

Next meeting: Thursday 8 December 2022

# 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
- **Your plate of sweet/savoury food**
- **Your cutlery and crockery**
- **Donation for Salvo's Food Drive**
- **Your tool for sharpening**
- **Your E-Waste**
- Return washed seedling pots
- Return library books
- Free swap/share/giveaway

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ROGI webpage: [www.rogi.com.au](http://www.rogi.com.au)  
ROGI Email: [info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au)



*DID YOU KNOW?* Great Carpenter bees are the largest native bees in Australia. Pictured above, this one is enjoying nectar from a salvia flower in Margaret Sear's garden. Read more about native bees here: <https://www.aussiebee.com.au/beesinyourarea.html>

## December Meeting

### Christmas Gathering

To celebrate the end of 2022, we're having Christmas dinner together!

Please bring:

- **Food to share - a salad/savoury/dessert/bread (cut up into pieces if possible). Please include a label listing ingredients to assist members with allergies.**
- **Your own plate, bowl, cup/glass and cutlery in a bag (you will take them home to wash).**
- **Secateurs or any other hand tools for sharpening** (see page 3 for more info).
- **E-Waste for SubStation 33 to repurpose** (see p. 3).
- **A donation for the Salvation Army Christmas Food Drive** (see p. 3).

From 6.15pm, members may visit the Seed Bank, library, plants and stalls (local honey, jams, wax wraps, soaps etc) or just have a chat.

There will be no ROGI rewards. Giveaways accepted.

We plan to start dinner at 7pm.



We need to know if you're coming - please register on TEAM APP or email [events@rogi.com.au](mailto:events@rogi.com.au) by the 3rd December, and let us know what food you are bringing - salad (type)/savoury/dessert/bread (chicken, ham and drinks will be provided). Please specify if you are vegetarian/vegan.

**\*\* We need volunteers to assist with setting up, serving food and packing up on the night. Please let us know if you can help with this.**

**ROGI MEMBERS ONLY.**

To join, go to the MEMBERSHIP tab at [www.rogi.com.au](http://www.rogi.com.au)

## ROGI Events

**Wednesday 7 December, 9.30 to 11.30am**

**SEED SAVERS MEETING**

**Linda Brennan's house in Capalaba**

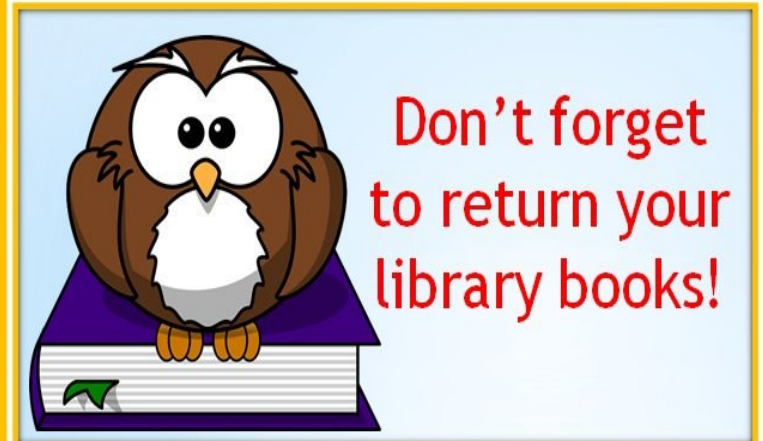
Our next Seed Savers meeting is the week of the ROGI Christmas meeting. Book your free spot on TeamApp. Our topic is **Diseased plants – should we save the seed?** And, of course, please save your extra seeds or bring along some ready for processing, so we can share the best with others in ROGI.

**Thursday 8 December**

**ROGI MEETING - Christmas Gathering**

**Thursday 9 February**

**ROGI MEETING - First meeting for 2023**



## Salvo's Christmas Food Drive

Christmas time is hard to celebrate when you are doing it tough. ROGI members are asked to donate **non-perishable** food item/s and groceries for the Salvation Army food drive **at our December 8 meeting**. Please help struggling families in the Redlands.

