

Uki Garden Club

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<http://ukigarden.club/wp/>



Firstly, let me welcome all new members to our thriving garden club! It is great to see new faces appearing at meetings and even more heartening to see so many of our visitors joining our ranks. We do hope you enjoy your time with us and become involved in whatever way you feel able. The more diversity we have in our membership, the more gardens we can learn from and the more knowledge and ideas we can share.

Autumn has indeed arrived at last now we are in April. Time to sleep under more than just a sheet and not wake up feeling sweaty! The rain has refreshed our thirsty gardens and brought hope before winter for our farmers. Daylight-saving has departed and allowed us to awaken earlier in the morning to potter in the garden. Shops are selling out of vegetable seedlings, indicating that gardening is well and truly back on our agendas!

Unfortunately the conditions have encouraged the growth of weeds. Be on the lookout for sprouting bushes of Cassia (aka Easter Cassia or *Senna pendula*) in your neck of the woods. They are adorning the roadsides at present with their bright yellow flowers, and although they may look pretty, their sheer proliferation should tell us they are a weed to be cleared! (see the piece on this a little further on in the newsletter) The Chinese Rain Tree (*Kolreuteria elegans*), another common weed, is also flowering so be careful to watch for their seeds sprouting in unwanted places.

This month our bus trip takes the place of the usual garden gathering on April 27th. Make your way to Knox Park for take-off if you have paid your bus fare. Let's hope the weather shines for that day just like it did for our well-attended food group meeting last week. The bus will be leaving, rain hail or shine, so don't be put off by rain if it happens to fall that morning.

Our calendar for the next 4 months appears in this newsletter. There has been a change for Food Group in May. It is now to be held at the wonderful garden of Lyn Reid in Uki. Those of us who attended the Food Group Xmas party last year were overawed by the depth and beauty of Lyn's garden. Here is another chance for you to see it at a cooler time of year. Thanks so much to Lyn for willingly stepping in to fill the gap at short notice.

The AGM in July might seem like it is far away, but let me assure you it will be here before we know it! One thing we would like to see come about is a bit more gender equality on our team. At the moment we are 100% female! Where are all the males out there hiding? We would welcome your assistance on committee (and not only with the heavy lifting!). Some of the wonderful current team will continue in their roles, but we are hoping for some new members to put up their hands to help out. The jobs are not onerous and our committee only meets about 5 times a year. Apart from the executive roles of president, secretary and treasurer, our committee divides up about another 16 tasks among our 8 members. If you think you may be able to help out to keep our program running smoothly, please don't hesitate to talk with any of us on committee. If you don't approach us, rest assured we will be talking encouragingly to you!

We will also be conducting a questionnaire/survey of our members in the near future (as we do from time to time) to find out what you want more or less of from the club. Please participate so we can learn how to meet the needs of our whole membership more adequately. We welcome your thoughts and ideas – no matter how long you have been with us as members.

Remember, our aims are to:

- build friendships through gardens and gardening;
- share knowledge of plants and gardens;
- promote environmentally friendly practices; and
- participate in humanitarian endeavours.

Happy reading and best wishes, Gillian



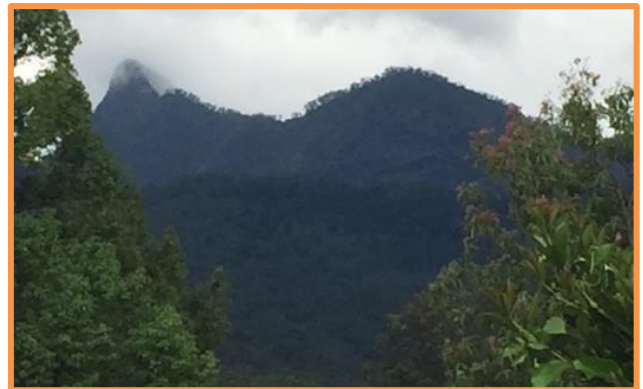
March Garden Gathering

Fran O'Hara

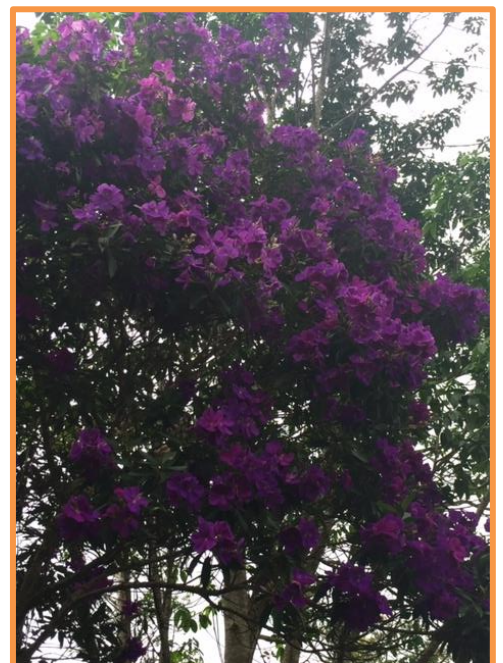
Inclement weather did not deter a great crowd to the garden of Amanda Baker at Tyalgum for our March Garden Gathering.



