

Uki Garden Club

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

President's Report Gillian Woodward

At last, we have had a few weeks of beautiful fine days without the dreaded rain! Hopefully your gardens and lawns are starting to dry out, enabling you to give them some much needed TLC. There have been a few very chilly mornings but once the sun has risen, warmth has eventually arrived. Winter is certainly here, so it is time for putting on your woollies and heading out into the garden in the middle part of the day for a change.

Our May Garden Gathering was well attended despite it being the Murwillumbah Arts Trail weekend. Karen Dawson, the Compost Queen, taught us all the 'ins and outs' of composting. She answered our questions and quizzed us to see if we had listened. And surprise, surprise, we had indeed - top marks were achieved all round! Tumbulgum School's covered outdoor space was a good, sheltered venue, which we may use again in future as a backup when bad/wet weather threatens our gathering.

I am pleased to say that our post-flood project to revamp Wedgetail's veggie garden beds, is now complete. We have donated \$400 worth of soil as well as some pebbles to make access to one of the beds much safer. Led by Hartmut, a team of 3 volunteers assisted on the day of soil delivery. Our thanks also go to David Gourlay, who is donating some wonderful compost once the beds have been re-established with the new soil and to Dave Hancox for his assistance with the final microbe spray. Thank you all for a great team effort. Wedgetail hospice staff and volunteers will appreciate your work very much indeed.

We have now received nominations for President, Treasurer and Secretary for the committee, so I no longer have to plead with you all to consider volunteering. However, if you do have a burning desire to assist, we'd love to hear from you. Because our committee is only small - 6 members - we rely heavily on other non-committee members to assist in the general running of UGC.

It was great to be able to view three small gardens at our June Garden Gathering. But it was also a sad occasion as we farewelled our host and committee member, Karen Hanafin, as she leaves for Warwick to be near family. We wish her well in creating a new garden wherever she eventually buys and thank her for contributing to our club even though she did so when quite a new member. I am certain she will find other rewarding volunteer roles in her new place of residence. Hopefully she will send us photos of her new gardening efforts once established in Warwick.

This month's meeting is our AGM out at Crystal Creek. It is a popular venue, so if you wish to have lunch beforehand, you might need to book in at the café. Then take a stroll through the nursery to meet at the picnic area under the trees at the end of the carpark. Hopefully the weather will be fine, but if not, they have an alternative site under cover - in the old stables. So, the AGM can go ahead no matter what the day turns on for us. The AGM will be very short (less than 10 minutes) so there will be plenty of time to enjoy our usual garden gathering activities. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

In the meantime, happy gardening, Gillian

(R: an early flowering
wattle seen in Murbah)



May Garden Gathering

Julia Hancock

Jenny Kidd, President of the Tumbulgum Residents' Association, and current Club Vice President, kindly organised for the Club to hold its May meeting at Tumbulgum School. She explained that although the school had been badly affected by the February floods, it was slowly being cleaned and resurrected. The pupils had to spend one term at Cudgen whilst their school was unusable.

Jenny gave us a brief overview of the school: 35 years ago one of the principles had the idea of recreating the rainforest that used to vegetate the site. However, three years ago a windstorm damaged some of the more mature trees. The property is maintained by a

groundman whose job is primarily to mow. Other features of the grounds include a yarning circle; the rainforest garden where some classes are held; a food garden in three raised vegie beds; and artwork by Jason King, a former pupil of the school. Jason is a renowned Aboriginal artist, who had a wonderful exhibition at The Belle Riverhouse in Tumbulgum during the Murwillumbah Art Trail on the same weekend.



Karen Dawson, a former member of the Uki Garden Club made a special guest appearance as the Compost Queen. She gave us a presentation on how to make successful compost.

Ingredients: Grass clippings, old leaves and twigs, kitchen waste, mulch, weeds, cardboard, newspaper, vacuum cleaner dust, pet hair.

The main principle is to pile them up in layers and water well between each layer.

Compost: Why bother?

1. Up to 30% of food in Australia is thrown out.
2. Food in landfill creates methane.
3. Stuff you would pay to throw away makes wonderful plant food.

