Next meeting: Wednesday 9 October 2019

ROGI News

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

Salvation Army Church Cnr McDonald Rd & Macarthur St ALEXANDRA HILLS

Admission

Members: Free Visitors: \$5

Please bring a plate of food (sweet/ savoury or nibbles, preferably homemade) for supper after the meeting. Tea and coffee provided.

You are very welcome to provide a **quality plant** to help share interesting plants with other members (see p 23).

Remember to bring a bag, basket or box to take home your items.

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* Margaret's flowering jaboticaba with fruit forming. Read more about this unusual fruit tree on page 12.

fill's fottings

Why do we choose to grow food? Why do we choose to do so organically? For many of us, I think we do it because it just makes sense, it feels *right*, it's the way it should be, it's the way it always was done.

My grandparents, born in 1899, had a wonderful garden on an acre. They lived in a small country town in western Victoria with easy access to the manure of chooks, dairy cattle, horses and sheep. In fact my grandmother had a sheep she hand-raised (Nana's name was Mary and she had a little lamb!), as well as a cow for milk and chooks for eggs and meat.

Nana loved her flowers, and I remember being warned to keep back when the bees were buzzing. Her vegetable garden was located beneath the clothesline. As the clothes were washed in a copper and wrung out using a wrangle, there was still a fair amount of water dripping from them, and I'm sure this reduced the watering time in the garden. With no town water everyone relied on rainwater collected in tanks for absolutely everything. No flushing toilet either – just the dunny down the back. And the commode under the bed - the urine was diluted and used under the trees.

So many trees – stone fruit, citrus, almond, fig, mulberry, pear and apple, and a hedge of quinces down near the dunny. A *Nelly Kelly* passionfruit clambered along the fence. Queensland Blues grew in the huge pumpkin patch, but we weren't allowed there: snakes!

Nana made ginger beer, butter and jam, and baked bread, biscuits and cakes – with her wood-burning stove. Anything that couldn't be used straightaway was preserved for use out of season. There was a lot of bartering of food – meat, fish and honey, I remember. It seems the only food they needed to buy was flour, sugar, rice, tea, coffee-and-chicory, and bananas. My grandfather couldn't go without his bananas and special coffee. My grandparents were probably no different from your grandparents or great-grandparents. This was normal life, especially for people in country towns. Everything they grew was or-ganic, although they'd never heard of the word. They'd have looked at you funny if you'd tried to sell them a chemical to put on their food. 'Why would we want to put a poison on our food?' They were doing just fine as they were.

Now here we are – united in our belief and hope that we too can grow our own food and do it without chemicals. We can even use that new-fangled word to describe what we're doing: 'organic' gardening.

ROGI cannot legally operate without a secretary and treasurer. Margaret is acting secretary and we need someone to take over soon. Please talk to Margaret or me if you have the skill set and are available. We don't want to have ROGI fold for want of a secretary.

We also need someone to do the wonderful work that Cheryl has been doing organising our suppers and cuppas. Have a chat with Cheryl to find out what's involved. There will be helpers for you.

One of the objectives of ROGI is to 'foster public interest in organic gardening'. Each of us is in a position to do this. One way is to let people know about ROGI. For some it's still a wellkept secret.

We have ROGI cards (they're like business cards), and they're for you to use. Keep one or two in your pocket, wallet or purse. When you're talking with someone and the topic crops up, give them a ROGI card. If they're interested, they can come along or email us or maybe give you a call: there's a space for you to write your name and contact details. Maybe this is how you found out about ROGI. They're on the supper table—please take a few, so you don't run out.

Jill Nixon, President

Coming Events

Wed 9	ROGI Meeting		
Sun 13	Garden Visit (see page 23)		
Tues 15	Seed Savers Meeting		
Tues 5	Qld Herb Society		
Thurs 7	BOGI Meeting		
Wed 13	ROGI Meeting		
Sat 16	Field Trip (see page 23)		
	Wed 9 Sun 13 Tues 15 Tues 5 Thurs 7 Wed 13 Sat 16		

Membership Information

- Cash payment at ROGI meeting
- **Cheques** made payable to Redland Organic Growers Inc pay at meeting or to PO Box 1257, Cleveland 4163
- Direct Deposit BSB 633 000. A/C 136137296 (Bendigo Bank, Middle St, Cleveland) IMPORTANT! <u>Reference</u> - Your initials and surname are essential to identify who has paid.