We had been to Amanda's a few years ago and the work that Amanda has put into her garden since we last saw it was amazing. Her retaining wall made from tyres is just about fully covered now, and her clever use of recycled items added to the delightful character of her garden. And the view from her garden to Mt Warning is pretty spectacular.



Amanda follows permaculture principles and her productive vegie patch and garden in general are testament to how well it is working. She has free-ranging chooks, citrus, stone fruit, a full avocado tree and many natives providing a wonderful haven for the birds including the finches who love the lemon grass and flowering salvias that Amanda has in abundance. And her magnificent Alstonville Tibouchina in her backyard was a sight to behold!



As always the swap table was overflowing with a wonderful assortment of plants and fruit and vegies including eggs, rosemary, salvia, coleus plants and cuttings, beans, magnificent pomegranates from Bonnie and Buzz's garden and more.

Special thanks to Buzz for keeping an eye on the BOM and the threatening black clouds which, as he accurately predicted ("You've got about 15 minutes more") opened up just after we had finished the formal proceedings, sending us all retreating to the shade tents and the lovely afternoon tea that awaited.

Q & A

Q: How to get rid of aphids on broadbeans?

A: Ladybirds, chilli oil, hosing off didn't quite work so the recommendation was to just keep trying and keep on top of them by checking regularly. Also try neem oil or horticultural oils and an easy one - wiping or spraying the leaves of the plant with a mild solution of water and a few drops of dish soap.

Q: How do I get rid of curl grubs in pot plants?

A: Dig them out and feed them to the birds! (Ed note: a quick google also revealed that if you whack a bit of biodegradable detergent and water into a bucket and pour this on the affected spots they are forced up to the surface, where birds will gobble them up). Also, spraying a teatree or molasses mixture on the affected area can upset them a fair bit and move them on.

Q: What is the purple grey fungus on the trunks of my citrus trees?

A: Check the Annette McFarlane website <https://www.annettemcfarlane.com/>.

Q: How do I get rid of cobblers pegs (aka Farmers' Friends)?

A: Pull them out when they are young plants and have not yet produced flowers. While still in this younger state, Cobblers pegs make a nutritious edible green for all poultry and an assortment of pets that enjoy fresh greens. Mulching the soil will reduce its impact on gardens, but recognising young plants and removal on site will, over time, greatly reduce populations. Using 'Slasher' – a new organic weed killer – will also work: see Food Group notes below for website details.



View from Amanda's garden at left and a hidden treasure nestled in her garden, at right.



Titbits from the March Food Group Meeting

Sue Holzknecht

About 35 of us gathered under a magnificent blue sky at Jenny and Jim Clark's place on Smiths Creek Rd, Stokers Siding, with a lovely breeze blowing through to keep us cool. As usual, morning tea was a generous spread and the swap table was full of seedlings, fruit, vegetables, greens, cuttings, teas.

The beautiful stone walls at Jim and Jenny's place amazed us all. The terraces at the back of the property are all lined with tiers of geometric walls built by Jim from stone found on the property, over about 10 years.

The garden beds are planted up with succulents, Pentas, Phlox, Erigeron, spilling over the lower walls in a profusion of colour. The beds are mulched with leaves from the property, supplemented with ash from the fire.

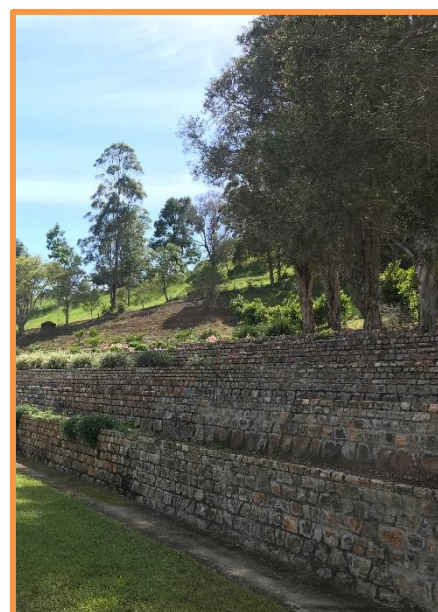


Jenny spoke about the property, telling us they had been there about 26 years. On their 6¼ acres, formerly an old grazing property, Jim has built a magnificent brick house and terraced the whole back part with rock walls, and several flights of stone steps up to the lines of fruit trees on the boundary fence. They have planted citrus, mangoes and other fruit trees.

