

Next meeting: Wednesday 10th February 2016

# ROGI News

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

**Salvation Army Church  
Cnr McDonald Rd & Macarthur St  
ALEXANDRA HILLS**

## **Admission**

**Members:** Gold coin

**Visitors:** \$5

**Please bring plate of food -  
savory/sweet or nibbles  
preferably home-made.**

**Tea/coffee provided**

You are welcome to provide a quality plant to help share plants with other members. Bring a bag/box for your purchases and/or winnings.

**See you Wednesday ...**

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*Glorious dappled shade beneath a thriving 18-month-old Madagascar bean vine. A type of lima bean, it can continue to produce for seven years.*

# Jill's Jottings

Hello fellow gardeners

**P**hew! It's hot but it's not wet. As I write this at the end of January, I think this may be the driest January we've had for some time. Our water tank ran dry this morning, so now we have to be even more judicious in our hand-watering activities. Rain and storms are being forecast quite often but haven't amounted to much yet.

**A**s you may be aware, we have been renting for the past several years. During this time we have maintained productive gardens but have been constrained by being unable to build permanent structures.

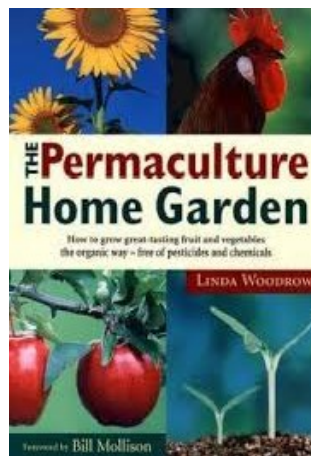
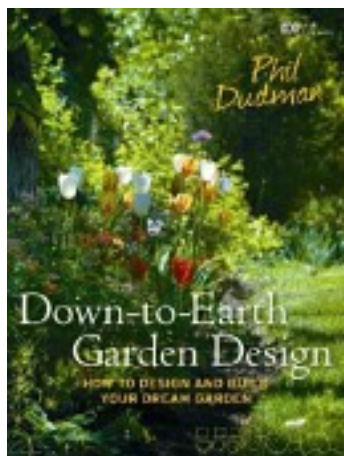
The exciting news for us is that in early March we'll be moving to a house we've just bought in Birkdale. It ticks most of the boxes for us: enough space for gardens with a good aspect, red soil, a potting shed/shade house, hardwood flooring, and a 'small-footprint' house.

It's good that we've had these years in other peoples' gardens to practise with various systems and methods, especially since the soil will be essentially the same as we've had in Cleveland.

We've been building up a collection of fruit trees in particular and have them waiting in the wings in very large pots for this occasion. There is already a large bearing persimmon in the new yard, and, in those pots, we have black sapote, cape gooseberry, jaboticaba, cherry of the Rio Grande, guisaro, mundu, pitomba, finger lime, makrut lime, dragon fruit

and fig. That's a lot of fruit trees and we hope to get more! Soon will be the time for us to plan where to put things to make the most of the site. Don't be surprised if you get asked for advice and suggestions: please feel free to offer if you don't get asked!

In the meantime, I'll continue to consult two books that are most helpful.



**R**edlands Good Gardening Expo (GGE) is coming up—see page 16. In recent years there have been no stalls with seedlings or other plants for sale, and we've been asked about this. So this year we'll have as many plants as we can for sale at the ROGI stall.

I'm sure many of you will be keen to put into practice what you'll learn from Gennaro's seed-raising talk at our February meeting.

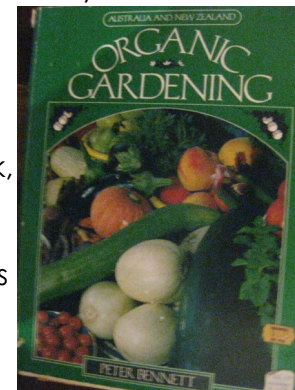
We hope you'll take up the opportunity to raise some seedlings for ROGI to have for sale at the GGE. Perhaps some of you could have seed-sowing working bees. ROGI will provide the seeds, seed-raising mix and pots.

Please talk with Janet and Sharr at the Seed Bank or Kathy or Carolyn or me about it at the February meeting.

**T**he interest in 'growing your own' in general and in organic gardening in particular is reflected in the number of people joining and staying with ROGI.

Why do we want to grow our own food and why do we do it organically?

I've been doing it since 1972 when we built our first home. In 1980, when I bought my now-tattered copy of this book, some people looked at me strangely. But to me it made sense, and it makes greater sense now as we learn more about today's environmental issues..



Food security is another topic being discussed world-wide. Being able to grow enough for your family, with some to spare, positions you to be largely self-sufficient should things become tricky in the future.

So keep coming to ROGI and learn (and teach) as much as you can.

Happy gardening *Jill*

*PS. Down-to-Earth Garden Design, Permaculture Home Garden & Organic Gardening available from ROGI library*

Editor's note: Sue Eaton, who has been ROGI News editor since September, has found that she is unable to continue in the role since her employment workload has increased this year. I'd like to thank Sue very much for the effort she put into the newsletter when she was doing it.