When paying your fees online, please be sure to complete a membership renewal form online at <u>http://www.rogi.com.au/</u> renew-membership.php

Member	Members	New member/s joining in			
Category	For 2019	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct19-Dec20
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

October Meeting

Plant research in the Redlands

Find out what goes on at the Redlands Research Facility, at the corner of Delancey Street and Finucane Road in Cleveland.

Our area was once the salad bowl of the south-east—the red soil is ideal, and research was done in Cleveland to help farmers.



Facility Manager Shane Holborn will talk about the old days, the present, and what is being planned for the future especially with the possibility of more challenging climatic conditions.

You'll also hear from a local gardener, who'll tell us what is happening **"This month in my garden".**

The usual attractions will be there—the well-stocked library, the seed bank and seedlings (at bargain prices) plus local honey, organic produce, organic gardening inputs for sale . . . and more.

Please don't forget to bring a box/bag or basket to bring your purchases home.

September Meeting — Round Robin Reports

Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ)

FPJ is used in solutions for seed and soil treatments and plant nutrition. It consists of the young shoots of vigorously growing plants that are allowed to ferment for approximately 7 days with the aid of brown sugar. The brown sugar draws the juices out of the plant material via osmosis, and also serves as a food source for the microbes carrying out the fermentation process. The weak alcohol produced during fermentation extracts chlorophyll (soluble in ethanol) and other plant components. It is non-toxic and edible.

The most important requirement when selecting plants for making FPJ is to use the growing tips of plant species that are fast growers. Plants should be healthy and vigorously growing at the time of collection. Flowers, flower buds, and immature fruits can also be used. Hard or woody plant parts will yield little or no plant juice. Ideal choices grown locally include, but are not limited to, purslane (Portulaca or pigweed), watercress, bamboo shoots, sweet potato vines, beans, pumpkin, and seaweeds. Korean Natural Farming (KNF) practices emphasize using what is available. Do not use poisonous plants.

Making Fermented Plant Juice:

1. Collect plant material before sunrise (fast-growing tips, 2–3 inches long); for plants with longer tendrils, such as sweet potato, longer pieces can be collected. Avoid collecting during or after rainfall (ideally wait two sunny days after rain stops).

2. Cut and weigh the plant material. Do not rinse collected plant parts, to conserve surface microorganisms. Record the weight of the plant material. Cut the shoot tips into 2–3 inch pieces.

3. Weigh an amount of brown sugar equal to the weight of the plant material and toss together in a bowl or bucket. Coat as much of the surface area of the plant material with sugar as possible, to expedite the osmotic process and draw out plant juices.

4. Pack the mixture into a container. Select a clear glass or foodgrade polyethylene (PE) plastic container (no lid necessary). Do not use metal, which will react with the solution. Pack the container tightly with the plant material and brown sugar mixture until full. To allow air exchange, cover the mouth of the container with a paper towel. Secure the cover (with string, rubber bands, etc.) to keep pests and other contaminants out. Store the covered container in a well-ventilated area away from artificial or natural light and extreme heat or cold. Do not refrigerate.

5. Not all plants will settle in the same way, so it is important to check the container after 24 hours and adjust the volume if necessary. In order for the fermentation process to occur properly, the volume of the mixture should settle to 2/3 of the container after 24 hours. If the container is too full, the microbes will not have enough air to properly ferment. Remove some of the plant material until the container is no more than 2/3 full. If the container is less than 2/3 full, add more of the mixture to prevent mould growth.

6. Let the contents ferment undisturbed. The fermentation process is dependent on ambient temperature. Brisbane's warmer, humid weather speeds up fermentation (3-5 days), while cool/cold periods slow the process. You will know that fermentation is occurring when bubbles start to form, which normally occurs on the second day. Ideally, fermentation should take no longer than 7 days, as

the quality of FPJ appears to diminish thereafter. Fermentation is complete when: 1) the plant material floats and the liquid settles at the bottom (note: if too much brown sugar was used, this separation is not distinct); 2) there is a light alcohol smell due to the breakdown of chlorophyll; and 3) the liquid tastes sweet, not bitter.



Photo taken at the beginning of this experiment 7/8/19

7. After fermentation is complete (3-7 days), separate the plant material from the liquid using a colander or strainer. The spent plant material can be used as animal feed, or added to compost. The liquid is Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ), which can be used immediately or stored in a loosely covered container.