The original soil was poor but they have improved it over the years with mulch and put in an irrigation system. There is a substantial vegetable garden on a lower part of the slope, watered from the creek running through the property.

Topics discussed at the meeting included:

- ⊗ Brigitte is going to attend Phil Dudman's "Grow Your Food" workshop at his garden in Lismore on 23 June, cost \$165. The 2 earlier dates are booked out. Check online to see if there are any more places available
- ⊗ Jerry Coleby-Williams's garden "Bellis" will be open to the public on Mothers' Day weekend, 11-12 May. Check on line for details (Jerry Coleby-Williams).
- ⊗ Dot brought a box of Tuckeroo seedlings (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) to give away. It is a tall rainforest tree, 3-4 metres, first identified at Tyalgum. Dot also had some sugar snap pea seeds to give out. Although they were dated 2016, she has had a very high germination rate with them.
- ⊗ Claire, a new member, is selling her home on Tweed Valley Way Murwillumbah,



and moving soon. She invited anyone who wanted to come to her house to take cuttings of the many unusual tropical vegetables she has grown there, including Ceylon spinach, Brazil spinach, ginger, and Grumichama.

- ☼ Grant asked if it is a good time to plant Cape Gooseberry seeds. Helen said “yes”, hers are coming up now. Some beetles (maybe *Monolepta*?) ate all his Tomatillo plants, so will his Cape Gooseberries suffer the same fate? Probably, especially in dry weather. (Find *Monolepta* beetles online. For example see: <https://aussieorganicgardening.com/2013/08/red-shouldered-beetles/>)
- ☼ Helen also said that her Farmers’ Friend plants were showing some kind of wilt on the tops. No other plants are affected.
- ☼ Barbara brought a packet of powdered milk that people could use for their coffee. Phil Keegan suggested she keep it and use it, diluted, around any plants that are not doing well. He revived some spinach and beetroot seedlings with milk (adding calcium).
- ☼ Marcella brought some sharp knives from the op shop, as they are not allowed to sell them. She also brought some sweet potato runners.
- ☼ Jackie also brought purple sweet potato runners for planting. It is good to plant them into a mound of soil.
- ☼ NellMary brought avocados and Ida brought tubs of Jaboticaba fruit.
- ☼ Claudia asked if anyone had any experience of permaculture workshops in the area?
Grant suggested Djanbung Gardens in Nimbin. See: <https://permaculture.com.au/djanbung-gardens/>
Both Claire and Sue have attended permaculture workshops that were all about the philosophy, and not hands-on.
- ☼ Desiree has had no success spraying Roundup on some little weeds in between her pavers, as they regrow very quickly. Now she is spraying neat white vinegar on them, with much greater success. Linda suggested using boiling water to kill weeds, and Gillian recommended a new weed-killer, ‘Slasher’, which is made from pelargonic acid, and is said not to be toxic to humans or animals. See: <https://ecoorganicgarden.com.au/products/weedkiller/slasher/>
- ☼ Jacky informed us that her neighbour who had an accident on his ride-on mower had died. She warned us all to take care with all equipment when we are gardening.

Remedies For Ant Infestations In The Garden

There was a lot of discussion about ants in our gardens, and suggestions about how to deal with the most pesky ones. The discussion is summarised here.

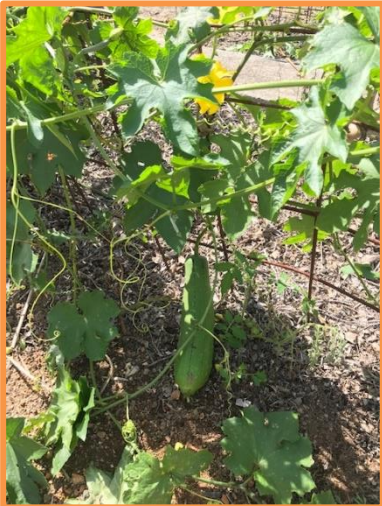
- ☼ Jacky has declared war on ants, especially Jumper Ants (also known as the Jack Jumper, Jumping Jack and Hopper Ant – pic at right) and the ones that build cones in the lawn. She was quoted \$500.00 for the first treatment, and another \$500.00 for the next treatment 3 months later.
- ☼ Jenny Kidd reminded us that Hamish Brace, from Tweed Shire Council at that time, had recommended at a UGC meeting at her place using a handful of lime with a handful of cracker dust per square metre all over the affected area. After mowing, apply again. The Kidds now have little trouble with ants in their grass. But the Jumper Ants are still a problem.
- ☼ **Note:** *Cracker dust is also called Crusher Dust, Blue Metal, Road base or Blue granite dust. It is available from landscape suppliers. Buy the finest grade they have as it mixes better with lime and soaks more easily into the soil. See the website below for the benefits of cracker dust to the olive industry in Australia.*
http://www.oliveaustralia.com.au/Olifax_Topics/Crusher_Dust/crusher_dust.html
- ☼ Sue and Hartmut sprinkle Ant Killer, a Brunnings product from Mitre 10, into Jumper Ant holes. This is successful, but they always reappear somewhere else. However, this may be poisonous to birds and chickens.
- ☼ Dot pours diesel into ants’ nests to kill them.
- ☼ Buzz suggested mixing Borax and sugar together, and making a paste with water. Place in ant nests, and across their paths.
- ☼ Grant mixes a few drops of peppermint oil with water in a spray bottle, and sprays his clothes and gloves with it before he goes out into the garden, to stop ants from biting him. Drops of peppermint oil on the ants’ paths will stop them. When he sprayed this on the ants on plants, the aphids and other sucking insects also disappeared.



