

ROGI News

ROGI meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday night of the month, with doors opening at 6.15pm. Members can visit the plant table, Seed Bank, library and stalls or have a chat before the meeting. Please be seated by 7pm ready for the proceedings.

*Bayside Community Church
Cnr McDonald Rd and Macarthur St
ALEXANDRA HILLS*

Don't forget:

- Pay your membership dues (**only fully paid members may attend**)
- Observe social distancing
- A small plate of food for supper (more info on page 2)
- Return washed seedling pots
- Bring a basket/box/bag for your purchases
- Any questions for Plant Clinic
- A plant for ROGI Rewards
- Free swap/share/giveaway

Inside this edition

	Page
President's Message	2
April Meeting	3
ROGI Events	3
My DIY Worm Farm	4-5
Deadline	5
Controlling Cane Toads	6
Gardening Events for May	7
Book Reviews	8
ROGI Committee and Office Bearers	9
Website News	9

PLEASE NOTE:
**ALL members are now
welcome to
attend ROGI meetings**

ROGI webpage: www.rogi.com.au
ROGI Email: info@rogi.com.au



Rosella, Hibiscus sabdariffa is fruiting now. A native of tropical West Africa, it prefers a warm climate. Growing to 1.5m high, it is easy to grow, with few pest problems. The fleshy calyx is used in jams, jellies, cordials, syrups and wine. To save seed, simply allow some of the fruit to grow to maturity on the bush. Rosella seeds are only viable for two to three years - It is wise to replenish saved seeds often.

Carolyn's Corner

Hello fellow gardeners,

Australia produces enough food for three times our population. So one has to wonder why we are finding supermarket shelves empty, and due to the unbelievable cost of fuel, the prices have risen beyond ridiculousness. This is where ROGI steps in to help. We have the seeds, knowledge and inspiration to help you make the most of your garden.

This week I decided to get some seeds started for my edible garden. I had a look at my stash and realised that some of the seeds were a bit out of date. These seeds would be the seeds I plant first. I hate throwing anything out unless it is totally useless. I got out my seed tray, filled it with seed raising mix and added a variety of seeds. In total I have the possibility of over 288 plants germinating.



Using up my 'out of date' seeds



A couple of weeks old, and ready for potting up.



Cuttings of herbs from a friend's garden. Ready to be potted up.

Within a week I have several different edible plants popping their heads up. There is a variety of lettuce, beans, beetroot, snow peas, pak choy, cucumber, silverbeet, and herbs and flowers.

The main thing now is to keep the seed raising mix moist and liquid fertilise each week. I will plant up the seedlings when they have 2-4 leaves.

I find growing from seed exciting, and I suggest that you give it a go. It works out more economical, and the extra plants that you may have over you can bring along to the ROGI plant stand. For extra information on seed sowing, join the Seed Savers group - it's open to all ROGI members.

The Seed Sowing Guide is now on the website under Resources, and seeds are available for purchase at our meetings.

ROGI welcomes *all* members back to its monthly meetings, starting next week.

And we are bringing back our much-talked-about supper! Our new members (who joined since COVID started) have not experienced supper at a ROGI meeting, and the rest of us have missed it. Supper includes various teas, coffee (instant), and members bring along a small plate of finger-food, preferably made and/or grown by themselves. Suppertime provides a great opportunity to have a chat and get to know other members, as well as to sample food that you may be unfamiliar with and share recipes. So, please bring along a small contribution towards supper when you can.

Carolyn Lassen,
ROGI President

April Meeting

What on earth is Biodynamics?



Over the last few years, Rohanne Young has developed an interest in biodynamic gardening and its benefits, which allow gardening without using any chemicals, pesticides or herbicides. Biodynamics is considered by some as being a bit 'out there' and the "woo-woo" of the organic gardening movement. However, there is no denying its results.

Rohanne will talk about the many benefits of biodynamic gardening and some of the

successes she has had since converting to these methods in her garden. Come along with an open mind and learn how, among other things, you too can eliminate cane toads and rats from your garden without using any nasty chemicals.

You're welcome to bring your gardening problems to Plant Clinic and we'll see if someone can help. The usual attractions will be there—the well-stocked library, the seed bank and seedlings (at bargain prices) - plus for sale are local honey, organic produce, organic gardening inputs and more.

To ensure that we comply with Covid-19 regulations, ONLY ROGI MEMBERS may attend. No visitors until further notice. To find out how to join, go to the MEMBERSHIP tab at www.rogi.com.au.

Please note masks are not required, but are recommended.

