

Next meeting 8 April 2020: **CANCELLED**

ROGI News

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the Covid-19 virus, all ROGI meetings and events have been cancelled until further notice. The ROGI Management Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all members good health.

If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to get into contact with one of us (all email addresses are on the back page of this newsletter).

The newsletter will still be emailed each month, please contribute if you can. The deadline for the next newsletter is the **29th April 2020** - email info@rogi.com.au

Stay safe and happy gardening!

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What insects do you have in your garden since the recent rains? Not all of them are pests! This beautiful dragonfly was on my Dogbane plant the day after our last ROGI meeting. It is the Eastern Pygmyfly, *Nannophya dalei*. Dragonflies are great to have in the garden, as they are insect-eating machines—they eat flies, mosquitoes, and also white cabbage butterflies.

Jill's Jottings

I'm not going to go on about the coronavirus situation. We're all very aware of all of that. However, the effect of it has an impact on us as food growers. Who would have thought, after the panic-buying of toilet paper and hand sanitising products, that the next target would be seeds and seedlings! As soon as vegetable seedlings arrive at a nursery they are snapped up.

We are told that Australia produces enough food for 75 million people and our population is about one-third of that. So we *should* be right. But ... if we want to feel secure, we need to grow as much of our own food as we can. And the general population is seeing that now. Of course, this is what ROGI is all about ... to encourage and inspire people to grow as much of their own food as possible – organically – and to enjoy doing it.

Of course, we've had to cancel/postpone all our ROGI activities, but we haven't stopped thinking about you. The newsletter is still coming out (obviously, since you're reading it now). But the main advantage of being a ROGI member right now is that WE HAVE SEEDS! Maybe we are the only gardening group in Australia who actually still has seeds! And they are only 50 cents a packet, for members only.

As well as our Seed Bank, we have a collection of various seeds collected and saved by the ROGI members of our Seed Savers' group. These seeds are FREE to members. They are great for our area because they were grown locally, and thus are adapted to our climate. Both of these Seed Banks are at my place. In my kitchen. On the island bench. I prepare our meals squished up one end.

So, how can you get your hands on these precious seeds?

- Go to the website <https://www.rogi.com.au/resources.php> and look at the two lists SEEDBANK and the Seed Savers' list.
- Decide what seeds you need.

- ⇒ Check on page 15 which seeds to sow at this time of the year.
- ⇒ Please don't order more than you can use this season. There is a limit of one packet of each type of seeds. Some are sold out by now. Maybe put a second choice in case your first choice isn't available.
- ⇒ I am endeavouring to keep the lists up-to-date, but sometimes there may be a lag because I am too busy picking and packing seeds to update the lists.
- Send me an email to president@rogi.com.au with a list of your desired seeds. I will fill these orders in strict chronological order.
- How do these seeds get to you? I can post them (especially if you're over 70 and aren't allowed out), but if you want them soon, you can collect them from me. There is a way to do this so we don't get close. You can pay online once your order is ready.
- Maybe sow the whole packet and share any surplus seedlings with other ROGI members.
- ⇒ If you're in our Facebook group, post it there. Or let me or another ROGI member know that you have spares available and we'll see who can use them. Or give them to your neighbours. This is when it is good to have made friends with other ROGI members.

Once your seeds are up, and you have transplanted the more mature seedlings into their permanent spot, how about going through past copies of April and May newsletters to see what was going on in Plant Clinic at that time, what the Plant of the Month was ... and so on.

For the newsletter for May, we would love to hear your stories of what you have achieved in your garden during these challenging times. Please send your stories and your photos. Failures as well as successes. We learn from each other.

As they're saying, we're all this together. We welcome suggestions as to how ROGI can help you.

Happy gardening. *Jill Nixon, ROGI President*



The ROGI Seed Bank.

Many thanks go to our President Jill, who has taken on the gigantic task of keeping us all supplied with seeds!!!

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** to BSB 633 000, Account Number 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/>

Member Category	Members Renewing For 2020	New member/s joining in...			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
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 of age.

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

The April Meeting is cancelled



To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.

Audrey Hepburn

Photo by Julia Geljon

All ROGI meetings and events have been cancelled until further notice.