I will continue to edit the newsletter unless someone else has a burning desire to do it. Let me know if that's you! Vice-President Linda has taken on much of the president work I'd been doing freeing up some of my time. I'd love to receive articles you've written and photos you've taken. Jill

## Coming Events

<b>February</b>	Wed 10	6.15	ROGI meeting
	Sun 21	10am	Workshop * see p 11
	Sun 21	2pm	Garden Visit * see p 11
<b>March</b>	Tues 1	7.30	Herb Society meeting <a href="http://www.gldherbsociety.org.au">http://www.gldherbsociety.org.au</a>
	Wed 9	6.15	ROGI meeting
	Sun 20	2.30	Garden Visit * see p 11
<b>April</b>	Wed 13	6.15	ROGI meeting
	Sun 16	9—3	Good Gardening Expo see p 16

\* Book with Toni on [events@rogi.com.au](mailto:events@rogi.com.au) or 0402 323 704

## Membership Fees

- **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 633-000 A/C No. 136 137 296 (Bendigo Bank—Capalaba Central Branch)

**VERY IMPORTANT!** Reference - Your initials and surname are essential to identify who has paid. This is our only way of knowing it's YOU.

Please bring your membership application form to the next meeting.

Email [membership@rogi.com.au](mailto:membership@rogi.com.au) for application form.

Member Category	Annual Fee for Renewal	New member/s joining in...			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct 15-Dec 16
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

# 10<sup>th</sup> February

## Sowing Seeds for Successful Growing

By ROGI member Gennaro De Rosa

Gennaro's presentation will provide information about how to get the best plants and produce from seed.

This will include:

- how to pick and prepare seeds,
- how to plant them
- what to plant them in
- tips on getting good germination
- how to transplant them (if necessary) to get the best results.

*This session will be particularly valuable if you're new to gardening or don't have much success at raising seeds.*





# December Meeting

At our final meeting for 2015, Linda Barrett devised some entertainment in the form of a 'draw the moose' team challenge, a Christmas Carol translation and three quizzes—two related to gardening and one with a Christmas theme. It was a fun night and many of you made new friends with others at your table. Maybe you learnt something new about gardening or Christmas. Unfortunately, we ran out of time before we could hear the answers. To refresh your memory (or if you weren't there on the night) I'll give you the questions here and the answers on page 14.

## Christmas Quiz

1. Although unable to be proven, what do many astrologers believe the "Christmas Star" followed by the wise men was?
2. A nativity scene is the exhibition of art objects representing what?
3. What does the word "Advent" mean?
4. In the song "Good King Wenceslas" where did the poor man live?
5. Name two living plants that are traditionally associated with Christmas.
6. What movie is ranked as the best-loved Christmas Movie of all time? (ranked by votes in Top 100 Christmas Movies of all Time)
7. In the Christmas movie "Home Alone" – what was the name of the character played by Macaulay Culkin?
8. How much is a Christmas stamp in Australia for 2015?
9. Where is Redland City holding its Christmas by Starlight (carols) this year?
10. In the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" ... on the sixth day of Christmas what did my true love send to me?

## Gardening Quiz Set 1

1. 2015 is the International Year of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_?
2. If an insect has sucking mouth parts is it a bug or a beetle?
3. What problem arises in hot weather, affecting your cucumbers, zucchinis and other plants?
4. What is the common name for *Bidens pilosa*? (Seen in most gardens)
5. What type of plant is the variety "Blue Curled Scotch"?
6. What product was discussed by Guy Lewington (Mt Sylvia Quarries) as being a soil conditioner and fertiliser, and assists in pest control?
7. What event did ROGI attend and have a stall at in June 2015?
8. What plant was touted by Jerry Coleby-Williams and in the ROGI news to assist in the management of cabbage butterfly (to plant near brassicas)?
9. What bug is usually friendly and injects its prey with enzymes – to suck out the contents?
10. What predator lives in the soil and devours slugs? (on the ROGI website)
11. What is another name for Yacon?
12. Name these plants.



## Gardening Quiz Set 2

1. If an insect has a larval or pupal stage, is it a beetle or a bug?
2. What date was the Redlands Good Gardening Expo in 2015?
3. John Klumpp presented to ROGI members on

what topic in February?

4. What plant/weed is now being production-grown for the treatment of some skin cancers?
5. What is the 'signature' plant grown by Francois Grobler in his home garden?
6. Which ROGI member was the winner of the 2015 Garden Makeover prize?
7. What human problem can the 'weed' plantain assist with?
8. What does Graeme Sait say can 'Save the World'?
9. What attractant does Jerry Coleby-Williams put into his home-made fruit fly traps?
10. What common liquid can be mixed with water and detergent to assist in the management of powdery mildew?
11. How are mulberries most commonly propagated by home gardeners?
12. Name these plants.



## What is the Christmas Carol?

1. *Homo sapiens* of crystallised vapour
2. Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy
3. Exuberance directed to the planet
4. Befell during the transparent bewitching hour



# Beans by Sharr Ellson from the ROGI Seed Bank

## Madagascar bean

*Phaseolus lunatus*

For us here in the sub-tropics, now is a great time to plant these beans.

Madagascar bean is a vigorous climbing bean - a type of lima bean - which will bear for many years.

It copes really well with the hot, humid conditions our summer can offer—an excellent hardy bean for warmer climates as it dies back and re-shoots every year.

There may be not very much pod production in the first year but it works really hard in the proceeding years.

This bean is tolerant of a wide variety of soil types and requires a sturdy trellis to support its extremely vigorous growth—over a large pergola would be good.

As well as being picked while soft—while the pod is still green—for immediate use, the beans dry well on the vine to a beautiful speckled red and white bean that can be stored for winter soups and casseroles.

