

Uki Garden Club

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

President's Report

Gillian Woodward

In the middle of a very dry Spring, I am sure you are all anxious for rain to start falling. The countryside and gardens are all looking very stressed and definitely lacking the usual 'green glow' that is such a trait of the Tweed Valley. However, compared to some of neighbouring shires, we are indeed much luckier in terms of our water supply.

At Food Group this month, our discussions centred on the topics of water conservation and dealing with plants responding adversely to the lack of water. It is always good to meet with others and be able to ask the questions about problems we think we are facing alone. The sharing of ideas and solutions is wonderful to see amongst our club members, some of whom have had long years of experience in our region.

As our year draws rapidly to an end, we need to arrange our calendar of gatherings for 2020. Be sure to let Lynn O'Hara know (Mobile: 0408 053 303) if you would like to host a Saturday Garden Gathering next year (last Saturday of the month). Or contact Lyn Reid (Mobile: 0427619564) if you are willing to host a Food Group meeting (second Tuesday of the month). They will be delighted to hear from you. They would also love to hear of other venues you might know about – perhaps a great local nursery or maybe a non-member's garden – where we might be able to hold a Saturday or Tuesday meeting. So put your thinking caps on and help our 2020 calendars take shape so we can advertise them to you in January (which is closer than you think!).

Our committee decided last month to purchase three tables to be used at meetings. There are 2 larger, folding ones – usually used for swap table and morning/afternoon tea. The third one is smaller, perfect for the Seed Box and Treasurer's Box. We hope this helps hosts who can sometimes struggle to find enough table space for our ever-growing gatherings.

On behalf of members I would like to express my thanks to Jan Brooks for organising the October bus trip and to Lynn O'Hara for running the raffle. I hope those of you who attended enjoyed the day. I imagine you have been busily planting and tending your purchases since then. If you have suggestions for bus trips in 2020 please tell Jan Brooks (Mob: 0406 620 628). They do not have to be in any particular month. We can schedule them in to suit our calendar. *(Pic at right of happy bus trippers outside the historic Brookfield Hall.)*

We can look forward to a new venue for our October Garden Gathering at the end of this month – John Bennett's award winning rose garden in Murwillumbah. I am sure we will learn much from John's expertise, so bring all your rose questions (no matter how thorny they might be)!

The year is racing away so our Christmas parties will be upon us very soon. Put your thinking caps on as to what gift you will make/grow/cook/bring to Don & Sandra Capner's renowned garden for the Garden Gathering Christmas party! It is always a great day of friendship and sharing, so don't miss out – November 30th is the important date for your diary.

May it rain where you are!

Happy gardening

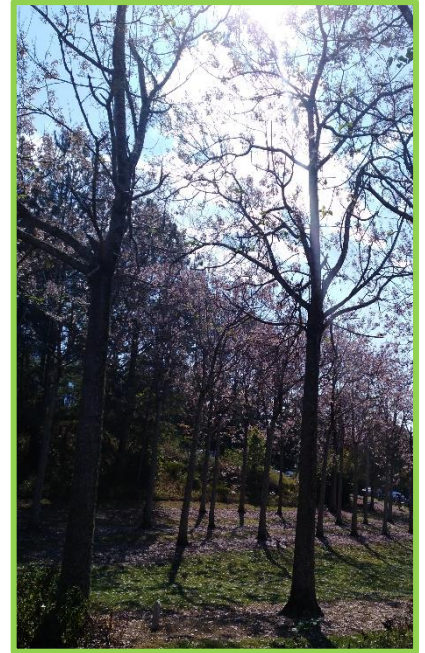
Gillian



Titbits from the September Food Group

Julia Hancock

The countryside we drove through to get to the Food Group meeting at Tyalgum was surprisingly green and because hosts Philip and Richard's property is in a sheltered position it had not been too adversely affected by wind when we visited. Their Paulownia grove (*pic at right*) was almost at the end of its flowering but still looked gorgeous, as did the other treasures in their garden. Of their 12 acres only three are under cultivation and the rest are agisted to stock. The citrus trees they inherited when they moved here from Wood End, Victoria, were in full blossom on the day we arrived and smelled gorgeous.



