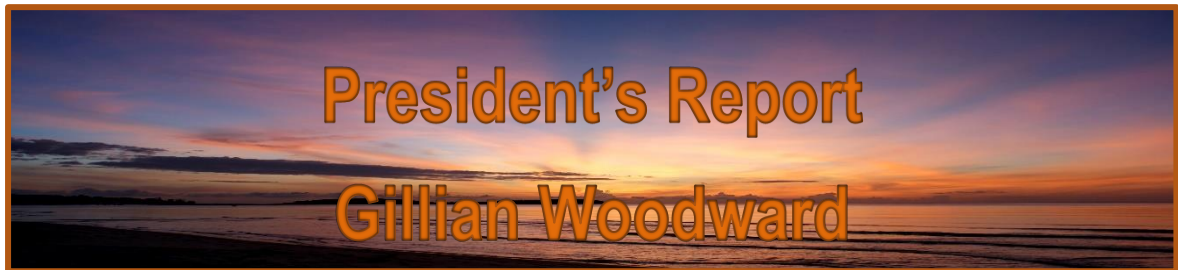


# Uki Garden Club

Volume 20/05 June 2020 [ugcnews@gmail.com](mailto:ugcnews@gmail.com) P.O. Box 580 Murwillumbah 2484  
<http://ukigarden.club/wp/>



Winter has arrived and with it some welcome rain. I have just emptied out my rain gauge which contained 130 mls from the last two days! But the winter sun is shining and it is wonderful to see and hear the local streams and rivers flowing so well again. The vegetable plants are really appreciating the rain, putting on a major growth spurt.

Just in case you are thinking it's been cold here, spare a thought for our nearby Northern Tableland residents whose temperatures have been dipping well below zero overnight and not rising much above 6 degrees some days. Unfortunately I have to return there myself – something I said I'd never do in winter when we left Armidale 5 years ago. Thermal gear and all our woollies have been looked out and dutifully washed in anticipation of a cold visit to our previous home.

It seems that life is gradually progressing towards 'normal' post COVID -19, with some restrictions being eased. However, outdoor gatherings for our garden club are still not feasible or in fact legal at this stage. As I mentioned in the membership renewal note, we need to wait until groups of 100 are allowed outside. It does seem that will likely be happening soon – perhaps as soon as July. Social distancing must still be practised so our venue must be adequately large. Our first gathering will likely be held at an independent venue – that means not at someone's home. This will be a good trial run to see how we go managing the logistics of social distancing etc.

We did meet as a committee at the end of May – 8 of us outside at the Murwillumbah Lions Lookout picnic shelter – +on a cool and windy day. We decided that when gatherings resume we would not share any food so it will be a 'bring your own everything' afternoon tea – thermos, munchies etc. In the meantime I hope that many of you are keeping in touch with each other by phone, email, Facebook or via other technologies.



Don't forget that the club has many seeds available –for both vegetables and flowers. If you would like some, just send Hartmut an email and he will put your order in the post at no charge. See page 5 for more details.

Many of you have been renewing your membership for 2020/21, so we are very grateful to you for staying with us during this "non-meeting" time. Make sure you use the correct account number for our Southern Cross Credit Union account if you are doing a direct deposit. It has changed from the previous one which you may have stored in your computer. The correct No. is 100017935 for Uki Garden Club Inc.

Hopefully we will be able to meet in person in the very near future.

Until then, happy gardening! Gillian

# To (blue) Bee or Not to Be...

Did you know we have blue bees in our backyards here in the Tweed? This beautiful Neon Cuckoo Bee (*Thyreus nitidulus*) pictured at right was spotted and photographed by Tweed Shire Council's Project Officer Biodiversity, Aiden Sloman in a veggie garden at Limpinwood.