Remedies For Ant Bites

- ✂️ Jacky paints nail varnish on all bites, and lets it wear off.
- ✂️ Hartmut recommends using toothpaste (any kind) on Jumper Ant bites.
- ✂️ Bridget recommends crushed-up bracken fronds, especially young ones, on Jumper Ant bites.

About Loofahs – Jenny Clark



The loofah is a very large sprawling plant. It grows like a zucchini. I like to pick them when they are small for salads and a bit bigger for a stirfry.

To make a loofah sponge, I let them grow to about 30-35cm; they have to be yellow and sound hollow. I cut the end off and empty the black seeds out and then peel it. You just give it a bit of a wash and there you have it, a loofah. You can use it for washing up, cleaning bathrooms and yourself.



At left: The proud hosts Jim and Jenny holding one of their loofahs alongside one of their succulent beds.

At right: The driveway leading to the Clark's house.



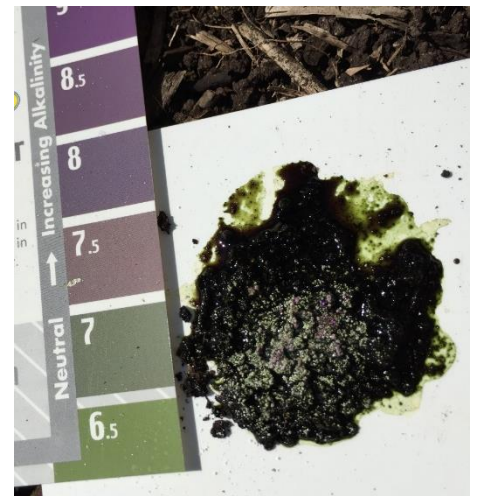
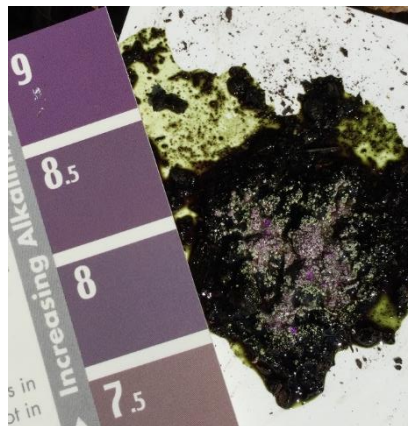
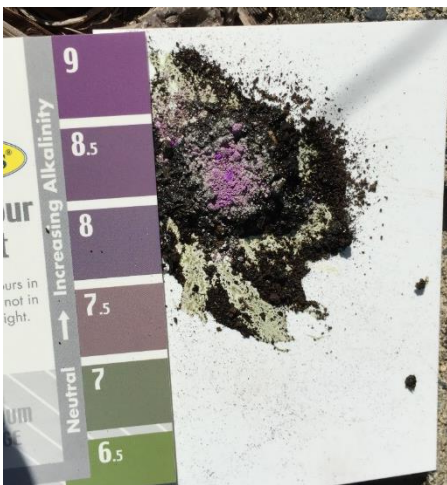
(Ed: Many thanks to Sue Macklin for the lovely photos)

The Perils of pH – Fran O'Hara

At the March Garden Gathering I spoke of my strong recommendation to pH test the soil in your veggie patch before planting – learnt from experience.

The cooler weather coupled with inspiration drawn from reading the Food Group meeting notes from last month had created a strong urge in me, like many others, to go planting up my winter veggies. However I also thought that it would be a good idea to check the pH levels of my 5 beds before sprinkling them with lime and gypsum willy nilly as I am wont to do. So I went to my local hardware store and bought a pH testing kit for around \$25 which was money very well spent, as it turned out!