8. Transfer the FPJ into a glass or food-grade polyethylene (PE) plastic container. The microorganisms in the solution are alive and continue to produce gases. The lid must be kept loose or the container can explode. As with all KNF inputs, each batch of KNF should be stored separately. They should be combined only when a solution is being mixed for immediate use. For long-term storage, add an equal amount of brown sugar by weight to FPJ to prevent it from souring.



Fermented plant juice is a growth stimulant/hormone. Pictured from left—the finished product (liquid FPJ); glass bottle with the fermenting plant material and brown sugar; silver beet grown in commercial potting mix, rock dust, bio char, worm castings and watered with FPJ. Marion has been making FPJ for seven years. She stores it in glass bottles, inside—it keeps indefinitely.

How is FPJ used on Plants?

FPJ is diluted with water and applied as a soil drench or a foliar application directly onto plants. Generally, use FPJ made from plant material at the same growth phase (vegetative or reproductive) as the plants that are to be treated. FPJ made from dropwort, mugwort, or bamboo shoots is applied from germination until early stages of plant growth. FPJ made from arrowroot or bamboo shoots is applied on vegetative growth (leafy) crops that need nitrogen (N). FPJ made from green (unripe) fruit is applied to plants that are just beginning to develop flower shoots and need phosphorus (P). Once plants reach the reproductive phase (flowering and fruiting), they require a lot of calcium (Ca). FPJ made from calcium-rich plants or FPJ that has been stored for over a year is applied at this stage.

Preparing and Applying FPJ

Dilute FPJ with water. FPJ is generally used at a concentration of 1 part per 500 parts water (1:500). A more dilute solution is necessary (1:800 to 1:1000) to avoid damaging plants (leaf burn) under the following circumstances—if it is applied during hot weather, or FPJ that has been stored longer than a year and thus has become more concentrated.

Apply FPJ once per week in the *late afternoon*, ideally an hour before sunset. The solution can be watered onto plants or into the soil, or it can be applied as a foliar spray. The nutrient solution is applied *once per week* and is adjusted as the plant passes through its life-cycle stages and vegetative and reproductive phases.

Amount of FPJ for 1:500 dilution

Water - 2 litres, FPJ 4ml (3/4 teaspoon)

4 litres, FPJ 8ml (1½ teaspoons)

20 litres, FPJ 38 ml (2½ tablespoons)

Halve this for 1.1000 dilute

Marion Lennon

Keeping Chooks

Davina opened by introducing us to a variety of chicken coops that she uses to house her flock. The size of the coop and having enough space for a run is one of the most important decisions when first setting up for your own chooks. Coops can be bought ready to assemble, or there are lots of designs available if you want to build your own.

Davina explained that she has a small coop for her bantams, a slightly bigger size coop which houses another six chooks, and then a big castle which houses about 30 chooks (including the Leghorns, who are big girls and lay big eggs).

The next two pieces of equipment that you will need are a waterer and feeder. These also come in different sizes, and you will probably need to start small and go up in size as the chickens mature. It is recommended that you get a small waterer for young chicks, as they could drown if they fall into a larger water container. There are lots of options available, ranging from *Bainbridge* waterers to IBC tanks with small cups that dispense the water continually. Chicken drink nipples also work well.

Feeders also come in different sizes, and as the chicks get bigger, the feeders also need to get bigger. If you have a rooster then your feeder needs to be big enough for him to access food without getting his comb caught.

What purpose do you want chooks for? Do you want them primarily for egg production, as a source of meat, or as a pet? This will affect the breed of chook that you choose. Some of the prettier, more exotic chooks are not good layers, but make great pets. Roosters have lots of personality, so are great as pets if you have the space. Check council regulations first, as roosters are not generally permitted in suburban areas.

Davina currently has about 50 chooks, but says this is a small flock for her. The size of your flock will impact how much space you need to provide for your chooks and vice versa. If they are going to be kept free-range (with full access to the yard), you should provide security from predators.

When starting with chooks, you need to decide whether you want baby chickens or full-sized birds. There are advantages and disadvantages to both options.