### What to Donate:

- 1 litre long life custard
- Long life cream
- Christmas pudding
- Christmas fruit cake
- Mini pavlova shells
- Bonbons
- 400g or 825g tinned fruit
- Packet of Christmas napkins
- Family Favourites biscuits
- 175g potato chips
- 1.25 litre/2 litre soft drink
- 500g-1kg bag wrapped or unwrapped lollies
- Packet of jelly
- Gravox sachet/cranberry sauce
- 400g tin whole baby potatoes
- 400g tin peas/carrots/corn



**NOTE:** Please ensure foods are **non-perishable and with expiry dates well into next year**.

People will be receiving these packages as a gift. Help battling Aussies feel a little extra special at Christmas by purchasing a brand name (not 'no name' brands please).

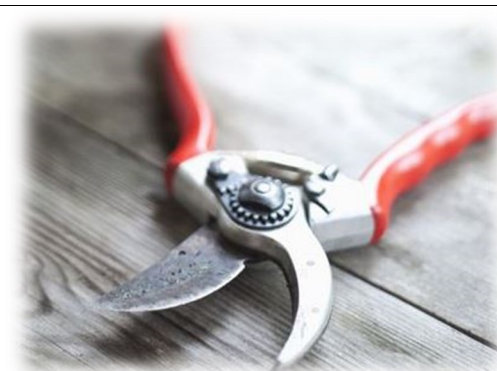
## TOOL SHARPENING

Shannon from Pout Sharpening will provide tool sharpening at the December meeting ... this is **FREE** for members.

- One tool per ROGI member. If there is time, a second can be done at your own expense.
- Prices at:

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

- Please write your name clearly on the tool with indelible ink or name tag it
- Clean hand tools, not spades



## E-WASTE COLLECTION

Your E-waste can be placed in the bin provided in the car park at our 8 December meeting. E-Waste is any electric/electronic product that has become non-working, unwanted or obsolete, and has essentially reached the end of its useful life. Sources of E-Waste include:

- IT and telecommunication equipment
- Large household appliances
- Small household appliances
- Consumer and lighting equipment
- Electrical and electronic tools
- Toys, leisure and sports equipment
- Medical devices
- Monitoring and control instruments





## ROGI Membership Renewal for 2023 - due 31/12/22

### How to renew your membership . . . fast and easy

1. Go online to <https://www.rogi.com.au/renew-membership.php>
2. Fill out the application, press SUBMIT.
3. Go to your online bank to make a transfer to ROGI -  
**BSB 633000, Account Number 136 137 296**  
**(Use your name as a reference please)**
4. Find your 2023 Membership card name tag on the hanger near the sign-in table at the February 2023 meeting.

**PLEASE NOTE—We now have a 'square reader' so that you can make your payment with your credit card (at the ROGI meeting).** However, please keep in mind ROGI is charged for this option.

Member Category	Members Renewing for 2023	New member/s joining in...			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct 22-Dec 24
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