The Neon Cuckoo Bee it is a solitary bee and as suggested by the term "cuckoo", it raises its offspring by taking advantage of other bee species. It often targets the hard working, solitary Blue Banded Bee (*Amegilla cingulata*) by following the unsuspecting bee to its burrow, stocked with pollen to nourish its emerging brood.

When the Blue Banded Bee is not looking, the Neon Cuckoo Bee sneaks into its host's brood cell and lays its own brood. If the Neon Cuckoo Bee's offspring emerge earlier than the host's offspring, they feast on the host's food stores before its own offspring have a chance to feed.

Interestingly, much of the pollen collected by the Blue Banded Bee is collected using a special technique called 'buzz pollination' or sonication. Buzz pollination is achieved by rapid vibration of the flight muscles to cause flowers to release pollen which normally would be firmly attached. Many plants have adapted to this pollen collection technique and are now reliant on species such as the Blue Banded Bee for pollination.

## Moths and Butterflies: What's the Difference?

What is the difference between butterflies and moths? It turns out there is no simple answer to this question.

Butterflies, skippers and moths belong to the insect order Lepidoptera. Australia has a rich Lepidoptera fauna containing an estimated 30,000 species.

There are several general criteria used to differentiate butterflies and skippers from moths. Butterflies and skippers general fly during the day. They have clubbed antennae. They lack a frenulum (bristles which keep the hindwing and forewing in contact) and are often brightly coloured. Moths tend to fly at night, are dull and have simple 'feathery' antenna. When resting, butterflies and skippers hold their wings together overhead while moths hold their wings flat. Butterflies and skippers generally have smaller forelegs while moths have fully developed forelegs.



Above: Australian Admiral butterfly (*Vanessa itea*).  
Photo: Trevor Worden

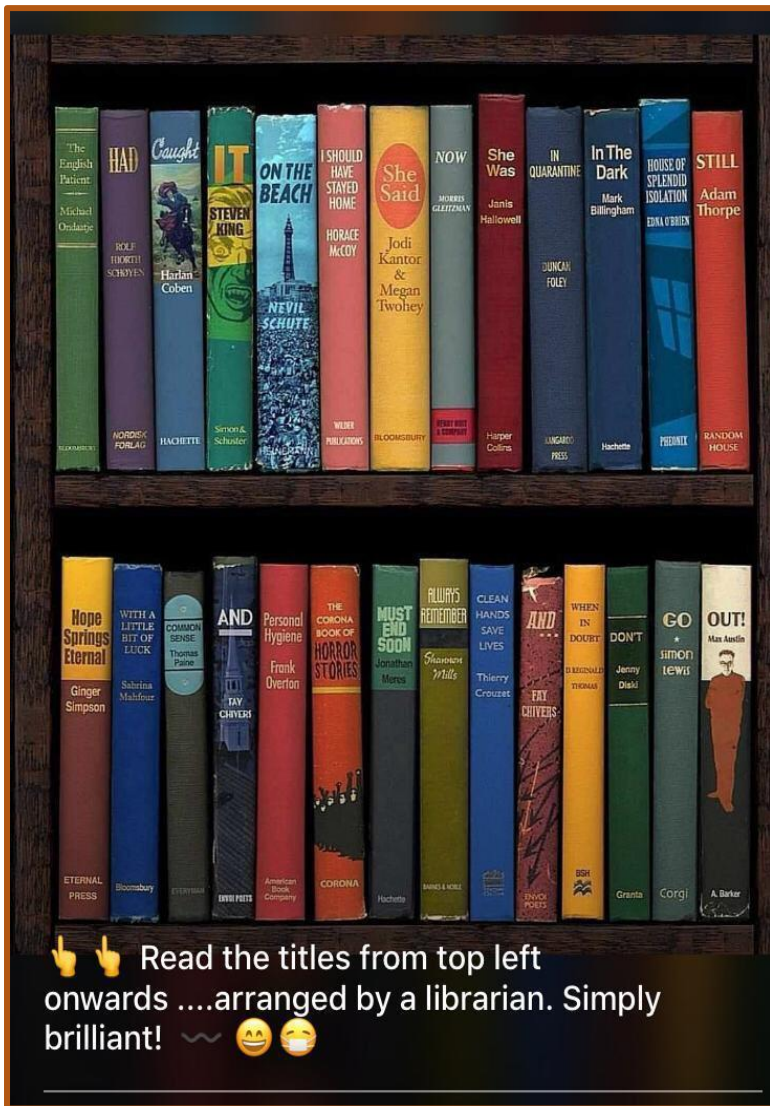
There are exceptions to these rules. For example, some butterflies and skippers are active at dusk and many moth species fly during the day. Day-flying moths are often brightly coloured. Australia has the only skipper with a frenulum and, contrary to the general rule, many moths lack a frenulum. The resting posture of some moth species are just like butterflies, and vice versa.