Appreciation from TPS



Meredith Dennis, from Tweed Palliative Support (TPS) was a guest of honour at the meeting. (*pic of Meredith with Hartmut at left*)

She thanked the garden club profusely for its support of the new vegetable beds at Wedgetail and told us something of the history of the facility. TPS, the only community hospice in New South Wales, has been active for 20 years and relies solely on donations, as it receives no government funding. Wedgetail was purchased 10 years ago, with the assistance of a low-interest \$1m loan from a local benefactor which was repaid within 5.5 years; the Op Shop in Queen Street generates

45% of all income. Wedgetail has been open for four years, supplying 24-hour registered nursing care for up four clients.

A much-loved, yet unpaid member of the nursing team is Baz the dog. His owner, a Wedgetail client, missed his dog badly so Baz came to visit. Baz blended in so well that when his owner died and his wife was unable to look after him, Wedgetail adopted him. Baz always knows when he is needed – he does the meet and greet and at the end of their visit escorts people off site. He instinctively knows when someone needs a cuddle and is unstintingly generous with his love. What a hero! (*pic at right of Baz who came along to the meeting*)



For Hartmut's update on TPS veggie beds, see his full report later in this Newsletter.



General Discussion

- Philip has decided not to grow vegetables for the next little while but he has dressed his beds with alpaca manure which he purchased at Campbells (three bags for \$10). The manure is 'cold' so one can plant straight into it.
- Pam has a big lemon myrtle tree which has been blighted by rust. What to do? Cut off affected bits and dispose of them if feasible. The dieback could also be caused by borer in which case the affected branches should be removed and disposed of.
- Jackie has a large pecan which has never flowered or produced nuts. Is there a right time to prune? Brigitte thought it isn't too late to prune now. Philip explained that the flowers, which are fairly insignificant to look at, need a pollinator.
- Annie's front lawn is just a patch of weeds. She can't afford to lay turf. What to do? Barb suggested she mulch it over with cardboard and pine bark and later on plant into it.
- Claudia asked where she can get her water tested as she's worried about its quality. Martin advised her to pick up a sample kit from Council offices in Murwillumbah and deliver her sample to the lab attached to the Civic Centre in Tweed Heads.
- Tracey asked when is the best time to fertilise citrus trees? Now, but only if it rains. Use Dynamic Lifter, Organic Extra or granulated citrus fertiliser around the tree. How does she treat citrus leaf miner organically? Use neem spray plus neem oil.
- The roots of Christine's orchid have attached themselves to the outside of the pot and she can't detach them without breaking them. What to do? The best thing is to liberate the orchid from the pot and attach it to a tree. Christine hasn't got trees so Philip suggested putting the whole thing, pot and all, into a bigger pot and backfilling to cover the roots. It doesn't matter if you break the roots because they will regenerate. Alternatively, you can buy a log totem from a garden centre and attach the orchid to that. The plant will get nutrients from fungi growing in the bark.



Some of the other treasures in Philip and Richard's garden – including a pic of the hosts with fellow Club member Gill Nijs.



(Ed: thanks to Jackie Balk & Couz'n Lynn for the lovely meeting pics)

September Garden Gathering

Sue Holzknecht



In the garden of Jan Brooks & Axel Neumann in Nunderi

Another lovely day in Paradise, but sadly still no rain in sight.

Gillian welcomed 45 of us at Jan and Axel's place, on a beautiful Spring afternoon.

Hartmut reported first, on the Seedbox. Lots of new seeds, sow now for summer veggies, and he advised us to let soft veggies

like lettuce and brassicas go to seed and reproduce. Protect them from the sun as it will burn them in the coming months.

Second, he reported that the new raised vegetable and herb bed at Wedgetail Retreat (Northern Rivers Community Hospice) has been planted with seedlings, most donated by members of the club and other very generous people. The bed is at a critical stage now. It will need watering and monitoring regularly. He thanked all the volunteers who had given up their time to help get the new garden to this stage. See his report and suggestions for future work later in this Newsletter.