ROGI Events

**Thursday 14 April
ROGI MEETING**

**Wednesday 20 April
SEED SAVERS MEETING
9-10.30am**

8 Silverash Court, Capalaba

We will be looking at how to go about separating and storing seeds. We'll also chat about what to start from seed now in your patch. We have seeds to sort and bag up into little bags for sharing. If you've collected seeds of vegies, fruit or flowers that you'd like to share, bring them along (dried if possible) in a paper bag. We can help winnow, clean and dry or bag up the seeds. RSVP: Numbers are limited, so please book online at TeamApp or ring Linda on 0416 157 470.

**Sunday 24 April
GARDEN VISIT ***

Marie-Antoinette Harris, Wellington Point

An amazing garden made up of many interesting and rare plants from overseas. Her garden is a work in progress and has many different herbs, fruit trees and veges.

**Sunday 22 May
GARDEN VISIT ***

Vicky Leggatt, Mt Tamborine

Former ROGI member Vicky Leggatt has invited us to view her new property on the mountain...featuring an avocado orchard and huge vege patch. More details closer to the date.

*** Please book to attend on TeamApp or email our ROGI Events Coordinator Toni at tonibowler@hotmail.com. The address will be supplied closer to the event, please check your messages.**

My DIY Worm Farm

by Greg Lindner

To separate worms from the castings in a commercially produced worm farm, I find is messy and quite frankly a pain. My set-up is designed to use the worm's inbuilt DNA to migrate after food.

The concept is feeding the worms in one section at a time until full, and then feed them in the next compartment so they migrate into that compartment. After cycling through four sections, the first section should be free of worms.

Worms are surface feeders, not burrowers like those found in the garden, so my design allows for a large surface area to promote breeding and food consumption.

The Structure

I have mounted four bread crates side by side, each crate a quarter forming a large square. They are contained in a purpose-built large box made of recycled fence palings, that is lined with polystyrene to insulate the worms from the heat. They have a better climate controlled environment than we do!

I have put a fairly fine mesh between each of the bread crates to divide the four sections. The worms can pass freely through to the next section when the food is nearby.

Under the bread crates is corrugated iron which catches the worm liquid and drains into a bucket, which I can then use as a liquid fertiliser. I have made the iron so it can be dropped down a little, so I can then flush out any worm castings that have fallen through and are clogging the channels. I have also put snake and vermin proof mesh under the bread crates so rats and mice can't get in.

Shade cloth has been installed in the bottom to minimise worm castings falling out the bottom through to the iron. There are four flap-type lids that lift, so I can feed the worms and extract the worm castings when free of worms.



Four bread crates are contained in a purpose-built large box made of recycled fence palings.



Fine mesh between each of the bread crates to divide the 4 sections



The final setup - a recycled worm farm to house thousands of worms and produce a product that is better than any shop-bought fertiliser—provided you give them the right food!

Feeding

Like most people, I feed our kitchen scraps to the worms, except meat, cheese, citrus etc. We collect the scraps in four 2-litre ice cream containers and keep them in the fridge. When I have four containers full, I use an old food processor to chop the scraps into a fine texture. This enables the worms to get in amongst the food and consume it quickly. The four containers of food would spread sparsely over one bread crate area. However, I soak a bucket of horse manure in water and when I feed the scraps to the worms, I also tip in a bucket of soaked horse manure. I cover the newly added food with sheets of newspaper, which the worms eventually consume.

The Worm Liquid

I have seen worm liquid being sold on Market Place. I wouldn't buy it, because who knows how good it is. Like all things like this, it's what you put in that determines the quality of what comes out. If you only put in food scraps, the end product will be so-so. By adding manure, the end result is a rich liquid fertilizer based on horse manure with the added microbes from the worm castings. I have never had it tested but I am sure it is better than just using food scraps.

Tino from Gardening Australia did an experiment growing seedlings - feeding some with fish emulsion, some with seaweed extract and some with worm liquid.

Of course, the fish product produced the best result, but I remember him being surprised at the result from the worm liquid – not as good as he expected. The question arises in my mind “what were the worms fed? Were they only fed veggie scraps?” If so, the end product would not be as good as with animal manures as feed.

The Worm Castings

Like the worm liquid, the castings are only as good as what has been put in. My worm castings end up a nice fine product, which I can use in the garden. I also use it to make my own seed raising and propagating mix. I sieve the castings, add vermiculite and perlite, and it is a nice fine media for seed sowing. Of course it isn't pasteurised but it works well for me.



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 info@rogi.com.au and help keep the ROGI Newsletter topical, interesting, local and relevant.

**The May
Newsletter
deadline is**

28 APRIL 2022

Controlling Cane Toads

When I started gardening organically, I was thrilled to welcome frogs into my garden. I had tiny sedge frogs which are the size of your thumb, big green tree frogs, and striped marsh frogs. I particularly liked going to sleep to the corroboree sounds of the striped marsh frogs (see photos below).