Karen makes 'hot' compost by heating the mix to 70° in the first few days then allowing it to cool down. You can buy garden thermometers, although experienced composters can tell when it is hot by sticking their arms in! Also, it steams when you turn it.

Temperature is controlled by layering 'hot' material such as grass, manure, kitchen scraps and lime. Turn it after four days and add more water if necessary. Hot compost is ready to use in three weeks.

What not to include?

Orange, papaw, and onions all contain antiseptic properties and may kill off useful bacterial growth. Coffee grounds – too much makes the compost very acidic.

Layers can also be piled up into a pyramid shape 2m x 2m, wetting each layer as you go. This 'cold' compost can be left to decompose and will be ready in six months if kept moist and aerated. Cover with an old carpet in winter.

Karen ended her talk with a quiz which we all got top marks for and a quote: "The best compost is like fruit cake crumbs".

Thanks Karen, for your informative and fun talk.

Show & Tell

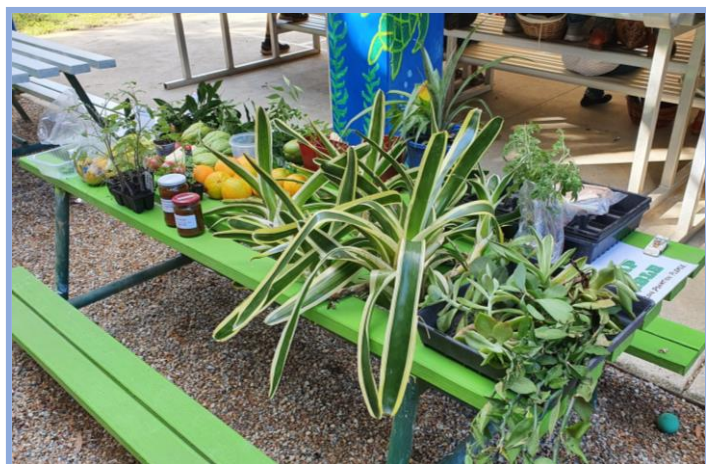
Julia brought along her new best friend – a pair of small tongs which she has found to be really handy for plucking out persistent weeds. Sue H added that if the tongs break you can use one half as a mini shovel.

Q & A

Sue H complained that all her broad beans rotted off and several other members had had similar experiences with snow peas, sugar snaps and garden peas because of the prolonged wet and lack of sunshine. Is it worth replanting? Julia said "fergeddit" while Don said "You gotta keep trying".

Seedbox

Hartmut thanked all contributors of seed material. How to contribute? Put seeds and a couple of bay leaves into a ziplock bag and freeze for five days to kill bugs and their eggs. Take them out of the freezer and put them in a paper bag labelled with the date, seed type, your name and the seed's growing requirements.



Swap Table

There were many delightful things on the Swap Table including some old copies of *Grass Roots*, which Julia borrowed as they are still essential reading after so many years in print. She was pleased to see a letter in the Feedback section by our very own Philip Wilson extolling the virtues of turmeric (*GR* No 196 Dec/Jan 2009/10). Philip, Richard, their menagerie, and collection of rare plants had recently moved from Victoria to Tyalgum – their loss, our gain! Julia will replace the *GRs* on the next swap table for someone else to enjoy.



Membership Renewals Now Due

A membership renewal form is attached to the end of this newsletter. Please complete the form and either bring it to a meeting or scan and email it to ugcnews@gmail.com.

Renewal fees can be paid either at a meeting via an envelope with your completed form placed in the Treasurer's Box or by direct deposit to the Club account – details as below:

BSB: 722-744 (Southern Cross Credit Union)

Account: 100017935 (Uki Garden Club Inc)

Reference: Surname + renewal

Please remember to put your name on the deposit or envelope so Helen can match your renewal to your name. (NB: And as stated before, any envelopes with monies enclosed and no details will be treated as a donation to UGC.)