**Merry Christmas and happy gardening from Rhonda and the Management Committee.**

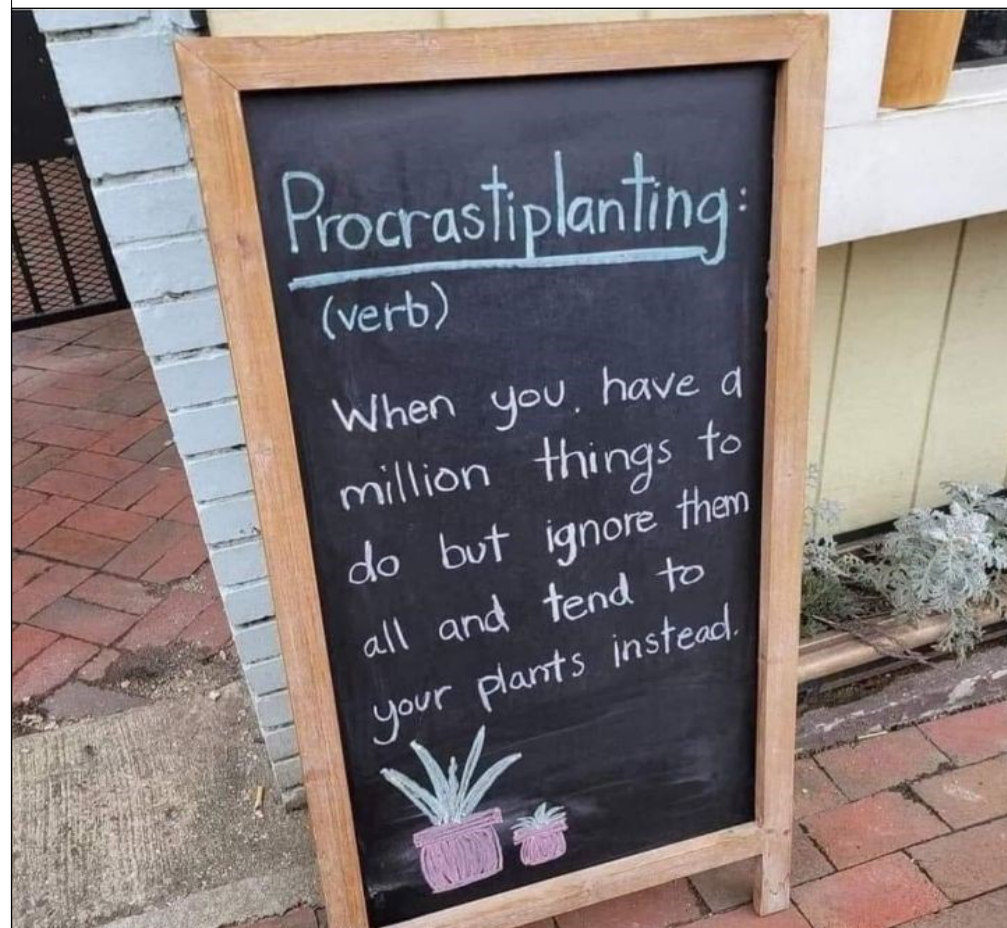
## PLANT IDENTIFICATION

If you are unable to get identification of a plant from your local nursery, go to: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/identify-specimens>

Fill out the Botanical specimens cover sheet, and send with your plant cutting (between two sheets of newspaper) to:

*Botanical Information & Advisory Service,  
Queensland Herbarium, DSITI,  
Brisbane Botanic Gardens  
Mt Coot-tha Road, TOOWONG QLD 4066*

They will identify your plant for free and send you a reply by your choice of post/email/fax/phone.





# November Meeting - Jerry Coleby-Williams

Report by Ann Roffey; photos by Jerry Coleby-Williams, Kathy Petrik, & Ann Roffey

## Are You Prepared?

If you attended our November 10 meeting, you too would have been wowed by our special guest speaker, Jerry-Coleby Williams. Known best as the Qld presenter on Gardening Australia, Jerry has a wealth of experience to share. Below is some information from his bio and PowerPoint presentation, and a few notes I took on the night:

