

Uki Garden Club

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

President's Annual Report Gillian Woodward

It is with pleasure that I present this, my last report, at the 2022 AGM of the Uki Garden Club. It is only 8 months since our 2021 AGM, which was delayed until November of that year, and held at our very successful evening Christmas Party at the home of Don and Sandy Capra.

Who would have thought then that we would again experience a very interrupted year, this time not due to COVID, but to catastrophic flooding in our region? We had to cancel both our February and March gatherings and food groups, beginning again at last in April. Fortunately, since then, there have been no more hiccups and the program has been rolling out as planned, for the first time in 3 long years.

Despite all the hardships of the 'pandemic years', we have managed to maintain a membership of 90 with 115 individual members, which is very encouraging considering the ups and downs experienced. Although we have lost a few due to house moves etc., we continue to welcome new members to our club.

One of the main drawcards for UGC is the way we are able to visit so many and varied venues, thanks to our willing hosts. On the members behalf, I want to say how grateful we are to those who have already done so and continue to open their homes and gardens to us each year.

One of the other main attractions of our club, is the wonderful newsletter we receive monthly. My thanks go to Fran who has continued to excel in the production of a very entertaining and informative volume, ably assisted by her editor, Sue Holzknicht. Sue is stepping down from this task at this time, and I sincerely thank her for her diligent, professional standard of work which has ensured the accuracy of the newsletter.

My thanks also must go to the executive team who have supported me during these last 8 months. Especially, I would like to thank Jenny Kidd, who cannot be with us today due to "grandma duties". She has been not only an exceptional secretary, but also membership secretary as well. She has not missed a beat despite her severe leg injury, which has taken many months to heal. Her knowledge and advice on all things procedural, has been invaluable to me during my time as president. She will be greatly missed as she leaves our team, due to the need to be spending more time on Flood Recovery matters for her beloved town of Tumbulgun.

Our club has managed to keep well afloat financially as you can see from our retiring Treasurer's report. Helen has worked diligently and very quietly in the background, maintaining our financial records as well as being our Public Officer. My sincere thanks to you Helen, for your reliable and essential assistance, not only recently, but over the last 3 years. May your retirement from matters financial enable you to enjoy more spare time!

As usual, our greatest source of income has been from membership dues. But this is followed by raffle takings. Our "raffle Queen", Lynn O'Hara, continues to run the best garden club raffle in the Tweed, with amazingly different prizes each month. She chases down bargains and makes deals with the 'big guys' like Bunnings, obtaining gift vouchers every 6 months. Thank you and keep up the brilliant work, Lynn!

Program organisers and 'on the day' helpers, Jenny Clark and Marie Luxford, have contributed greatly to the general running of our gatherings. I wish to thank them and their spouses for being such willing workers.

Although my four Presidential years have included turbulent times, I have enjoyed working with such a wonderful and talented group of people. I have been constantly learning from our many knowledgeable members about the joys and pitfalls of gardening in the Tweed Valley. Now I look forward to handing over the reins to our garden club's founder, Julia Hancock. It will be UGC's 25th year in 2023, so you will all be in excellent hands with Julia as President.

Gillian Woodward, July 2022

July Garden Gathering & AGM

What a beautiful sunny day we had at Crystal Creek Nursery (30th July 2022) for our A.G.M. meeting and get together! Twenty-two people were in attendance.

Newsletter: We might be making a change with our monthly newsletter. Julia Hancock will be communicating with Fran O'Hara to work it out. Thanks to Fran, for her ongoing work with our newsletters and Sue Holzkecht for doing the editing. Also, thanks to Jenny Kidd, Gillian Woodward, Helen Lofts, Lynn O'Hara and Julia Hancock for all of their hard work.

Tweed Botanical Gardens Volunteers: Julia Hancock, who is our new President, is also President of the Tweed Botanical Gardens volunteers. Julia had a stall at her home and raised over \$800 for the Gardens. Don Capner is the Vice President.

Q & A

Kate: wanted to know if anyone had spare lemons.

Jean: Jean wanted to know if it was too late to prune mulberries. Don's answer was to prune anytime to get fruit.