Philip showed us the amazing 'Pelican flower'; which was growing on his porch. It is the flower of the *Aristolochia grandiflora*. (The pic at right of this amazing flower taken by Philip has been posted on the Uki Garden Club Forum Facebook page)

Jan recounted the history of their place in Nunderi. She and Axel bought the one acre property in 2001, and moved in 2003 with many plants from family and their Sydney garden which they had been transporting up here each holiday. The property was a bare paddock covered in 2.8 metre tall *Setaria* grass. This had been sown as cattle fodder, but dairy cows wouldn't eat it, and it is poisonous to horses and donkeys! There were 2 trees on the property, one Eucalypt and one African Tulip tree. The soil was 'crap', sandy, gravelly clay, which they are still struggling to improve after 16 years!

A reef of rock running across the property helps with holding water, allowing it to seep downwards

but it backs up during heavy rain and can make the soil boggy.



Plants thriving in the garden include Jan's grandmother's roses, the *Thunbergia mysorensis* ('Lady's Slipper') vine (pic at left) and a yellow Banksia Rose. The garden also holds many features from family properties including old iron farming equipment and a wooden rail fence from Jan's grandfather's farm. A white hibiscus, gerberas and geraniums all remind Jan of her family gardens.

Q & A

Jean held up a small-leafed plant, and asked what it was. Philip found it on his app. It is *Helichrysum petiolare*, and is a very good plant for dry areas. It spreads and covers a lot of ground. Thanks Philip! (Ed: A picture of this plant is at right and I can also attest to its hardiness and great coverage as I have it growing on a rock wall and it grows very well with no care)



I asked whether it is still done to pinch out the growing tips of tomato plants? Don replied that no, it is not! Pinch out the side shoots only. Oops!

Loretta asked when her Rollinia (*Rollinia deliciosa*) would bear fruit. She has had it for 7 years, but it still no flowers or fruit. Don said that Rollinia, like its relative Custard Apple, needs moisture and humidity through the branches to fruit well. Water around the base in the afternoon, and Philip suggested sprinkling some wood ash from the fire around the base and watering it in.

Bev asked how deep gravel should be to make a gravel garden? What is the best sequence for preparation? How can she prevent weeds coming up? Don said prepare the area well, lay down a thick layer (about 150 mms) of larger, rough gravel rather than smooth river pebbles, and keep leaves off the surface. Sue suggested looking at Beth Chatto's book, *Beth Chatto's Gravel Gardens*, for inspiration. See also <https://www.bethchatto.co.uk/gardens/gallery/gravel-garden.htm>.

The raffle prizes included a Chinese Jujube tree (*Ziziphus jujuba*), a large jade bush, potpourri, gloves, liquid fertilizer, a compost twirler, and one of Lynn's beautiful tiny succulent gardens, all much appreciated by the winners.

The meeting closed about 3.00 pm and we all adjourned to the ever-generous afternoon-tea table, then tours of Jan and Axel's garden.

Thank you Jan and Axel, for welcoming us to your lovely garden again and for being so generous with cuttings and plants!



L: The generous hosts Axel & Jan

R: Jan with her spectacular Banksia Rose



Some of the delights in Jan & Axel's garden – with thanks to Jackie Balk & Couz'n Lyn O'Hara for their pics taken at the meeting.



Wedgetail Retreat Update - Hartmut Holzknecht

As I reported to recent UGC meetings, members can be very proud of having contributed funds and labour to the completion, filling and now the planting up of Tweed Palliative Care's new raised bed. (Pic of the planting workers by Sue Holzknecht - left to right: Bronwyn Hancox, Hartmut Holzknecht, Judith Holmes, Philip Keegan, Marie Luxford, Peter Hall)



Having achieved this goal we now need to refocus UGC's support to the ongoing maintenance of the garden. This means that UGC members need to visit the site regularly, check on watering, weeding and replacing seedlings. I suggest the following:

1) Regular garden visits for maintenance:

One or two club members to visit the site every three weeks or so to check on:

- Watering
- Weeding as required
- Replanting with new seedlings as mature plants are used up or go to seed
- REPORTING: Send a brief text to me reporting on your visit to me (Hartmut) on 0448880209, including any suggestions.

2) Schedule:

Members can be rostered to visit the Wedgetail site in:

- ⊗ Third week of October 2019 (October 14 - 20: day of the week depends on which day suits the volunteers)
- ⊗ First week of November 2019 (November 4 - 10)
- ⊗ Fourth week of November 2019 (November 25 - December 1)
- ⊗ Third week of December 2019 (December 16 - 22)
- ⊗ Second week of January 2020 (January 6 - 12)
- ⊗ Last week of January 2020 (January 27 - February 2)

I will draw up a roster and circulate this to UGC and to those who have indicated their willingness to be involved.