June Food Group

Julia Hancock

It was a very small group of members who gathered at Brigitte and Chris Pritchard's Palmvale property for the Food Group meeting on 14 June. But it was a superb winter's day and the journey (made longer by the closure of Kielvale Road) via Round Mountain was worth it as the scenery was stunning. As was our hosts' garden – what a feast for the eyes. It seemed like everything was putting on its best show, from the bat plant, to the *Grevillea* 'Dorothy Gordon' to the veggie patch that was crammed with goodies.



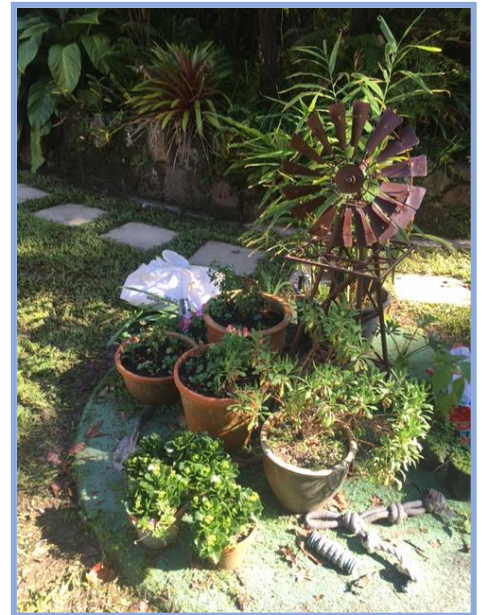
The soil was exceptionally rich from years of manure and compost, and it looked good enough to eat.

Chris and Brigitte have been there for 40 years, hand-building their house from mudbricks made on site over the course of many years while they held down full-time jobs. What an achievement, and as the family grew they had to extend the house. The 32 acres used to house cows, but now they have cut back to just two horses and a few dozen chooks.

The garden around the house has been created from plants that they have scored as freebies or been given by other keen gardeners and of course Uki Garden Club.

Occasionally Brigitte would splash out and purchase a plant from a retail outlet if she knew she could propagate from it, thereby justifying the initial financial outlay.

Their efforts have been well rewarded by a garden that is both diverse and productive – as the photos show.



Our talk covered a mixed bag of topics.

- Annie's yucca is still flowering and attracting parrots.
- Jenny's weeds have finally started to slow down in the cold. She's got lots of pawpaws but the trick is knowing when to harvest them to beat the fungus and flying foxes. The tangelos are doing well. She's been refurbishing the herb garden and doing little jobs near the house.
- Jim had to pressure-spray the driveway when Jenny slipped on the black slime and cracked her head and had to go to hospital. She's OK now but it was a painful and shocking experience. Her veggies are doing better now that they're getting some sun on them and she's planted a lot of kale.
- Marie's knee has improved enough to allow her to do some gardening.
- Peter has been growing veggies with mixed results due to the weather.
- David is finding mowing the lawn with a ride-on is a challenge as their hillside is still very wet and slippery. He treated himself to a new battery-operated Stihl brush-cutter which he reckons is a good investment for his future health.
- Amanda has also invested in a battery-operated tool – a pole trimmer – with which she has been pruning her food forest. She's also been planting out her veggie patch so members have something to look at when they go to her place in August.
- John and Wendy have created a new garden in an area which was previously unproductive, using clivias and bromeliads, both excellent plants for understorey situations with lots of root competition. Their Ceylon spinach is very prolific at the moment – you need approximately 1m in length for a meal! John had a remarkable healing experience using turmeric pulp directly on the wound. Within three days it had scabbed and when it healed it left no scar. Apparently, turmeric is the basis for Betadine.
- Gillian had a cautionary tale. She was a year late for her annual skin check due to COVID so when she finally got round to it, the specialist discovered a freckle that had changed colour. Yes, it was a 4mm melanoma and it was removed quick smart. She's now left with a large skin graft and a wound that will take several weeks to heal. Her advice? **GET CHECKED REGULARLY** but get a referral through your doctor rather than go to one of the bulk-billing places.
- We had a general discussion about what pharmaceuticals are derived from plants and we were all in agreement when Gillian (a dietitian with decades of experience) said "get it from food rather than supplements".