The testing revealed that 3 out of my 5 beds were severely alkaline (around 8.5 – 9) – and adding the lime and gypsum would have made the issue far worse. See pictures as below showing the results of the testing with pics 1 & 2 taken from 2 of my beds showing very high alkaline levels and the third pic showing traces of alkalinity but also a more neutral level – thankfully.



The pH level of alkaline soil is above 7, and it usually contains a great deal of sodium, calcium and magnesium. Because alkaline soil is less soluble than acidic or neutral soil, its ability to take up nutrients is often limited. Because of this, stunted growth and nutrient deficiency are common. This explained why my last crops in those beds with the highest alkaline readings had failed.

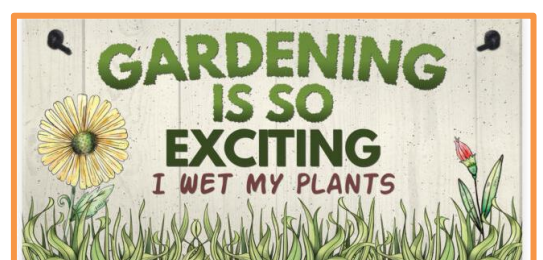
You can increase the acidity of your soil by adding things like compost and manures, leaf litter and mulch. Iron chelates work too. In extreme situations, (like what I had) you can use powdered sulphur - one handful per square metre, once a year. Sulphur works very slowly and you won't notice a change in your pH for about 6 months. Whatever you choose to do, allow the material to settle for a couple of weeks before retesting.

If testing reveals that your soil is too acidic ie the soil pH is too low (which applies to most Australian soils) the solution is to add agricultural lime or dolomite. You can also use chook poo or the pelletized version of it.

Thankfully, retesting the beds 3 weeks later has produced good results with my beds now ranging between 6.5 – 7.5.

I have also planted things to better match the individual bed pH conditions like putting tomatoes and beetroot in the beds testing higher in alkalinity and broccoli, kale and spinach in the beds at the lower end of the range.

So, the moral of the story is to check before you plant – something I will make sure I do with my future seasonal veggie plantings.





UGC Seedbox Update – Hartmut Holzknecht (custodian)

Each of our various gardening endeavours begin with a seed, or with seedlings. Out of each seed or seedling there grows something that we want to enjoy, either as a food or as an attractive flower or scented shrub or fruiting tree.

The UGC has in recent times had an influx of new members, so the main purpose of this Update is to provide information about the seedbox and remind everyone about what it is and how it can be of service to active members. The Uki Garden Club has for many years maintained an up-to-date seed- box which provides packets of seeds for members at 50 cents per packet; other than the public library system's seed library this is the cheapest (and most generous!) local source of a wide range of seeds of vegetables, herbs, fruit, flowers and some native plant species. This availability of a wide range of seeds can only function well if and when members continue to donate seeds of various plants that they have found to grow well and productively in our environment.

The UGC Seedbox custodian brings the box to all garden club meetings - both the Garden Gatherings and the Food Group meetings - so that it is convenient for all members to access. To supplement the box of seeds a number of gardening and planting guides can help members tune in to the Northern Rivers/Tweed Shire environment:

- ✓ The best guide is Julia Hancock's *Gardening in Tweed Shire*, published in 2013. It is actually out of print but is available at all public libraries. If you can find one for sale, grab it!
- ✓ The *Gardening Australia* website [<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/>] is also a highly authoritative source of good information as applied to each of Australia's climatic zones.
- ✓ UGC members are also excellent guides to the best plant varieties and for answers to a range of gardening issues and problems.

In the pocket on the outside of the seedbox there are a number of printed resources to which you are welcome to refer, including:

- ⚙ Allen and Christina Barry [1977], *Seed production for the Australian home vegetable gardener* {reprinted from 2010}, The Henry Doubleday Research Institute of Australia Inc.
- ⚙ Leaflet '*How to Raise Seeds Successfully*'.
- ⚙ Planting Calendar (Vegetables/Flowers/Herbs in the main four seasons).
- ⚙ *Australian Organic Gardening Resource Guide 2018-2019* from Green Harvest [www.greenharvest.com.au].
- ⚙ *Select Organic Certified Organic Seeds 2017-2018* [www.selectorganic.com.au].
- ⚙ Stefan Mager (n.d.), *Seed Collecting Guide*. Aracariaguides.

When a member has seeds to contribute to the seedbox for sharing with other members the following guidelines may be useful:

- ✓ Leave the seedpods on their plants until they are fully mature;
- ✓ After harvesting put the seedpods in a dry place to dry out properly;
- ✓ Seeds of fleshy-fruit plants (e.g. tomatoes) should be scooped out and mixed with warm water; allow this mixture to sit and ferment for a few days, stirring daily. Once a crust has formed, wash and dry seeds;
- ✓ The best seeds come from your best plants that, from your observation, are true to type;

Finally, when you package your seeds before handing them in, label each packet with the plant name or description, the date the seed was collected, location from which seed was collected and your name. Include any other useful information you have (e.g., 'best in sun/shade') on that plant.