In February 2020 we will assess how this system is working and make whatever adjustments are necessary, in consultation with Wedgetail staff.

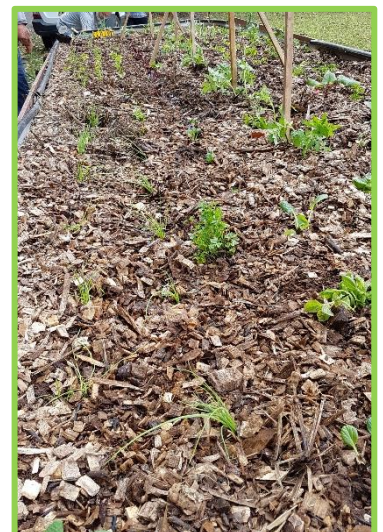
3) Volunteering:

Please indicate your willingness to be involved by texting me on **0448 880 209** and sending me your name, mobile number and which day(s) of the roster you are available to help out. The tasks needing to be done are not onerous or physically demanding and just require us to keep a watch on how the garden is progressing. If major replanting is needed we will organise a separate working bee for that task.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

My thanks and regards, Hartmut Holzknecht

(Pic at right of one of the beds planted with donated herb and veggie seedlings)



Brisbane Garden & Plant Expo Bus Trip

Fran O'Hara

As the song goes – “the wheels on the bus go round & round” and they certainly did, taking 41 eager bus trippers to the Brisbane Garden and Plant expo held at the Brookfield Show Grounds on Saturday 5th October.

The bus left on time from Knox Park and stopped at Mudgeeraba to pick up 5 Twin Towns Garden Club members who were coming along for the day.

Angus, our expert bus driver from Parsons, got us ‘rock star’ parking right at the entrance gate and on arrival we were ushered through the lines straight into the Expo.

It was a great day for it – albeit a little warm – but that did not deter us from working our way through the many exhibitors’ stalls set up at the showgrounds (see pics below for 2 very popular stalls, with Clivea on the left and Adeniums on the right).



A very handy Plant Creche was centrally located so we didn't have to struggle with carrying our purchases around all day – with a gold coin donation going to the local Moggill Creek Catchment Group for use of the service.

There was a great program of speakers in the main hall so we could sit and get some respite from the sun and learn about a variety of topics ranging from creating a garden with understory plants, to sustainable gardening, and sizzling into summer with edibles to suit the subtropical climate. I sat in on the session run by Brian Sams on the “7 Myths in Gardening” and my notes from this very informative talk follow.



Our departure time of 2.30pm rolled around pretty quickly and soon we were all back on the bus winding our way home and we were all safely delivered back to Knox Park by 4.30pm.

Couz'n Lynn did a sterling job of running the raffles and as usual the prizes were great and well received.

The theme of the expo was “Create, Grow, Enjoy” and I am sure judging by the many purchases we collectively made that this theme will continue with those who attended for some time.

Huge thanks to Jan Brooks (pictured below with Tim Hunt) for organising this great trip – it all ran like clockwork and I know I can speak for all of us when I say we had a great day out.



Below: Museum pieces Mel Darnley, Penny Riley and yours truly taking a break.



7 Myths in Gardening – from Brian Sams' talk

1. All plants need mulching

- The best sort of mulch to use is one that is nice & open & airy & springy with a range of particle sizes as rain and water need to get in.
- Flat pieces of mulch make it hard to get water in so if you have this sort of mulch make sure you mix it with other mulches to keep it open.
- Fine mulches (eg straw bales bought from gardening stores) are good for adding organic matter but not for water retention.
- Gravel mulch is good but hard to weed
- Hoop pine mulch very good
- Layer your mulch only 50 - 75 mm, and if using sugar cane mulch only apply 20 mm.

2. Honey works as an artificial rooting material

- No it doesn't (nor does vegemite) - use gel hormones as you end up with more roots per cutting and it happens faster, at 20 roots vs maybe 4 using no gel hormones.
- If you buy the gel type, keep in fridge or in the dark and it will last more than 2 years.
- Powder type is only good for up to 3 months.
- Easy Root is good product to use: follow the instructions.
- Commercial nurseries use gel.