March Speaker—Kate Wall

Weeds! How to beat them and regain your subtropical paradise.

Kate Wall is a gardening professional who lives in Brisbane. She has her own garden consultancy business and has just had her first book published on a topic close to her heart—*Working with Weeds*. Kate gave us a brief look at weeds, and the concepts around them. This is covered in more detail in her book.

With the recent drought, many gardens had bare patches, which then became full of weeds when the rain came. Weeds are colonisers, meaning they exploit any opportunity to establish. You can pull out a weed, but it will either grow back or a new one will take its place. Instead, why not plant something else so it doesn't have the opportunity?

Different plants are weeds to different people. Every plant has value, depending on the situation it is in. When we know our weeds, we can control them effectively, organically and permanently—allowing us to create far more satisfying gardens.



Left—One example of a plant potentially becoming a weed is Dogbane (Plectranthus ornatus). What is a deliberately planted plant can sometimes take over and behave as a weed. Does it matter? It is providing coverage of bare earth (where weeds can potentially grow) and will also smother other weeds.



The photo above shows a garden that Kate worked on many years ago. It is now a rose garden, but used to be thick with chest high cobbler's pegs, seeds and all. As the seeds grew, they were also pulled out and composted in situ before they could seed again. Eventually all the seed in the soil had grown and been pulled out. Now after many years of neglect, no cobbler's pegs have come up because there is no longer seed in the soil. All the composted cobbler's pegs have enriched the soil.

Weeds are survivors, and they are a good indicator of what is happening in our soil. Nutgrass is one of the only weeds there is no easy answer for. Nutgrass is an indication of low calcium and compacted soil. There is a variety of techniques that can be used to eradicate it:

- Use *Sempre* or *Sedgehammer* herbicide (a 12-month exclusion time for growing edibles should be allowed)
- Use a garden fork and dig it out after you have improved the soil
- Grow things that are taller than the nutgrass (plants that are taller will shade it out and weaken it)
- Improve the soil by adding compost and rock minerals



Can you mulch over weeds? The answer is “sometimes”. Low growing weeds can be smothered with mulch, but some weeds will grow through the mulch. It is important to match the technique to the weed. Some weeds may be of benefit being allowed to stay. For example, the weed Singapore daisy (pictured left) can be

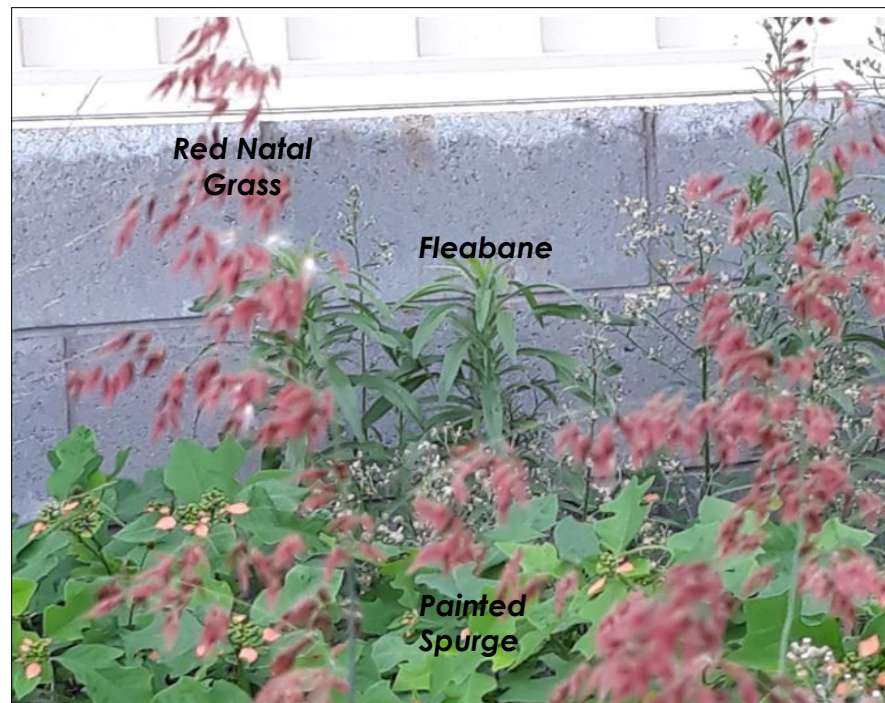
left deliberately to shelter other plants in dry weather. Then when it rains, it can be taken out, or a deep layer of grass clippings can be used to smother it.