Medicated and non-medicated chicken food is available. Medicated food controls coccidiosis, which is a nasty parasitic disease of the intestinal tract of animals caused by coccidian protozoa. The disease spreads from one animal to another by contact with infected faeces or ingestion of infected tissue, and it will kill your chickens quite quickly. A preventative program reduces the likelihood of coccidiosis.

Davina recommends worming chooks every three months, and she uses tablets to worm her chooks. A ROGI member said that she mixes worming liquid in with some porridge, which her chooks love!

Where to source your flock from is a very important consideration, as there are some unsavoury backyard breeders who will sell you sick or diseased chickens. Do your research to find a reputable breeder and ask lots of questions! It is also recommended that you try and buy all your chooks from the same source, once you have located a reputable breeder.





There were lots of 'oohs', 'aahs' and chirping of chickens when audience members were introduced to Davina's baby chicks.



Finally, Davina was asked how to cure a broody hen. She explained that you need to decrease their body temperature as quickly as possible, as a clucky/broody hen will have a body temperature about 2 degrees higher. The hen will start by plucking out small feathers, as skin on egg contact is necessary. You will find lots of small baby feathers around the yard way before the hen starts clucking. Davina puts her clucky hens in a cockatoo cage, with newspaper on the base and no nesting material. The purpose of this is to increase ventilation under the chook thereby reducing body temperatures in a matter of days and stopping the hen from being clucky.

The time went too quickly, and I think most of us would have been happy to listen to more information on keeping your own chickens.



Rohanne Young

Davina with her favourite breed of chook, the Leghorn. They are a purebred, and don't get broody. If you are after a chook hook-up (reputable breeders) phone Davina on 0429 322 497.

Soil pH

Soil pH is a measure of how acidic or alkaline the soil is. A pH value is actually a measure of hydrogen ion concentration. Because hydrogen ion concentration varies over a wide range, a logarithmic scale (pH) is used.

It is a 'reverse' scale in that a very acid soil has a low pH and a high hydrogen ion concentration. At high (alkaline) pH values, the hydrogen ion concentration is low.

acidic ← neutral → alkaline 0←--1----2----3-----5-----6----**7**----8-----9----10----11----12-----13---→14

It is measured from 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral and anything less than 7 is acidic and more than 7 is alkaline. The scale is logarithmic so:

6 is 10 times more acidic than 7

- 5 is 100 times more acidic than 7
- 1 is 1,000,000 times more acidic than 7

Importance

Availability of nutrients

Soil pH affects the solubility of chemicals (nutrients) in the soil, and therefore the amount of nutrients available to plants. Some nutrients are more available under acid conditions while others are more available under alkaline conditions. Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, calcium and magnesium are readily available between pH 6-7 but less so at lower than 6 or higher than 7.5. You can give the plants lots of fertiliser, but unless the pH of the soil is right these nutrients may not be readily available to the plant.

• Toxicity

At low pH, elements such as aluminium and manganese become more available, and could reach levels which are toxic to some plants. With a pH of greater than 7.5 calcium can tie up phosphorous, making it less available and also lead to copper and zinc deficiencies.

Soil pH (continued)

• Microbial activity

Strongly acidic or alkaline soils are hostile to the microbes which break down organic materials. This disrupts the natural nutrient cycle of growth, decomposition, and renewal. Acidic soils disrupt the nitrogen-fixing microbes which are essential for growing peas, beans, and other legumes.

• Worms

Worms are vital for a healthy living soil and have been shown to grow best in soil that is neither too acidic or alkaline.

• Plants resistance

Plants that are well nourished and healthy are less likely to succumb to disease and pests.

6-7 pH is ideal for most plants, but some (eg. citrus, blueberries, strawberries) prefer a more acidic soil and others (brassicas, sage, asparagus) like a slightly more alkaline soil.

If you are growing plants native to your area then they will do well in your soil, but if you want to grow fruit and vegetables, then it is a good idea to grow those that prefer an acidic soil together, and amend your soil to their requirements. Those that prefer an alkaline soil will thrive in another part of the garden where the pH has been made more favourable.

How to test using a test kit

- Take a small teaspoon sized sample of your soil at the depth of the main roots e.g. 10 cm (deeper for trees)
- Place sample on plastic tile
- Add a few drops of indicator dye from the kit to sample and stir using the applicator
- Dust with white powder from the kit
- Wait for 30 seconds for the colour of the white powder to change
- Match the colour with the colour of the colour chart

Take lots of samples from different parts of your garden and repeat for a more accurate picture of the pH in your yard. pH changes over time with use of fertilisers, agricultural practices, rain and weathering, so it is good to check annually.