One plant should be plenty for a family.

## Green bean

*Phaseolus vulgaris*

Dwarf beans (such as the green or French bean) need to be planted 15-20cm apart with 60cm between each row.

Because of their shorter height, they don't require much, if any, support and are easy to fit into diverse areas of the garden.

Like other beans, they require full sun and well-drained soil.

Bush beans, as they are also known, tend to

produce a crop over a single period of about two weeks or so (around 50 days after planting).

To have a continuous harvest throughout the summer, do several plantings in succession a couple of weeks apart for the biggest yields.

Beans like a freely draining, compost-rich, slightly acidic soil (pH 6.5–7). When I planted my beans I dug the bed and worked in some homemade compost and added some lime (as my soil is quite acidic and this raised the pH) whilst ensuring not to use manure: this is important, as manure can have too much nitrogen which can encourage beans to produce weak, sappy growth that invites mildew and aphid attack with no sign of beans on the bush.

*Continued over*

Beautifully-patterned Madagascar Beans



Roc D'Or Bush Bean



Provider Bush Bean



Lab Lab Beans (below) at various stages of maturity; (right) young edible-when-cooked pods



## Beans continued

I soak the beans in water overnight and I have started adding a pinch of Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate) to help them along. The magnesium really helps the seeds come out from dormancy into active growth.

It is best to water deeply at sowing time and then to not water again until the shoots appear. Bean seeds are prone to rotting in the soil if kept too wet.

The soil for bean plants should be kept moist during flowering and fruiting, as hot and dry conditions can make them drop their flowers or young beans before they're big enough to harvest. A thick mulch under the plants will keep soil moister and cooler in the middle of summer.

What I love about growing beans is that the flowers can be white, pink, red, mauve or yellow. It will take about six to eight weeks before you see these beautiful flowers and then the pods of beans can be flat, round, long or short and, to amaze a gardener even more, the seed inside can be variety of sizes colours and patterns. What an amazing plant family!

The seed bank has many types of beans:

**Climbing 'seed' beans:** Coastal Jack, Lab Lab, Madagascar

**Bush 'seed' beans:** Borlotti, Edamame (soy)

**Bush beans:** Provider, Roc d'Or

**Climbing:** Snake Red

\$1 members \$2 non-members per packet



Flowers of  
Roc D'Or bush bean  
Snake bean (long climbing bean)  
Coastal Jack climbing bean

# Plant Clinic

If you are puzzled by a pest, aren't sure if your plant is a weed or a 'goodie', or can't tell if your plant has a deficiency or a disease, Plant Clinic may help you.

Bring along the insect or as many parts of your plant, fruit, leaf, root as you can (in a sealed plastic bag if it's a diseased plant) and fill in the form.

Place the plant parts together with the form on Plant Clinic table well before the start of the meeting.

Someone will have a look and may be able to answer your questions.



# December Visit to Linda Barrett's Garden by Mary Irmer and Jill Nixon

A dozen of us visited Linda and Bill Barrett's garden on a hot and steamy Tuesday morning in December.

We had an idea what to expect after Linda's 'show and tell' in September (see the article about that on pages 4 and 5 via this link:

[http://www.rogi.com.au/uploads/ROGI\\_News\\_Oct\\_2015.pdf](http://www.rogi.com.au/uploads/ROGI_News_Oct_2015.pdf) ).

Here are some further observations:

- Linda grows sweet potatoes—a small white type—in large pots to prevent them from taking over the garden. They are hard to eradicate once they've taken hold.
- Rambling plants such as watermelon and zucchini (below) are planted close to the inside edge of the garden bed and encouraged to grow over it and make their way over the mulched ground.



- Success growing broccoli when in season using poly-pipe and shade cloth tunnel—it's now being used for bok choy and silverbeet



- Linda makes compost in bins using lawn clippings and shredded paper and turns it with a special compost screw.



- Corn—this is what Linda does for success:
  - sow seeds in troughs between raised rows
  - fill in troughs to cover the aerial roots when they develop
  - straw bales protect young plants from wind
  - assisted pollination (by hand) achieves up to 3 cobs per plant



Scatter pollen (above) over the silks (below)





## December Visit to Linda Barrett's Garden continued

- Visit the tip for useful bits and pieces eg these white things that support shade for the lettuce groupings on a hot day.



- Delicious 'Sweet Bite' cherry tomatoes are hybrid so there's no point in saving the seeds, but can be grown from cuttings.



- Beetroot needs boron. Linda had a huge crop and preserved a lot of it.
- Pinto Peanut, a yellow-flowered native legume, is growing along the ground as a living mulch in the habitat area. It fixes

nitrogen so it also improves the soil and prevents erosion.



- Dense mulberry tree at bottom of garden receives run-off water and provided cool shade on the hot day.



- Happy hens reign supreme in the garden producing eggs and rich organic nutrients for the soil. An Elder tree grows inside their palace grounds. (We had elderberry wine at morning tea!)



- Fremont (recommended by George Allen as THE best!) and Honey Murcott mandarins. She doesn't worry about leaf miner but squirts any bugs on the trees. Crows like to help themselves to the fruit.



- Spider webs in inconvenient places get lifted with a broom and placed over a fruit tree to help deal with pests.



## Linda Barrett's Garden ... continued

- The Asian mango had good open growth and was fruiting well for a young tree.



- If birds take the coir liners for their nests and leave your baskets looking messy, line them with paperbark under the coir to protect it from the birds.



