

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:

- **\$2-00 entry all members**
- **\$5-00 entry visitors**
- Return washed seedling pots
- Bring a basket/box/bag for your purchases
- Any questions for Plant Clinic (give to Julia on Plant Sales Table)
- A plant for ROGI Rewards
- Free swap/share/giveaway

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



Photo by Linda Brennan

Pumpkin seedlings ready to be planted. Note the blue seeds - they have been treated with fungicide, supposedly to deter rodents from eating the seed. Is it organic though? Best to save your own, or buy your seed from ROGI or Green Harvest - who source seeds that have been organically grown, are untreated, heirloom, and suited to our Australian gardens.

November Meeting

Working to resolve food insecurity one farm at a time

Founder and CEO of The Mini Farm Project, Nick Steiner, will tell us how the charity is working to build farms to feed Aussies in need. After losing his job in 2020, he has used years of experience in event management and the catering industry to launch the Mini Farm Project at Millen Farm in Samford.

Under-utilised spaces are converted into urban farms, which then supply fruit and vegetables to local charities and food rescue agencies.

Hear Nick's plans for his next project in the Redlands, and how he is working to resolve food insecurity one farm at a time.



We'll also hear from a ROGI member about what is happening in their garden. Bring along your questions for Plant Clinic and we'll see if someone can help.

The usual attractions will be there - Seed Bank, the well-stocked library, some seedlings and plants, plus local honey, home-made jam, wax wraps and more.

All ROGI Members - \$2-00 entry

Visitors welcome - \$5-00 entry

**Please bring finger food (preferably home-made)
to share for supper. Free tea and coffee.**

ROGI Events

FIELD TRIP - BALAANGALA COMMUNITY GROUP *

98 Yoorala Street, The Gap

Saturday 18 November, 3pm (leaving PCYC at 2pm)

Cost: \$10-00 per person

This property has been planted with native plants that have been used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as food, and for tools, medicine and craft. Our tour guide will give us lots of information regarding their plants.

As there is no electricity, water will be boiled on a fire. Lemon myrtle tea will be provided, but please BYO cup and a plate of food to share. A recipe book featuring recipes with plants from the garden (bush tucker) is available for sale for \$20-00 (cash). We will car pool from the PCYC on Degen Road, Capalaba, leaving at 2pm.

SEED SAVERS MEETING *

Linda Brennan's house, Capalaba

Friday 1 December, 9-10.30am

As we look down the barrel of a drought, the topic for our final Seed Savers meeting of the year is a very important one... **'Crops that survive hot, dry summers'**. Rather than leave your soil exposed to summer baking, erosion and drying where it can lose fertility, carbon and its web of life that's so vital to plant health, we encourage our members to get in and plant.

We'll share and learn about soil protecting cover crops, plants that are productive (even during a hot dry spell), and just how to care for your garden (and yourself) while we are suffering in drought conditions.

We will also be taking cuttings of our favourite plants. So bring some seeds and plant pieces to learn how to take cuttings. This is a mustn't miss Seed Savers meeting. Please book on Team App, or if you are unable to access call Linda on 0416 157 470.

*** PLEASE BOOK ON TEAMAPP**

Field Trip - Hare Krishna Farm

Report by Linda Barrett

Photos by Ann Roffey and Linda Brennan

On Sunday 24th September, 17 ROGI members visited the Hare Krishna Village in Eungella near Murwillumbah. This 400-hectare property on the Oxley River supports a community of permanent residents, retreat visitors, volunteers and day trippers like us.

Approximately 60 people are living at the village. A communal kitchen provides three meals a day, with up to 100 lunches served each day. Volunteers are provided with free camping and three meals per day in exchange for 30 hours per week working on a variety of tasks. They can also stay in converted containers. The retreat visitors stay for short periods and escape from their 'normal' lives doing yoga, medication, sleeping, and/or nothing at all. Many retreat visitors, housed in cabins, are corporate clients. A large project underway is building prepacked tiny houses that will provide accommodation for volunteers in the future.

Our village tour was led by Bharat, who guided us through three growing areas. Firstly, we entered the East Garden – a syntropic system. This type of growing includes a permanent system that he



East garden - a syntropic system

described as in sync with nature, growing plants together that benefit each other – like companion planting. This area showed the need for intensive human intervention. Bharat explained that the space was developed by a knowledgeable leader, but this person had left and now management was challenging due to lack of knowledge, skills and experience. As we explored, we saw pigeon peas, canna, elder, mulberries, bananas, sugar cane, cassava, tamarillo and citrus. One inclusion into the system that intrigued us and raised questions was obviously planted eucalyptus amongst the food plants. Bharat was uncertain why they are there, but he knew they were chosen for specific reasons.