Soil pH test kits are available from nurseries and hardware stores, and have easy-tofollow instructions.

The ROGI Library has a test kit which can be borrowed by members at no charge.

Change pH

Mature compost usually has a pH of around 6.5, and can be added to both alkaline and acidic soils. Warning: you need to check the pH of your compost as some people reported theirs to be around pH 8 after using chicken manure, which is alkaline.

If your soil is **too acidic** you could add any of the following:

- + compost
- + poultry manure
- + wood ash

+ agricultural lime or dolomite (avoid the use of ammonium fertiliser at the same time as you may lose some of the nitrogen)

If your soil is **too alkaline** you could add any of the following:

- + add compost
- + manures (cow, horse, sheep but not poultry)
- + leaf litter, pine needles, mulch
- + sulphur

Frank Dobson, Mary & Rai Irmer

Crop Rotation

Crop rotation is about growing different types of produce and rotating the families of the vegetables to improve yields, reduce pests, disease and soil erosion. This all helps to reduce stress on the soil.

This is helped by keeping notes each season of what was planted and in which garden bed. Number your garden beds and keep notes that relate to each bed.

Good soil is the key to a good structure base for growing, and adding compost to your garden bed will greatly improve it. Grass clippings, mulch, horse or cow poo, anything green from your garden and kitchen can be composted.

Planting sacrificial crops like mustard greens or marigolds, and then digging them in is a great way to put the good nutrients back into your garden soil.

Mixing your crops (crop rotation) gives the gardener better results year after year. It also assists in cross pollination, preventing nematodes and reducing pests and diseases.

Beans / Peas (legumes) = produce nitrogen Greens / leafy vegetables = like nitrogen Fruits / roots = don't like nitrogen

Basically, what one crop takes out or produces then sets up your next crop—protecting the structure of the soil and reducing stress on the soil. This then equates to reducing pests and diseases, improving yields and stopping interbreeding with other crops.

The great advantage of crop rotation comes from the interrelationship of nitrogen fixing crops with nitrogen demanding crops. Crop rotation maximises the uptake of nutrients by plants and minimises the build-up of pests and harmful bacteria in the soil. Living compost and fertiliser allows some flexibility with crop rotation, but some things can't be controlled. Try to stick to the following rotation where possible:

Beans 'n Peas, Greens, Fruits 'n Roots

The type of crop here is the part of the plant that is eaten. This broadly translates to the fertiliser requirements of the plant, eg. nitrogen (N) for greens, phosphorus (P) for flower and fruit, and potash (K) for roots. Calcium is also important, as are trace elements. Good starting points are simple mature compost based on horse or cow manure to provide organic matter, and aged chicken manure as a general-purpose fertiliser.

Sometimes a crop type is not so obvious. Corn, cauliflower and broccoli are all actually considered greens in this case. Some plants are heavy feeders, while carrots do better in soils without any fertiliser.

Plant Families

A little knowledge of plant families really helps. Common families of plants should be avoided in succession—eg. tomatoes, eggplants and potatoes are all nightshades, and may have similar nutrient demands and share common pests and diseases. Many families like nightshades (Solanaceae), cucurbits, and brassicas cross pollinate easily. Some people have grown rockmelons which taste like cucumbers!

Consider the crop type you wish to plant, then consider the plant family, and separate them as far as possible, both in time between plantings, and spatially.

Terry Sullavan

Plant of the Month—Nasturtiums

Nasturtium (Tropaeolum majus) is a cheerful and pretty plant, but it is also edible and medicinal. All parts of the plant are edible; however, the flowers are the most popular for eating. There are approximately 80 species of Tropaeolum, and this is the only genus in the Tropaeolaceae family. It is not related to the watercress (Nasturtium genus in the Brassica family), but got its common name of nasturtium because it tastes similar to watercress.

It originates in South America, and was first introduced to Spain and Europe by Spanish explorers in 1569. The Swedish botanist Carl Linneaus, gave it the name *Tropaeolum*, as the word derives from the trophy pole created by Romans to celebrate victory in battle. The pole (tropeaum) was adorned with the shields and helmets of their enemies. Linneaus thought the large leaves resembled these shields, and the flowers the blood-spattered helmets. Most of us have much more cheerful associations with the nasturtium! They are a joy to children to collect dew drops from the leaves to drink, or to suck nectar from the flower bases.