## Bellis: Sustainable Water, Power, Food, Genes

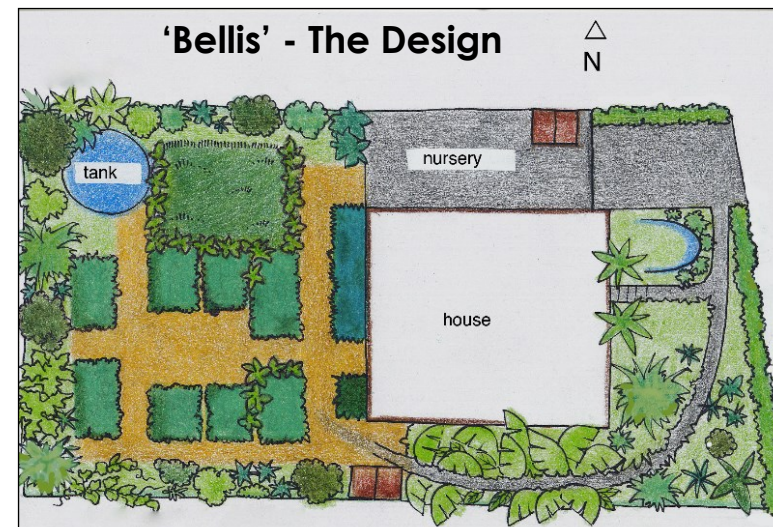
In 2003 Jerry created 'Bellis' - a unique, affordable, sustainable house and garden in subtropical Brisbane by retrofitting a century old Queensland house. Bellis exports three times more solar electricity than it consumes. The garden sequesters carbon dioxide, recycles all waste water for food growing in a water sensitive landscape that both mitigates localised flooding and grows a surplus of food even during ongoing drought.

Growing 500 kinds of plant, the food garden feeds the household, while the ornamental front garden features plants that are dealing well with our emerging new climate.

The seed bank combines with the nursery to provide a community gene bank, supplying community nurseries, farmers and collectors with a range of seed and plants not found in the trade.

Over 560 species of animal, including twenty-six species of bee, and about six new species as yet undescribed by science, live at or visit Bellis.

Retrofitting Bellis cost less than buying an average family four wheel drive car, and its ongoing benefits include reduced household bills, healthy food, a leafy garden, and peace of mind in an increasingly uncertain world. These heartening results led to Jerry being invited to speak about sustainable food production at the United Nations in Geneva (2017).





Jerry grows these plants to achieve a diverse diet:

### Fat, Oil, Sugar, Sweets (10%)

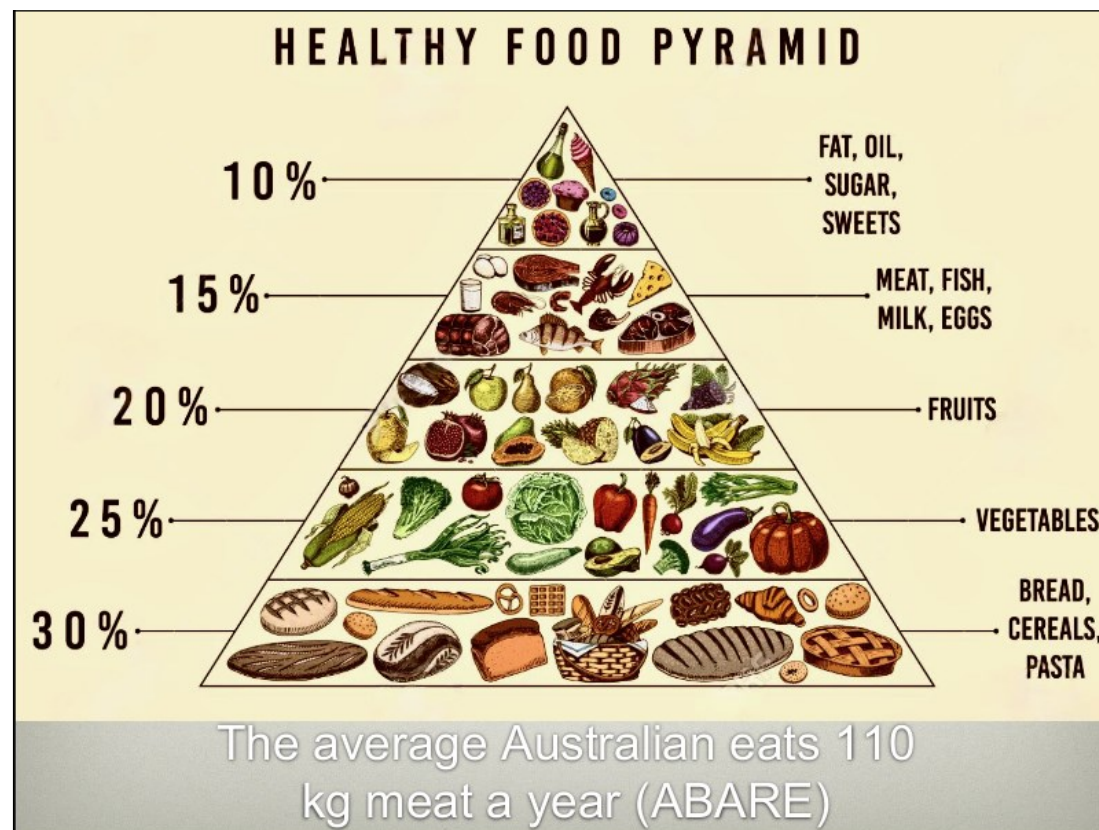
- Oil with protein - Sesame, *Sesamum indicum*.
- Plantain, *Musa x sapientum* - A starch staple, sweet dessert; fruit; drink; flour.

