

Next meeting: Wednesday 12 September 2018

# ROGI News

Doors open at 6.15 so members can visit the library, stalls and seed bank or just have a chat before our meeting starts. Please be seated by 7pm ready for the proceedings.

Salvation Army Church  
Cnr McDonald Rd & Macarthur St  
ALEXANDRA HILLS

## Admission

Members: Free  
Visitors: \$5

Please bring a plate of food (savoury/sweet or nibbles and preferably home-made) for supper after the meeting.

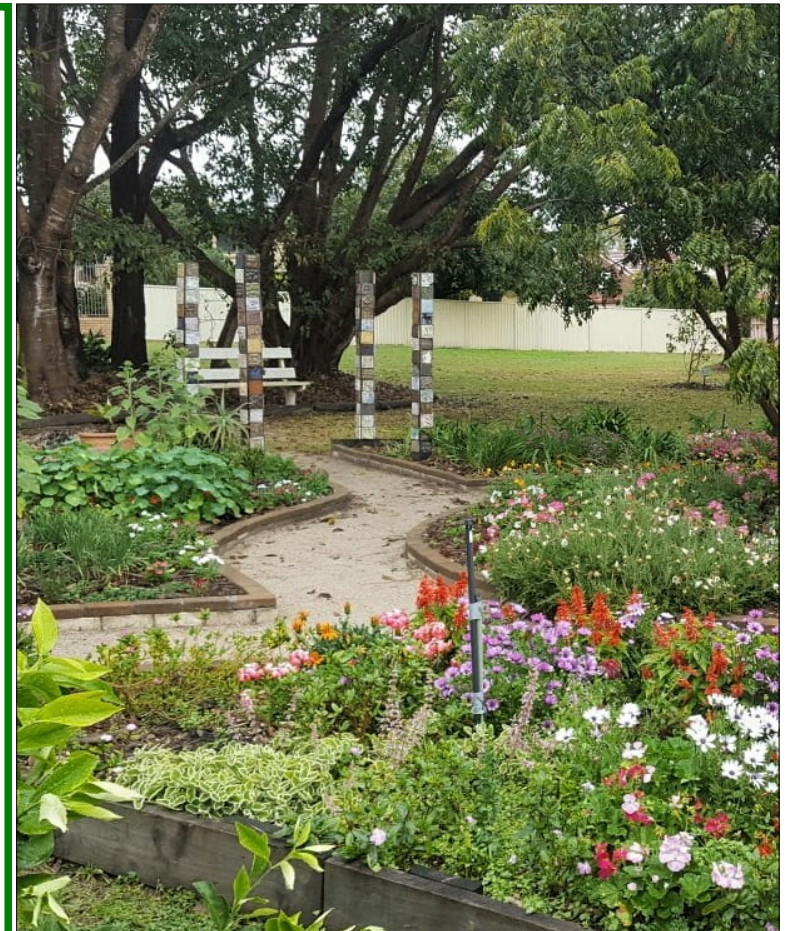
Tea/coffee provided.

You are very welcome to provide a **quality plant** to help share interesting plants with other members (**see p 24**).

Remember to bring a bag/box/basket to take home your items.

## Inside this edition

	Page
President's message	2
Coming events/Membership	3
September meeting	3
August speaker Tharun Sonti	4
Organic produce at meeting	4
Garden visit Francke & Ken Latter	5-8
Field trip—Hare Krishna farm	9-12
Garden makeover workshop	12-13
Why save seeds?	14
Investing ROGI's funds	15
Plant of Month—sunflowers	16
Green Heart Fair; Macadamia hunt	17
Plant Clinic	18
Soft plastic recycling	19
Caring for the soil	20
Garden visits: Hive parking: Basil downy mildew; RetroSuburbia; Chook feed	21
Library book reviews	22
Seed bank news. Seed sowing guide	23
Plant distribution. IGA card. Deadline	24
Tiny capsicum; Huge strawberry	24
ROGI Committee and Office Bearers	25



The community garden at Oaklands St in Alexandra Hills was looking beautiful for the recent open day.

# Backyard Burlblings

Hello ROGI member,

First of all I would like to express my thanks for placing your trust in me as your president for the next 12 months.

I regard it as an honour and will do my best to live up to the expectations of ROGI and its membership.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new secretary, Roberta Bonnin and to our new committee member, Peter Callil.

ROGI has a very hard working management committee of eight, plus around 20 other members who have undertaken to manage or assist with various activities such as Public Events, Library, Publicity and PR, Newsletter production, Plant Clinic, Seed Bank, plant sales, the tech desk, member registrations, website and Facebook administration, supper coordination etc.

Without all these willing volunteers ROGI could not function as well as it does.

As in any busy organisation, mistakes or oversights can occur at times and someone may feel slighted or upset.

I can assure members that any issue brought to the committee's attention will be addressed.

However, we must remember that we are all volunteers.

No one gets paid and everyone does

what they do because they want to contribute to our organisation.

One hugely popular contribution to ROGI and its members is the monthly plant and seedling stall run by Sharr Ellson and Janet Crighton.

Many of you may not be aware that Janet grows and pots almost all of these plants in her own backyard on a voluntary basis and then donates the proceeds of the sales to ROGI.

If the number of members thronging at the plant stall is any indication, members are well aware of the quality and minimal prices of the plants, as at each meeting they literally fly out the door.

An added bonus to the cheap plants is the advice on varieties, planting methods and growing techniques freely given by Janet and Sharr.

It's great to see and hear the enthusiasm and interaction between the buyers and sellers.

The result is that most of the stock is sold each month. This in turn means more work to replenish the supply for the next event or meeting.

To keep up this wonderful service for ROGI, Janet and Sharr are going to need help in the future.

We need some members to come on board and assist with growing plants and with selling them at meetings.

No particular expertise is required other than a willingness to learn.

Please see Janet, Sharr or me at the next meeting or at the Green Heart Fair this Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

ROGI will have a prominent presence at the Carindale Green Heart Fair with many plants, seeds and seedlings for sale.

So come along and show your support by popping in to our site or even giving the volunteers a break for an hour or so. (You can find more details on this on page 17.)

The committee recently received a proposal from one of our long term members, Greg Lindner, about a Share Shed concept he would be interested in exploring further if ROGI members were interested.

The idea behind the concept is that many of us have a range of tools and equipment we may only rarely use and would be quite happy to 'share' with others in a regulated way that ensured the items could be borrowed for a certain time, eg a week, for a nominal charge.

Greg is seeking expressions of interest from ROGI members and would be happy to explain how he envisages it working at our next meeting.

The Share Shed initiative is apparently already working well in Salisbury. More on <https://www.shareshed.org.au>

Greg's idea would fit right in with ROGI's focus on reducing, reusing and recycling.

It's not only waste we should consider in those terms: it applies just as much to our garden tools and equipment.

Happy growing

*Julia Geljon  
ROGI president*

## Coming Events

Sept	Sun 9	Green Heart Fair	See p 17
	Wed 12	ROGI meeting	
	Sun 23	Garden Visit	See p 21
Oct	Tues 2	Herb Society meeting	See back page
	Thurs 4	BOGI meeting	See back page
	Wed 10	ROGI meeting	
	Sun 27	Garden Visit	See p 21

## Membership Information

- **Cash** payment at ROGI meeting
- **Cheques** made payable to *Redland Organic Growers Inc* - pay at meeting or to PO Box 1257, Cleveland 4163
- **Direct Deposit** BSB 633000. A/C 136137296 (Bendigo Bank, Middle St, Cleveland)

**IMPORTANT!** Reference - Your initials and surname are essential to identify who has paid.

When paying your fees online, please be sure to complete a membership renewal form online at <http://www.rogi.com.au/renew-membership.php>

Member Category	Members Renewing For 2018	New member/s joining in...			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct18-Dec19
Single	\$30	\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$37.50
Family*	\$50	\$50	\$37.50	\$25	\$62.50
Pensioner Single**	\$20	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$25
Pensioner Couple**	\$30	\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$37.50

**Family** - two (2) adults residing at the same address and their children under eighteen (18) years

\*\* Please provide evidence of **pensioner** status to claim discount

## September Meeting

# Community Gardens Positively Healthy

Community gardens positively impact neighbourhoods across the world – and closer to home in the Redlands. Find out how.