Yvonne asked what the flower was called, on a tree above us at the meeting. It was a Calliandra (powder puff) – see pic at right.

Phil mentioned the Crystal Creek nursery had a Fraser Island Creeper - it was very eye catching – see pic below.



Don and Sandra Capner will have an open day at their property, on the weekend of 17th and 18th September, in aid of the Tweed Botanical Gardens Volunteers.

Hartmut's Seed Box: Hartmut encouraged members to give seeds to the Seed Box for Spring planting. See notes in last newsletter for how to do this. Seeds are fifty cents a packet. (Best value in town).

Raffle: Our raffle was great, lots of good prizes. Every winner was happy.

August Garden Gathering: Lynn O'Hara, North Star Resort, Tweed Coast Road, Hastings Point, 0408053303 It will be held in the local hall on the site.



Food Group Meeting – Jenny Clark

We had a lovely group of eight garden lovers at Amanda's home, two of them were visitors, Helen Bourke and Gill Niys, Amanda's neighbour.

Amanda has lived in Tyalgum for twelve years. She has half an acre with chooks, ducks, beehives. She has planted most of her trees. Her vegetables were flourishing. She also has fruit trees; her lemons and grapefruit were doing well.

She has possums and bats annoying her. The possums love her mango trees. She loves the honeyeater birds that come in.



Judy

Judy is doing lots of work weeding especially nut grass. Her zucchini is flourishing.

Jim Clark

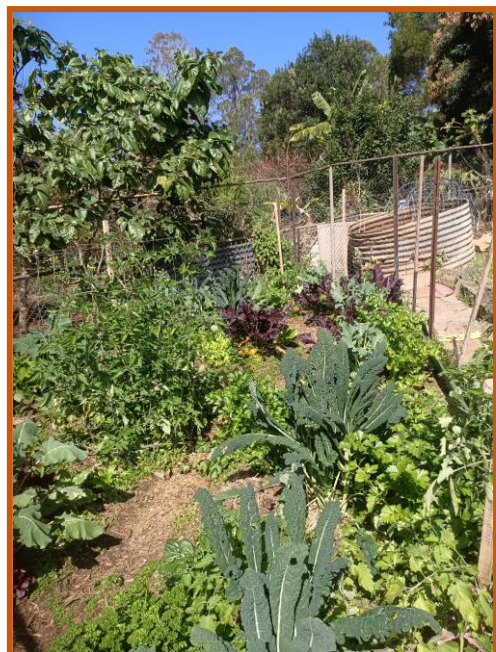
Jim is doing lots of weeding and finishing off his stone wall.

Sue Yarrow

Sue is starting to get some snow peas. She has lived at her home in Byangum since 1976. She said she planted too many trees in the beginning. Some of them are now being used for firewood. Her dam got badly damaged during the flood. She has 23 hectares.

Gill Niys

Gill lives near Amanda. Her vegetable garden was decimated by chooks and bandicoots. She has had an abundance of raspberries. Her paw paw trees died because of the wet.



Martin Daley

His veggie patch has been neglected; rain didn't help. He has lost bananas as well.

Jenny Clark

Jenny has lots of vegies growing. Just recently put in cucumber and zucchini. It might be too early for them, I don't know.



Helen Bourke

Helen has a small vegie garden. She loves gardening, it is her saviour. Has lived in Murwillumbah for eighteen years.





Q & A

Martin asked how to keep bandicoots out. Amanda mentioned since she lost her beloved dog, she has had bandicoots. Amanda is going to look up Google to find out.



(Ed: thanks to Amanda for the lovely pics of her very productive garden)



Wedgetail Soil Replenishment – June 2022

The small team of volunteers consisted of Julia, Graham, Simone and Hartmut worked to replenish the soil in the garden beds ruined by the recent flooding.

Hartmut had requested the first truck from Billinudgel Landscaping to arrive at 2 pm, however as is the way of things - both trucks arrived just after 3 pm.

The truck with river pebbles dropped them near the square garden up top while the second truck unloaded most of the soil at the lower raised garden bed.