### Meat, Fish, Milk, Eggs (15%)

- Mung bean, pigeon pea, chickpea, sword bean.
- Catch fish, trade for eggs.
- Bamboo for protein & fibre; poles; mulch; compost; shade and carbon; storage.

### A DIVERSE DIET IS CENTRAL TO HEALTH

- \* **Cassava (2)**: Vitamin C, manganese;
- \* **Winged yam & Aerial potato (3)**: Vitamin C, potassium, manganese;
- \* **Sweet potato (4)**: Vitamins A, B6 & C, manganese;
- \* **Mangelwurzel & Beetroot (5)**: potassium, calcium, iron, phosphorous, zinc;
- \* **Potato (6)**: Vitamins B6 & C, potassium, copper, iron, manganese;
- \* **Jerusalem artichoke (6)**: potassium, copper, niacin, thiamine, iron, and phosphorus;
- \* **Arrowroot (7)**: Vitamin B6, thiamine, niacin, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese;
- \* **Maize (8)**: Vitamins A & C, thiamine, niacin, folate, iron, magnesium, potassium;
- \* **Pawpaw (11)**: Vitamins A, B6 & C, calcium, thiamine, niacin, iron, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, riboflavin;



### Fruit & Vegetables (45% total - 20% fruit, 25% veges)

- Pawpaw - leaves, green; fruit, highly nutritious.
- Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) - 200 meals a year; protein; sweetener; green or ripe fruit; drinks.
- More vegetables listed left with their health benefits.

### Bread, Cereals, Pasta (30%)

- You can grow 12 kg of high GI supersweet corn OR grow 37 kg of low GI Manning Pride corn as Jerry does (from 10 sq m).
- Polenta or pellagra.
- Cassava - a potato and spinach alternative, starch for flour, noodles, dessert.
- Cocoyam, *Xanthosoma saggitifolium* - A starch staple with all year round spinach. Also makes flour.



## Are You Prepared?

- Self-sufficiency is selfish! We are all connected to people. Jerry can't knit a jumper or produce a laptop - so how can he be self-sufficient?
- A diary is one of the most important things a gardener can keep.
- Saving seed from your garden is important for food security. Seeds saved from your home garden are adapted to the local area and they have embedded the local conditions into their DNA.
- Jerry doesn't have a permaculture garden, as it is too messy for his employer (Gardening Australia) - the show is aimed at a middle-classed audience.
- He does, however, have a kitchen garden that provides food all year round.
- Jerry trades his excess produce for food that he does not produce himself (e.g. eggs).
- 100 subtropical food plants are grown that suit a Vietnamese cook.
- Good soil took five years to create during the Millennium drought. Slower than expected.
- Each 100 sq metres takes a minimum of 7,000 litres of stored water to scrape by during watering bans.
- 10,000 litres of stored water allows for relatively easy production of staple foods during drought and watering restrictions.
- The food garden easily produces a surplus.
- Bellis - Since 2003, 560 species of animal have been documented living at or visiting this sustainable garden, including rarities, three (up to possibly six) undescribed species new to science, and 26 species of bee.
- Check out Jerry's website: <https://jerry-coleby-williams.net/>