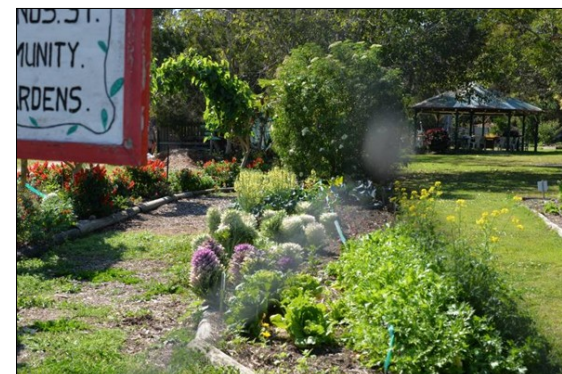
We've called on two ROGI members to share their hands-on experiences in local community gardens:

**Linda Barrett**, Secretary of Bethania Street Community Garden at Lota and

**Terry Sullavan**, an active member of Oaklands Street Community Gardens at Alexandra Hills.

Learn how community gardens can:

- create a sense of community and inclusiveness by growing and sharing organic food;
- provide a place for the community to grow vegetables, herbs, fruit;
- offer educational activities for adults and children;
- share healthy produce, home cooked goodies and recipes;
- boost physical and mental well being;
- encourage better diet;
- reduce risk of obesity and obesity-related diseases;
- offer a great place to meet new and old friends over a cuppa.



**See next page for information on the organic produce available for sale at the meeting.**  
**Remember - bring your reusable bags, boxes, baskets etc.**



# August speaker Tharun Sonti Blue Zones

We usually publish a fairly comprehensive summary of the presentation given by the speaker at last month's meeting. However, Tharun's PowerPoint ran to 65 pages! It was very detailed with lots of information and photos and links, and much of it was difficult to see clearly, especially for those in the back of the room. It is now on the ROGI website. Just click on [Blue Zones](#) and you can view it again up close. If you are reading the printed version of this newsletter, you can view the show by going to the library and using a computer there and opening our website [www.rogi.com.au](http://www.rogi.com.au), clicking on **Resources** and then on **Blue Zones**.

Ashley from Mt Cotton Organic Farm can no longer come to our meeting, but we have someone else coming with ...

## Organic produce

From now on Franco, Bonnie and Luke will bring along produce from Lunar Farm—their biodynamic enterprise at Birkdale.

Franco has been in Italy and Bonnie and Luke welcomed their new baby a few weeks ago, so they have a limited range at the moment, so will also bring organic produce from other farmers they know.

Their carrots will be ready, so there'll be freshly-pulled carrots, and there may also be purple ones as well. The carrots are only \$5 kilo—a bargain for organic! The Italian green silver beet (which is a 'spinach-type') is looking good too.

There'll be Sebago and Dutch cream potatoes, and brown onions.

There is a magnificent display of sunflowers, clearly evident as you drive along Quarry Road. They'll bring some cut flowers as well - if the cockatoos haven't got to them by then. The joys of being a farmer!

They don't have credit card facilities, so cash only please.



Franco the barefoot farmer

We're introducing something new at the next meeting ...

## Organic meat



'We are a family owned business, passionate about organic. Being in the meat industry for nearly 40 years, we became aware of how bad conventional meat can be for both our health and the animal.

It wasn't until we started working closely with OBE Organics, that we realised how different organic meat is and how important it is to make the change. The cattle consume a variety of native grasses and you can taste the flavour in the meat.

By eating organic, you are ensuring the ethical treatment of the animal as well as ensuring the meat you eat has been sustainably produced. Organic meat isn't injected with hormones or antibiotics, or fed grass covered in sprays and pesticides.

It is pure meat as it should be: you will taste the difference.

We stock certified organic beef from the Channel country, lamb from Longreach, poultry from Kilkivan, and our free range pork for our chemical-free ham and bacon comes from Goondiwindi.'

**Steve will have their organic meat available for sale from their van outside the entry of the hall before the meeting.**

**Most of it is refrigerated rather than frozen and you will need to bring your cooler bags to take it home. Their prices are very reasonable and they will have credit card facilities.**



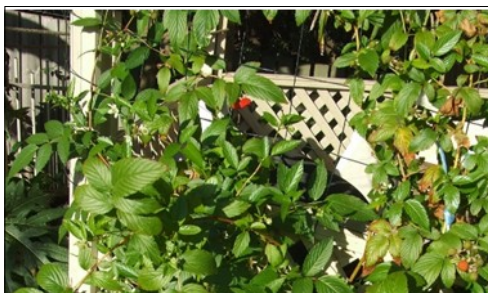


## Garden Visit Francke and Ken Latter

Francke and Ken's quarter acre garden is remarkable for the variety of fruit, vegetable and flowering plants and growing containers, as well as being really well organised.



Francke also grows boysenberries, youngberries which are brambles (right), strawberries and blueberries.



Basil grown in pots can also be moved depending on when it needs more sun. Mint and parsley are also grown in this area near the pool.



The blueberries have been grown in pots, and that enabled Francke to move them into the sun when she found they were suffering from too much shade. Blueberries need an acid soil (about 4.5) and keeping them in pots makes it easier to keep the pH this low.



Purple garlic bought from Wray Organic and planted in large pouches. Last year Francke tried elephant garlic but it wasn't a success. It is actually more closely related to leeks than to garlic.



Francke grows lots of plants in containers, including these dragonfruit.

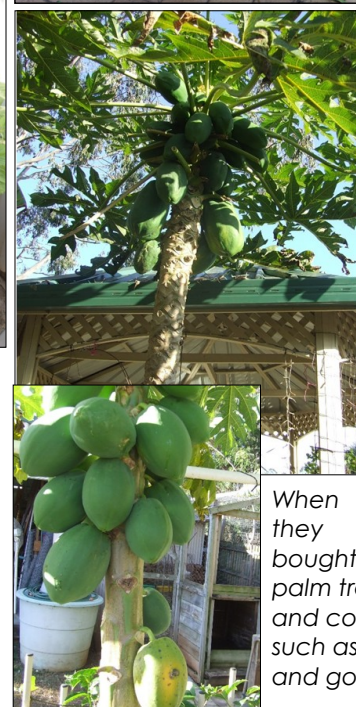


Tomatoes popped up in lots of unexpected places thanks to the compost.

Strawberries do well when the fruit are kept off the ground and are able to hang. A large terracotta strawberry like this one holding several varieties of strawberries does the job nicely. Notice the marigold growing at the very top.



Alpine or Swiss strawberries can be grown from seed. The fruit tend to stand up above the leaves, and they are smaller than regular strawberries.



When they bought the property there were palm trees. These were removed and composted, and fruiting plants such as bananas and papayas (red and gold) have taken their place.



Native raspberries growing around the gazebo near the pool. They taste good and are more prickly than the other raspberries.



Garden Visit  
Francesca and Ken Latter *continued*



Above: The fully-enclosed fowl yard (foxes are an issue). These girls not only produce eggs but help with the composting. Passion fruit are grown in their pen. Francke told us that you can tell when the fruit is ripe as it falls to the ground when the bush is shaken. If it is picked too early it is not as sweet and tasty.