The volunteers immediately started transferring the soil to the garden bed, shovelful by shovelful.

This task ended at 4 pm.

Many thanks to all the volunteers.

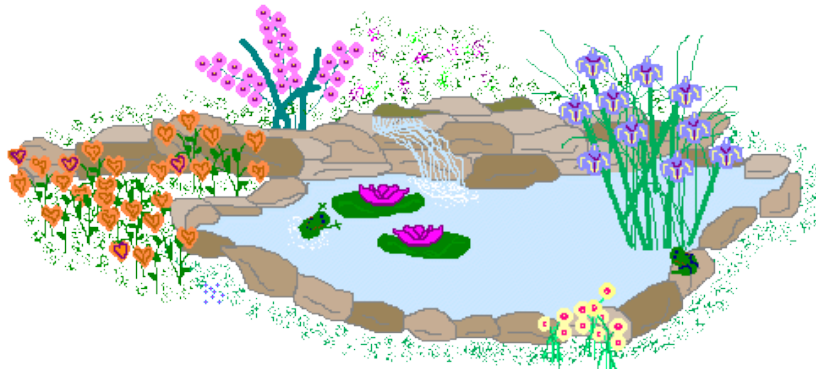
Regards, Hartmut

(left to right – Graham, Julia and Simone – Hartmut being the photographer)



How To Plant Your Garden

First, you Come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses....



FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING,

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS :



1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness



PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:



1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:



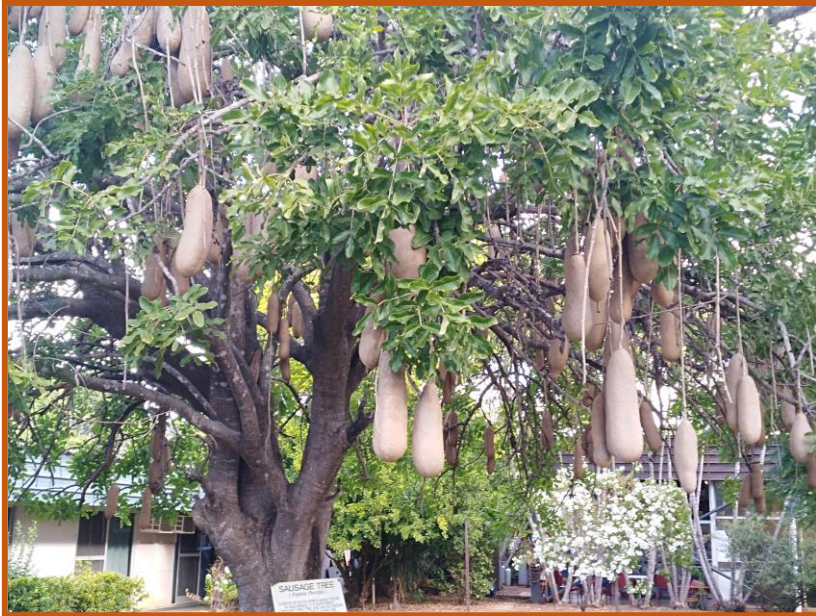
1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Kindly shared by our new President Julia – thanks Julia...

On the Road Again - Travellers Tales

Heading up to Cooktown with Jackie & Michael Balk



This Sausage tree made the overnight stay at Greenvale worthwhile.



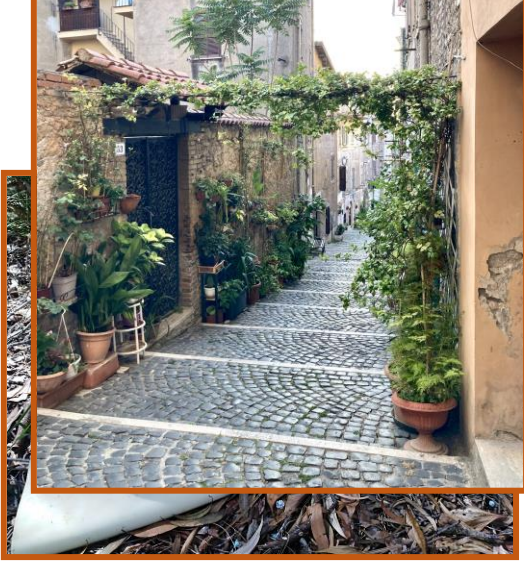
Some photos taken in the Cooktown Botanical Gardens below. At left – a Dwarf Jamaican heliconia and at right a pitcher plant



The Cooktown orchid probably the only one in flower at this time of the year found on the reception desk at the Information Centre.