Permission to reprint information and some photos given by Jerry Coleby-Williams, 15/11/22.



Above left: Jerry with Diana Yeo

Below: President Peter Haakman, Jerry and Eric van Zuilekom





## Garden Visit - Margaret Sear

Report by Ann Roffey

Photos by Ann Roffey, Margaret Sear, Kathy Petrik

I never tire of visiting Margaret's beautiful garden. I was fortunate enough to have a preview in early October, so if you see flowers pictured that weren't blooming when you visited, this is why.

The garden is 46 years old on a 1/2 acre narrow block in Capalaba, with front and back road access. There are many large, mature trees that were planted after the house was built. In the front yard ferns, natives, exotics, orchids and bromeliads grow under their canopy. Trees include *Melaleuca quinquinervia* (broad-leaved paperbark), liquidambar, leopard tree, *Backhousia citriodora* (lemon myrtle), *Hymenospermum flavum* (native frangipani), *Xanthostemon chrysanthus* (golden penda), plus assorted native palms and camelias.

In the back yard is an extensive food garden with fruit trees, chooks, bee hives, and a covered vegetable garden with wicking beds. Trees include *Lophostemon confertus* (brush box), *Eucalyptus microcorys* (Tallowwood), *Eucalyptus punctata* (grey gum), *brachychiton* species. Margaret's kitchen bench is usually covered with fruit and produce from her vegetable garden and fruit trees. These include cherry guava, macadamia, jaboticaba, a lychee seedling, monstera, ladyfinger bananas, wampee, avocado seedlings, Davidson's plum, pomegranate, figs, elderberry, finger limes, citrus, chokoes, blueberries, dragonfruit, a grape vine and passionfruit.

The garden embodies this wisdom: *The Earth says much to those who listen*. Margaret, thank you for sharing your beautiful garden with ROGI.



A winding path through the front yard crosses a purpose-built bridge over a pond - habitat for frogs and also to take excess rainwater. Flowers below are *Clivias* (left) and *Syzygium wilsonii* (powderpuff lilly pilly).





## Garden Visit - Margaret Sear (continued)



Left : Beautiful orchid sprays of soft cane dendrobiums.

Middle: Birds enjoy seed put in the bird feeder hanging outside the kitchen window.

Right: Plymouth barred rock - called Roxy or Tyrannosaurus cluck.



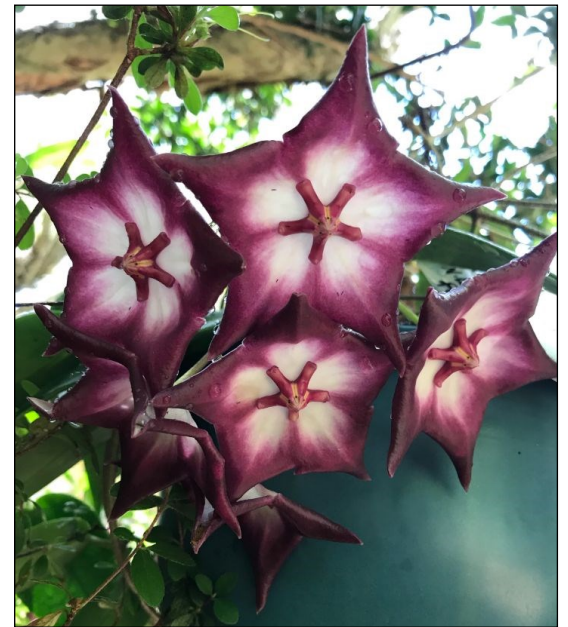
Above: ROGI members in Margaret's front garden.