- Chia (*Salvia hispanica*) makes a good (and very tall) cover crop. Dig it in when finished.

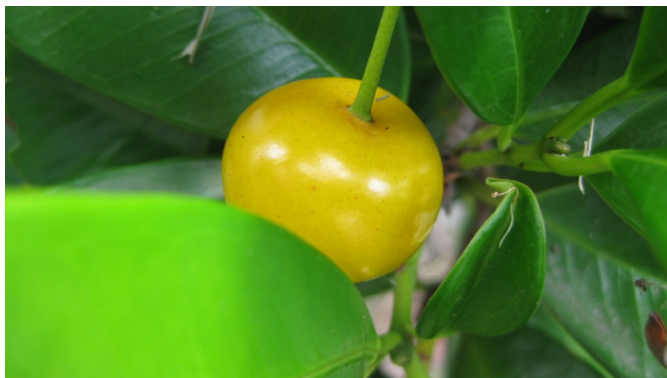
- The land slopes down to the back of the garden and the house makes the most of the view to the bay (right: photo taken from verandah).
- Note the sweet corn, compost bins, shade-cloth tunnel, passionfruit on left fence and the swing set in the shade of the poinciana.
- We measured Brix levels and had morning tea on the lower deck.





## Linda Barrett's Garden ... continued

- Grumichama is the tropical version of the cherry and just as delicious. It needs lots of water while fruit is developing. Linda has the yellow variety.



- We used the refractometer to measure the Brix levels of various plants. This gave us an idea of the nutritional content of the various fruits and vegetables. We used a garlic press to squeeze the juice out, measured it and then referred to the tables to compare with the ideal reading. The refractometer will be at ROGI Garden Visits during 2016 so you can learn how to use it—can only use it in natural light.



## Bananas

- Linda has Ducasse (sugar banana) and Lady Finger growing in black sandy loam, planted in a hole 1m deep by 2m wide, positioned to receive a lot of runoff water.
- Use manure- and compost-rich soil.
- Have three trees per clump to maximize fruit production—one mature tree, one 'teenager' to take its place when it has finished fruiting, and a sucker.
- Suckers with narrow pointed leaves (sword suckers) are more vigorous than rounded leaf ones (water suckers) which have a weak connection to the mother plant.
- The bell ('flower') can be removed once bananas are fully-formed—it can be used in cooking. Or leave it there as birds enjoy eating the remaining blossoms.
- Banana bunches need protection from bats and possums. Reusable banana bags are available from ROGI Shop—see p 20



## IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GROWING BANANAS IN OUR AREA:

The banana industry in Queensland can be devastated by an outbreak of pests and/or disease. This is a very serious issue.

For this reason there are some conditions around being allowed to grow bananas here. This is what you are asked to do:

1. Phone Biosecurity Qld on 5453 5800 for an application form. They'll then send you a permit. This is free and easy to do.
2. Decide what type/s of bananas you want. These are the types approved for our area:
  - Blue Java—tastes like vanilla ice cream
  - Bluggoe—cooking banana
  - Goldfinger—cross between Cavendish and lady finger
  - Dwarf Ducasse—sugar banana, sweet and firm flesh
  - Lady Finger—small size, thin skin when ripe, delicate flavour
  - Pisang Ceylan—creamy texture, flavour like sweet green apples
3. The plants cost \$39 each from [www.backyardbananas.com.au](http://www.backyardbananas.com.au) They will come in postal tubes.
4. You may have a maximum of 10 plants on a non-commercial property.

There are quite severe penalties for not complying with Biosecurity conditions:

- In a pest quarantine area—up to \$110,000
- During specific pest infestations—up to \$100,000
- Dealing with volunteer plants—up to \$22,000
- Failing to comply with Plant Protection Act—up to \$22,000





# Ipswich PLANT EXPO

*a subtropical plant collector's paradise*

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016**  
**8am – 4pm (Saturday) • 8am – 3pm (Sunday)**  
**Ipswich Turf Club**  
**Ipswich Race Course, Brisbane Rd, Bundamba 4304**

Entry: \$7 per adult, children under 15 free  
 Three stages featuring local guest speakers  
 Over 100 stalls of dedicated plant sellers and related products  
 Plant creche and variety of food stalls  
 Entertainment for both adults and children  
 Organic and edible gardening  
 Native and non-native plants  
 FREE parking



**FREE Educational Sessions for kids in the KIDZ ZONE**

*proudly sponsored by:*  
 subTropical Gardening





**www.plantexpo.com.au**

## ROGI Garden Visits & Workshops

### February

Sunday 21st February

#### Workshop on irrigation for domestic gardens

10.00am—1.30pm

Lindsay Peel will show us the principles behind the watering system and flow rates. We will be installing an irrigation system – connecting to mains water and tank.

#### Garden Visit 2.00— 4.00pm

Both of these will be held at Margaret Sear's acreage garden at Capalaba where she contends with rather acidic soil and wildlife keen to plunder her produce. Come along and see what she has done to help with this.

Those attending the workshop are asked to bring lunch to share and those coming to the garden visit bring afternoon tea. You may attend both.

As always with these events, there are limited spaces, so get in early.

**Please book with Toni B.** on

[events@rogi.com.au](mailto:events@rogi.com.au) or 0402 323 704 for these and all club member events.

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

Also, discuss with Toni when you'd like to host a Garden Visit at your place.