The town of 1770 – just loved all these gnomes.



In Maryborough and came across this lovely wall garden.

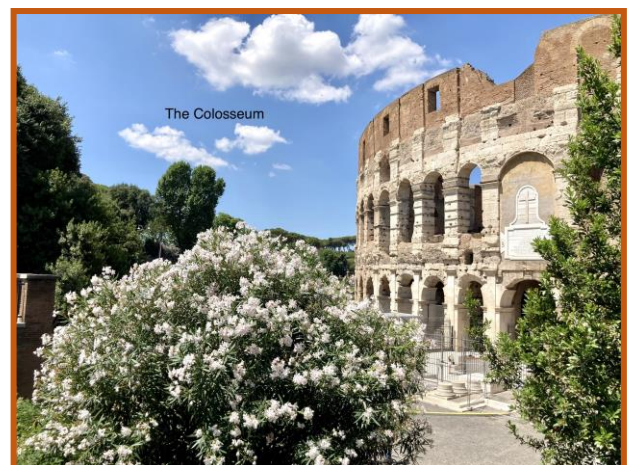
(Ed: thanks Jackie and Michael for sharing your lovely trip with us)

And touring Italy with Kate & Gary Botham

After our 2 weeks in Canada, Gary and I flew to Italy for a 3-week road trip. What an amazing time we had...quite different to most people no doubt, as we didn't buy a ticket or stand in a queue to see the main tourist attractions. For us, it is all about the countryside and the local people we meet. With that in mind, and knowing how much Gary loves a challenging drive, I drew up an itinerary that included the "10 best road trips" and linked them to the "10 best natural landscapes". This took us all around Italy over almost 6000km.

Come for a drive with me and enjoy some of our highlights...

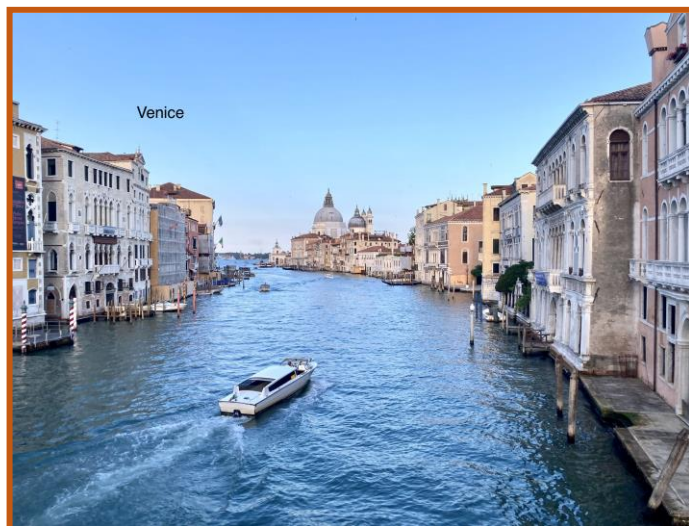
The Colosseum. We noticed the use of Oleanders all over the country...from roadside plantings to parks and gardens.