R: Hostess Brigitte leading a tour of her garden

(Ed: Many thanks to Gillian for her photographic skills on the day – despite only having one working arm to do so...)



Important note about the July Food Group Meeting

Due to lack of space at her garden, Julia will host the next Food Group meeting over two mornings on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 July at 9.30am.

Please phone Julia on 02 6672 2506 to say on which day you would prefer to come.

- Please try and carpool because street parking is limited
- Don't bother to bring a chair – Julia has plenty
- Please leave all contributions to the Friends of Tweed Regional Botanic Garden garage sale on 16 July in the garage and walk down the side of the house to the back garden.



Tree Cheers for Dame Judi Dench

This incredible actor has two passions in life “Shakespeare and trees”.

“I think of trees as my extended family, living, breathing and social, like us,” she explains, gazing up through the sheltering branches. “Whenever I can, whatever the season, this is where I escape to.”



Pic at left of Dame Judi and her “chap” conservationist David Mills in the private woodland of trees she has planted over many years. She and her late husband began planting trees in memory of loved ones.

“It is about remembering, but it’s through a living thing, so you don’t remember them and stop. The memory goes on and gets more wonderful.”

No wonder we all love her so much.

Highlights of the Twin Towns Garden Club Meeting

Christine Ray and Julia Hancock spent a very enjoyable morning at Twin Towns Garden Club's meeting on 13 June 2022.



The guest speakers were Kay Bolton AM and Kate Mackenzie, both from Fingal Dune Care. Their before-and-after photos showing firstly the devastating effects of sand mining and dune erosion, and then the same photo taken after the land had been restored to its former vegetative state were astonishing. It's taken over 30 years of dedicated hard work by these two ladies and their team to make an impact, but now wildlife, birds, wildflowers and natural bush have returned, and the erosion is minimal. There is a new walking track up to the lighthouse and a little bush nursery, so it's well worth a visit.

Christine took photos of their benching exhibits which were very impressive as you can see.

Their club is huge and very well supported thanks to the efforts of their hard-working committee and volunteers.

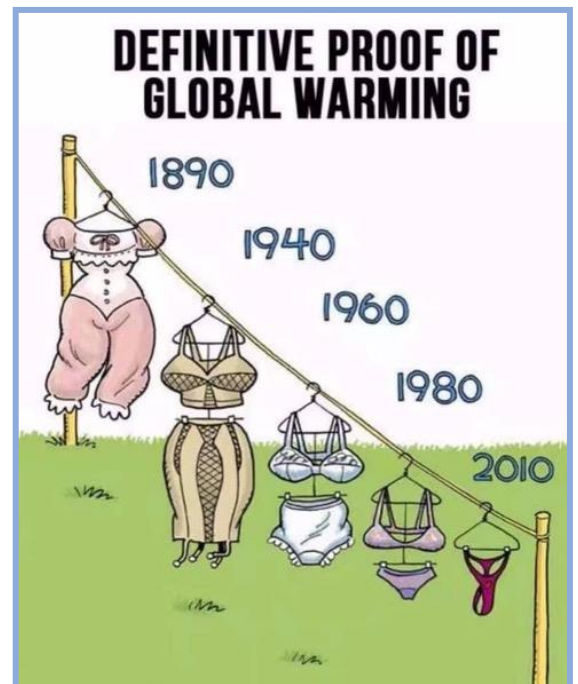


Get well wishes to Nellmary

Nellmary McEwan had a nasty fall on Tuesday 7 June and broke her arm at the top near the shoulder. Nerve damage has been extensive, and she'll be confined to the use of only her left arm for six months (and she's right-handed!).

We all send our very best wishes for a complete recovery.

Aaah Ya Gotta Laugh



I need to re-home a dog.
It's a small terrier, and
tends to bark a lot.
If you're interested, let
me know and I'll jump
over my neighbor's
fence and get it for you.