Some research by me

The eucalypt is included in the early phases of syntropic as it is a rigorous grower and high accumulator of stable carbon and lignin-rich biomass. With regular chop and drop pruning, the mulch formed helps macro and micro-organisms in the ground when the prunings are layered with green matter such as banana green waste. Eucalyptus do need to be pruned regularly to ensure their function in this system. Source www.syntropia.com.au and www.agendagotsch.com/en/eucalyptus



Building of accommodation for volunteers in the future

Field Trip - Hare Krishna Farm (continued)

Next, we all entered a fenced off private garden, which was filled with densely planted colourful rows of seasonal vegetables. Some of the late season vegetables were going to flower and seed, and we needed the brains trust and apps to find out that the pretty blue flower and subsequent seed pod held linseeds. Other known favourites in this garden included rainbow chard (so pretty), red-veined sorrel, lettuces, kale, choko, sugar cane, basils and moringa. On the outer edges were citrus bursting with flowers. Newly developed rows were planted with healthy tomato seedlings. The growers use this produce for their kitchen, the village, and to sell at the local markets. Unfortunately, as we moved around the site there were no gardeners to tell us of their practices and to ask questions.



Seeds, seed pods and flowers of linseed



Citrus trees and newly developed rows with healthy tomato seedlings

Field Trip - Hare Krishna Farm (continued)

Our third stop was the Western Garden, which presented as the more traditional market garden with rows of single crops. Silver beet, broccoli and cabbage were in-ground. Large tubs held harvested ginger and sweet potato, and there was a small quantity of beetroot stored as well. Seed trays holding tomatoes, eggplants, and cucurbits had been prepared from purchased seed.



Throughout the property were fruit and nut trees – mulberries, lots of citrus, bunya pines and others that we were unable to identify. Water for this property is from the Oxley River, a creek, dams, a bore, and of course rain. At times they do have to restrict water use during summer.

We visited the dairy, where 7-10 cows are milked daily. The pasteurised milk is used at the village, and the dairy kitchen produces yoghurt and cheeses. The community sells excess milk to visitors and locals. In the Hare Krishna faith, cows are seen as sacred, and the care of cows is likewise viewed as a highly valued and pious pastime.



Field Trip - Hare Krishna Farm *(continued)*

Next was a fun treat as we wandered over to the enclosed yard that held a number of bulls (I think they were still bulls, but did not look too closely). These huge animals with horns and nose rings were gentle and engaging, as they knew we were there to feed them bananas.



The village staff and volunteers provided a delicious vegetarian lunch, and ROGI members shared it with others in the community kitchen area. Hare Krishna followers are vegetarians, eating dairy products, fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds, but no eggs (and of course, no meat).

The community has faced many challenges in recent years with Covid, fires and flooding. This has impacted the functioning of the village, as volunteers were restricted in numbers. Energies and money had to be focused on restoration following these natural disasters. Bharat stated that it was only now that the village was really returning to its normal functional level.

Our final stop of the day was the temple on a hill above all the growing areas. Bharat told us about Hare Krishna and allowed us

to examine the sculptures and stained-glass windows in this small, colourful temple that holds seven services each day.

On a personal note – ROGI field trips (and garden visits) are a highlight of our organisation, and I have always returned home with renewed vigour and motivation from seeing others' efforts. Being a day event, we can hold longer conversations with other members, hear their stories, discuss gardens, families, current events and solve all the problems of the world. Thank you to Toni Bowler for her continued support organising these events and to the ROGI Management team.



Plant Clinic

Managed and reported by Julia Geljon and Chris McIvor



Brown patch on Lime

We were asked to identify a brown patch on a lime without any further details about the state of the tree or leaves. The diseased patch would appear to be a type of "brown rot" which is caused by a *Phytophthora* species, which lives in the soil and can be splashed up to low hanging branches by rain or hosing.

The best treatment would be to spray the affected tree and leaves with a Copper Oxychloride solution as recommended on the packaging. Be sure to spray the base of the tree as well as the surrounding soil area.

Also, prune all branches and foliage to at least 300mm above the ground. Keeping the soil well mulched with a woody mulch will help with beneficial fungi and avoid spores splashing upwards. Remove any affected fruit and solarise. Do not compost!

PLEASE NOTE: GIVE YOUR PLANT CLINIC PROBLEM TO JULIA OR CHRIS ON THE PLANT SALES TABLE AT ROGI MEETINGS.

WELCOME BACK SHOREBIRDS - THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Right: Many thanks go to ROGI volunteers who helped on our stall at the Welcome Back Shorebirds event at GJ Walters Park in Cleveland on Saturday 14 October.

Thanks also go to Toni Bowler for her donation of raffle prizes.

It was a successful day promoting ROGI and campaigning against the threat of 3600 units being built in Toondah Harbour.



Crop Rotation

By Terry Sullavan

I promised last meeting that I'd publish the results of this activity from the Round Robin in the newsletter, cause everyone did such a great job of listing our local pests and plant families - very useful knowledge to every gardener in the Redlands! Honestly, I could add little to this when I finally sat down to type it.