### March

Sunday 20th March

#### Garden Visit 2.30—5pm

At Ian and Jill Nixon's 'new' house in Birkdale.

This Garden Visit will be the 'before' in a 'before and after' scenario.

*Below: One of the 'keepers' at the new house is the persimmon tree. Here are some of the 350 bags (made years ago by the original owner) in place to protect the ripening fruit from bats, possums and fruit fly.*

*There are plenty of fruits high up out of human reach to feed the wildlife.*





# Lemon Myrtle by Linda Barrett

*Backhousia citriodora* Other names can include – Lemon Scented Ironwood, Sweet Verbena Tree.

You have tasted our beautiful lemon-flavoured tea at ROGI ... it has lemon myrtle in it!

This evergreen Australian native tree is propagated from cuttings and can be grown easily in the Redlands.

It has dark-green leaves which it carries from its top almost down to ground level and bears clusters of highly-fragrant white flowers in autumn.

If left to its own devices, it can grow up to eight metres: you can prune it to keep it manageable. It can be grown in a pot.

It needs well-drained soil in a warm spot and tolerates full sun or part shade. The soil pH should be slightly acidic.

## ROGI's Signature Tea

Lemon myrtle leaves—torn  
Lemongrass—shredded  
Lemon balm leaves [optional]  
Lemon verbena leaves [optional]  
Ginger—small pieces or grated

Place ingredients in teapot; add boiling water and steep for about five minutes. If left for too long it can become bitter. Strain into cups.

Add honey if desired.

*Experiment with the proportions to suit your taste. Ingredients can be frozen in batches for your later convenience.*

It is relatively free of pests. The main problem is myrtle rust which severely damages new growth and threatens the plant.

This tree, with its delicious lemongrass flavour and the aroma of lemon verbena, has been grown as a commercial crop for the cooking, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries since the 1990s.

The leaves can be used in stir fries and Asian curries as a substitute for lemon grass. Lemon myrtle can be used as a leaf adding it to stews and curries like a Bay leaf and removed at the end of cooking or chopped finely and added.

One of our ROGI members used to dry the leaves and mill them into powder and make lovely lemon myrtle cake (with icing).

The distilled oil from this tree is used extensively to scent confectionery, perfumes, aromatherapy oil and food flavourings.

People have stated on a number of websites that they use the leaves and flowers as natural room scents/deodorisers, just cutting them and placing in a vase.

It has been reported in the *Australian Journal of Medicinal Herbalism*, 1991 to be anti-septic, anti-fungal, anti-viral, calmativ and sedative.

A Lemon Myrtle tree is a worthwhile addition to your garden - attractive, scented and useful.





# Critters of the Month by Dave Praeger

## In my garden - December & January

The eggs laid in spring and the soil born beetles have hatched and these have grown to easily visible sizes.

The **assassin bug** nymphs are about two cm long and are out hunting prey. They are easily identified by their curved proboscis, spidery legs and distinct three segment body and upturned abdomen.



Small **plant-hoppers** (Family Flatidae) are sucking sap from many plants (with little damage).

The **golden orb spiders** have placed their webs above the vegetables and are catching pests.



The **Longicorn beetles** (Family Cerambycidae) are busily chewing flowers and boring into tree bark. They are identified by their very long antennae and enormous mandibles.



The **green vegetable bugs** are busy sucking juices in the tomato bushes and the **looper caterpillars** have decimated the mint leaves.

This has been an excellent year for birds with the young being fed on insects.

**Noisy miners** are in the vegetable patch and **blue-faced honeyeaters** are investigating every hollow and crack in the trees and under leaves (goodbye pests).

In the ROGI library is the book **The Permaculture Home Garden** by Linda Woodrow. There is excellent article on pest control. The basic concept is encapsulated in this quote:

***The golden rule of pest control is: if in doubt do nothing ... anything you do will probably make things worse.***

The six pointers are:

1. **Self defence** (healthy plants can generally defend themselves),
  2. **Selective breeding** (collect seeds from your healthiest plants, use known disease-resistant species),
  3. **Culling** (remove underperforming plants),
  4. **Nutrition** (improve your soil),
  5. **Predators** (ensure you provide food, water, shelter and safety),
  6. **Barricades** (use cut-out plastic cartons around seedlings),
- Fungi** and **moulds** (use a witches brew - seaweed+comfrey+chamomile+nettles)

Enjoy your bugs: they're a free pruning service  
Dave Praeger

(This is my last article for six months as I am on grandfather duty in the Solomon Islands)



# Answers to the Quizzes

## Christmas Quiz

1. Comet
2. Birth of Jesus
3. Coming
4. By Saint Agnes fountain
5. Holly, mistletoe, Christmas tree or pine tree
6. Christmas on 34th St (<http://www.nerve.com/entertainment/ranked/ranked-the-100-best-christmas-movies-of-all-time> )
7. Kevin
8. 65 cents
9. Siromet Winery, Mt Cotton
10. Six geese

3. Native stingless bees
4. Radium weed, petty spurge, *Euphorbia peplus*
5. Lotus, water lily
6. Mena Stoke
7. Constipation
8. Humus
9. Vegemite
10. Milk
11. By taking a cutting
12. 5) Borage 6) Basil 7) Salvia 8) Buddleja