Couch is also considered a weed by some. To establish a new garden, use the no-dig gardening method (*the ROGI website has instructions under the tab RESOURCES*). Cut the edges of the couch to stop them from growing underneath your layers. Poison does so much damage to soil and creeks, and also creates conditions that are perfect for weeds.



Left: Solarisation is another method of weed removal. Pull out the weeds, place them in a black plastic bag and cook them in the sun. Or, place black plastic on the ground for several

months over summer. This basically cooks the weeds' seed bank and cooks the weed themselves. Once dead, plant your plants, put down wet newspaper or cardboard and then mulch heavily.



Kate argues that weeds in public spaces are valuable, and that they shouldn't be removed. Vacant lots, unmown verges and cracks in the footpath are often full of weeds—providing essential habitat corridors in the suburbs that are wonderful for insect biodiversity.

In the photo above a neglected patch is filled with fleabane, painted spurge and red natal grass. Both fleabane and painted spurge are much appreciated by pollinating insects. All of these weeds indicate a silty soil that is lacking in structure, giving a clue as to what improvement is needed before a garden can be successful here.

March Speaker—Kate Wall *(continued)*



Path weeds can easily be killed without using harmful chemicals. Use a steam mop, boiling water or vinegar. Salt is NOT advised, as it damages the soil, and can be washed into gutters and then into creeks.

Vinegar will not affect the pH and is cheaper than using Slasher. It will not work on waxy leaves unless you add soapy water. Use vinegar on a sunny, hot day. Rinse the spray bottle out well afterwards, otherwise it will disintegrate.



Left: How to deal with tree stumps that keep reshooting. They will even regrow after Roundup has been applied! Use your boot to break the shoot off (at the growing point). Don't cut it, it will grow back.

By looking more closely at what weeds are growing, we can learn so much about the conditions in our gardens. When we know our weeds, we can control them effectively, organically and permanently—allowing us to create far more satisfying gardens!

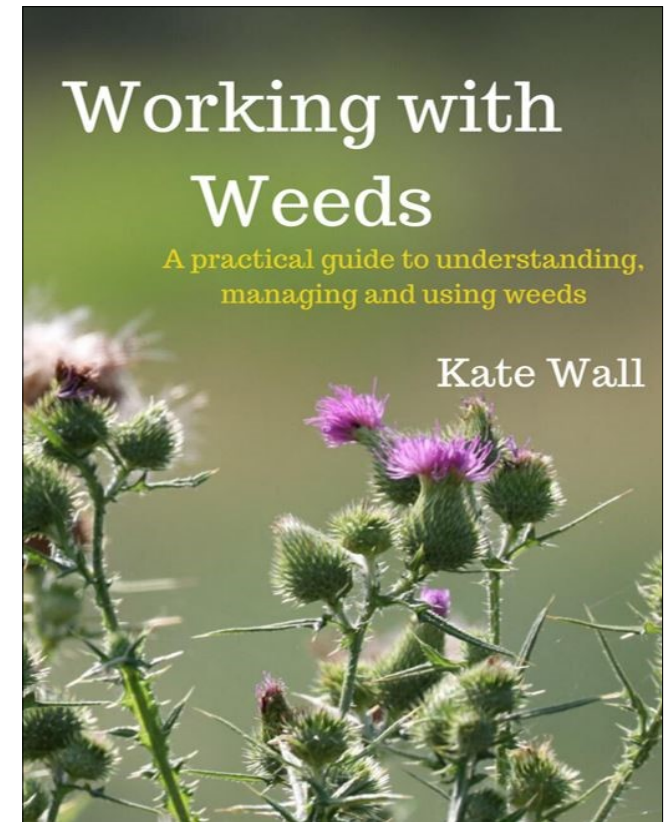
What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Want to learn more about weeds? Kate's book *Working with Weeds* is available for purchase online, or you can borrow her book from the ROGI library.