Pests

Grubs – furry tomato
Shield bugs
White cabbage moth
Scale
Grasshoppers
Rats
Fruit fly
Nematodes
Snails/ slugs
Aphids
Citrus leaf minor
Mealy bugs
Possums
28 Spot ladybeetle
Caterpillars
Fig beetle
Powdery mildew

Plant family

Solanum/ Nightshade
Brassica
Leafy greens – not a family
Cucurbits
Alliums
Umbrelliferae / Apiaceae
Fabaceae/ Legumes
Asteracia/ Lettuce
Amaranthaceae/ Spinach
Poaceae/ Graminaeae/ Grains

Crop rotation offers the following benefits:

- maximises the uptake of nutrients by plants by taking advantage of varied nutrient needs
- minimises the buildup of pests and harmful bacteria in the soil by varying the crops grown

Crop rotation does share some of the benefits of companion planting, e.g. corn, beans, squash, but they are essentially different principles. Plenty of good compost and fertiliser allows flexibility with crop rotation, but some things can't be controlled so stick to it where possible:

Beans 'n Peas, Greens, Fruits 'n Roots

Sometimes a crop type is not so obvious. Corn is considered a green in this case. This is where a little knowledge of plant families really helps. Some common families of plants should be avoided in succession, despite producing different crops. For example, tomatoes, eggplants (fruits) and potatoes (roots) are all nightshades and so share common pests and diseases. Many families like nightshades, cucurbits, and brassica also cross pollinate very easily. I've previously harvested rockmelons which taste more like cucumbers!

Obviously, this is a fairly broad generalisation. There are heaps of great resources online, nutrient budgets and recommendations for hydroponic systems if one is so inclined. But I find this is a good start, particularly if you're trying to get the jump on some of your (least) favourite garden pests!

ROUND ROBIN - THANK YOU PRESENTERS

Special thanks go to all our Round Robin presenters at the ROGI September meeting.

And especially to Greg Lindner, for his donation of two fully set up worm farms, which were used as a demonstration for his presentation and then won by some lucky ROGI members.

December Christmas Gathering



To celebrate the end of 2023, we're having a Christmas dinner (for ROGI members only)

- **RSVP by 08/12/22:** We need to know if you are coming! **Please register** on Teamapp or email tonibowler@hotmail.com or text Toni on 0402 323 704. Numbers will be capped at 110.
- Please **let us know what food you plan to bring:** salad (type)/savoury/dessert/bread.
- Chicken, ham and drinks will be provided.
- **Members need to bring their own cups/glasses, plates, bowls and cutlery in a bag** (you will take them home to wash).
- The usual plants, seeds, honey and other member's sale items will also be available.
- There will be no ROGI rewards. Giveaways accepted.
- **We need volunteers** to assist with setting up, serving food and packing up on the night. Please notify us at the above email if you can help with this.

E-WASTE COLLECTION

E-waste can be put in the bin provided in the Salvos car park at the 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.

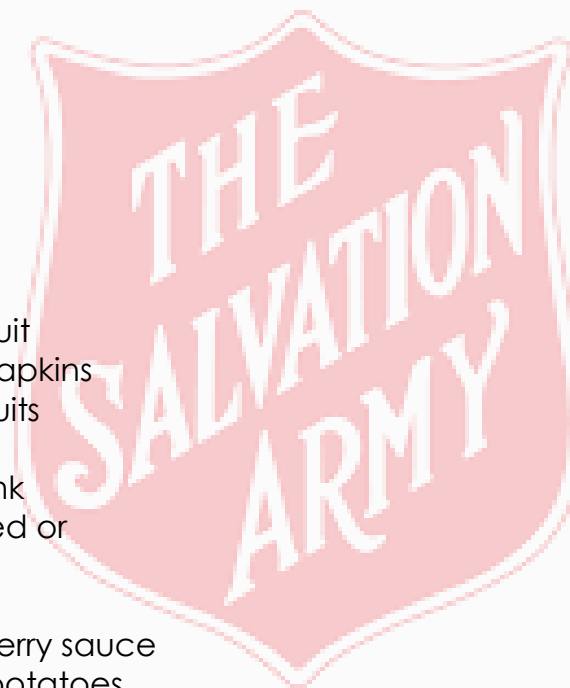


Salvo's Christmas Food Drive

Christmas time is hard to celebrate when you are doing it tough. ROGI members are asked to donate a food item/s from the list below for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal **at our meeting on December 14**. 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 item/s have **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).

ROGI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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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.

Email: info@rogi.com.au **Webpage:** www.rogi.com.au
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

Tomato and Strawberry Punnets Needed

We need **250gm cherry tomato and strawberry punnets**. One of ROGI's activities at outside events is making a seed sowing pot out of newspaper. After making this pot, visitors sow a seed or seedling plug into it, and then take it home safely in a punnet.

We've noticed that our supplies are low, so please bring them to the next meeting and we'll store them until they're needed. Punnets can be given to John Borg, who looks after the Seed Savers' seeds.



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 newsletter@rogi.com.au (please note new address)
The December newsletter deadline is 30 NOVEMBER 2023