective this summer.
- If your spring annuals have keeled over in the last couple of weeks don't bother pulling them up. Instead, flatten the corpses by covering them with a little mulch and plant your summer annuals into pockets in the same space. If you aren't game to plant anything during the hot weather, the mulch will protect the soil from weed infestation, until you are ready to plant in the autumn. Similarly, cover over the dead foliage of bulbs such as jonquils and snowdrops rather than cut it off.
- Unless it's absolutely necessary, hold off pruning until the weather is more benign. Heat-stressed plants are unlikely to bounce back satisfactorily after a haircut in high temperatures.
- If we get any decent rain in October take the opportunity to apply granular and pelletised fertiliser immediately afterwards, as this month is the best time to feed trees and shrubs. However, dry fertiliser applied to dry soil can do more harm than good so don't bother scattering it around until the conditions are right. Water-soluble fertiliser can of course be applied at any time.
- Repot indoor plants to give them a new lease on life. Use best quality indoor potting mix that contains slow-release fertiliser. Maidenhair fern growers will get better results if they incorporate a little lime or dolomite into the mix when repotting.
- Sweet potatoes are among the healthiest and most complete foods we can eat and they are also fairly drought-tolerant. Take cuttings from the leafy shoots that grow from the tuber and strike them in sand before planting out in the vegie patch.

- Another rugged vegetable is the pumpkin. Pre-prepare your pumpkin patch by clearing an area, digging in lots of manure and compost, soaking it well and covering it over with wet newspaper and cane tops. Leave it to fester for a couple of weeks before planting pumpkin seeds or seedlings. Mollycoddle the young plants until they have established, but after that they will need minimal care.
- If you've got any spare water, save it for your azaleas and citrus, two groups of plants that really suffer in the heat. (Camellias with their waxy leaves are more able to tolerate high temperatures).

GARDENING with Dot Francis

Having had numerous trees severely hit yet again by this winter's frosts, with some giving up the fight altogether, after being knocked back to ground level for the 4th winter in a row, the hunt was on for some really tough trees.

So – off to Burringbar Rainforest Nursery, armed with the list of requirements:- 1. Must be *very* frost tolerant.

2. Must be fast growing. 3. Must be hardy to full sun & winds.

In other words, they must be the sort that are happy in the middle of a bare paddock, regardless of weather conditions. It would also be helpful for them to be capable of sheltering less hardy trees in a couple of years.

Several on the Nursery list were crossed off, simply because there are a number growing here anyway, which are doing very well. They are Silky Oak, Hoop Pine & Blackwood (Sally Wattle). Both White Cedar & Peanut Trees also do well but being deciduous, do not give winter protection.

Rejected were Brush Box & Cudgerie, OK near other shelter, but not in the open.

That whittled the list to 6 – Steelwood, Pitted Leaf Steelwood, Koda, Celerywood, Whalebone Tree & Deep Yellowwood.

These were planted in early August, and although not the optimum planting time, a good

headstart hopefully will get them to a reasonable height before next winter. Red & Pink Ash were also planted, and although slight frost burn affected earlier Ash plantings, perhaps their fast growth may get them out of trouble.

Next winter will be judgement time.

If anyone has experience with frost resistant trees, I'd like to hear from you. Phone 6679 2164 (Evenings)

Happy Gardening.

NEXT MEETING

Is at Sweetnam Park UKI 2pm Sat 25th Oct.

If it is raining we will take shelter on the Buttery verandah.

For those who don't know Sweetnam park is on the Eastern Entrance to Uki - there is a new native plantation there. Those responsible for this plantings will be giving a talk on it.