3. Seaweed is a cure all

- The big thing to note is that seaweed isn't a fertilizer but is more like a tonic.
- Plants don't absorb hormones or vitamins through their roots, so if you see a product claiming this, don't believe it!
- Seaweed is good because it does have trace elements and it does help with plant stress and transplant shock. It also helps with resistance to mildew.
- There is no evidence of improved root formation for survival, however – good old water is best for this.
- You can make it yourself if you have access to seaweed (*Ed: in NSW, foraging beach-cast seaweed is allowed of up to 20 litres a day – anything above that requires a permit*).

4. Potash makes plants flower

- Sulphate of potash doesn't help plants that are not flowering to flower.
- Plants flower when they reach sexual maturity, and have the correct temperature and moisture levels, as well as the right night length and having enough **phosphorus**.
- Tip is to **increase phosphorus not potassium**.
- However, it is also important to note that if you overdo one thing you can then upset other elements and put them out of balance.
- It is good to use a complete fertilizer instead.
- Pots benefit from Power Feed rather than Seasol

5. Organic is the same as safe

- Use any chemicals on your garden carefully as they may be safe for humans but not for bugs – ie an organic spray will kill anything around it, not just the thing you are aiming to kill.
- Milk spray or any other spray used in temperatures above 25°C is not good as it can burn the plant.
- Neem works to break the life cycle of bugs and won't do any damage to the predator (eg birds). However, do note that it has a short life span so use it within the time stated on the pack. Neem is only good for plant chewers – not other bugs.
- What to do with curl grubs? When it's dry you will get more and your garden can put up with a few anyway – so you don't always need to get rid of them. Eco grub may work and usually a natural cure will catch up with them – ie birds, chooks etc.

6. Fertilizer facts and fictions

- Improve soils with compost and manures to increase soil life.
- Look for ingredients like N P K and manganese, silicon, sulphur, zinc, boron, calcium, iron, copper – always look at the label.
- Some fertilizers contain very low levels of elements. Ignore the front of the packaging and always look on the back.
- Adding manures builds up soil life.
- Horse poo nutrient levels are pretty low. And it's highly likely that what the horses are fed or dosed with will affect the poo and subsequently your soils.
- Cost varies eg Power Feed is most expensive, Thrive is cheapest.

7. Foliar fertilizers work

- Generally, no. Plant leaves are waterproof. Breathing pores on back of leaf need to be open and you need to spray under the leaf. Spray underside with fine nozzle.
- Humidity levels also impact so do any spraying early in the morning rather than later.



In August, Jackie and Michael Balk hosted 26 members from Guyra Garden Club who came to visit our beautiful region. They enjoyed viewing the best acreage gardens in the Murwillumbah Garden Competition: Marie Luxford and Peter Hall's garden in Dallis Park and the Balk's garden in Nunderi.



Calendars of Meetings for 2020

Gardens Needed Please!

Lyn Reid kindly volunteered to put together a schedule for the Food Group meetings and Lynn O'Hara will do the same for the Garden Gatherings next year. Thank you both for volunteering.

Please could all those members who are willing to host meetings throughout next year see Lyn and Lynn as soon as possible because we like to get the calendar out after Christmas.

Things to think about when hosting a meeting

The Club really appreciates members hosting meetings as it provides a wonderful opportunity to see other gardens in different parts of our area, get inspiring ideas and see first-hand what is working and not working for others.

When offering to host a meeting you will need to think about the best place to hold the meeting: in your garden, gazebo, garage or wherever, taking into consideration the possible need for shade and wind protection, the possibility of rain and the number of people you will have to accommodate. Recently we have had around 50 – 60 members at each meeting, so space is an issue.

The Club has two shade structures. Please contact Don Capner on 02 6677 7244 or mobile 0421 696 567 if you need to borrow them. You also need power access for the urns.