Below: Ken has cleverly constructed four compost containers at the end of the fowl yard. Each has a lid that enables the hens to climb in when open. They can scratch through it and eat any grubs, beetles etc and at



the same time add fertiliser. They turn over the compost and aerate it at the same time. Note the container on the left is not open at the top so the hens can't get in.

This is the container where the current compost is ready to use on the garden. The four compost bins have removable panels on the lower side so that the compost can be accessed when it is ready. The first one, where the lid on top is closed, is open at the front so that the compost could be removed. Some compost has been left at the bottom to assist the new compost to break down when it is added.

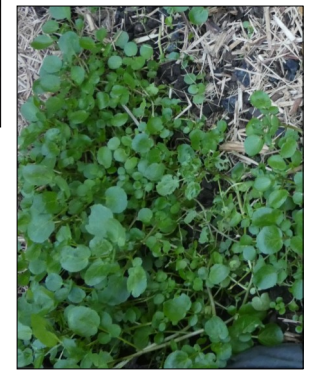
Right: Horse manure is held in large drums for a few months before being added to the compost.

Similar drums are also used for holding rain water. It's fast and easy to fill a watering can by submerging it in the drum and lifting it out—full.



Good idea: Francke leaves the lids upside-down on her compost bins to catch water.

Comfrey (below) is growing in a few places. It is used for making comfrey tea and to go in compost bins and bays.



Right: Watercress is doing well growing in a regular bed even though it's supposed to need moving water to grow in!

An impressive array of some of their many water tanks.





## Garden Visit Francesca and Ken Latter continued

Right: Ken has constructed a series of raised garden beds with solid timber. Garden soil, crusher dust, mushroom compost and enhanced compost have been added to these garden beds. The only plants which have not been successful with this combination were the potatoes which grew very well but with, too much nitrogen, didn't produce many potatoes.

In the raised garden where perennials such as brahmi, asparagus, turmeric and ginger grow, Francke has added compost and covered it with light mulch during the dormant season. She has used a sturdy and practical home-made label to mark the area clearly.



Right: Francke has also clearly labelled with the date of planting other vegetables such as this silver beet and oak leaf lettuce growing close together, polyculture-style.



In the raised garden she also grows rosa (a round purple egg-plant), parsley and round carrots and allows some go to seed. She said bees absolutely love the carrot flowers.

A successful patch of broccolini which is flowering and going to seed. The seed will be saved for next year.



The worm farm is near the potting area and vegetable patch where the worm juice is used.



Passionfruit marigold *Tagetes lemmonii* is a very pungent shrub with bright yellow flowers and tends to keep pests away. Francke will take some cuttings and also save seeds from this to share with ROGI members.

Other companion plants and flowers are grown in this patch near the soft fruits in the front garden, such as salvia, hippeastrums, geraniums and marigolds. There's also a naked frangipani.



Francke's potting area is very well organized and the materials she uses are kept in clearly-labelled bins.







Brassicas and various other plants in a raised bed. Note the piping to support netting for pest exclusion. Francke uses similar substantial pipes to train the pumpkin vines on so they don't sprawl all over the garden.

In the front garden along the fence, volunteer lettuce plants have come up in the compost and grow alongside the flowers.



Spectacular nutmeg bush *Tetradenia riparia* in the front yard has a pungent smell that attracts bees and repels pests. It flowers for about a month in late winter/early spring.

Kohlrabi growing in a large pot. Being related to cabbage and kale, its leaves are edible as well as its bulbous bottom, which can be eaten raw or cooked.



Francke is not happy with her citrus trees that are growing in the front. Gennaro suggested checking the pH of the soil and as it is a red clay and could be too acidic, and to give it gypsum or calcium sulphate each year.



Gennaro talked about this elder tree. He said it's a good one to grow as a small extract of elderberry used as a pain killer for such things as tooth pain is expensive. You could make your own for use when needed. The elderflowers that come before the berries can be used to make cordial, wine and even fritters!

Right: Edible, colourful, bee-attracting nasturtiums growing in a decorative old wheelbarrow.



In the last three years in the front corner garden, Francke has planted a number of fruit trees such as plum, nectarine, peach, two guavas, a mulberry, two figs, a Davidson plum and a jaboticaba.

Right: A red Shahtoot mulberry tree near the front fence. After a mulberry tree has finished fruiting, if pruned, it can produce a second or even a third crop of fruit.



Delicate fennel is a multipurpose plant. The bulb, fronds and stems are edible and can be eaten raw or cooked. The flowers attract beneficial insects and the seeds have medicinal uses.

Thank you Francke and Ken for sharing so many great ideas with us and also showing us what can be achieved in a garden. You have such a beautiful and productive garden.

Report by Mary Irmer. Photos by Mary, and Ann Roffey.



## Field trip Hare Krishna farm

On a perfect 'Sprinter' day in August, our visit to the village, farm and temple provided some insights into the underlying beliefs, values and practices of a very passionate, sincere and gentle religious group. The farming practices were very interesting and effective and gave us a lot to discuss on the way home.

The property is 1000 acres and was bought for just \$70,000 forty years ago. The primary school on the property has about 120 students.



This young woman (on the left), who finished school last year and had been at the centre a fortnight, told us her job of weeding the creek area had helped her understand the spirit in the soil and she had been learning about the different weeds and how amazing and strong they were.

She said she enjoys working mindfully and passionately as each job was equally important to the welfare of the centre and community.

There are about 50 permanent and 50 WWOOFers\* at any one time.

The WWOOFers work for about four hours a day and are welcome to join in the devotions, yoga and other activities and enjoy vegetarian meals cooked in the central kitchen.

\* WWOOFers are Willing Workers On Organic Farms



Thiago, from Brazil, introduced us to **syntopic farming**, which is modelled on the rainforest principles where there is a diversity of plants and elements which support each other.

It is self-sustaining, not requiring watering or external inputs such as fertilisers, as the forest mulch breaks down improving the soil and the roots of the plants support each other.

Every plant and animal in the system has a function. Birds, for example, fertilise the forest and drop seeds as well as limiting the bug population. The tree canopies help in water conservation and protection of smaller plants and trees. His philosophy is that we need to leave the soil better than we found it and to enable the soil to regenerate itself.

Some of the principles he is incorporating in this garden are:

- No bare soil
- Maximize photosynthesis
- Natural succession – creating conditions for the next crop to go in
- Individual plant requirements e.g. the amount of light and shade required and how growing plants support each other. In winter the plants enjoy more sunshine so the canopy has been

reduced.

- Management. Trees such as eucalypts are grown among the vegetables accessing the nutrition and minerals from deeper in the soil. These will be pruned when they reach about four metres high (chop and drop) and release these nutrients to the subsoil. Trees also maintain humidity layers in a forest and use of water is reduced with a canopy. They use significantly less water in the syntopic farm.

Thiago believes weak plants attract bugs and diseases. When this happens, it is important to look at what the plant is lacking.

Weeds break up the soil and are helpful in regenerating the soil.

Surprisingly, he said they don't have a problem with possums or other wild life. Thiago thinks this is because there is an abundance of food nearby and that animals and pests only attack vegetables when there is a scarcity of food.



*No protection for these brassicas, yet they're perfect.*



## Field trip Hare Krishna farm continued



Mena in a vegetable patch.

Each week they plant two beds and harvest two. Thirty to 40 boxes of food are harvested each week to feed the community of up to 150 people a day.

At least eight different crops are in each row – lettuce, coriander, cabbage, cauliflower, rocket, broccoli, pigeon peas, pineapple, silver beet and potatoes. There is no competition, just cooperation, between the plants. Between the rows (that run north-south) are logs and mulch. He talked of rows as being like train carriages.



Banana tree trunks (middle top) make good temporary retaining walls between vegetable rows which are well mulched and this retards the growth of weeds, maintains moisture and the diversity of microorganisms in the soil.