A full garden has no room for weeds.



By Ann Roffey

Plant of the Month—Kohlrabi

Kohlrabi is one of those little gems that I'm always on the lookout for when Janet brings her seedlings to ROGI. They do grow well from seed, which I plant successively over the autumn to spring, but I'm happy to add more seedlings to the garden as often as possible.

This vegetable looks like a cross between a beetroot and a kale, as a round white or purple bulb forms above the soil and the bluish leaves fan out from the bulb. However, it's a brassica, so is closely related to kale and cabbages. I love growing the purple variety called Purple Vienna as it looks so fabulous in the patch.



Purple Vienna Kohlrabi

Growing Kohlrabi

Most brassicas love cooler weather, so grow your kohlrabi from seed in autumn through to late spring. You can sow the seed directly into the soil, or transplant it out at 4-leaf stage. As it is tolerant of some shade, it's a perfect vegetable for slightly shaded

spaces and intercropping (i.e. growing between other longer-growing vegies such as carrots, climbing beans, peas and corn).

It's ready to harvest within nine weeks. Grow it quickly with plenty of fertiliser, compost and water, and eat the bulbs and leaves when young. The summer heat and humidity will knock them around, so harvest any left in your garden before the summer rain sets in.

Eating Kohlrabi

The flavour is mild, sweet and a little like a very mild radish or even a turnip without the bitter taste. Texture is crisp and moist. The leaves are also edible, and I find they make a really wonderful alternative to kale as 'chips'.

My favourite ways to eat them are peeled and used as a 'dipper' instead of biscuits, or spiralised and made into vegetable 'zoodles'. A mushroom or tomato sauce is all you need to add to enjoy them for a satisfying main course.

Saving seeds?

The plant is technically a biennial, so it seeds in its second season. However it won't live long enough to seed in our hot and wet summer areas, so you'll need to purchase new seed. Remember to store the seeds in a cool, dry and dark spot for continued viability and it will be viable for 4-5 years.



White Vienna Kohlrabi

By Linda Brennan, Ecobotanica

What's Happening in my Garden this month

We can't have meetings at the moment, so the ROGI newsletter is our only chance to catch up. Each month we'll feature a few different ROGI members who'll tell us "What's happening in my garden this month".

This month I've been ultra busy getting beds ready for autumn and winter plantings. After forking them over and removing any roots and rocks, I've added home-made compost, rock dust and sometimes a little fertiliser. I usually consult Annette McFarlane's two organic fruit and vegetable gardening books (see page 13 for the review) as to what soil requirements are needed.

I managed to pick up some broccoli seedlings at Timbara, and these are powering away. Janet's celery has also been planted, and I'm trying out a new variety of silverbeet that I've never grown before, *Rainbow Chard*. Since the rush on toilet paper has also extended to seedlings(!), I've been busy applying the techniques I learnt at Seed Savers' Group (thanks Linda!). They don't



Left: Broccoli seedlings are powering away. You may be wondering what all the sticks and pipes are for. I had a baby bush turkey in my garden a few weeks ago, and I'm terrified he'll return. We chased him away many times, and finally ended up hosing him. This is to deter him and other pests, and hopefully protect my precious seedlings.

I try to have tomatoes growing so I don't have to buy any from the shop, but sometimes there's a lag. I grow them in pots as they're prone to root knot nematode - they do remarkably well in these and I can move them around if needed. Fruit is bagged as soon as it appears to protect from fruit fly and tomato budworm. For more info go to the ROGI website, Resources, and look at the newsletter from November 2019, page 8.



look as good as Janet's (I still have my learner's plate on), but I am getting better. Hopefully I'll have beetroot and more broccoli seedlings to plant out soon.

On Easter Sunday or Monday (both root crop days according to my Moon Calendar), I'll be planting out my wicking bed and in front of it with garlic cloves—from my biggest and best bulbs, saved from last year's bumper crop. I'm hoping they'll go as well this year, I am always apprehensive. They do have a long growing season (5-6 months), and need to be looked after with regular watering and spraying of liquid fertiliser. But if we're going to be stuck at home for a while, they'll be sure to get the care they need.