Peruvian ground Apple, Yacon  
Set 1 Q11

## Gardening Quiz Set 1

1. International Year of Soils
2. Bug ('bugs suck' - an easy way to remember!)
3. Powdery mildew
4. Cobbler's pegs
5. Kale (Brassica)
6. Diatomaceous earth, DE
7. Indigi Day Out
8. Land cress, upland cress, winter cress, *Barbarea vulgaris*
9. Assassin bug
10. Centipede
11. Peruvian ground apple
12. 1) purslane 2) nettle 3) *Sida retusa* 4) chickweed

Cobbler's pegs  
Set 1 Q4



Radium weed  
Set 2 Q 4



Barbarea vulgaris  
Set 1 Q 8

Plantain (for Constipation)  
Set 2 Q 7



## Gardening Quiz Set 2

1. Beetle
2. 15th April

Assassin Bug  
Set 1 Q 9



## What is the Christmas Carol?

1. Frosty the Snowman
2. Walking in a Winter Wonderland
3. Joy to the World
4. It Came upon a Midnight Clear





# Seed Sowing Guide

## February

Asparagus  
Basil  
Bean lab lab  
Bean Madagascar  
Beetroot  
Capsicum/Chilli  
Carrot  
Choko  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Jicama  
Lettuce  
Pigeon pea  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Silver beet  
Snake beans  
Spinach (Brazilian, Egyptian, Malabar, Warrigal, Kangkong)  
Spring onion  
Squash  
Sweet potato  
Sweet corn  
Tomato  
Yacon  
Zucchini

## March

Basil  
Bean lab lab  
Bean Madagascar  
Bean - French  
Beetroot  
Capsicum/Chilli  
Carrot  
Cauliflower  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Leek  
Lettuce  
Pigeon pea  
Potatoes  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Silver beet  
Snake bean  
Spring onion  
Spinach (Brazilian, Egyptian, Warrigal)  
Sweet potato  
Sweet corn  
Tomato

## Seed Bank Request

- Please return seedling pots the month after you have bought the seedlings so they can be re-used.
- Please bring along other clean used pots—sizes up to 120mm diameter.
- Collect and bring takeaway coffee cups so we can use them for the larger seedlings.

Please note that the guide to the right is a seed-sowing guide, not a seedling-planting guide.

There could be several days or even weeks between the optimal time to sow a seed and to transplant a seedling that you may have bought from a nursery.

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. Gennaro will talk about this at the February meeting.

ROGI Seedbank is available at ROGI meetings and Garden Visits. \$1 per packet for members. \$2 for non-members.



# Redlands Good Gardening Expo

Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>  
9am – 3pm

Planning has started for the fourth annual Redlands Good Gardening Expo (GGE) which will be held at IndigiScapes.

ROGI again will have a large area with stalls so visitors can learn about organic growing, buy seeds and seedlings, and take part in gardening activities.

This year we're giving it a refresh with some new speakers and topics ranging from 'Getting Started' to 'What to do with your Produce'.

Each year has been extremely successful thanks to those who have helped a little or a lot.

We're looking for your help for as many hours as you can spare.

To be part of this enjoyable day, we need people to help ...

## Before the event:

1. Bring along used/clean:
  - 250g strawberry punnets
  - coffee take-away cups
  - 220g & 400g cans (which have been opened with a ring-pull). These are for activities such as making seed pots and taking

cuttings, and for growing seedlings in advance of the day.

2. Create box gardens for our raffles
3. Assist with raising seedlings that will be for sale at GGE. A great opportunity to hone your seed-raising skills.

## At the event:

- put up/take down stalls etc
- staff stalls, displays, activities
- help manage the speakers' program on the day

GGE gives ROGI an opportunity to encourage the community to grow their own food organically.

To be part of this wonderful day, or if you have any questions, please call Carolyn on 3824 3165 or 0417 725 755.

**2015 GGE photos.** Clockwise from below:  
ROGI stall—note box gardens;  
Taking cuttings;  
Frank's talk on worms, biota etc;  
Sowing seeds in newspaper pots;  
Gennaro's talk on interesting plants



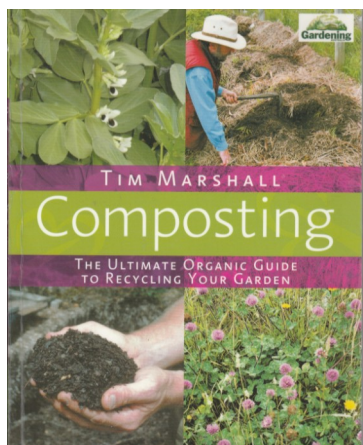


# ROGI Library News

Here we are – the first library news for 2016! We know how easy it is to overlook that book you borrowed a month or two ...or ... last year but, please remember to return your books to the library at our next meeting.

## Composting: the ultimate organic guide to recycling your garden

Tim Marshall



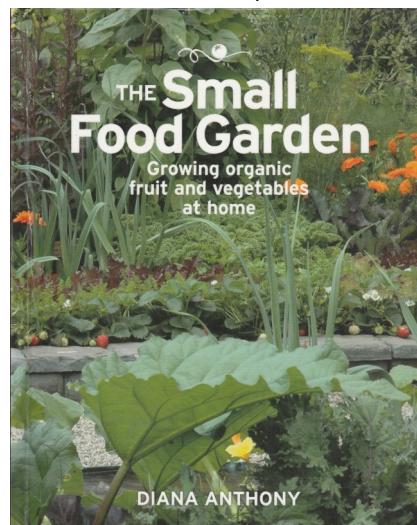
This is a comprehensive, easy to use, practical guide to soil improvement. In explaining how composting works he covers many other subjects: how to build and maintain a heap; how to source a wide range of materials; how compost will improve your soil; mulching; and composting with worms.