My nephew used to love visiting and going on cane toad killing sprees, spraying any toads with Dettol. Then a member of the Queensland Frog Society told me how cruel it was to spray the toads with Dettol, so I stopped. They didn't really give me an alternative, and slowly the toads have taken over my garden. And judging by the numbers of squished cane toads on the roads, not just my garden!

They do this because they out-compete our native frogs for food, and they will even eat our native frogs! I witnessed a cane toad eating one of my frogs once, which was when I declared war on them!

A female cane toad can lay up to 70,000 eggs each year! And they can live for over a decade, so no wonder we have a cane toad epidemic! And unlike frogs, they only need the moisture of wet grass or boggy gardens to lay their eggs.

Fast forward to last November and I am running evening workshops on biodynamics when I notice that my back garden is totally overrun with cane toads. I would have easily had 15 to

20 cane toads. However, now I had a potential method of non-toxic control - Biodynamic peppers.

Biodynamic peppers work by controlling garden pests like cane toads using energy. So on the next full moon I created a pepper for cane toads. Things got busy, and I didn't check my garden for a few weeks. Then one night as I was taking scraps out to the compost bin, I noticed the silence! No scurrying toads in the mulch, no hopping, nothing! Well actually there was one solitary toad, looking a little stunned, and he was promptly dispatched to the freezer.

Even with all the rain, the pepper has kept the numbers low. Last night I checked and there were no toads! NO TOADS! And best of all, during the rains I was thrilled to hear frog calls coming from my garden! Now I must just figure out how to encourage the striped marsh frogs back, and I'll be a very happy gardener!

If you are overrun by cane toads and want to discourage them from your garden, I sell the Biodynamic Pepper for cane toads for \$30 for 50ml. This should be sufficient for 10 applications. I also have peppers for controlling rats, grasshoppers, ringtail possums and a range of weeds.

I would love to make a pepper for controlling mice, but I need a dead mouse that has not died from poisoning. Please contact me if you can help!

Rohanne Young
The Delectable Garden



Green tree frog



Striped marsh frog



Sedge frog

**Rohanne will have cane toad
and rat peppers for sale at
ROGI's April meeting.**

**For more great gardening
advice, listen to Rohanne on
Bay FM100.3 on Saturdays at 6.30am.**

Bethania Street Community Garden Events

all held at our Community Garden in Bethania Street, Lota

Introduction to Permaculture

Sunday 1 May - 10:00am to 12:00pm

Permaculture is the conscious design and maintenance of productive ecosystems which have diversity, stability, and resilience. Learn about its foundations and ethics and how these can be applied in an urban setting. Using the Community Garden as a demonstration, we will consider how permaculture can be incorporated into our own communities, homes, and lives.

FREE - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - text 0439 048 585

Permaculture in Suburbia

Sunday 1 May - 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Learn about ways to redesign, downshift and retrofit homes, gardens, communities and ourselves to be more sustainable and resilient. This promises to be an interesting and informative workshop, with lots of discussion and hands on design work.

FREE - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - text 0439 048 585

Lino Printing for Adults

Thursday 12 May - 9:30am to 12:30pm

Local artist Megan Forward will use the community garden environment as a stimulus for an enjoyable and easy lino printing workshop. Take home 2-3 prints. No experience necessary.

COST \$5 - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - text 0439 048 585

Composting and Worm Farming

Sunday 22 May - 9:30am to 11:30am

Join us for this free, hands-on workshop, where you will learn the basics of composting and worm farming, various types of composting and what is compostable. There will be time for troubleshooting problems and answering your questions.

FREE - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - text 0439 048 585

Harvest Share

Sunday 29th May - 2:30pm to 4:00pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Harvest Share, focusing on gardening, home-grown food and local produce. Bring your friends and neighbours to wander through our productive garden, talk to our friendly gardeners, meet new people, have a cuppa, listen to some local music and celebrate local food growing and community.

Are you a gardener or a foodie? Bring along any spare home grown produce or homemade food to share. While this is not the venue to share household products, ornaments, clothing or books etc it is the perfect opportunity to share the joys of our garden with your family and friends.

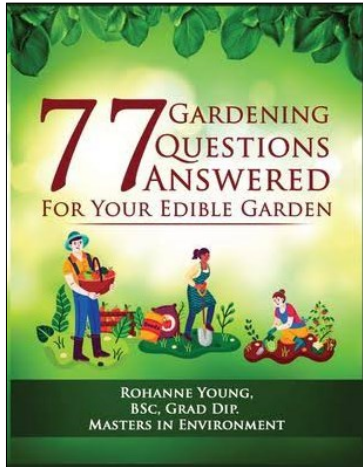
Gold coin donation. No booking required.