Above: Thiago practises severe pruning of fruit trees, including the citrus trees. He believes that pruning the trees make the roots stronger.

Right:  
They raise  
their own  
seedlings.



There is a multi-compartment composting system. These signs make it very clear about what the cleaners, cooks and gardeners are to do.



## Field trip Hare Krishna farm continued

Walking from the syntopic garden to an older vegetable garden, we admired the view of the tip of Mt Warning in the distance.



Vegetables in this garden are grown more conventionally, but still look good.

Right: Ground dug over for planting. The bulls are trained as tractors; the cow dung is used as organic fertiliser.



We met the beautiful gentle Brahman cattle. They are like pets and walked to the fence for a pat when they saw us approaching.



They liked the bananas we were given to feed them with!

They are building a large cow-care facility. It will have a large milking shed, weather protection for cows and their babies, kitchen and cheese-making facility, conference centre for teaching about caring for cattle and an office. Brahman cows are very special to the Hare Krishna people and are lovingly cared for their entire lives; they even have an aged care facility for them. Right and below: the building is well on the way.



We inspected a couple of the self-contained units, which people can rent out for a holiday. They have composting toilets.



This is another unit. They are designed for a family or group of four to six. Meals are included from the central kitchen.

View from a unit that sits on the hill, providing a quiet, peaceful retreat. People can have weddings and other functions at the centre. Note the marquee.



On the hill near the temple, productive banana trees are growing.

Mango trees were flowering prolifically but often they get hail storms and lose a lot of fruit.





## Field trip Hare Krishna farm continued

Top: Decorated walls of the temple garden.

There are around 600 to 700 local people who visit the temple for meditation and prayer from 4.30am. They use beads when chanting the mantras. At 7.30am they have scripture reading and at 8.30 breakfast.



ROGI members walking to the dining area. On Sundays at 5 pm they serve about 400 people. Fifteen people work in the large kitchen preparing meals.

We enjoyed our delicious vegetarian Govindas- style lunch before returning home.

The visit certainly provided a lot of food for thought and would be a lovely place to go for a peaceful retreat.



Report and photos by Mary Irmer

## Garden makeover workshop

This was held in August in Ruth Bolomey's much loved suburban garden in Capalaba.

To create her garden, Ruth had already removed and replaced tons of clay with good soil, built raised garden beds, planted, mulched and nurtured fruits, vegetables, herbs and perennials. Every plant in Ruth's garden has a story – including a magnificent climbing philodendron which was a gift from her mother on Ruth's first wedding anniversary.

Ruth was keen to transform a sunny and gently sloping grassed area at the rear of her garden into a mini orchard with fruit trees and companion plants. Her aim was to kill and re-use the grassy layer as part of the garden's nutrient cycle and turn the space into an area for food production. ROGI members were her willing helpers and Linda Brennan from Ecobotanica provided the expert planning, an introductory talk and step-by-step advice.

The process to convert grass to garden in winter may take up to three months.

Here are some notes and pictures from the event:

**Step 1. Improve the clay and add nutrients to the soil.** Wet the grassed area deeply. Fork well (or pen chooks or pigs over the area). Add a clay breaker eg liquid and/or powdered gypsum, *Instant Humus* (from Linda) plus organic fertiliser to feed the soil and microbes. If the soil is very unhealthy due to use of glyphosate or other weeding products, apply a microbe feeding solution.



**Step 2. Kill the grass and roots** with an organic product eg *Slasher* (pelargonic acid). Cover with old carpet and cardboard to block out all light and leave for a about three months. (In Ruth's garden we only had one month, so the grass was dying but not completely dead. In this case we left the carpet in situ for planting and will come back later to remove it once all grass is dead.)



**Step 3. Prepare to Plant** When ready to plant either remove the carpet if the grass is dead, or cut large crosses for planting into the carpeted area - fold carpet under itself to form a square. Dig holes deeper and wider than the root system of the plant going into it. Remove any remaining grass and roots and compost these. Mix *Organic Xtra* and other organic matter such as spent coffee grounds, compost or worm castings into the backfill soil to enrich it and feed the bacteria, microbes and fungi.



A post hole digger is effective





## Garden makeover workshop continued

Step 4. **Planting** Soak the root ball of the trees in seaweed solution or *Fast Fulvic* (from Linda). Plant the trees in the enriched soil. Plant non-competitive companion plants around each fruit tree. Water well with a bucket of soluble nutrients such as fulvic acid and *Instant Humus*. Worm juice and seaweed are sources of fulvic acid.



Steve planting acerola tree



Gennaro planting companions for Jakfruit tree: tansy, Queen Anne's lace, sweet marjoram and garlic chives.

Step 5. **Mulch the planting zone** around each plant with a 2 cm layer of organic mulch. At Ruth's we used what she had which was cypress bark, adding some *Organic Xtra* to compensate for nitrogen drawdown of the decomposing chip bark.



Step 6. **Establishment** Water the plants often enough that the soil remains moist, not boggy. You can tell when the plant is growing new roots as new foliage will appear. Once the grass is completely dead, remove the carpet. Incorporate the dead thatch in to the soil and add compost, Instant Humus and organic fertilisers. You are now ready to plant out the remainder of the area as garden.

Ruth decided to plant a Jaboticaba, a Dwarf Jakfruit, a Brazilian Cherry and an Acerola (Barbados) Cherry. Companion plants included Artemisia (wormwood), Rue, Tansy, Garlic Chives, Cosmos, Marigolds and Queen Anne's Lace which were generously gifted by ROGI members.

This wonderful project was both a learning and fun afternoon for the us all. We'd like to thank all those who came for their enthusiastic help to create a great makeover for Ruth.

We feasted on the delicious afternoon tea so generously provided by Ruth and members and many of us took home plants, fruit and vegetables from the share table.

Reported by Roberta Bonnin



Steve and Winnie finalising the acerola tree.



Russell came equipped for any eventuality.



Linda demonstrating how hard the soil is.

Below: Some of the many ROGI members who came along to help and learn by doing. Note the large pieces of carpet: they can be obtained by asking at any carpet store.





# Why save seeds?

Have you ever wondered where the seeds that you buy from ROGI and other places (such as the big green hardware store) come from?

If you are like me, you wouldn't have given it much thought. However, recently it was brought to my attention when I read some articles sent to me by Janet, our ROGI plant-grower extraordinaire.

You see, Australia doesn't really have much of a seed industry. Like other industries (think cars), it is too expensive to produce seeds in our own country.

*So ... the bulk of our seed is imported - even Queensland-based Green Harvest imports 75% of its seed!*

Being reliant on imported seeds means that any laws brought into effect regarding these imports will have a huge impact on small organic seed sellers.

In the articles *Seeds of Discontent* and *Seed Biosecurity Alarm* [ABC Organic Gardener (July/Aug 2018)], concerns were raised about plans revealed by the Department of Agriculture earlier this year. They were considering introducing mandatory fungicide treatment of imported brassica seeds — broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, rocket, bok choy and radish — meaning that the seeds would no longer be considered organic.

The Department of Agriculture has, thankfully, announced they would consider

alternative biosecurity measures for the organic industry.

But, as organic growers, we shouldn't be complacent. The seed industry is controlled by ten seed companies, and, if plans to merge these into three companies eventuate, that means biodiversity of the industry is threatened.

Large companies aren't interested in stocking every single variety of say, tomatoes — they'll just sell those that commercial growers are interested in — the ones that look good, but don't necessarily taste good, and the rest will fall by the wayside.

*If a natural or man-made disaster were to affect the northern hemisphere (where the seed exporters are based), we would be in huge strife.*

So what, as organic gardeners, can we do?

If you haven't started saving your own seed, do so now. This does mean a longer growing time, but think of all the beneficial insects you will attract when your vegetables start to flower!