Well-illustrated throughout with colour photographs and diagrams, it concludes with a section

on materials for further reading, including useful websites, along with an Index.

## The Small Food Garden: Growing organic fruit and vegetables at home

Diana Anthony.



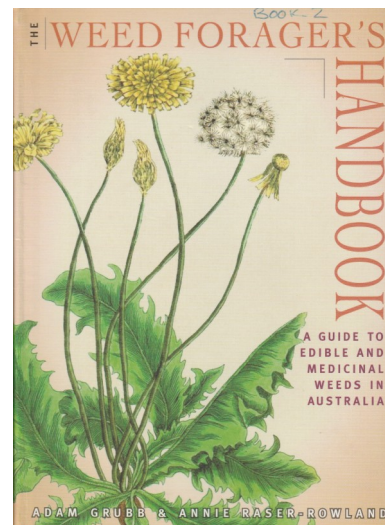
In this book Anthony shows that you don't need a quarter-acre section, or larger, to successfully grow fresh produce.

Based on organic principles, this practical, well-illustrated guide takes you through all the basics: what to plant and where; organic pest and disease control; watering and plant nutrition; using raised beds and space-saving containers; companion planting; and making compost.

Also has a useful A-Z listing of vegetables, fruits and herbs.

## The Weed Forager's Handbook

Adam Grubb & Annie Raser-Rowland.



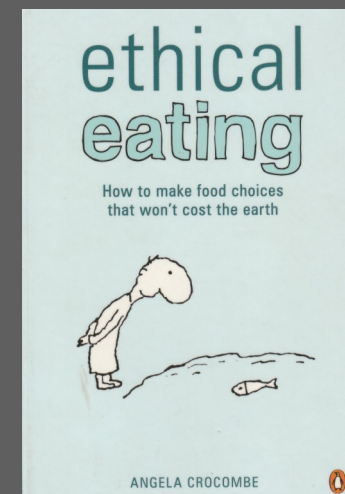
This is a guide to edible and medicinal weeds in Australia.

According to the authors, weeds are the ultimate convenience food. Indeed, the problem can be the solution!

After some opening comments, including *Notes of Caution*, there is an A-Z of our 'Top 20' weeds; followed by a chapter detailing 'Other Weeds'; then a selection of 'Weedy Recipes', including "Nettle Gnocchi" and a "Weedy Frittata".

An interesting little book, well illustrated, with a useful section listing resources, including online, for further information.

*Wishing you all a very bountiful, and abundantly fruitful 2016! – Stephen and Angela.*



## Ethical Eating: how to make food choices that won't cost the earth

Angela Crocombe.

Recently I read that human-kind and our domesticated animals now consume some 95% of the earth's resources.

What we choose to eat is a very basic decision, yet it has huge implications.

This book explores the ethical and environmental implications of the food choices we make, looking at the issues from a uniquely Australian perspective.

There are a number of appendices, including a useful guide to seasonal fruits in Australia; a list of suppliers; further reading and an index.



## Exchange plants, cuttings, seedlings and home-grown produce

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

## ROGI Rewards

Gift-quality plants and other garden-related items brought along by members. Everyone who attends a meeting is eligible to acquire a ROGI Reward. Please label plant with its name before placing it on the table.

## Members' Sales

Items you have produced that are surplus to your requirements and that **you wish to sell** to other members eg eggs, honey, seedlings, jam, lemons – things that have cost you money (and time and effort) to produce.

Please ensure items are labelled, named and priced. You may be asked to staff the stall if you are needed.

## 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 or cuttings, surplus chillies, empty pots or strawberry runners and so on. This is where you may want to work out an arrangement with other members to do some swapping outside of the meetings.

## Bring a bag/basket/box to take everything home

## Recycling & Re-using

Please collect, save and bring along the following:

- **250gm cube-shaped strawberry/cherry tomato punnets**

One of ROGI's activities is making a pot out of newspaper. After making this pot, visitors sow seeds in it and take it home safely in a strawberry punnet.



- **220 to 400gm clean empty ring-pull cans**

These are for use in the 'taking a cutting' activity at GGE.



- **Take-away coffee cups**

For growing seedlings for sale at GGE. No lids please.

(Please don't ask for these in place of real cups: just collect those that other people have left lying around.)



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

This is how it works:

- Pick up a My IGA Card next time you are in the 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, you are also helping to raise funds for ROGI.

ROGI uses its funds to help provide more services to members such as new library books, discounted gardening products, paid expert speakers, and free or low-cost field trips and workshops.