Make use of this great resource available to UGC members to help you in your gardening activities and share with other members!

Epsom Salts Weed Spray Recipe – Dot Francis

In the last newsletter Julia mentioned that Dot Francis had found a great recipe for weed spray that she has found to be very effective – so here it is as shared by Dot:

You need:

- 5 litres of white vinegar
- 2 cups of Epsom salts
- ¼ cup of detergent

Mix all together and spray on weeds.

Results appear very quickly. Weeds sprayed in the morning can look peaky by the afternoon!

Next day, the results are even more evident. Most weeds look quite dead.

I've only been using it over the past week, so don't know what the longer term results will be, but figured it's a better option than using the salt recipe. So far, I've found that Nut grass is a tougher foe & not so easy to get rid of.

Thanks Dot!

About Cassias



And while we are at it – at the last Garden Gathering there was mention of Cassia plants (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*) – (aka Senna) which are, as Gillian mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, to be found in alarming abundance in our region.

Thanks to Jan Brooks for the pointer to the following info on the DPI website (<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Cassia>).

Cassia is popular garden plant that invades native ecosystems, particularly in coastal areas. It is a fast-growing plant that can suppress the growth of native species and displace them.

It produces large amounts of long-lived seeds via seed pods that look a little like green beans (see pic at right).

Cassia is native to Brazil and Paraguay. It is widely distributed through eastern parts of NSW. It is most common along the coastal or sub-coastal regions of NSW and Queensland.

Cassia is an upright, spreading or sprawling shrub usually growing 2-4 m tall, but occasionally reaching up to 5 m. It is distinguished by the absence of spines and prickles. The stems are multi-branched and become woody with age. Younger stems are green and sparsely hairy, but become hairless and darker as they mature.

The pea-like flowers are bright yellow, about 30 mm across, with five large petals. They are borne in clusters at the tips of the branches, and each flower is on a stalk. These flowers have two or three prominent curved stamens, four or five smaller stamens, as well as three tiny petal-like structures at their centres.



So – if you have it in your garden you are best advised to remove it.

Members Recipes

At the March Garden Gathering I couldn't help but sample many of the delicious offerings and as a result I begged for some recipes and luckily Marie Luxford, Sue Holzkecht and Dot Francis happily obliged. Thanks to all of you!

Gluten Free Sponge Cake – Marie Luxford

Preheat oven to 170C, prepare 2 x 8 inch (20 cm) pans

Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup castor sugar
- 1/2 cup corn flour
- 1/2 cup custard powder
- 1/2 teaspoon bi carb soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Method

1. Beat egg whites until stiff
2. Add egg yolks and then sugar
3. Sift in corn flour, custard powder, bi carb soda and cream of tartar
4. Fold in egg mixture with metal spoon

Cook for 20 minutes

Very simple but very good!



Hummus - Sue Holzkecht

Ingredients

- 1x 400-420 gram can chickpeas, drained
- 1 tablespoon tahini
- 1/2 cup roasted Pepitas
- 1 tablespoon ground Hemp seed (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- juice of 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup olive or sunflower oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Method

1. Place all ingredients in a food processor, blend until smooth.
2. If it seems a bit dry, add more oil.
3. At the end, add about 4 tablespoons of very cold water, and blend again.
4. Place in a bowl, sprinkle Sumac powder on top.



Dot's Trixi Bikkie Slice (A healthy option slice)

Biscuit Layer

- 1 cup (50g) almond meal (If you make your own almond or coconut milk, it's a good use for the leftovers)
- ½ cup (75g) gluten-free flour
- ¼ cup (55g) coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon rice malt syrup
- 1 egg
- 1 heaped teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon xanthan gum
- Pinch sea salt

Caramel Layer

- 1 cup (160g) medjool dates, pitted & soaked in warm water
- 1 tablespoon tahini

Chocolate Layer

- ¼ - ½ cup coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 3 tablespoons almond spread
- ¼ cup (90g) rice malt syrup
- ¼ - ½ cup cacao powder

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C /350F & line a small - medium sized square baking tray with baking paper.
2. To make the biscuit layer, mix together all the ingredients to form a doughy mixture. Roll out the dough to fit the baking tray.
3. Bake for 7 – 10 mins or until golden brown. Remove from the oven & cool in the tin.
4. To make the caramel layer, mix the dates & tahini in a blender or food processor with ½ cup water & pinch sea salt. Transfer the mix to an airtight container & freeze for 40 mins
5. To make the chocolate layer, melt the coconut oil & blend in a food processor with the remaining ingredients until smooth.
6. Once the biscuit & caramel have both cooled, pour the caramel on top of the biscuit layer in the tray, then pour the chocolate layer on top.
7. Freeze for at least 3 – 4 hours (or ideally overnight) before slicing into small snack-sized pieces.
8. Store in an airtight container in the freezer for up to 2 weeks.