Nasturtiums are a straggling plant that will smother nearby plants and twist themselves into nearby shrubs. They are most commonly grown from seed, but can be grown from a cutting. They are frost sensitive. so are usually recommended as a summer annual for Australian gardens. They however do not like hot humid summers, so in our frost-free climate are welcome winter annuals. In areas with milder summers and frost-free winters they can be perennial. For this reason, nasturtiums can be a real indicator of your climate – as a winter annual, a summer annual, or even a perennial. They germinate and grow so easily they can become weeds, but will only do so when the climate suits them.

The flowers are often included in edible flower mixes, but they do also have a peppery flavour, even if not as strong as the leaves. They are great in salads (or stuffed with tzatziki!) but not always a good option for desserts. Young leaves are also good in salads, but older leaves are better cooked gently in stir fries etc as this will reduce the peppery flavour. The unripe seeds can be collected and eaten fresh, or pickled to make a caper substitute.

Nasturtiums have many medicinal uses. They are high in vitamin C and antioxidants—good for general immune support, and especially respiratory complaints. Possibly their greatest medicinal benefit is their use as a powerful natural antibiotic. Eating three or four leaves per day will give good immune support, but ten leaves per day is more therapeutic if you are ill. This is a fast absorbing antibiotic which does not disrupt the gut flora.

The flowers are the highest plant source of lutein (associated with the yellow/orange colour, which also indicates the presence of vitamin A, and that the health benefits are better absorbed in the presence of small amounts of fats). The seeds can be crushed to make a strong anti-fungal poultice, which also is very beneficial for drawing out boils and splinters.

Nasturtiums also have benefits for wildlife in the garden. Bees love them, as do the cabbage white butterflies - the same ones that brassicas. attack Grow the nasturtiums away from brassicas and allow them to act as a decoy for these butterflies, which are a delight to have around if you are not trying to keep them off your cabbages.



Kate Wall, Consulting Gardener

Pawpaw Problems

Hi. I raised the topic of my sad pawpaw trees a few months ago. Despite all my efforts, the situation has deteriorated. I refer to the images below. Looks like the compost pile for the lot... Regards, Robert.



Hi Robert, yes your papayas do look a bit sad right now. In my humble opinion, however, all of them (including the saddest short one) can be rescued.

It looks like you have done an excellent job in adding plenty of organic material and manure. However, I suspect that your soil is very poor below the surface, and/or the roots have competition from nearby large trees.

Whatever the reason, my suggestions are the same:

1. Remove the small fruits and use them as green paw paws shredded in salads—they are taking up energy, and even if they ripened they wouldn't taste very nice.

2. Add a generous layer of organic sugarcane mulch (around 10cm) to retain moisture and control temperature fluctuations.

3. Each week for the next six weeks, water each plant (from above and over the leaves) with one bucket of seaweed and fish fertiliser. Follow the mixing instructions on the pack about ratios, as often they are sold already mixed. Individually bought and mixed by yourself usually works out cheaper.

From November onward, fertilise monthly (only while it's warm, to around April) with a shovelful of home-made compost or a handful of fruit fertiliser per tree. Keep the levels of mulch high, especially during winter.

The only other thing I would personally do would be to establish a compost bin in-between your papayas (as an ongoing fertiliser and for worm activity, which will greatly improve that area of your garden). Interplant your trees with about six pigeon peas trees (two either side of each papaya) to break up your soil and inject oxygen deep down. If you don't already have them growing in your yard, you can get pigeon peas seeds for \$1 from our seed bank at the next ROGI meeting.

Happy Gardening! Gennaro de Rosa

For more tips on how to look after your pawpaw, please go to Plant Clinic on page 15.

Jaboticaba Plinia cauliflora

The small space needed to grow the jaboticaba, their ease of care, pest resilience and compact growth make them a great tree to incorporate more edible, unusual and hardy plants into the start of a food forest, or even used as a fruiting hedge.