Left: Margaret's garden is abuzz with bees. Pictured left is the peacock carpenter bee on a wisteria flower. There are also blue-banded, leaf cutter, teddy bear, great carpenter, cuckoo, and resin native bees. Hives of *Tetragonula Carbonaria* and *Hockingsi* native bees are agisted for Russell Zabel.



Above: red Salvia

Below: Hoya Macgillivrayi





## Garden Visit - Margaret Sear (cont'd)



Above: The abundant rain this year means the macadamia tree has flowered well and should produce plenty of fruit.



Margaret is growing these cabbages to make kimchi, a traditional Korean side dish of salted and fermented vegetables.



The vegetable garden is fully netted to exclude pests such as cabbage moth, fruit fly, grasshoppers and possums etc. Unfortunately, rats and some birds still manage to find their way in.



Wicking bed made out of a bathtub, with a tin shelter to take the majority of excess water away.



Ginger growing in a pot - it is unnecessary to grow it in a deep pot as it grows sideways.



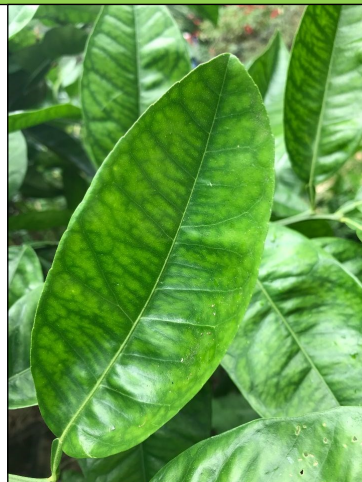
Margaret and her dragon fruit plant, which is growing on a fence.



## Citrus: Kim

**Problem:** Young leaves are mottled on citrus tree

**Diagnosis:** This is a nutrient deficiency, possibly manganese. Check the soil pH. Apply manganese sulphate or organic fertiliser and/or rock minerals/compost. Citrus are heavy feeders, so feed a little, more often.



## What is this? Margaret

**Problem:** Growing everywhere

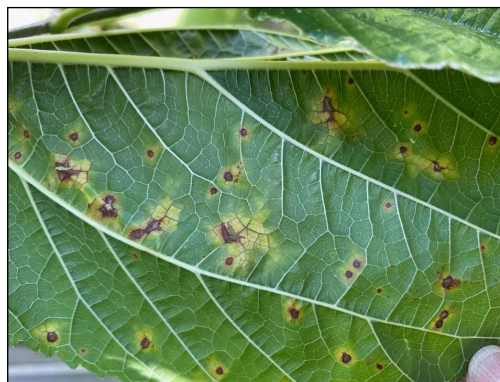
**Diagnosis:** This is the mulberry weed *Fatoua villosa* (aka crabweed or hairy crabweed). A warm weather annual from Asia pacific region. Often arrives in potted plants. Can flower (light purple to dark) from 2-4 leaf stage and the seeds can be expelled up to 4 feet. Remove it by easily pulling out when very small, as it can become invasive. I also noted when researching that white mulberry (*morus alba*) is a declared environmental weed species in SE Qld,



## Mulberry: Jocelyn

**Problem:** Spots on leaves

**Diagnosis:** Possibly a bacterial spot problem and the plant could be deficient in phosphorus. Remove the worst affected leaves and check to ensure the soil isn't dry, so the tree can take up more nutrients. Apply the treatment to leaves and spray across tree with fish and seaweed emulsion every few weeks.



## 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. Email [info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au)

The February Newsletter  
deadline is **26 JANUARY 2023**

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*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.*

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PO Box 1257, Cleveland 4163  
[www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers](http://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

## 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)



### 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.