Last year's garlic crop grown in the wicking bed

What's Happening in my Garden this Month (cont'd)

I have passionfruit and pawpaw fruiting at the moment, as well as lemons from my Dwarf Meyer lemon tree. I've been juicing these and freezing them in ice cube trays, as they are soft-skinned and don't keep well. The rosella has



started flowering and fruiting, but I only planted the one so will have to freeze them until I have enough to make a batch of jam.



My bisexual pawpaw tree has started fruiting again. YUM!!! I've got an old long-sleeved shirt tied around it to stop possums and flying foxes from getting to the fruit, but I missed one—look how neatly it ate out the fruit, just leaving the skin behind!!! I will have to be more vigilant from now on. My pawpaw tree is 2 years old, and it gets fertilised four times a year with compost, rock dust, gypsum (a source of calcium without raising the pH), Organic Link fertiliser and watered with Trace Elements when needed. Fortnightly liquid fertilisers are also used, as this plant is a very heavy feeder.



Plant of the month in March was strawberries, and I'm going to have to take some of my own advice and start repotting the runners soon. I've bought some potting mix, and just need to harvest more compost and find the time to do it!

I also have some *Wasabi mustard* that was planted as a green manure crop in my wicking bed that needs to be pulled out, chopped up and added to the soil. Plants growing here recently (tomato and celery) had root knot nematodes on them, and I am hoping that the mustard will release its chemicals to fumigate the soil and help control them.



Over summer it's hard to grow a lot of things, but eggplant and Tromboncino zucchini kept us well supplied. The zucchini is *still* going in my back yard, it's just not as prolific as it was earlier. I'm reluctant to pull it out, as I don't have a lot ready to eat yet, and it's been a great addition to our meals (and cheaper than store-bought greens!)

The chickens are laying well, hopefully they will continue to as there's also been a run on baby chicks and pullets! I really hope these people know what they're doing—you can shove toilet paper in a cupboard, but chickens requires a lot more care!!!

Please email info@rogi.com.au if you would like to tell us about what's been happening in your garden.

By Ann Roffey



Plant Clinic

(by Gennaro DeRosa
—reporting whilst Rohanne away)

1. Sue wanted to know what was causing curling of some of her lime tree leaves. We suspected citrus leaf miner, and showed her examples on the internet. She confirmed that they did look like her curled leaves.



Leaf miner is the larval stage of an introduced Asian moth that effects most citrus as well as *Murrayas*. Unfortunately, once the eggs have been deposited by the mother moth, there is very

little we can do to control it, as NO organic pesticide can reach the larva. However, since the moth prefers fresh succulent leaves, we can deter her by spraying any horticultural oils when we get a new flush of growth on our citrus. On small trees, it's usually easy enough to remove affected leaves and allow the remaining ones to get more sun exposure. On established trees it is extremely unlikely to cause reduced yield, however it's a good idea to remove and dispose of as many of the affected leaves as possible to reduce further infestations. Dispose of them in the bin or solarise each leaf before adding to your compost.

Provided that you have a healthy biodiversity in your garden, lacewings and parasitoid wasps will take care of a few more for you.

2. Ann brought what looked like a light broad mite infestation on some of her capsicum leaves. If correct, when not controlled the leaves would start by first showing what looks like nutrient deficiencies, and then by curling and being overall deformed. Spraying with wettable sulphur was a good idea; using a soap spray would have also dehydrated them, and any horticultural oil spray would have suffocated them. However, since they prefer a hot and dry environment, usually the easiest way to keep them at bay is to spray the underside of the leaves while watering (do this in moderation on hairy leaves like tomatoes to avoid other issues).

Besides the simplicity of just using water, there are other upsides—mite infestations are often a secondary problem that get a lot worse only after the application of broad spectrum pesticides in that general area that removes competition as well as some predators. If we or our neighbours “nuke” our gardens (which will kill ALL insects good and bad), we'll have to do the job of each and every predatory insect that is killed.



PLANT CLINIC (*This is still running even though we're not having a meeting*)

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. Email the description and photo/s to info@rogi.com.au.

Someone will have a look and may be able to answer your questions. Any solutions will be published in the next newsletter. Please be aware that, although we do our best, there may not be anyone who can solve your problem or identify your plant, especially if it is not related to organic gardening.