A good starting place for further information on butterflies, skippers and moths, including instructive pictures, can be found at the [Queensland Museum](#) website.

(Both the above articles have been kindly reproduced with permission from the May 2020 Wild Life newsletter put out by Tweed Shire Council)



# Aaaah Ya Gotta Laugh



## Things to Ponder

- Why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?
- What was the best thing before sliced bread?
- Why do 'fat chance' and 'slim chance' mean the same thing?

Government:  
Work from home

Lifeguards:



## More Dad Jokes

Dad: Can I administer my own anaesthetic?  
Surgeon: Go ahead - knock yourself out.

A neutron walks into a pub and orders a pint. The barman says he won't take its money: "No charge."

What did the buffalo say to his son when he dropped him off at school? "Bison."

What was Beethoven's favourite fruit? A ba-na-na-na.

I once bought a dog from a blacksmith. As soon as I got it home, it made a bolt for the door.

And from David Kidd...

**A neighbor suggested I put  
horse manure on my  
strawberries.  
Tasted horrible! I'm sticking  
with whipped cream!**



# Autumn in the Tweed Valley

On her travels around the area our Pres Gillian snapped and shared these pictures of Autumn colours proving once again that we live in such a beautiful part of the world.



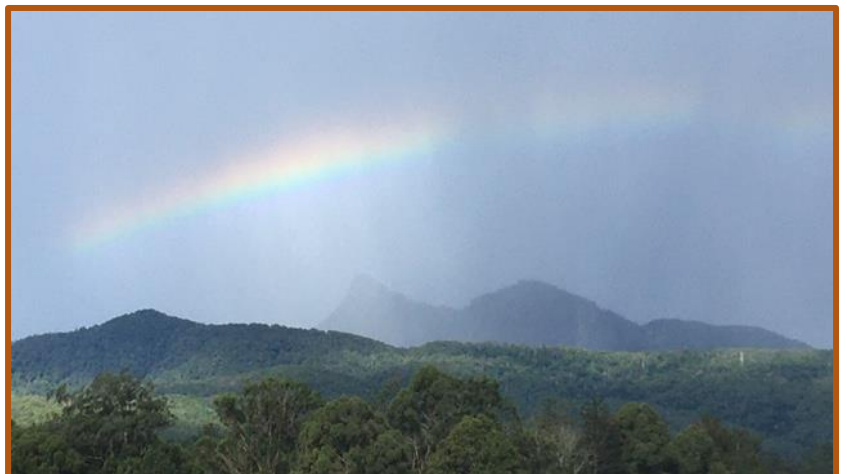
Bougainvilleas in  
Bray Park.



Gillian's own azalea at  
left and Sasanqua  
camellias at right.



Autumn tree and rainbow in  
Tyalgum.





# Hop to it: Help Frogs in the Tweed

Many of Australia's 240 frog species are found nowhere else on earth. Some species are flourishing while others have declined dramatically since the 1980s, and four have become extinct.