Late flowering summer
crocus and a very cute &
tiny green frog very well
camouflaged on one of
our fingerlime bushes -
Fran



On the Road Again – Travellers Tales

Thailand with Couz'n Lynn

I recently returned from a 3-week trip to Thailand with my kids, Sean 49 & Shannon 46.

The wonderful colours of the markets included the train going thru the markets & watching all the stands moving back as the train goes thru the middle & then the awnings being lowered back in place. We visited the bridge on the River Kwai and saw the beautiful sunset at Ao Nang at Krabi (pic at right).

And of course all the colours of the plants everywhere. The Thais seem to love their plants which thrive anywhere, much to our delight.



Those of you who know me well know that "a domestic goddess" I am not! However, for you foodies, I went to a cooking class in Chiang Mai with my kids & I used a mortar & pestle & ground it all up from scratch...Crikey! We had a great banquet too.

We loved it all - "planes trains & automobiles" has nothing on us. We added ferries, red trucks, tuk tuks, taxis, long boats and speed boats to the list. If you have never been to Thailand ... I think it should be on everyone's wish list ... pretty hot over there. Most of our days were in the high 30s (lots of 37 degree days) & about 2000 % humidity (seems like). I could go on & on ... I have got 1560 photos should anyone like to see them.



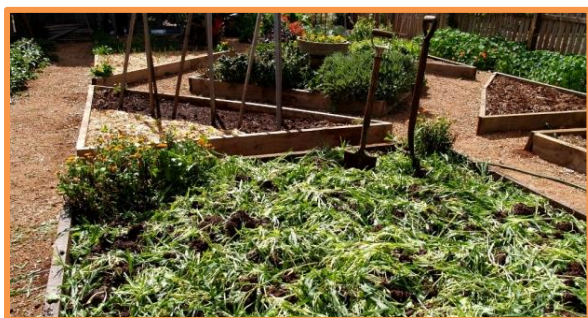
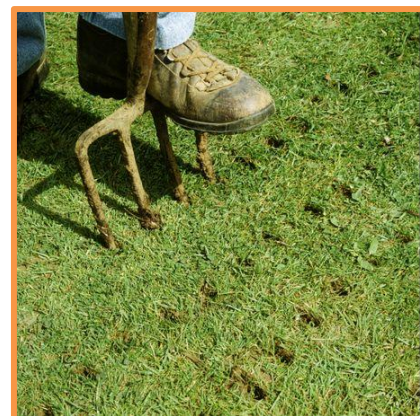
Lotsa love Couz'n Lynn x

PS – Nearly forgot to mention that we went to a beautiful garden park in Doi Tung up near Chiang Rai, that the old Queen had organised ... breathtaking orchids, magnificent garden layouts – see the photo at left.



April Job File – Julia Hancock

- ⚙ Plant annuals and feed them with liquid fertilizer every fortnight to encourage rapid and healthy development.
- ⚙ Pinch out pansies if they start to get a bit leggy, as stockier plants produce more flowers. Really overgrown and straggly plants can be pruned by 50 per cent and cuttings taken of the prunings. Pot them up and transplant when the roots have formed in about eight weeks' time.
- ⚙ Watch for white flies around geraniums, tomatoes and salvias. These small, moth-like insects hide beneath leaves and fly away in a cloud when disturbed and large infestations can cause serious stress to plants. Make a yellow sticky trap by smearing petroleum jelly onto a bright yellow board or piece of plastic – the flies will be attracted to the colour and trapped in the sticky jelly.
- ⚙ Thanks to good rain, now is the perfect opportunity to plant trees and shrubs. To give tubestock a good start, place a few water storage crystals and slow release fertilizer pellets into the hole before planting. Water in well with a solution of liquid seaweed to stimulate new root formation. Non-natives can be given a dose of Dynamic Lifter spread over the surface of the soil before the mulch is put down. Remember to water well for the first fortnight, but after that plants should be able to fend for themselves.
- ⚙ Give your lawn a treat. Aerate it with the tines of a fork, fill in any dips and bumps with topsoil, reseed bare areas, and apply lime according to the manufacturer's recommended rate, watering the grass both before and after application.
- ⚙ If you're planting out brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, rocket), watch for caterpillars and apply Dipel as indicated on the packet. Brassicas are gross feeders so give them granular vegetable fertilizer as required.
- ⚙ Toss some coriander seeds onto the soil now while the earth is still warm, and they'll germinate fast. Annual coriander has a short season, so also have a couple of perennial coriander (*Eryngium foetidum*) plants on hand to fill the seasonal gaps.
- ⚙ Parsley is rich in Vitamin C and harvesting the leaves on a regular basis not only keeps the gardener healthy, but the plant responds too by having a longer and healthier life.