Seed Savers Group News

Our first meeting for the year focussed on what we are going to grow in autumn and winter. We potted up some seeds in three different seed-raising mixes, and will compare the results at our next meeting. There was lots of sharing - how gardens coped with the recent rains, plant cuttings, seeds saved from favourite plants, and how to harvest seed from corn and tromboncino zucchini.



Linda saved these Balinese corn cobs for seed. Harvest the seed by rubbing them together and the seed falls off easily—ready to be stored somewhere cool.

Lisa getting her punnets ready for planting seed. We trialled three different mixes, to compare results at our next meeting. These are:

1. Janet's home-made ROGI mix
2. Searles seed raising mix
3. Searles organic potting mix

Seed savers, please email your results to info@rogi.com.au



Ann grew tromboncino zucchini during summer, with great results. She left one on the vine to mature (the large orange one she is holding), and we cut it open to reveal the seeds. These will be fermented, dried and brought to the next Seed Savers meeting to share.



The Seed Saver's Group is a sub-group of ROGI, and it is open to **all** ROGI members. We meet bi-monthly at organic gardening expert Linda Brennan's house in Capalaba.

Our next Seed Saver's meeting in May has unfortunately been postponed. If you haven't attended a meeting as yet, please register your interest by emailing info@rogi.com.au. More details will be sent by email.

SEED SAVING TIPS:

Do not store your saved seeds in your hot garden shed! Instead, keep them in a dark, dry, cool location—a cupboard or drawer, or if you have room, in the fridge.

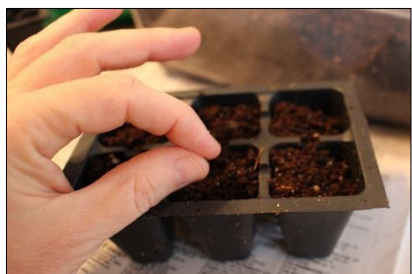
For seed viability times, go to the ROGI website. Under the tab 'Resources' go to 'Our Most Excellent Seed Viability Chart'.

Gardening Tips

SOWING SEEDS - Don't have much luck? Here's some tips:

1. Seeds must be moist but not waterlogged. Water (not mist) 1 or 2 times daily. Never sit seeds in water as they can rot.
2. Use a mix that retains moisture - 50% coir/peat mixed with 50% perlite or sand. If using homemade compost or potting mix (last resort) always sieve. You can also sow direct into compost-enriched garden beds.
3. Lettuce seed should NOT be covered. Tomatoes and other vegetable/flowers only need to be barely covered with peat, vermiculite or sieved compost/potting mix.
4. Position outdoors exposed to light, and water in with Seasol or Epsom salts (2tsp/9 litres).
5. Increase sunshine immediately upon germination and apply ½ strength liquid fertilizer (Seasol is not enough!)
Share excess seedlings with others.

Annette McFarlane



CLEANING USED POTS

When you are planting out seedlings and plants, keep a large bucket or tub of water nearby. As soon as you have emptied the punnet or pot, throw it in the bucket. That way the soil will float off rather than drying in it and needing a strong scrub down the track. Think of it like dealing with a saucepan just used for mashed potato ... you have to put water into it straightaway, or you've given yourself a real job to get it clean.

Jill Nixon

Searching ROGI Newsletters

Our organic gardening association has been running for many years now, and a lot of wonderful and informative articles have been written by our knowledgeable members and speakers.

Most members would think that there is a quick and easy way to tap into this knowledge treasure, however it is not yet so. There are several ways for us to approximate this dream. In an ideal world we would have someone saving each and every newsletter (as well as future ones) in an online cloud service like Dropbox or One Drive, and we would all have a web link to that collection which we could then search. In my humble opinion, such a system would not work in the long term, because it generally requires ongoing fees and would require regular updating by one or more of our volunteers.

My suggestion is a more practical one, which requires a bit of work by those of you interested in searching all of our published newsletters - with the added bonus that all the information will be on your own computer, hence access will be much faster and can be achieved while you are offline and/or with no coverage.