**You can learn how to save seed at our ROGI Seed Savers group.**

We meet bi-monthly, at Linda Brennan's house in Capalaba from 7.00—8.30pm.

Our next meeting will be held on:

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018.**

See Janet or Sharr at the Seed Bank and Plant Table at the next ROGI meeting for more details.





## Investing ROGI's funds

As discussed and approved by the Annual General Meeting, of the \$16,638 (as at 12 August) available in the ROGI Transaction Account with Bendigo Bank, \$10,000 has been invested in two \$5,000 Term Deposits with the same bank. The relevant forms have been completed and lodged with the bank.

One is for a period of five months and the other for 12 months. These two periods, the amounts invested and the decision to invest with Bendigo Bank were selected by the Management Committee for the following reasons;

1. We currently bank with Bendigo Bank and we receive excellent service. In addition, as this is the first time we are investing, it was decided that we should stay as close as

Term	\$0 - \$4,999	\$5,000 - \$5,000,000
1 Month	0.50%	1.25%
2 Months	0.50%	1.70%
3 Months	0.50%	2.00%
4 Months	0.75%	1.50%
5 Months	0.75%	<b>2.45%</b>
6 Months	1.00%	2.10%
7 Months	1.00%	1.50%
8 Months	1.00%	1.50%
9 Months	1.00%	2.20%
10 Months	1.00%	1.50%
11 Months	1.00%	1.50%
12 Months	1.25%	<b>2.30%</b>

2. It was decided to keep the investment period to a maximum of 12 months so that ROGI has an opportunity to change its investment options if a better opportunity is available in the future and also not limit future committees due to any change of direction that may be decided at the time;
3. It was also decided to obtain the higher interest rate available when the amount invested is above \$5,000 but at the same time, increase flexibility by not limiting the amount invested into one period;
4. As given in the table below, five months provides the highest interest rate at 2.45% for an investment of less than 12 months; and
5. The next highest interest rate at 2.3% is for 12 months.

The accounting controls on our Transaction Account are as follows:

- All payments have to be approved or ratified by the Management Committee at its monthly meeting and these have to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- Two persons from the Management Committee whose signatures are registered with the bank have to sign cheques or electronically approve payments.

Both these points are required by:

- the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999* that ROGI is subject to as an incorporated body registered with the *Queensland Office of Fair Trade*, and
- the ROGI Constitution.

These controls will be applicable to the two

Term Deposits too.

When the Term Deposits mature, the bank will request our instructions as to whether to re-invest or credit the funds to our Transactions Account. It is the committee intention to reinvest for the best interest rate available at the time in accordance with the five points detailed above.

At the AGM it was suggested that instead of Term Deposits, ROGI should consider investing in an Investment Deposit Account as it would give us a high interest rate with the flexibility of the funds being available at short notice. This option has been explored and the best rate available at Bendigo Bank is 1.4% for the *Social Investment Deposit Account*. This rate is higher than the 1% available for businesses with a similar type account.

As the Term Deposit interest rate is much higher than the rate available for Investment Deposit Accounts, it is to our benefit to proceed with Term Deposits. At the same time, the committee will be exploring how we can benefit from the use of this account for holding the balance funds.

If there are any questions or further information required on the above, please do so by email to [group@rogi.com.au](mailto:group@rogi.com.au) or personally to me at a monthly meeting. I will not be there at the next meeting due to overseas travel but will be attending meetings after that.

It is proposed to keep members updated through the newsletter on the investments.

Shanthie Goonetilleke  
ROGI Treasurer



## Plant of the month

### Sunflowers *Helianthus annuus*

Have you ever been driving through the Darling Downs region and seen the huge farms full of large bright yellow sunflowers? What a sight to be seen - you can't help but smile as you drive past! Well, you can have a little bit of this beauty in your own backyard. Sunflowers grow so well in the subtropics, and from now until January is the right time to plant them.

There are plenty of types to grow. Short ones, tall ones, double bloom ones, those that are great for fodder and/or human consumption, yellow, orange or red petals, some flowers are small and some are as big as dinner plates.

Once you have selected your variety, you need to pick the sunniest spot as sunflowers need six to eight hours of sunshine a day. This spot also needs to be well drained, so get the bed ready by digging in some compost to encourage worms, as worms are great at making well drained soil.

I like to soak my seeds for 24 hours in just water. If you are planting what we have in stock in the ROGI seed bank, then you will need to space them 50 - 60cm apart.

Following this I plant the seeds the same depth as the seed itself, cover the seeds with soil, tap them down by hand and water them thoroughly. While the seed is germinating you will need to water the seeds every day, and when it is a seedling you can back off to every other day.

Good companions to plant alongside

sunflowers include cucumbers, melons, sweet corn and squash. It is advised not to plant sunflowers with or near potatoes. Apparently, sunflowers have an allelopathic\* substance in their roots, and this inhibits the growth of other plants near them - especially when near potatoes.

\* See <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12892-016-0093-0> for research into using sunflower allelopathy for weed control in agriculture systems

**In the ROGI seed bank** we have "Sunbird" sunflowers for sale (photo below) - \$1 for members, \$2 for non-members.

They produce large grey sunflower seeds with bright yellow petals; the seeds are excellent for eating or chicken fodder. "Sunbird" is drought tolerant, disease resistant and grows to 2 - 2.5 metres tall.



Top: Cockatoo feasting on sunflowers.  
Above: dwarf sunflowers as a border.  
Below: an anonymous sunflower in Janet's garden





# Green Heart Fair, Carindale

ROGI had a stall at last year's celebration of all things green, sustainable and environmentally-friendly.

Saying it was successful would be an understatement. We all but sold out of seedlings and plants, sold out of some seed varieties and had a huge number of people express an interest in growing their own

food organically in general and in ROGI and what we're all about in particular.

**Sunday 9 September  
8am to 2pm**

Carindale Recreation Reserve

For more information about the fair, go to

<https://www.greenheartfair.com.au>



## The Wild Macadamia Hunt

We need your help to find wild macadamia trees around Brisbane!

The delicious macadamia nut is native to Australia. Unfortunately, although cultivated macadamia trees are abundant in Australia, their wild relatives are under threat. With the support of Brisbane City Council, Healthy Land and Water is launching a project to find wild macadamia trees so these important species can be conserved for the future.

Wild macadamia trees naturally occur in the rainforests of SE Queensland, northern NSW and a tiny area of Central Queensland, but may also be found in suburban backyards, acreage blocks, pastoral properties, old orchards and local parks. And we need your help to find them.

[Download the project information sheet](#)

### How you can help

Find a wild macadamia tree and register details of the tree online through the data portal we have established with Atlas of Living Australia.

If the tree is one we are looking for (around 100 years old), we will ask you to collect a leaf sample and send it to us. The samples will be compiled and the leaves will be genetically analysed later. The results will help determine the best way to conserve wild macadamia trees.

### Contacts

If you have any questions or suggestions about the project, please contact Healthy Land and Water:

**Vanessa Durand** [Vanessa.d@hlw.org.au](mailto:Vanessa.d@hlw.org.au) 07 3816 9720

**Liz Gould** [Liz.g@hlw.org.au](mailto:Liz.g@hlw.org.au) 0400 748 157

More information at <http://hlw.org.au/initiatives/wildmacadamias>





## Plant Clinic

Perhaps we received fewer enquiries this month because of the AGM or maybe it is, after all, the winter quieter time in the garden. I know it is tempting to grow everything all year round just because you can, but there is always a "best" or "in season" time for each crop.

Trying to grow plants out of season can place unnecessary stress on them and encourage some of the pests or diseases that we don't want to see.



1. *This specimen was some peach leaves which had yellow/brown spots on them.*

The consensus was that it is fungal and probably one type of rust. If it warrants control, a fungal outbreak can be treated with a copper product, potassium bicarbonate (such as Eco-fungicide) or Mancozeb (also containing sulphur).