**FrogID** is a national citizen science project run by the Australian Museum. The project will help biodiversity experts learn about what is happening to Australia's frogs. Around the country, people are using their smartphones to record frog calls and the data obtained is used to build a picture of where frogs are located. By matching calls to weather and habitat, we learn about how different species are responding to a changing environment.



*(Above: Green tree frog, a common species in backyards in the Tweed.)*

The free FrogID app can be downloaded at the [Australian Museum](https://australianmuseum.australianmuseum.gov.au) website. Use the App to create a profile, record frog calls and match your calls to the frog calls on the app. Then, upload your records to the Australian Museum for species verification. Your records will also go on the website where they can be viewed for each Local Government Area. Check out the map of frog records for the Tweed, shared by people using the app. And from now on they will also be naming a 'Frogger of the Month'! for an individual who has been a great supporter of FrogID.

*(The above article has also been kindly reproduced with permission from the May 2020 Wild Life newsletter put out by Tweed Shire Council)*

## Seeds Still Available from the UGC Seed Box

There is still time to plant beans (bush and climbing), peas, broad beans, lettuce, coriander, brassicas, capsicum, chilli. Some things need to be planted continually, a couple of weeks apart, like coriander, lettuce, rocket to ensure a continuous supply.

The post is very slow at the moment: we are allowing at least 10 days from posting seeds out to arrival, so let us know in good time what you want. Hartmut's email address for ordering seeds is: [hartmutholzknicht215@gmail.com](mailto:hartmutholzknicht215@gmail.com) – don't forget these are FREE seeds.

## Bloomin' Lovely

Photos sent in by my sister of the beautiful blooms in her & her neighbour's London gardens.



L– R: Apple blossoms, Lilac and Choisya which has the loveliest smell.



## Members' Recipes

### Pear and Berry Crumble – Jenny Kidd

Pear season is well underway, and it is great to see blueberries back at the market. This warm winter dessert is easy to prepare using ripe pears and dried or fresh berries.

#### Ingredients

- 4 medium/large pears, peeled, cored & chopped
- 1 cup fresh, frozen, or dried blueberries
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

#### Topping:

- 1 1/4 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup plain flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 350 grams butter, diced



#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven 175° C
2. Butter ovenproof dish well.
3. Toss together the pears, blueberries, sugar, and cinnamon and place evenly in dish.
4. Combine the oats, flour, sugar, and cinnamon in a bowl.
5. Rub the butter into these topping ingredients until you have a crumbly mixture.
6. Sprinkle the topping over the pears evenly and bake until the top is golden brown and the fruit is bubbly, about 45 minutes.
7. If the top browns too quickly, cover with foil.
8. Serve warm with whipped cream or a generous scoop of vanilla bean ice cream.

## Did You Know?

One ladybird can eat as many as 5,000 aphids in its lifetime! No need for pesticides with these helpful critters doing the job for you.

**AND**

Our own garden guru Don Capner reckons that if you put lettuce seed in the fridge to chill for a week before sowing it germinates much better.

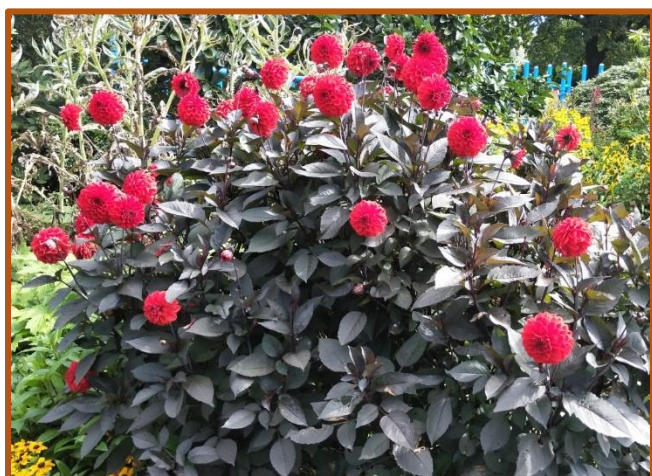




# On the Road Again – Travellers' Tales

## South Island, New Zealand, March 2020 – John Bennett

In March John and Ron visited the South Island of New Zealand and John has kindly shared some of their favourite garden snaps from their trip.