Then:

1. Give any special instructions about how to find your place, car parking arrangements, etc. to put into the Club newsletter the month before your meeting. Email to ugcnews@gmail.com.
2. You should receive the UGC hosting kit from the person who hosted the last Food Group or Garden Gathering. It is their responsibility to organise its transfer to you. The kit includes two urns, a powerboard, tea, coffee, sugar, some paddlepop sticks and spoons (for stirring sugar), main sandwich board sign, tables and signs for the food and swap tables. It's best if you can organise this at the previous Food Group or Garden Gathering.
3. Buy fresh milk for the meeting (around 3 litres should do).
4. Fill urns before the meeting and make sure that they are turned on. Check them during the meeting and turn them down if they are boiling.
5. You might also want to provide fresh water and a few spare glasses and extra cups for those who forget.
6. Have the right attendance book and question book out for the start of the meeting.
7. Find out who is hosting the next meeting and get the kit to them as it is your responsibility.

Thank you for considering hosting a meeting – the Club really values your contribution.

Members' Recipes

Bliss Balls – Simone & Jeanette Renton

Deceptively easy and totally delicious!

Ingredients

- 1 cup finely chopped pitted dates.
- 1 cup almonds

Method

1. Grind the almonds in a coffee grinder or a blender. Keep aside.
2. Heat a pan over moderate heat. Add the dates and gently stir with a wooden spoon for 1 or 2 minutes until they become soft and mushy.
3. In a mixing bowl combine the dates and almonds quickly.
4. While still warm form the mixture into walnut sized balls.

Enjoy!



Meet your Club Treasurer

Last month when we published the picture of the Club committee we were missing our wonderful treasurer – Helen Lofts. Here is a lovely snap of her so you will know her when you see her at meetings. Thanks Helen



Time to start thinking about Christmas (well – the Club Christmas Party anyway)

As Gillian mentioned in her report – the Club's Christmas Party is on Saturday 30th November and it's time to start thinking (or even planting) your gift for the Secret Santa. The gift should be worth not more than \$10 and preferably be home-made. Each gift delivered will be swapped for a ticket. Each ticket will later be swapped for a gift (not the one you brought!) – so to get a gift you need to bring a gift.

Also – please note that this meeting starts at 11am – not the usual 2pm – so make a note in the diary and there will be a further reminder in the November newsletter too. There is no Swap Table at this meeting as the tables will be laden with food and gifts instead.

Details of the Food Group Christmas party in December will be in the November newsletter – however please note, no present exchange is done at the Food Group meeting.



On the Road Again – Travellers' Tales



Fiji with Kate & Gary Botham

Gary and I recently joined our Canadian family for a little holiday in the sun in Fiji. We stayed at Musket Cove Resort, on the island of Lomani, an hour ferry ride west of Nadi. It was everything you ever think about as a tropical island...absolutely perfect. The Fijians are so friendly, happy and relaxed,

and apart from the stunning scenery, we fell in love with their music.

Musket Cove has its own "farm" and we went to see where they grow most of the produce for the resort.

There are hillsides covered in bananas, mangoes, pineapples and papayas. There are organic chickens, vegetables and herbs. They also have a "carpentry workshop" where they do all their

repairs and also make furniture from fallen/pruned trees.

As well, they crush all the waste glass from the island (see pic at right) and re-use it in concrete paths etc. It was good to see them trying to be as sustainable as possible.

They also have a mangrove rehabilitation program (see pic at left), and they are growing and re-planting coral.

Thanks Kate!

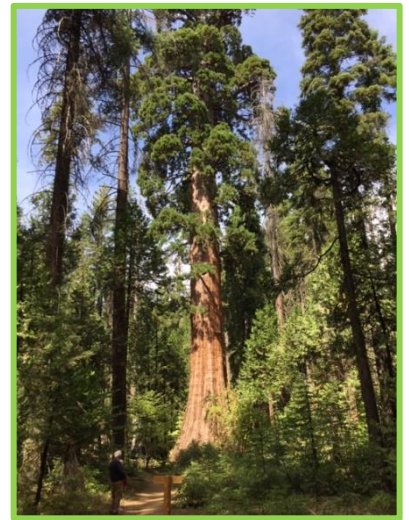


San Francisco with Fran & Tim O'Hara

September saw us enjoying the wonderful weather of California as we visited the Napa Valley, Yosemite and the city of San Francisco.