2. *Some leaf, stem and bean samples from an heirloom climbing bean (next column).*



The stems were dry, brownish and split with some lumpy nodes. Leaves were dying and falling off and the bean pods were getting pitted spots and a rusty colour.

Several people examined the symptoms and we were all at a bit of a loss.

- Some suggestions were: stem damage could be mechanical – rubbing with wind. Leaves could have leaf spot which could be treated with copper oxychloride.
- Possibly bean fly could be attacking the stems?
- Maybe the plants were at the end of their season and just beginning to break down.



3. *This leafy green plant was brought in and the owner wondered if it was edible.*

It certainly is edible ... **sow thistle** (known as Puha in NZ and traditionally cooked in a boil up with pork bones). A highly prized wild food when fresh. You can eat young leaves raw in a salad for your "bitters" and cook the older leaves and stems.

## Plant Clinic

If you have an odd-looking pest, think your plant may be a weed or have a deficiency or a disease, Plant Clinic may help you. Bring along the insect or plant (as many parts - fruit, leaf, root etc - as you can, and in a sealed plastic bag if it's diseased or very seedy) and fill in the form.

Place the plant parts together with the form on Plant Clinic table before the meeting starts. Someone will have a look and may be able to answer your questions. Any solutions will be given to you on the night and published on this page.

Please be aware that, although we do our best, there may not be anyone present who can solve your problem or identify your plant, especially if not related to organic gardening.



# Recycling plastic: what goes where?

We all know (I hope) about the plastics that can go into the council yellow-top bins.

But what about the other plastics—the soft plastics?

Most of them can go in the special REDcycle bins near the check-outs at Woolworths and Coles supermarkets.

Here's the rule of thumb:

## Do the scrunch test



## You can recycle:

Biscuit packets (outer wrapper only)  
Bread bags (without the tie)  
Bubble wrap (large sheets cut into A3 size pieces)  
Cat and dog food pouches (as clean and dry as possible)  
Cellophane from bunches of flowers (cut into A3 size pieces)  
Cereal box liners  
Chip and cracker packets (silver lined)  
Chocolate and snack bar wrappers  
Cling Wrap - free of food residue  
Confectionery bags  
Dry pet food bags  
Fresh produce bags  
Frozen food bags  
Green bags (Polypropylene Bags)  
Ice cream wrappers  
Large sheets of plastic that furniture

comes wrapped in (in A3 size pieces)  
Netting produce bags (any metal clips removed)  
Newspaper and magazine wrap  
Pasta bags  
Plastic Australia Post satchels  
Plastic carrier bags from all stores  
Plastic film wrap from grocery items such as nappies and toilet paper  
Plastic sachets  
Rice bags - both plastic and the woven type (if large, cut into A3 size pieces)  
Snap lock bags / zip lock bags  
Squeeze pouches with lid on (e.g. yogurt/baby food)  
Wine bladders - clear plastic ones only

Please make sure your plastic is dry and as empty as possible.



## Look out for one of these REDcycle bins for soft plastics

The REDcycle bins are emptied regularly and the plastic is taken to Replas where it is processed and made into many products which are themselves fully recyclable.

There is a wealth of information on all of this on:

<http://www.redcycle.net.au>

You can purchase many products made from recycled soft plastic to close the loop.

<http://www.replas.com.au/products>

<http://www.replas.com.au/resources>

You can even enter a competition to win a recycled plastic Buddy Bench for a school,  
<http://www.replas.com.au/competitions>



## Relevant to gardeners:

Potting mix and compost bags - both the plastic and the woven polypropylene types can be put into these bins. *Cut them into A3 size pieces and remove as much product as possible.*



## SOS call to farmers for less toil on soil

From *The Courier Mail* Sat1 Sept 2018

A scientist's startup firm is hoping to raise \$10million to produce soil-repairing fertiliser, writes Glen Norris.

In a small greenhouse on the grounds of the University of Queensland's startup incubator ilab, Russian-born Nikolai Kinaev is working on disrupting the \$300billion global fertiliser industry.



Dr Kinaev, who is chief executive of agribusiness startup Sustainable Organic Solutions (SOSBio), is busy testing an organic fertiliser made from chicken manure on a row of tomato plants. "These are the tomatoes using our fertiliser," said Dr Kinaev, pointing to plants laden with fruit. "And these are the control plants using inorganic fertiliser. They do not have as many fruit on them."

He said that centuries of farming in Australia using inorganic fertiliser made from nitrogen and phosphorus were taking a toll on the soil. "These fertilisers are not good for the soil," said Dr Kinaev, a former scientist with the CSIRO. "The more fertiliser farmers use, the more the soil is damaged."

He said his soil-repairing fertiliser, which was being trialled in Bundaberg, Townsville and the Darling Downs, worked by putting good bacteria back into the soil. "It's like a car needs petrol to run but the petrol needs additives to make it more efficient," he said. "The bacteria is like adding additives to the fuel for the plants."

He said the company had already sold tonnes of the fertiliser to a small crops farmer in Bundaberg who was growing sugarcane, sweet potatoes and macadamia nuts. "He said he could notice the difference in a couple of weeks," Dr Kinaev said. "Farmers have to change their habits, but they need the tools to do it. Inorganic fertiliser is like destroying the soil and the microflora in the soil."

SOSBio is about to embark on further scientific testing of its products thanks to a \$1.8million grant

from the Federal Government. It also has been awarded \$1.5million through the Queensland Government's Business Development Fund.

He said farmers have been encouraged by the major fertiliser companies to overuse fertiliser, resulting in damaging runoff in to waterways. The International Fertilizer Association estimates global fertiliser consumption at 100 million tonnes of nitrogen, 17 million tonnes of phosphorus and 31 million tonnes of potassium. Australia's consumption of total nutrient is just over 1 per cent of global consumption.

"Plants don't need 100kg of nitrogen per hectare," said Dr Kinaev. "They may only need 30kg which means the rest is leaching into the environment. In Bundaberg, they have been growing sugarcane for more than a century and the soil is wrecked."

He said farmers and environmental groups were under pressure to find new ways to strike the right balance between the agriculture sector and the health of waterways.

"Existing fertilisers bolster nutrients in soil and boost crop yield in the short-term, but have significant impacts on long-term soil health, our waterways and the Great Barrier Reef," Dr Kinaev said. "Farmers rely on the quality of their soil to deliver a good crop yield."

He said the company had already yielded outstanding results from fertiliser, reducing nitrogen runoff by between 30-50 per cent without impacting on crop yield.

SOSBio is now seeking investors to raise between \$5 million and \$10million for a factory in Queensland to produce the fertiliser in larger quantities. At the moment, the company is using a concrete to produce smaller batches. He said there was a lot of confidence in the sector to try new ideas, with MFS Sugar, one of the nation's largest sugar producers, a trial participant.

*This story is included in the newsletter as a matter of interest, since it reinforces the importance of the soil.*



What a way to make good use of that narrow space between the shed and the back and/or side fence! These are Francke's ducks, but I think chooks would have fun here as well.



## Hive parking for native bees

We are always interested in keeping our native stingless bees in other people's backyards.  
We need new spots for the coming season.

Here are some requirements:

- suburban acreage
- south, east and south-west side of Brisbane and also south of Brisbane along the coast to say Ballina.
- the site needs to be safe, secure, tamper-proof, shady and accessible.

We would like to keep at least 12 colonies at each site.

Please get in touch if you think this is possible for your place or you know someone who would be able to help.

Some ROGI members are already happy hosts to our bees - talk with Margaret Sear or Ann Roffey.

We do not pay an agistment fee; the benefit to you is that you enjoy the pollination services provided by our bees.