Members Recipes

Choko Chutney – Julia Hancock

Ingredients

- 2kg chokos, peeled, deseeded, and cut into 1cm cubes
- Salt
- 2 large onions, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 9 chillies
- 1tbsp ground ginger
- 6 cloves
- 1 tbsp mustard
- 500g sugar and 1 litre water

Method

1. Put all ingredients except chokos into a preserving pan, heat gently to dissolve sugar, then boil for 10 minutes.
2. Add the chokos and boil for 30 minute or until tender.
3. Put into warm, sterilised jars and screw lids down tight.

Keep refrigerated.



Zucchini Cake – Trish Berry

I've been meaning to send in a fabulous zucchini cake recipe I started using when we had a glut last year. As this year's glut was chokos I made the recipe again using chokos instead of zucchinis. Still fabulous and another great way to use up my chokos!

Ingredients

- 1 cup (150 gm) plain flour
- 150 gm caster sugar (I substitute with a swirl of maple syrup - sweet enough)
- 1tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/3 tsp bicarb of soda
- 250 gm grated zucchini (OR choko)
- 300 gms any mixed dried fruit (I use 100 gms each chopped prunes, sultanas + currants)
- 75 gms chopped, toasted pecans (or walnuts) + extra for topping
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste
- 1/2 cup (125ml) olive oil



Lemon Icing (Also very good without icing)

- 1 cup (150 gm) sifted pure icing sugar
- 1 tsp finely grated lemon zest
- 1-1+1/2 Tbs lemon juice

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees C. Grease and line the base of a 25 x 10 cm loaf pan.
2. Sift flour, sugar, cinnamon, baking powder, soda and a pinch of salt into a large bowl.
3. Add zucchini/choko, dried fruit and nuts.
4. Whisk together eggs, vanilla and oil, and stir into the dry ingredients.
5. Pour into the prepared pan and bake for 1 - 1+1/4 hours or until a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean (I check it at an hour + it's usually done).
6. Allow to cool slightly, then place on a wire rack to cool completely.

To make the icing, combine the icing sugar, rind and juice, and stir until the mixture is smooth. When the cake is cold, drizzle with icing, allowing it to run down the sides, and top with extra nuts. This cake keeps well for 4-5 days in an airtight container.

Enjoy.



Friends of
Tweed Regional
Botanic Garden

**Update & Help Needed 16th
July Please**

Hooray! We've finally got an account open with Southern Cross Credit Union:

Account Name: Friends of Tweed Regional Botanic Garden Inc

Account Number: 100141438, BSB – 722 – 744

All donations gratefully accepted!

Would anyone like to work at the fundraising garage sale at 183 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah on 16 July?
Each shift would be two hours covering 8am to 3pm.

Please contact Julia on 02 6672 2506 who is drawing up a roster.

On the Road Again - Travellers Tales

British Columbia with Kate & Gary Botham

Greetings from Squamish, BC, Canada. Gary and I have been waiting a couple of years to see our family in Canada. Now we are here and loving every minute.

Squamish is a mountain town, about an hour north of Vancouver. It is spring here and about the same temp as our winter.

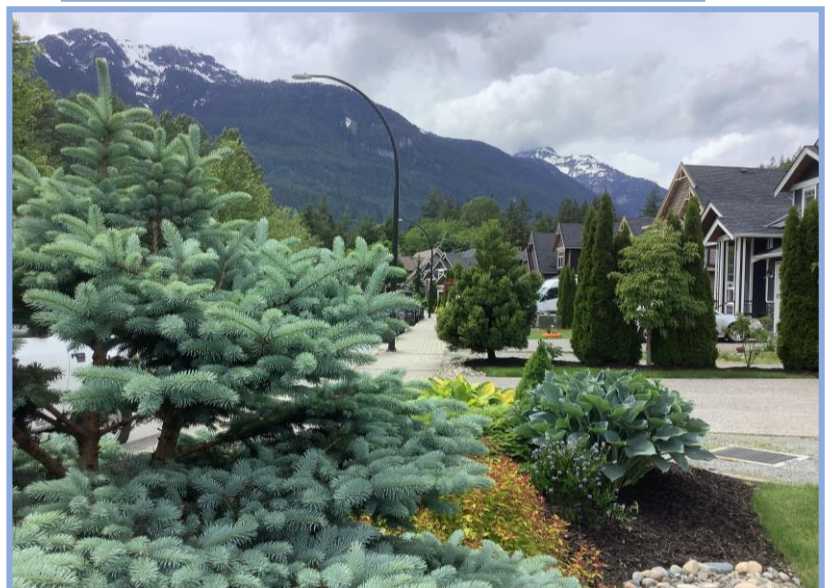
Like us, they have had a lot of rain. There is snow on surrounding mountains...very picturesque.