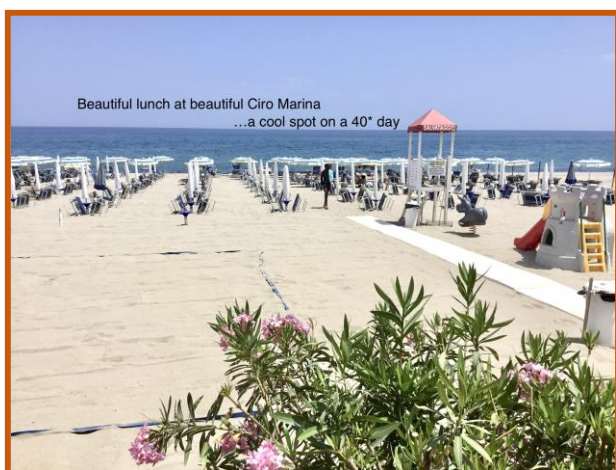
Above left: Pompeii Ruins

Below left: lunch at Ciro Marina, Calabria



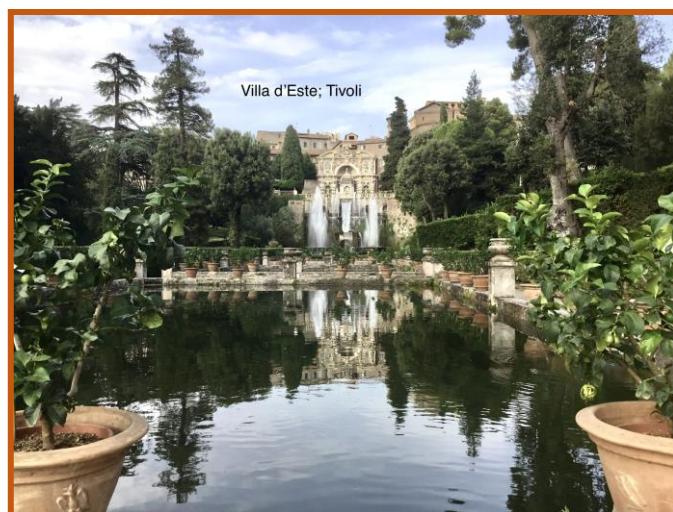
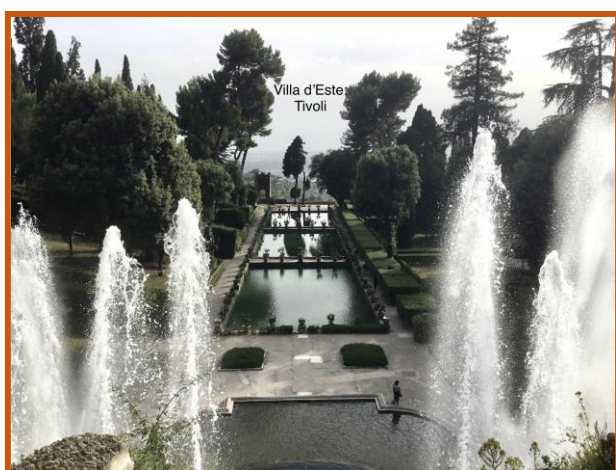
Above right: Loved getting lost in Venice

Below right: Our bnb @ Poggibonsi, Tuscany.



We spent a glorious afternoon wandering around the immense gardens of Villa d'Este.

Villa d'Este is a 16th century villa in Tivoli, near Rome. It is famous for its terraced hillside Italian Renaissance garden and especially its profusion of fountains. It is now an Italian State Museum and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.





L: We drove the length of the 3 big Lakes in the Dolomites: Garda, Como and Maggiore. At Lake Garda, we drove the same road as appeared in the opening chase scene in James Bond's "Quantum of Solace".

R: Loved the Dolomites...superb mountain scenery and great driving over steep passes. World famous Stelvio Pass (of Top Gear fame) has 48 hairpin bends!



L: Cinque Terre...after hiking between the towns of Monterosso and Vernazza in near 40C heat, we took the ferry to visit all the other towns.

Below: Positano on the Amalfi Coast



L: We met these local ladies while staying in Diamonte (south of the Amalfi Coast). They gave us some of the



cherries they had picked...gorgeous. There were fresh fruit stalls roadside everywhere and we enjoyed in season figs, apricots, cherries, nectarines.

Thank you, Kate and Gary for these lovely pics- looks like a fabulous trip!