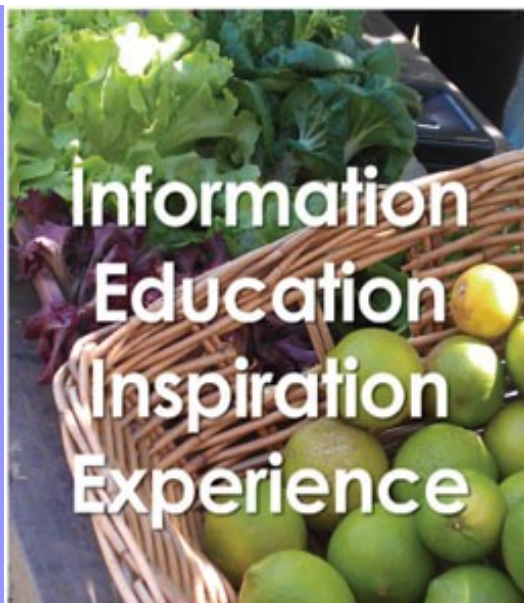
# Request for Articles

What can you share?  
It could be to do with:

- your garden
- a photo
- an unusual plant
- a request
- garden/nutrition info
- a recipe
- a current affair to do with organic growing

Send your articles to the editor and help keep the newsletter topical, interesting, local and relevant

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



 Redland Organic Growers Inc



***Plectranthus amboinicus*** is known by many common names:

- Mexican mint
- Cuban oregano
- Spanish thyme
- Queen of Herbs
- Five-in-One Herb
- Five Seasons Herb
- Five Spice Herb
- Chinese Three in One
- Broad Leafed Thyme
- Spanish Sage
- Puerto Rican Oregano

It is a very easy to grow ground cover (which will start taking off up a tree if you let it), but it doesn't take over, and is easily removed. The soft leaves can be chopped and used in place of rosemary, basil, oregano, thyme and sage.



Two years ago this hydrangea was a rather wishy-washy colour somewhere between a dirty white, mauve and pale pink.

At first I added lime to raise the pH to achieve bright pink flowers. After a few months it was clear this wasn't working.

So I changed tack and loaded the area with elemental sulphur to acidify the soil.

And look what happened!

Beautiful bright blue flowers.

## March Newsletter Deadline

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor by 24th February for the March edition.

## 25mm poly pipe for sale

Need poly pipe for tunnel greenhouse frames or other garden projects?

6 m lengths - \$8 each

2 m lengths - \$3 each

Miscellaneous connecting elbows 50c each

Contact: Kathy Petrik

3206 1267

0468 434 791



# ROGI Shop Products

Products Dry	3kg	2kg	1kg	500g	100g	Each
<b>Soil Conditioners</b>						
Blood & Bone	7.50		4.00	3.00		
Blood & Bone 25kg						29.50
Blood & Bone 16kg						24.00
DE Fine Food Grade		15.00	8.00	4.50		
DE Fine Food Grade 20kg						110.00
DE Pet & Garden	16.00		7.00	4.00		
DE Pet & Garden 20kg						80.00
Dolomite	5.50		3.00	2.00		
Eco88	8.50		4.00	2.50		
Gypsum	5.50		3.00	2.00		
Humic Acids					3.50	
Organic Booster	6.50		3.50	2.50		
Organic Xtra	6.50		3.50	2.50		
Organic Xtra 25kg bag						18.50
Organic Xtra 16kg bag						14.00
Organic Xtra 5kg bag				2.50		7.00
Rock Dust #3 25kg bag						29.50
Rock Dust #3 Mix	6.50		4.00	2.00		
Sea Mungus						
Turf Master	5.50					

\*DE is Diatomaceous Earth—can kill insects by desiccation.

<b>Tools &amp; Equipment</b>						
Soil pH Test Kit						15.00
Banana Bags						3.50
Fruit Fly Exclusion Bags set of 4						5.00
Paper Pot Maker						28.00

Products Wet	5 litre	1 litre	500ml	150ml	100ml
<b>Soil conditioners</b>					
Eco-Amingro		18.00	10.00		
EcoFish	32.00				
Eco Naturalure				15.00	
Eco-Neem					16.00
Eco-Oil		22.00	16.00		
Fish & Kelp solution		13.00			
Potassium Silicate					3.00

<b>Pest &amp; Weed Control</b>					
Burn Off		9.00			
Eco-Pest Oil			10.00		
Naturassoap			17.00		
Pyrethrum Spray					20.00
Wild May (for fruit fly)					2.00

<b>Aloe Vera</b>		
Aloe Vera Raw Material	33.50	9.50
Aloe Vera Raw Bio Fertiliser	37.00	10.00

Banana bag





# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Jill Nixon	0418717735	<a href="mailto:president@rogi.com.au">president@rogi.com.au</a>
V. PRESIDENT	Linda Barrett		<a href="mailto:president@rogi.com.au">president@rogi.com.au</a>
SECRETARY	Margaret Sear		<a href="mailto:secretary@rogi.com.au">secretary@rogi.com.au</a>
TREASURER	Garry Bromham		<a href="mailto:group@rogi.com.au">group@rogi.com.au</a>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Kathy Petrik, Toni Bowler, Ian Curtis, Sharr Ellson		

# OFFICE BEARERS

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Mena Stoke	<a href="mailto:membership@rogi.com.au">membership@rogi.com.au</a>
PR and COMMUNICATIONS	Kathy Petrik	<a href="mailto:info@rogi.com.au">info@rogi.com.au</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jill Nixon	<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	Carolyn Lassen	<a href="mailto:events@rogi.com.au">events@rogi.com.au</a>
LIBRARY	Angela & Stephen Legge	<a href="mailto:library@rogi.com.au">library@rogi.com.au</a>
SEED BANK	Ian Curtis	<a href="mailto:seeds@rogi.com.au">seeds@rogi.com.au</a>
SHOP	Frank Huysing	<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>
SUPPER	Cheryl McWilliams	<a href="mailto:group@rogi.com.au">group@rogi.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)

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Williamette raspberries are in season now.

Below: Caterpillar eating a begonia. It did no lasting damage to the plant and is now a beautiful butterfly.