Because their spring/summer is so short, Canadians love the brief burst of colour in their gardens.

Here are some pictures I have taken as I stroll around Squamish and Pemberton.

Enjoy...

Kate





Ed: Thanks for sharing these Kate – we wish you & Gary a wonderful stay.



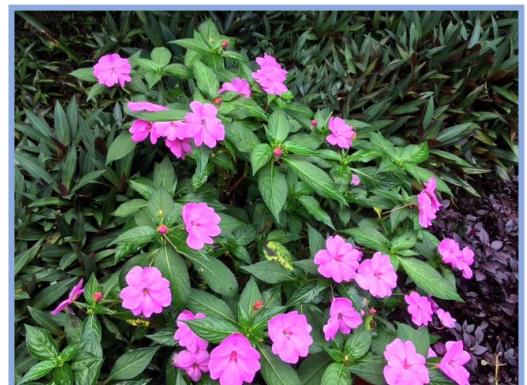
QLD's Granite Belt with Penny Riley

The Granite Belt sits high on a plateau of the Great Dividing Range, at Queensland's coolest and highest altitudes. I recently went to the Granite Belt where I went in search of sunshine, only to be polar blasted as my arrival coincided with the very cold weather front that came through a couple of weeks ago! But I did do some nice hiking, saw some beautiful banksias and other interesting plants and the fires at night were really cosy.



Tweed Colours with Gillian

Pre-operation I was out and about and took in the colours of the Tweed on my travels.



July Job File – Julia Hancock

- Lift and divide clumps of daylilies and agapanthus. Replant into soil that has been enriched with compost. Pot up any unwanted plants to bring to the garden club swap table.
- Once camellias have finished flowering trim up any untidy or unwanted growth and feed with a camellia food watered well in. Mulch with rotted compost or leaf litter, keeping the material well away from the main trunk of the tree.
- Prune roses. Using a sharp saw, remove old, unproductive canes completely at the base. Then cut out any dead shoots, diseased stems, overcrossing branches and straggly stems. Finally, shorten back remaining branches by about one third.
- Sow or plant seedlings of snapdragons (pic at right). They last for ages and make a delightful splash of colour in the veggie patch or cottage garden.
- Feed magnolias and azaleas with appropriate granular fertiliser.
- Remove weeds from around the bases of young trees to eliminate competition and breeding sites for pest insects.
- Clean out old pots and seed trays.
- Dig over empty garden beds to prepare for spring planting, adding as much compost and blood and bone as you can afford.
- Save rainwater for use on houseplants – they prefer it to what comes out of the tap.
- Check palm fronds where they join the trunk of the tree for infestations of mealy bug. Wipe any colonies off with a cloth soaked in Pest Oil or white oil. Repeat a couple of weeks later to catch any newly hatched young.



- Love your lawn - In our climate lawns are still growing, albeit at a slower rate, and a feed now will see them surviving the winter months in good health. Liquid fertiliser, applied after rain, is the quickest way to pump nutrients into tired turf. Worm juice, seaweed, or a proprietary brand such as Thrive or Aquasol will all do the trick. Do not discount your lawn's need for lime but apply this a few weeks after any other fertilizer has been used. (N.B. if you mow after an application of lime do not use the clippings around acid-loving plants such as camellias, azaleas, and gardenias. They're fabulous in the veggie garden, however).

- Finally, take the opportunity winter provides to replace blunt mower blades and give your mower a service. It'll make the job much easier when the growth gets crazy in the warmer months.