Aaah Ya Gotta Laugh



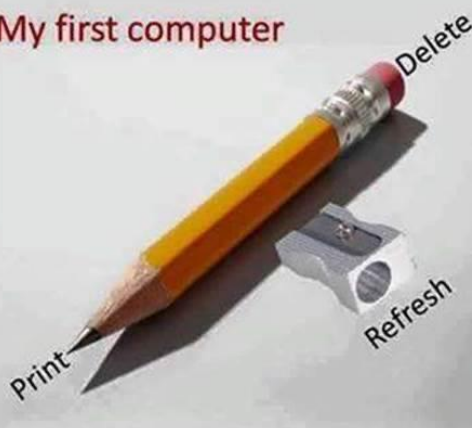
He needs to be careful here she can move in any direction



WHEN WE'RE YOUNG,
WE SNEAK OUT OF OUR
HOUSE TO GO TO
PARTIES.

WHEN WE'RE OLD, WE
SNEAK OUT OF PARTIES
TO GO HOME.

My first computer



With thanks to Tim O'Hara for the laughs.

Job File – Julia Hancock

- Give your asparagus beds a lovely spring feed with liquid manure and water well.
- Give strawberries a dose of sulphate of potash to stimulate flowers and fruit.
- Look out for dahlia seedlings in garden centres – they do phenomenally well here. Also check around last year's plants (if you've overwintered them), to see whether any seedlings have sprung up around the parent.
- Apply blood and bone to your favourite plants (it's a bit expensive to use on the whole garden).
- Check for scale on your citrus – a sure sign of their presence is ants running up and down the trunk and stems.
- Eggplants dislike their roots being disturbed, so when transplanting seedlings take great care. Strengthen the roots with a dose of diluted seaweed solution after planting.
- The weather is warming up so it's almost time to start planting cucumbers. Pre-prepare the bed by digging in lots of organic matter, mushroom compost and dolomite to give them the best possible start when you plant the seeds or seedlings.
- Prepare your ground or containers for the tomato seedlings. Make sure containers are big enough as the plants develop huge and greedy roots which need plenty of support, nutrients and moisture. Put the stake in before planting the seedling so you don't damage the roots.
- There are some pretty fancy basil varieties appearing in the shops right now. Not only are they delicious to eat, but they look amazing and are great companion plants too. Nothing beats the original basil (*B. officinalis*) so make sure you have lots of that too. Pesto freezes quite well if you find yourself with a glut.
- Don't go overboard with the number of button-squash you plant – each bush produces many fruits every day so even with constant picking it's hard to keep up with them. Also, they take up quite a lot of space in the garden, which could be used for other things.
- Capsicums on the other hand, produce few fruits and take up little space, so more of those are a good idea. They are so versatile as they can be eaten raw and cooked, there are a million and one recipes to create from them.
- Camellia care - it's a good time to do some general maintenance around your bushes. Move aside last year's mulch, water the soil, apply a specific camellia food, water again and put new mulch down. Theoretically camellias seldom need pruning except to keep them to a certain size. But a light haircut will give them a fresh start for the season. It's also a good opportunity to thin out crowded or over-crossing branches, and to take out any dead material.



Upcoming Meetings

August Garden Gathering

Saturday 27th August 2022 – 2pm start time

North Star Resort, Tweed Coast Road, Hastings Point

Hosted by Lynn O'Hara, ph: 0408 053 303

Please park in the car park out the front of North Star or out on the street and walk to the Cavenbah meeting room.

Lynn has organised some cars for those who are unable to walk far – look out for the UGC signs on the car windscreens. No need to bring chairs – as there are plenty. Bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

There will be a number of gardens to walk around and enjoy in the village.

September Food Group

Tuesday 9th September – 9.30am start time

In the garden of Marie Luxford and Peter Hall

17 Dallas Court, Murwillumbah, Tel: 0401 833 164

Marcella and Phil Keegan will be coming down to this food group meeting and would love to meet up with the group they knew from when they were in the garden club before .

For both meetings members are asked to bring the following:

- ☺ Name badge
- ☺ Hat & water
- ☺ Any gardening questions
- ☺ Swap table items
- ☺ A chair and plate to share

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

And That's all From Me Folks...

Huge, huge, huge thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter. It's been fun and thank you for all your pictures, stories and recipes over the years - I couldn't have done it without you!

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.