Along the way we visited the giant redwood trees (*pic of one on the right*) – which are known as the sole living species of the genus *Sequoia* in the cypress family Cupressaceae. They can live for more than 1,200 years, have bark that can be up to 30 cm thick and are truly magnificent trees to see.

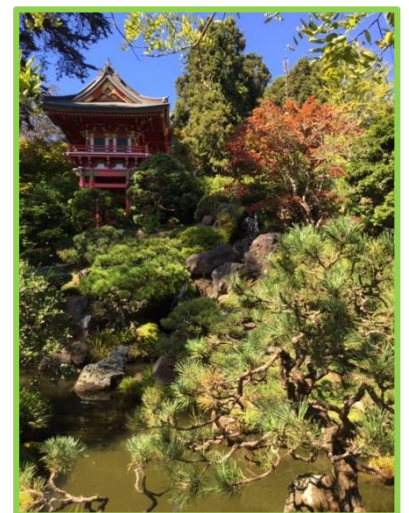
A highlight of our trip was the magnificent Yosemite National Park where the wonderful vistas just kept coming (see pics as below). We didn't see any of the fabled bears or mountain lions in the park but there were plenty of big steel boxes for campers (of which there were many) to keep their supplies safe from the marauding animals.



Our stop in San Francisco included the obligatory visit to Alcatraz, walking the crookedest street in the world – Lombard Street – which is lined with beautiful gardens, Fisherman's Wharf, biking the Golden Gate bridge (*at left*) and a walk thru Golden Gate Park including a visit to the Conservatorium and the Japanese Tea Gardens (*pics as below*).

We really enjoyed our visit and it seems we just missed a natural

phenomenon – the march of the tarantulas! Seriously – it's a thing! It's like the march of the Christmas Island crabs, but where giant tarantulas come in their thousands to look for a mate. Never fear, though, for Kate and Gary Botham are headed to Yosemite this month and have promised to take photos – so stay tuned!



October Job File – Julia Hancock



- ✿ Plant tomatoes in straw bales and give them a liquid feed once they get going.
- ✿ Feed azaleas and camellias with granular fertilizer and water well in.
- ✿ Give gardenias a dose of Epsom salts to boost their general health (one tablespoon to three litres of water per average-sized bush). Don't worry if some leaves are yellowing and fall off as this is a natural process, however, if all the leaves are yellow with prominent green veins this is a sign of magnesium deficiency which the Epsom salts will help.
- ✿ Apply a blueing agent to hydrangeas during wet weather. This also feeds the plant in its early stages of growth and ensures good blossoming throughout the season. Blueing agent is available in powder form from nurseries and hardware stores but can only be used on pink hydrangeas to turn them blue (it doesn't work on white ones, which always stay white no matter what the pH of the soil).
- ✿ After a good shower of rain is the perfect time to 'weed and feed' the lawn. The easiest and cheapest way to do this is to buy a hose-on pack and apply it according to the instructions. Be aware that most hose-on products can't be used on buffalo lawns, and it's important not to mow one week before and one week after application. Lawn clippings from the first mowing after treatment should not be used as compost or mulch as the residue may harm other garden plants.
- ✿ Fertilise strawberry plants fortnightly with sulphate of potash to keep the fruits coming. By the way, did you know that a strawberry isn't a berry at all, but the swollen receptacle that houses the plant's seeds?
- ✿ Hedges will be shooting wildly after the rain so give them a trim to tidy them up before summer.
- ✿ Cacti and succulents don't need much fertilizing but you can give them a feed of soluble fertilizer such as Thrive Cacti and Succulent Food or Maxicrop to keep them lush and lovely during the hot weather.
- ✿ It's warm enough to start growing beans now, but remember that they hate being grown near onions, garlic and shallots. Their best companions are carrots, celery, cucumber and lettuce.
- ✿ Whilst on the subject of companion planting, keep all the Solanaceae family together when planting – i.e. eggplant, tomatoes, chillis, capsicums and spuds.
- ✿ Marigolds and parsley grow well with and improve the general health of anything in the flower and vegie garden, so sprinkle around some seeds and watch the goodness grow.
- ✿ Remove the stalks of spent broad bean crops, leaving the roots in the soil and using the tops as nitrogen-rich mulch.
- ✿ Stake tall dahlias as they begin to grow.
- ✿ Renew faded plant labels.