This Brazilian tropical tree is covered in coppery coloured new growth, and has beautiful honey scented massed flowers followed by massive quantities of purple fruit. The jaboticaba in full bloom is an example of *cauliflory*—a botanical term referring to plants that flower and fruit direct from their main stems or woody trunks, rather than from new growth and shoots. The fruit is likened to a grape, with its sweet aromatic taste intensifying the longer it's left on the tree. The flesh is white and seeded. The flavour and deep red colour make it popular when making jams and jellies, desserts and even liqueur. After harvest, the fruit can be kept frozen. Once mature, the fruit must be picked daily during a short harvest time.

The tree takes a very small amount of space and can also be grown in a large pot. Vertical growth is very slow, and with the right pruning, can be cut into more of a shrub, to save space. petition you'll have for the fruit is the bird population—picking ripe fruit early in the day seems to work. Jaboticaba often fruits up to three times per year, with time from flowering to fruit being ready to eat only 30 days. They can be known to get a little myrtle rust on the fruit at times, but that doesn't harm the fruit.

The jaboticaba is a tropical plant, relatively hardy when it comes to different kinds of soils. It needs a little shade to begin, but, if planted in full sun, will eventually adjust and become sun tough.

As my jaboticaba tree is very bushy with lots of small leaf greenery, it is often difficult to get among the tree branches to pick the fruit easily, and although it usually bears a lot of fruit, it was often small. After watching a video, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=PaFH9SvXMdI&feature=youtu.be</u> I decided to try pruning away much of the small leafy branches and growth to expose the trunk and allow sunlight to hit the caulis (trunk and main branches).

Also, I have twice (over 25+ years) taken the top half of the tree down to keep the picking height within reach. The result has been an easier tree to harvest from, and larger, individual fruits. I have also observed that I get a flush of flowers after a heavier than usual rain event. Margaret Sear

They grow to around 5 metres high, and could eventually make it to about 15 metres in good conditions.

There's no need for pest control, as the fruit has a leathery skin that protects it from insects (while you can eat the skin along with the fruit, many do not prefer to, as it's very astringent and has a high tannin content). The only real com-



Before pruning



After pruning, early Sept '19



Flowers of the jaboticaba



Plenty of fruit!

Blueberries

A few years ago, with a tray or so of blueberries coming into the home whenever they were available, we decided to grow our own. Advice from the nursery was that they were selfpollinating, but that the fruit would improve if planted with other varieties. Accordingly, we purchased one high bush variety and one low bush, which we re-potted into a good quality commercial azalea potting mix.

Shortly after, we purchased the variety *Blueberry Burst*. It came with detailed instructions to the effect that they should be planted out in 50% pine bark(10-25mm) and 50% good quality azalea potting mix, and then mulched with pine bark. On the advice of the nursery we ignored the instructions and planted it in the same mix as the other two.

All three performed reasonably, but not being satisfied I had a mix specially formulated locally to repot them for the next season. When I received the mix, the pH was correct, but I didn't realise that far too much sulphur had been added. During that season I lost one and almost lost another. Only the *Blueberry Burst* survived unscathed. In the interim we had purchased another two *Blueberry Bursts*.

Last year was not a good year as the yield was not great, and what was produced was eaten by noisy miners. This year has been a different story, with a wonderful crop without any loss to the birds.

Plants were re-potted in large pots using 50% pine bark and 50% good quality azalea potting mix, after receiving a good cutting back. They were fertilised every three months with a slow release organic fertiliser. They also received ½ teaspoon potassium sulphate each month and ½ teaspoon super phosphate twice a year. Once they flowered, they were sprayed with a seaweed solution every week or so. Finally, they were positioned against our back fence and covered with bird netting

The cage enclosing them is made of hardwood garden stakes, secured in the corners by *build-a-frame* brackets from

Green Harvest, and attached to the fence by a variety of brackets that are available from any hardware store. The netting has sinkers on the bottom to keep it taut. This allows us to lift the netting to pick the fruit, fertilise and water. A word of warning-good quality, smooth garden stakes are difficult to find! If you intend to use long garden stakes, keep them tied together until they are completely dried out before opening the pack and chamfering the edges.



Garry Bromham



Garry's blueberries growing in a sunny position and covered by wire netting over a purpose-built cage to protect from birds.

Plant Clinic (Managed and reported by Rohanne Young)

We had a busy month in Plant Clinic this month, with questions about what was causing distorted leaves on a sambung plant, when to prune a mango tree, two plants to identify and a follow up on how to save a pawpaw tree!