Samford Edible Garden Trail 2022

Due to popular demand, the Samford Edible Garden Trail is returning for 2022! JOIN US ON SATURDAY 14TH MAY & SUNDAY 15TH MAY 2022 for a weekend where Samford and surrounds will open its gates to our most inspiring private edible gardens - plus this year we are featuring even more gardens from our local producers. To book, go to: <https://samfordediblegardentrail.com.au/2021-open-day/>

Book Reviews



77 Gardening Questions Answered by Rohanne Young

This easy-to-read book encompasses the ethos of our organic gardening group. People like to attend gardening groups such as ROGI to help with the nitty gritty of gardening, and this book certainly complements this. If you are looking at your large space and maybe feeling overwhelmed, or you have just a small space or balcony, then this handy book

will guide you along your gardening journey from your first steps.

Rohanne, an experienced gardener now, remembers her starting point and her mistakes! She provides lots of basic troubleshooting ideas in an easy conversational style, which gives the beginner gardener added confidence. Questions are organised into subject areas for easy reference.

Experienced gardeners will also find this book useful as an easy reference guide. The author takes some of the mystery away from the Latin taxonomic names of plants. The section on good bugs and bad bugs is particularly useful, especially as it is accompanied by great photographs. It is surprising how incredibly similar the 'bad bug' mealy bug looks to the 'very good bug' ladybird larvae. How many of us have squashed ladybird larvae without first observing whether it is moving or stationary?

This book is an easy and informative read, particularly for those people who are just at the beginning of their gardening journey. It also offers great hints and tips for experienced garden addicts.

77 Gardening Questions Answered is available for purchase at our ROGI meetings, a bargain at only \$30.

Review by Tracey Mann

Sometimes it's difficult to know what's good or bad in your garden. **Garden Pests, Diseases & Good Bugs** by Denis Crawford has helped me identify many good and bad bugs - it has wonderful photos and an accompanying description. It is fairly easy to find what you are looking for by referring to the comprehensive index. However, please note the author does NOT always recommend an organic solution. Available in the ROGI library.



This is the cocoon of a parasitic wasp - Cotesia glomerata. Very handy to have in your garden in winter when you are growing brassicas! This wasp was introduced into Australia in the 1940s to combat the cabbage white butterfly. More info about this pest predator on page 10 of November 2015 ROGI newsletter.

Another good reason to bag tomatoes ... **BUDWORM**. Female moths lay their eggs on a wide range of vegetables including lettuce, tomato and sweet corn; and a number of fruits including stone fruits and strawberries. Budworm is our country's most destructive and widespread caterpillar pest. The author recommends spraying, but simply bagging early (at fruit set) will exclude this pest and also protect against fruit fly.



By Ann Roffey

Did you Know?

You can go online www.rogi.com.au/resources.php and read every edition of ROGI News since September 2014.

ROGI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Carolyn Lassen	president@rogi.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Diana Yeo	vp@rogi.com.au
SECRETARY	Lisa Harsley	secretary@rogi.com.au
TREASURER	Lara Brits	treasurer@rogi.com.au
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Rhonda Binns, Toni Bowler, Jill Nixon, Erin Houselander	

OFFICE BEARERS

MEMBERSHIP SEC'Y	Rhonda Binns	membership@rogi.com.au
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Ann Roffey	info@rogi.com.au
PR & COMMUNICATIONS	Gail Bruce & Erin Houselander	info@rogi.com.au
CLUB EVENTS	Toni Bowler	tonibowler@hotmail.com
PUBLIC EVENTS	Jill Nixon	events@rogi.com.au
LIBRARY	Viga Misztal	library@rogi.com.au
SEED BANK	Geoff & Cheryl Rynja	seeds@rogi.com.au
SEED SAVERS GROUP	Linda Brennan	linda@ecobotanica.com.au
TECH DESK	Terry Sullavan, Erin Houselander	
WEBSITE	Pal Juvancz	pal@pcpals.com.au

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

info@rogi.com.au www.rogi.com.au
PO Box 1257, Cleveland 4163
www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers

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
and Friday 9-noon, Sunday 2-5pm. Oaklands Street,
Alexandra Hills. 0408 259 445

Check out the ROGI Website for:

- Meeting details, including guest speaker and latest Covid-19 updates.
- What to plant in April and May - Resources/SEED SOWING GUIDE.
- What's available in the SEED BANK - seeds are for sale \$1-00 a packet at ROGI meetings.
- ROGI Seed Savers seed list - FREE seeds saved by members that are suited to our local climate. Available at ROGI meetings.
- A list of all the books in our amazing LIBRARY - You can even send an email to our librarian Viga to request a book before the meeting at library@rogi.com.au.
- Event information - go to our new Events page to see what's on offer at ROGI. TEAMAPP has more details, and you can sign up easily for events on this wonderful app.



**essential
advice for the gardener**

**grow peas of mind
lettuce be thankful
squash selfishness
turnip to help thy neighbour
always make thyme for loved ones**