Paddy Stephens.  
Hybrid Tea. (McGredy  
1991)



# Machinery Maintenance Month

June is the perfect month for getting into the shed or garage and digging out all the tools that need cleaning, sharpening, oiling, etc. Here are some suggestions to work through:

- ☺ Whilst the mower shops are quiet, take your machinery in to be serviced. Remember to put new blades on the mower – you'll be amazed at the difference a sharp cut makes to the look of the lawn.
- ☺ Clean, sharpen and lubricate loppers and secateurs. Tighten up any loose nuts and bolts.
- ☺ Sharpen the cutting edge of your spade if you know someone with a grinder.
- ☺ Oil the wooden handles of all tools with linseed oil.
- ☺ Remove the rose from watering cans and clean out thoroughly, making sure all the holes are free of gunk.
- ☺ Dismantle, clean and reassemble parts from pressure pump sprayers.



## Taken from the pages of the June 2009 Club Newsletter - Recession predictions from expert gardeners

The quotes below were published in our Club newsletter from June 2009 – funny how history is repeating itself but good to know us gardeners are always ahead of the pack!

"People will be spending money on gardens because they are passionate about them and because they want to enjoy them, not as an investment. It's a very healthy shift in attitude". Andy Sturgeon, designer.

"I think we'll see less of the 'chequebook' approach to garden design and much more of the wildlife/sustainability approach." Rosemary Alexander, lecturer.

"I think we will make gardens more in the old way, taking time for things to grow and learning to be patient again. I hope it will also mean that we make gardens that are ecologically richer, because these are easier and cheaper to look after."  
Tom Stuart-Smith, designer.

"Our garden resembles a kind of 'Dig for Victory' plot. We are ready for anything!" Tim Richardson, writer.

"Gardening – the simple, peaceful, quiet tending of plants – need cost you little. And it can do a lot of good when the going gets tough." Helen Yemm, writer and agony aunt.

"The biggest expenditure in the garden is time, not money, so if you don't send yourself a bill for hours worked you will be OK!" John Cushnie, broadcaster.

"Limited budgets or none at all will make people more resourceful and creative." Stephen Crisp, head gardener.