Upcoming Meetings

July Food Group

Tuesday 12th July OR Wednesday 13th July – 9.30am start time

In the garden of Julia Hancock

183 Murwillumbah St., Murwillumbah, Tel: 02 6672 2506

Due to lack of space at her garden, Julia will host the next Food Group meeting over two mornings on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 July at 9.30am. Bookings are essential (limited to 15 individuals on each day). Please phone Julia on 02 6672 2506 to say on which day you would prefer to come.

July Garden Gathering & AGM

Saturday 30th July 2022 – 2pm start time

Crystal Creek Estate Café/Nursery, Numinbah Rd, Crystal Creek

Please note that as this is a cafe –food and drink may be purchased from the cafe. Please do not BYO to this meeting. There will also be no swap table as the venue has its own nursery where plants can be purchased.

AGM Agenda:

- Acceptance of the minutes of the 2021 AGM,
- President's Report,
- Annual Financial Statement,
- Election of new committee members

Please note: You must be a financial club member to vote at this meeting.

For both meetings members are asked to bring the following:

- ☺ Name badge
- ☺ Hat & water
- ☺ Any gardening questions

For Food Group Meeting – swap table items

For Garden Gathering – please bring some small change for raffles & a chair.

That's all Folks for This Month...

Huge, huge, huge thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter.

As always, all of your contributions are welcome, and we would love to hear what you've all been up to. Send your hints, tips, recipes, stories, bragging photos to us at ugcnews@gmail.com

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

Uki Garden Club Inc

MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 27th November 2021

Held at 108 Farrant's Rd., Farrant's Hill

1. Meeting opened at 17:05 pm by Gillian Woodward.
2. Attendance as per the attendance list.
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 27th July 2019 circulated with notice of meeting:
Accepted: Tim Hunt **Seconded:** Hartmut Holzknecht

Matters arising from the minutes: Nil

4. President's report.
The report of the 2020-2021 was presented by Gillian Woodward. The report will be published in the December UGC Newsletter.
Accepted: Nellmary McEwen **Seconded:** Pamela Payne

5. Treasurers Report for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 presented by Helen Lofts.
End of financial year balance for June 2020 was \$ 3,127.42
Moved: Helen Lofts **Seconded:** Marie Luxford

End of financial year balance for June 2021 was \$ 4170.36
Moved: Helen Lofts **Seconded:** Nellmary McEwen

6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

The outgoing committee stepped down and Julia Hancock took the chair in the role of the Returning Officer.

Committee members nominated for 2021-22 were:

| Position | Nominee | Nominators |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| President | Gillian Woodward | David Kidd/Jenny Kidd |
| Vice President | Jenny Clark | Jenny Clark/Marie Luxford |
| Treasurer | Helen Lofts | Fran O'Hara/Tim Hunt |
| Secretary | Jenny Kidd | Gillian Woodward/David Kidd |
| Ordinary Member | Lynn O'Hara | Tim Hunt/Jenny Kidd |
| Ordinary Member | Marie Luxford | Gillian Woodward/Peter Hall |
| Ordinary Member | Karen Hanafin | Gillian Woodward/Fran O'Hara |

Office Bearers and ordinary committee members are elected unopposed and congratulated by the returning officer.

AGM closed 17:25 pm

Uki Garden Club Inc Membership Form

PO Box 580 Murwillumbah 2484 ukgnews@gmail.com

| | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------------|
| 1) Member Type Please tick appropriate box as below. | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Please complete all the details below. | | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Please fill out any details that have changed and make sure you complete sections 4 - 6. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 for emailed newsletters <input type="checkbox"/> \$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 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | | | |
| 5) Payment Type Please indicate payment method | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Debit | | | |
| Bank: | | Southern Cross Credit Union | BSB 722-744 |
| Account name: | | Uki Garden Club Inc | Account No 100017935 |
| 6) Signature | | | |
| <i>I agree to be bound by the rules and constitution of the association.</i> | | | |
| Signature _____ | | Date ____/____/____ | |

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Office Use Only | Date Processed ____/____/____ | Receipt No _____ |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|