*Russell and Janine Zabel  
Keepers of Australian  
Stingless Native Bees*

0404 892139

[bees@zabel.com.au](mailto:bees@zabel.com.au)

[www.zabel.com.au](http://www.zabel.com.au)



## Garden Visits

**Sunday 23 Sept—Ranee Zeller**, Sheldon  
Ranee's five acre property has a food forest, two orchards, large wicking gardens, chooks (if the foxes haven't taken them by then), very large compost system, two dams, a horse (that thinks he's a dog) and the usual wildlife to contend with. She is planning a community garden at the front of the property along with a library. Whew!

**Sunday 27 October—Pal Juvancz**, Capalaba

**Sunday 24 November—Karina Lay**,  
Redland Bay

As always, space is limited, so book early. Please see Kathy at the next meeting or phone or email her (see below).

Our Garden Visit calendar is full for 2018, and we're planning for 2019. If you'd like to put your garden on the schedule, please get in touch with Kathy on 0468434791 or [kathypetrik@tpg.com.au](mailto:kathypetrik@tpg.com.au) (Toni is away)

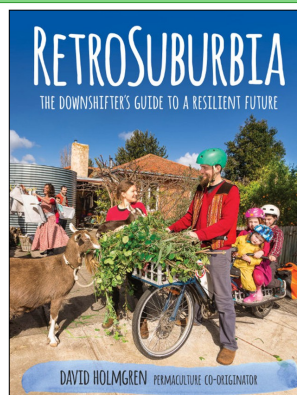
Kathy and Toni also welcome suggestions for field trips and workshops related to ROGI's organic growing interests.

Many people took up the opportunity to own a copy of RetroSuburbia for \$55.25 instead of \$85.

Another person wants one, but I need more orders to get the discount.

See the review on p12 <https://www.rogi.com.au/uploads/ROGINewsMay2018.pdf>

and get in touch if you'd like one (or more—some are buying them for gifts) [jill.nixon@bigpond.com](mailto:jill.nixon@bigpond.com) 0418717735



## Basil Downy Mildew

Janet has alerted us to this fungus that affects basil, particularly sweet basil *Occimum basilicum*.  
More information in the links below ...



<https://triblive.com/lifestyles/jessicawalliser/7185391-74/basil-downy-garden>

<https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/biosecurity-concerns-over-seedlings-sold-toowoomba/3334365/>

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/plants/fruit-and-vegetables/a-z-list-of-horticultural-diseases-and-disorders/basil-downy-mildew>

## Chook owners.

There is still some certified organic coarse layer chook feed left over from the last order.

I had to order extra to make up the minimum purchase requirement.

So please get in touch should you need some.

It's approx \$8 cheaper than retail: \$28.20 for 20 kg.

Please phone or text Jill on 0418717735





## Book Reviews

There are no new books in the library this month. These books are worth borrowing to read.

In writing this book, Rob Hopkins has set out a manual for communities to begin the process of transitioning from being oil-dependent to finding alternative ways of living and being.

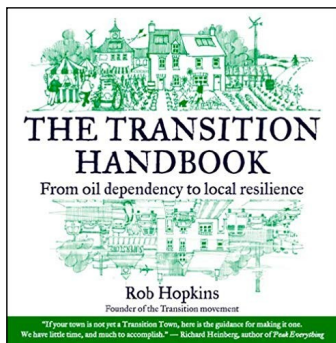
Oil will run out, and it will be soon. The way we plant for it now will make all the difference to how we'll cope in the future.

To quote an online reviewer, *"If you read this book, you will understand the challenges that face us right now. More than this, you'll have some excellent tools to get out there and be the change we need. While it would be great to see rich corporate bosses, powerful national leaders and community leaders read and act on this book, we don't need to sit around waiting for this unlikely event. This book clearly articulates how each one of us can get on with transitioning our local lives to a more realistic way of living for the future."*

*To summarise, this means start getting to know your neighbours, learn to grow nutritious food and get used to living a far more local life than we have since WW2 finished. This isn't a survivalist book, it's optimistic and very sure that we can actually build a more meaningful and fulfilling living arrangement than we've ever imagined possible."*

Couldn't have said it better myself!

To me, it is an earlier version of RetroSuburbia, but with the focus on the larger community. He encourages people to pull together to develop a positive vision and act on it, to start now, and to do it so it's 'more like a party than a protest march'.



Tim Marshall has been involved in the organic movement for over 30 years and has a deep understanding of all the versions of organic growing.

Before writing this book, Marshall started a new organic garden. This was because he wanted to write a book with a new take on organic gardening; one where the entire book was organic, not just a couple of chapters.

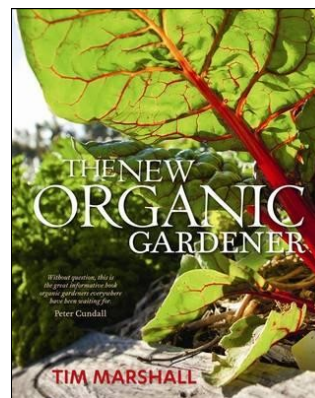
He starts out with his ten principles of organic gardening:

1. Improve the soil
2. Make compost
3. Use healthy planting material
4. Provide natural pest control
5. Practise natural disease control
6. Control weeds without poisons
7. Encourage local biodiversity
8. Use polyculture planting
9. Take time to observe
10. Make room for nature

What follows is 340 pages giving detailed lists, information, charts, guides, illustrations and photos to help you achieve these ten 'goals'.

Some examples:

- There are eleven pages on tomatoes.
  - Tim's top tips for weed control
  - Tools—pros and cons of 17 different digging tools
  - Tim's eight great benefits of cover crops
  - Some useful hints for garden design
- Borrow the book and peruse it; you'll want to keep it. Don't—return it and buy your own.



Another book by Tim Marshall. He has also written books called WEED and COMPOST.

This is 'The Ultimate Gardener's Guide to Organic Pest Control'.

When we see a 'critter' in the garden that we don't recognise, it is very tempting to think the worst of it and squash it or even zap it.

Reading this book will help you recognise the goodies and the baddies, and also those can be either under various circumstances.

You will undergo a change in attitude and realise that everything has its place in the garden (perhaps not your garden, but a garden somewhere!)

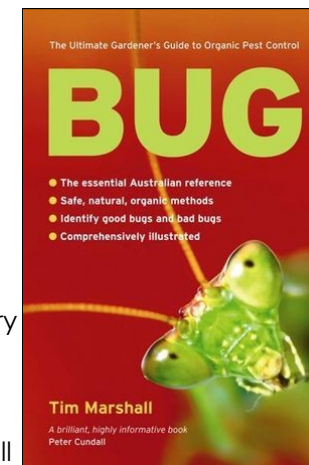
Although he has named his book 'Bug' and it covers all the creepy-crawlies, he explains that true bugs suck. Yes, of course they do! They really suck! But they literally have sucking mouthparts and can be pests (bad) or predators (good).

He discusses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and how important this is in organic growing.

Did you know that all ladybirds are good, except for the orange one with 26 black spots? It eats plant matter; the others are predators.

Did you know that lacewings and their larvae are aphid, mite, mealybug, thrips and whitefly specialists, and that you can actually buy their eggs for release in your garden?

There is so much more. Enjoy reading the book.



All reviews by Jill Nixon

If you read a book that would be valuable for our library please tell a committee member about it—see back page. We welcome reviews from readers of ROGI library books you've read. Please!

**These books are among the many items available for loan from your ROGI library.**

We also have pH test kits (See p10) and needles for sewing shade cloth on loan.



## Seed bank news

### Plant your own seed

... at the next ROGI meeting

We'll supply a container to sow the seed in, ROGI seed-raising mix and the seeds.