## June Job File – Julia Hancock

- ☼ It's a good time to lift and divide old clumps of perennials such as agapanthus and daylilies while they are still dormant. With the aid of sharp secateurs, tease the roots apart, trim off any dead foliage and stems and replant into holes that have been lined with fertiliser and compost-enriched soil. Water well.
- ☼ Move your cymbidium orchids to a sunny spot and give them a feed with some bloom-prompting orchid fertiliser.
- ☼ Don't forget your indoor plants – now is a good time to give them a little love by checking there are no nasty mealy bugs on the foliage and topping up the spent soil with some premium potting mix – they will appreciate it.
- ☼ And while we are on pot plants – consider putting a layer of pebbles into the pot saucers so the bases of the plants are not standing in water.
- ☼ Now is a great time to thin out crowded Strelitzia clumps (pic at right) – you may need to use an axe or mattock on especially tough clumps.
- ☼ Top up the mulch around your fruit trees and give them a bit of prune if you haven't already done so. Basic pruning principles are best, including:
  - Remove low branches
  - Remove anything weak, thin or diseased.
  - Cut out branches that are crowding the centre of the tree to allow light and air circulation, and
  - Practice good tool hygiene by dipping your cutting tool blades into disinfectant after each cut.
- ☼ Dig manure into empty garden beds so they are good to go in spring.
- ☼ Continue collecting fallen leaves and spread them onto garden beds as mulch or pop them into the compost.
- ☼ Look out for borers in trees – which is much easier once your deciduous trees have lost their leaves. Look around the tree and pay close attention to branch junctions to see if there are any holes or debris. If you see any, poke a piece of wire in to try to remove the grub (or at least give it a very nasty headache). Give the tree some love with a slow release fertilizer or some dynamic lifter and hopefully you will be rewarded with new growth in spring.
- ☼ Try to strike some more mulberry plants by taking some good size cuttings and planting them straight into well prepared soil.
- ☼ Look around the base of established Camellia sasanqua bushes to see whether any seedlings have germinated beneath the shelter of the parent plant. Gently dig these out and pot them up for replanting in spring.
- ☼ Now is the time to shift all those plants you're not happy with in the position they currently occupy. Water well the day before moving, trim back as much of the top growth as you dare, take as much of the surrounding soil with the root ball as possible, replant into a larger hole that has been lined with compost, and backfill making sure the stem remains at its original level. Water well and watch it grow.
- ☼ Tidy up the herb garden, taking stem and root cuttings of anything you want more of. Some herbs, such as patchouli (pic at right), layer themselves around the plants. Snip off the umbilical cord and pot up any spare babies for giving away. Divide clumps of chives and sow lots of parsley seed for spring.
- ☼ Now that winter is drawing in, remember to water only in the morning, so plants aren't wet when the cold night air falls.





## Membership Renewals Due

It is that time of year when we ask you to renew your membership to the Uki Garden Club. Subscriptions are due at the end of this month and can be paid up until the end of September without missing out on your newsletter.

Our membership fees will remain unchanged from the \$20 per person or couple for 12 months. Attached to this newsletter is the membership renewal form.

### If your details have not changed:

1. Pay by EFT/direct debit with text Mem (short for membership) - your surname (otherwise we won't know it is from you);  
OR
2. If you prefer to pay by cheque please send it to our PO Box No. 580, Murwillumbah 2484.

Our Club bank deposit details are as follows:

Bank:	Southern Cross Credit Union	BSB	722-744
Account name:	Uki Garden Club Inc	Account No	100017935

### If your details have changed:

1. Complete the attached form, scan and send it to [ugcnews@gmail.com](mailto:ugcnews@gmail.com) and complete EFT/direct debit as above; OR
2. Complete the form and send it with your payment to our PO Box - details also as above.

## SOS for small pots please

Dot Francis has heaps of Lilly Pillys ('Powder Puff' X) in a pile of mulch down the back that she is wanting to pot up for Palliative Care, however she is out of small pots. She is looking for pots, ideally 5cm wide x 12cm deep, but anything suitable will do.

If you can help please phone Dot on 0427 552 757.



## That's all Folks for This Month...

We really want to hear from you – please please please send us your hints, tips, recipes, travel stories, bragging photos to [ugcnews@gmail.com](mailto:ugcnews@gmail.com)

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



## Uki Garden Club Inc Membership Form

### 1) Member Type Please tick appropriate box as below.

☐ **New**

Please complete **all** the details below.

☐ **Renewing**

Please fill out any details that have changed and make sure you complete sections 4 - 6.

☐ \$20 for emailed newsletters

☐ \$25 for posted newsletters

### 2) Member Information

First name:

Last name:

First name:

Last name:

### 3) Contact Details

Address:

Suburb:

State:

P/code:

Phone (Home):

Phone (Mobile):

Email:

### 4) Agreement to Share Contact Details

My contact details may be shared with other club members

☐

YES

☐

NO

### 5) Payment Type Please indicate payment method

☐ Cash

☐ Direct Debit

Bank: Southern Cross Credit Union

BSB 722-744

Account name: Uki Garden Club Inc

Account No 100017935

### 6) Signature

*I agree to be bound by the rules and constitution of the association.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only**

Date Processed \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Receipt No \_\_\_\_\_