Here's how:

1. Create a folder on your computer or removable drive called "ROGI Newsletters" or similar
2. Download and save each newsletter from the website <https://www.rogi.com.au/resources.php> to that folder

That's it! Now search as you would any other folder on your computer. The ROGI newsletters are in PDF format, hence any search will return "ALL" matches for that particular word, no matter where it is hidden.

if you have any further questions about how to do this, please contact Gennaro De Rosa and he will help you.

Book Reviews

The Edible Garden Cookbook & Growing Guide

By Paul West (New to the ROGI Library)



Paul West was the host of the popular television series River Cottage Australia. He has written this book for the armchair gardener, who has dreamt about growing their own food but doesn't know where or how to start.

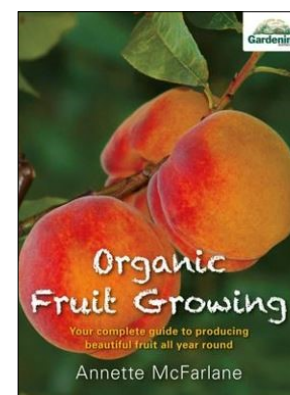
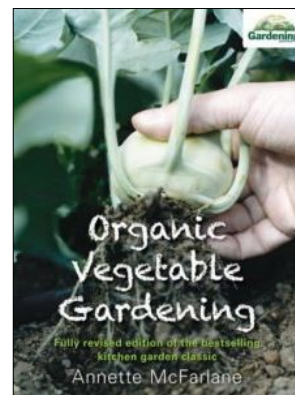
Paul's book is divided into three main sections - Grow, Cook and Community. Using large pictures and step-by-step instructions, Paul shows how even the least green-thumbed person can grow and enjoy their own produce on a window ledge, in any type of recycled container, backyard or community garden. There is also an A to Z guide for growing the most popular vegetables including planting guide, and maintenance and harvesting.

He also goes into the basics of composting, keeping chooks (and bees if one is really keen), creating a no dig garden, a wicking garden bed out of polystyrene containers and a worm farm. The second section features easy recipes like making snacks, main courses, cakes, hot chilli sauce, pickled dill cucumbers, even sauerkraut and beer.

In the section on Community, Paul writes about joining a community garden or getting together with friends and neighbours for passata day, or a pickle making party, or building a wood-fired barbecue. *"Face to face sharing a meal and conversation is fundamental to our wellbeing"* states Paul West.

The 303-page book is illustrated with hundreds of photographs, has a well laid out index and is written in a logical and easy-to-follow order. The step-by-step instructions with corresponding pictures are designed to make for completion of a successful project. I especially enjoyed the section on when to plant vegetables, maintenance and harvesting times.

Book Review by Madeleine Mionnet



Organic Vegetable Gardening; Organic Fruit Growing By Annette McFarlane

For those of you wanting expert advice on organic vegetable and fruit growing in the subtropics, you can't go past these two books. The author *lives* in Brisbane, so she understands all too well our climate and the growing conditions we experience here.

I must confess to not having read them from cover to cover. Rather, I use them as needed—when I am planning what to grow next, I will research the growing requirements and prepare my bed accordingly.

I especially love the A-Z sections of each vegetable and fruit. Here Annette outlines when, where and what to plant, with a comprehensive description and list of varieties. The planting time and harvest period are also advised, along with any potential problems. She also outlines in meticulous detail the soil requirements and nutrition needed, which makes it much easier for those of us who struggle to remember what each plants needs!

Reviewed by Ann Roffey

Would you like to do a Book Review?

Did you borrow a book at the February or March meeting? We would love it if you could provide a review for the next ROGI newsletter. Please email to: info@rogi.com.au.

Garden Events April



All Bethania Street Community Garden events have been cancelled until further notice.

INDIGISCAPES NEWS:

Due to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, IndigiScapes will be temporarily closed as a precautionary measure to protect our community, and to help in efforts to reduce the spread of the virus.

We will not be providing takeaway services, but we do encourage you to support local businesses that may be doing it tough.

THE AUSTRALASIAN PERMACULTURE CONVERGENCE 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED AND WILL INSTEAD BE HELD IN APRIL 2021.