At home, you need to:

- keep the mixture moist
- keep pots in a protected well-lit, shaded spot
- harden off new seedlings by gradually increasing their exposure to sun and heat
- water with weak Seasol solution or worm liquid when the second set of leaves appears (the first 'true' leaves)
- transplant into a larger pot or the garden

### The seeds this month will be ...

various seeds saved through the seed savers' group.

### Seed savers' group

Next session is 16 October. The topic will be wet seeds. See page 14. More info at the seed bank and plants table at the ROGI meeting.

Our **seed-raising mix** works well.

You can purchase some for your own use. We put it in used yogurt or ice cream containers.

**Fifty cents a litre.**

We can offer such good prices as we source well and we are not-for-profit.

### Special Offer

For every five seed packs you buy, you'll receive one litre of ROGI seed-raising mix to sow them in.

Please **return seedling pots and punnets** to the seed



bank to be reused – especially the 4-cell ones like these.

**Other clean used pots**—small sizes up to 120 mm diameter.

Square pots like these are good too.



Bigger pots, such as those you get through ROGI Rewards, can be put on the swap/share/ giveaway table in the foyer. See page 19.

This seed sowing guide is for sowing seeds, not seedlings.

There may be several days or even weeks between the optimal time to sow a seed and to transplant a seedling.

## Seed Sowing Guide

### September

Asparagus  
Beetroot  
Beans, French  
Beetroot  
Capsicum/Chilli  
Carrot  
Chicory  
Choko  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Jerusalem artichoke  
Kohlrabi  
Lettuce  
Okra  
Melons—Water and Rock  
Potatoes  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Rosella  
Silver beet  
Squash  
Sweet corn  
Sweet potato  
Tomato  
Zucchini

### October

Asparagus  
Beans, French and snake  
Beetroot  
Capsicum/Chilli  
Carrot  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Ginger  
Lettuce  
Okra  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Rocket  
Rockmelon  
Rosella  
Silverbeet  
Squash  
Sweet corn  
Sweet potato  
Tomato  
Watermelon  
Zucchini

Keep in mind that these are only guides. Be aware that micro-climates and weather conditions may mean that certain seeds may be sown before or after the recommended times.

**ROGI Seed Bank is available at all ROGI meetings and Garden Visits.**

**\$1 per pack for members. \$2 non-members.**

For a list of the seed bank stock, please go to: <http://www.rogi.com.au/uploads/seed%20bank%20list%20March%202017.pdf>



## Swap plants, cuttings, home-grown produce, seedlings.

Please consider contributing to any or all of these at various times.

### ROGI Rewards

**Good quality** plants and other garden-related items brought along by members. Everyone who attends is eligible for a ROGI Reward. **Please label the plant with its name and some details before placing it on the table.**

### Members' Sales

Items you've produced that are surplus to your requirements that **you wish to sell** to other members - eggs, honey, seedlings, lemons, jam, sustainable craft items – things that have cost you money, time and effort to produce. Please ensure items are labelled, named and priced. It is preferable that you staff the stall yourself or time-share with a friend.

### FREE swap/share/give-away

(This is for members only)

For those items you don't want payment for eg shredded paper, unwanted volunteer plants (named, please), cuttings, surplus produce, empty pots, strawberry runners and so on. You may want to work out an arrangement with other members to do some swapping outside of the meetings.

**Remember to bring bags/boxes/baskets to take home everything that you buy, win or pick up for nothing.**

More from Francke's garden. To avoid having to water this wall hanger constantly, Francke has lined it and filled it with plants that don't require a lot of watering, such as succulents.



Query from Kathy: "I was given these today and was quite convinced they were cherry tomatoes. But no, they are definitely capsicums - a very strong flavour. Has anyone seen these before? I'll save the seeds for ROGI just in case."

**Here is the answer** (from [www.greenharvest.com.au](http://www.greenharvest.com.au))

Capsicum 'Red Cherry' is a European heirloom variety and the answer if you've wondered what capsicum variety is used for the pickled stuffed peppers sold in deli jars. The plants are strong and upright and bear over a long period. The fruit are very sweet, cherry shaped and ripen from dark green to deep crimson. The bushy foliage helps prevent sunburn. Days to harvest: 70 days for green fruit; 80 for red.



Six-centimetre-long strawberry grown by Garry and Sophie.

## We'd like to hear from you.

For example, send us:

- A story about your garden
- A photo of an interesting plant
- An article about an unusual plant
- A request for items or information
- Specific garden or nutrition info
- A recipe for home-grown produce
- A notice that you have something to give away or sell
- A handy technique or tip
- A gardening problem solved
- Anything to do with organic growing
- A review of a ROGI library book

**Please send your items to the editor and help keep ROGI News topical, interesting, local and relevant.**  
[info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au)

### October Newsletter Deadline

**Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor by 26 September**

ROGI is a beneficiary of the My IGA Card Program for **Cleveland IGA** store.



This is how it works:

- Get a My IGA Card at the Cleveland store
- Register online
- Tick ROGI as the community group you wish to support

Then, every time you shop in the store and use your card, not only do you receive discounts, but you also help to raise funds for ROGI, which we use to benefit our members.

### Did you know?

You can go online [www.rogi.com.au/resources.php](http://www.rogi.com.au/resources.php) and read every edition of **ROGI News** since September 2014.



## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Julia Geljon [president@rogi.com.au](mailto:president@rogi.com.au)  
V. PRESIDENT Kathy Petrik [president@rogi.com.au](mailto:president@rogi.com.au)  
SECRETARY Roberta Bonnin [secretary@rogi.com.au](mailto:secretary@rogi.com.au)  
TREASURER Shanthie Goonetilleke [group@rogi.com.au](mailto:group@rogi.com.au)  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Rhonda Binns, Toni Bowler, Peter Calil, Jill Nixon.

## OFFICE BEARERS

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Rhonda Binns	<a href="mailto:membership@rogi.com.au">membership@rogi.com.au</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jill Nixon	<a href="mailto:info@rogi.com.au">info@rogi.com.au</a>
PR & COMMUNICATIONS	Gail Bruce	<a href="mailto:info@rogi.com.au">info@rogi.com.au</a>
CLUB EVENTS	Toni Bowler	<a href="mailto:events@rogi.com.au">events@rogi.com.au</a>
PUBLIC EVENTS	Margaret Sear	<a href="mailto:events@rogi.com.au">events@rogi.com.au</a>
LIBRARY	Sophie Bromham	<a href="mailto:library@rogi.com.au">library@rogi.com.au</a>
SEED BANK	Sharr Ellson	<a href="mailto:seeds@rogi.com.au">seeds@rogi.com.au</a>
SUPPER	Cheryl McWilliams	<a href="mailto:group@rogi.com.au">group@rogi.com.au</a>
WEBSITE	Pal Juvancz	<a href="mailto:pal@pcpals.com.au">pal@pcpals.com.au</a>

[info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au) [www.rogi.com.au](http://www.rogi.com.au) PO Box 1257 , Cleveland 4163  
[www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers)

The views expressed in ROGI News and at ROGI meetings are those of the editors and submitters, and guest speakers, not necessarily those of Redland Organic Growers Inc

Other gardening groups using organic methods

**Brisbane Organic Growers Inc (BOGI)**—1st Thursday every month (except Jan), Albion Peace Hall, 102 McDonald Rd, Windsor, 6.30 for 7.30pm. 33573171 <http://bogi.org.au>

**Qld Herb Society**—1st Tuesday every month, Albion Peace Hall. 7.30pm. 54268299 <http://www.qldherbsociety.org.au/qhs>

**Oaklands Street Community Garden**—Wed & Friday 9 - noon, Sunday 2- 5pm. Oaklands St, Alexandra Hills. 0419987870



Not the yellow brick road - much better!  
This beautiful mosaic path is at Francke's garden. There is also a green mosaic snake.

Pieces of garden art and various quirky items add character to a garden and reflect the owner's personality. We'd love to see photos of your garden art.