- ⚙ If you've got a spot in your vegie patch that's a bit tired, perk it up by sowing a green manure. Broad beans are ideal for this, as not only do they produce a crop of delicious beans, but their roots pump nitrogen into the soil. When the plant has finished producing, cut it off at the base, use the top as mulch, but keep the roots in the ground to slowly decompose and release their nutrients.

- ⚙ Disbud camellias – this means removing excess buds to improve the quality and size of the remaining flowers (if you can bear to do it).





Island Drive Landcare Picnic




FREE picnic! ALL WELCOME!!

Thursday May 9th 2019 at Keith Curran Park Reserve,
Island Drive, Tweed Heads 10.00am-12.00pm

Come to beautiful Keith Curran Reserve for a lovely picnic
and meet the locals that look after the reserve.



- 10.15 History of the Island. From sand to scenic reserve - **Clare Alchin**
10.30 The ecology, plants and animals that use the reserve - **Chris Roberts**
10.45 Bringing back the bush, Landcare activities - **Chris Roberts**
11.00 Stroll through the bush looking at the native plants, the main weeds
and how the group control them - **Island Drive Landcare Group**
11.30 Picnic and open discussion. Please bring your own chair and weeds
for identification! 

Book by May 6th online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BCARY>
or call Tweed Landcare on 02 6670 2199. Numbers are limited.



**National
Landcare
Program**



**Tweed
Landcare**

Upcoming Meetings



Garden Gathering (Bus Trip) Saturday 27th April

Start time is 8.30 am: Meet at Knox Park (Parsons Bus)

Food Group Meeting Tuesday 14th May - 9.30am start

At the home of Lyn Reid, 149 Mitchell Street (cnr Grants Road) Uki, phone 02 6679 5238 starting at 9.30am.

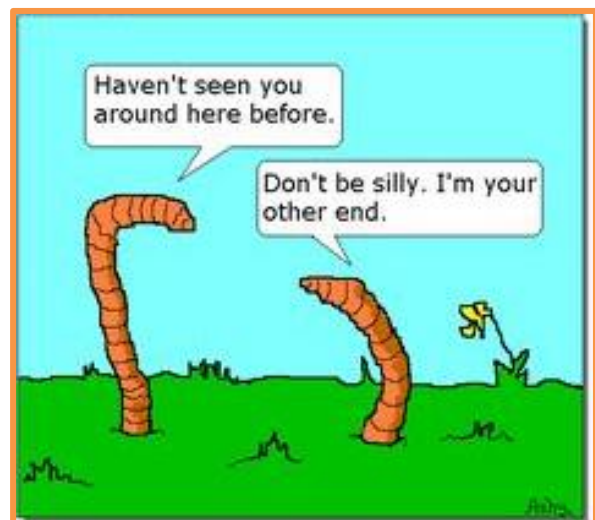
Please bring along your cup, chair, a hat, plate to share, and any produce or plants for the swap table.

That's all Folks...

Well, that's it for this month. Thanks to all the contributors for another bumper newsletter.

Keep sending your hints, tips, recipes, travel stories, bragging photos to us at ugcnew@gmail.com

And thanks as always to our printer – Sandra & Alan Guthrie at **Poster Paradise, Murwillumbah.**



Uki Garden Club

Calendar of Events 2019

May to August

Schedule For Food Group Meetings

MONTH DATE TIME	HOST NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
May Tuesday 14 9.30am	Lyn Reid	149 Mitchell Street Uki	02 6679 5238
June Tuesday 11 9.30am	Alex Deen	'Solace' 11 Tyalgum Ridge Road Tyalgum	0428 793 690
July Tuesday 9 9.30am	David and Bronwyn Hancox	327 Limpinwood Valley Rd Limpinwood	0429 845 884
August Tuesday 8 9.30am	Desiree Saunders	41 Pinelog Road Midginbil	02 6679 9391 0428 799 131

Schedule For Garden Gatherings

MONTH DATE TIME	HOST NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
May Saturday 25 2pm	Kyla White	Riverbend Permaculture Uki Tarcoola Lane, Uki	
June Saturday 29 2pm	Don & Sandra Capner	'Morning Song' 108 Farrants Road Farrants Hill Condong	Don will be giving a demonstration on a topic TBA – more info next newsletter 02 6677 7244
July Saturday 27 2pm AGM	Fran & Tim O'Hara	590 Clothiers Ck Rd Clothiers Ck	0429 810 038
August Saturday 31 2pm	Tim Hunt	96 Hunter Street Burringbar	0413 868 218