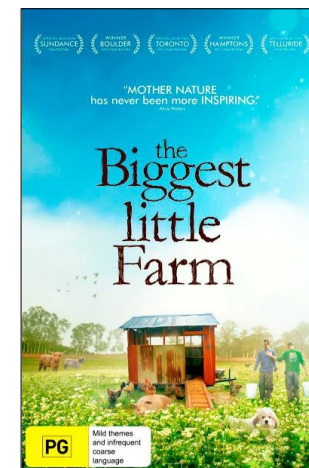


ROGI Film Nights Update

Hi everyone,

Just a quick word to let you know about the planned ROGI film nights. I've ordered a terrific movie documentary called *The Biggest Little Farm* so ROGI will have a DVD copy.

It's an uplifting film about a couple who make the move to the country and establish a farm in an arid area outside Los Angeles. They are faced with some pretty big issues, experience failures and fear, but with the help of friends and some very clever permaculture applications, the farm is transformed from semi-desert to an oasis of food and a haven for life. I saw it at the Dendy and loved it, so it's a great one for us to share. If you'd like to see the trailer, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfDTM4JxHI8>



Now while we can't meet at the moment, we will at some stage in the future have a film showing. And of course, it will be available in the ROGI library for member borrowing later on too.

Cheers, Linda Brennan

PS. Other films we hope to view in the future include:

Before the Flood; Bitter Seeds; Cowspiracy; Dirt—the Movie; Farmland; Food Inc.; Forks over Knives; Gardens of Destiny (seed saving); GMO, OMG; Grow Food; Growing Cities; In Our Hands; Honeyland; Just Eat It—Our Food Waste Story; More Than Honey; One Man, One Cow, One Planet; Our Daily Bread; Peter and the Farm; Plant this Movie; Sustainable; The Empire of Red Gold (Tomatoes); The Future of Food; The Need to Grow; The Organic Life; The Power of Community (Cuba); The Real Dirt; The True Cost (of Clothing); The True Cost (of Food); Tomorrow; Urban Abundance; Waste: The Story of Food Waste; 2040; 10 Billion: What's on your Plate

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 information
- 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 the ROGI Newsletter topical, interesting, local and relevant.
info@rogi.com.au

The May Newsletter deadline is 29 APRIL, 2020

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

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

Keep in mind that these are only guides. Micro climates and weather conditions may mean that certain seeds may be sown before/after the recommended times. **ROGI Seed Bank is available at all ROGI meetings and Garden Visits. \$1/pack members, \$2 non-members.**

Seed Sowing Guide

April

Artichoke: Jerusalem
 Asparagus
 Beans: Lablab, Madagascar, French
 Beetroot
 Broccoli
 Brussel Sprouts
 Cabbage
 Capsicum/Chilli
 Cauliflower
 Carrot
 Celery
 Chicory
 Endive
 Florence Fennel
 Kohlrabi
 Leeks
 Lettuce
 Onions/Garlic
 Potatoes
 Radish
 Silverbeet
 Spinach: Brazilian, Egyptian, Warrigal, Kangkong
 Sweet Potato
 Tomato
 Yacon

For a list of the seed bank stock, please go to the ROGI website www.rogi.com.au and click on the RESOURCES tab.

May

Artichoke; Jerusalem Artichoke
 Asparagus
 Bean: Broad, French
 Beetroot
 Broccoli
 Brussel Sprouts
 Cabbage
 Capsicum/Chilli
 Cauliflower
 Carrot
 Celery
 Chicory
 Endive
 Florence Fennel
 Kohlrabi
 Leeks
 Lettuce
 Onions/Garlic
 Parsnip
 Peas
 Potatoes
 Radish
 Silverbeet
 Spinach & Other Spinach: Brazilian, Egyptian, Warrigal, Kangkong
 Swede
 Sweet Potato
 Tomato
 Turnip

Please Note: This 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.

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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. 3357 3171 <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—Wednesday & Friday 9 - noon, Sunday 2- 5pm. Oaklands St, Alexandra Hills. 0408 259 445

GIVE AWAY: Ginger and galangal tubers

They will be put in the letterbox for pickup (Birkdale). Please phone Julia to indicate your interest and get her address (phone number supplied in ROGI email).

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
www.zabel.com.au