Beaut blueberries

If you can grow camellias and azaleas you'll be able to grow these acid-loving fruits.

Well known for their health properties (their purple colour is an indicator of anthocyanin, one of the best cancer-fighting agents of all) they are reputed to aid short-term memory loss and improve balance and co-ordination. Blueberries are small shrubs that grow to approximately 1.5m and there are several different types on the market. Check out which varieties grow best here by consulting the staff at JH Williams. They prefer full sun and can tolerate drought and frost.



Blueberries are delicious munched straight from the bush, but they can also be used in muffins, fruit salads, sorbets and ice-creams, sauces and pies. Unfortunately birds also find them irresistible so protect your crop with netting.



New Insect Identification Tool

We have some very exciting news that we would like share with the UGC.

We have mentioned in the past that we created a phone app for insect identification & organic gardening. This has had limited success so we have had it redeveloped into a free website. Hopefully it will be attractive to businesses in this field so we can gain sponsors (at a cost to them).

The website is totally free to use, no membership or fees at all. We are very excited to release this & would love to see it promoted through garden clubs. Here is the link for you to have a look at:

<https://insectsandorganicgardening.com.au/>

Cheers, Dave & Bron Hancox



Garden Clubs of Australia 2020 Calendar

The Garden Clubs of Australia's 2020 Garden Calendar makes a wonderful gift for family and gardening friends and is a bargain at \$10 each.

Fran is taking orders for delivery at the Club Christmas parties at the end of November and mid-December.

Please catch up with Fran at the October Garden Gathering or Gillian at the November Food Group to order and pay for your calendar/s. Please note – payment must be received when placing the order for your order to be valid.

Deadline for ordering will be the November Food Group – 12th November.

Notice of Special General Meeting

The UGC committee are calling a Special General Meeting to be held as part of the Christmas Party gathering on November 30th, 2019.

We would like to pass the following special resolution:

The Uki Garden Club will adopt the "Model Constitution" under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

For a copy of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 – click on the link below:

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2009/7>

or see Fair Trading NSW at:

<https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/associations-and-co-operatives/associations>

King Qualls for Sale

3 young pairs available – various colours.

Phone new member Mary Goodacre on
0498 962 993

Upcoming Meetings



October Garden Gathering

Saturday 26th October, 2pm start time.

4 Mount Barney Court, "Bellevue Heights", Murwillumbah in the garden of John Bennett

Ph: 02 6672 8810 or 0406 542 764

Directions from Murwillumbah:

Take Byangum Rd, continue on past the golf club and Park Ave. Continue where Byangum Rd becomes North Arm Rd. At the large roundabout at the Wollumbin High School turn left into Castlefield Drive, then first right into Lamington Way, then first left into Mount Barney Court.

Directions from Uki:

You can take River Oak Drive that will connect to Castlefield Drive. This will lead to Lamington Way, which is the last street on the left.

And, for those who prefer to walk DOWNHILL with all their belongings:

Turn into Castlefield drive at the Wollumbin High School roundabout and continue up to the top of the hill where the road continues around to the right. Keep going until you see Saddle Way. Turn right into it and drive one house block or two to the crest. Park near the childrens' play equipment and walk down the concrete path. Keep walking along the grass track down the hill until you come out in the park opposite John Bennett's house at the top of the cul-de-sac.

Street parking is limited and you are advised to angle park. The house is at the top of Mt Barney Court situated in a cul-de-sac and members can drop off and find parking on the street.

November Food Group Meeting

Sue & Hartmut Holzknecht

12 Waranga Crescent, Burringbar

02 6677 1772 or 0448 880 239

Tuesday 12th November starting at 9.30am.

Directions on how to get there:

Coming from Murwillumbah, on Tweed Valley Way, drive until you see a street sign on the right for **Broadway**, the main street of Burringbar. Keep going along TV Way, go under the 'Occupation Bridge'. Drive past the **Tweed Valley Whey** Cheese Factory on your right, and take the first turn right into **Hunter Street** (the Club sign will be there). Continue on Hunter Street, and turn right into **Waranga Crescent**. Our place, number 12, is the third driveway on the right. Please park along the street and please close the gate as you come in.

For both meetings please bring along your cup, chair, a hat, a 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 full newsletter.

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

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