1. Distorted Leaves on sambung:

Shanthie asked about his sambung plant. The leaves were curling, and new leaves in particular were distorted in shape. After consulting with Linda, we determined that the plant was infected with mites. All mites love the warm, dry weather we have been having lately! There was no webbing, as found with red spider mite infestation, so we determined that it was mostly likely broad mite. Broad



Infected Sambung Leaves

mites are so tiny they're impossible to see with the naked eye. They act by injecting a toxic growth hormone into the plant that slows and distorts the plants growth. The edges of affected leaves turn up, as if your plant is suffering from heat stress. Eventually, the leaves will turn yellow and then die. Untreated, broad mites can kill your plant, as well as infecting other nearby plants, so treatment is imperative. Start by misting your plants with water regularly. This is best done late in the afternoon/evening. The mites hate being in a moist environment. Spraying the infected plant with Eco Oil will also help control broad mite, as it will smother the mites. Make sure that you spray late in the evening and ensure that you spray both the top of the leaves and under the leaves and stems. Take care to use Eco Oil (not just pest oil), as Eco Oil contains a compound that attracts beneficial insects and lets them know that tasty snacks are available on a nearby plant!

2. Plant Identification: Robert bought along the leaves and a bean pod from a plant that he wanted identified. Linda Barrett immediately identified the plant as a carob, and was very envious that Robert has managed to get fruit from the carob tree. The tree is currently about 2 metres high, but carob trees can reach up to 10 metres in height. Carob trees generally require both a male and a female tree to be present if you want to get carob pods, although a bisexual variant is now available. The fruit pods are dark brown, about 15 to 30 cm long and about 2.5 cm wide. They contain a sweet, chocolate tasting pulp and several bean-like seeds. The sugar content of the pods can be as high as 50% and they make a great, caffeine-free chocolate substitute. The beans can be dried and processed into a flour. Carob trees grow well in any soil type except heavy clay, and actually like poor soils, which Robert was very happy to hear! They are very drought resistant once established.





Carob leaves & bean pod

Dog Collar

TIP OF THE MONTH—Linda Barrett provided a great tip about protecting banana stems or bunches from attack by rats or possums. Beg, borrow or buy an old buster collar (see photo) used by vets to prevent pets from licking wounds after surgery. Fasten the buster collar firmly around the top of the banana stem. The solid plastic is slippery so the rats and possums can't get down to attack the fruit.

Plant Clinic (continued)

3. **Pruning mango trees:** A member wanted to know when the best time was to prune a mango tree. The tree is looking a bit untidy, possibly as a result of being attacked by the Anthracnose virus, which has been widespread this year due to the rain we had in late autumn. September is not the best time to prune mango trees, as you will be pruning off potential flowering branches and decrease your mango crop. Mango trees produce their fruit on mature wood, and are best pruned immediately after they have finished bearing fruit. Any significant pruning should definitely be completed by the end of December. A second, light pruning can be undertaken in May to shape the tree. Pruning tends to stimulate mango trees to develop vigorous leaf growth. If trees are cut back too heavily or at the wrong time, they may not fruit for two to three years.



Mango tree in flower

Tomato for identification

4. **Tomato Identification:** Jean provided a photo of a heavily ribbed tomato that was growing in her garden, and she wanted to know the variety. After searching the internet, and Janet consulting her tomato guide, it was determined that the tomato is likely to be a variety called *Constoluto Genovese*. It is described as an old heirloom tomato that is a must-have for all cooks! The tomato has a deeply ribbed outer with a meaty texture. It is ideal for preserving and sauces, or just enjoy it sliced and eaten fresh.

5. Pawpaw Tips:

If your pawpaw tree is looking poorly, you first need to check that the plant is not diseased. They are susceptible to a number of viral and fungal infections, including mosaic virus, powdery mildew and pawpaw ringspot. Some of these are untreatable, and affected plants must be destroyed. Once you have eliminated soil deficiencies (eg. boron deficiency, which can be a problem in the Redlands), follow the instructions outlined by Gennaro on page 11.

Pawpaw trees often respond well to cutting the stem back, which encourages it to branch out and grow fresh unaffected leaves below the cut. When doing this, I have always believed that you need to place a small pot or bucket over the cut stem to prevent water entering the hollow and causing the tree to rot out. However, DPI advise that if you cut the trunk at a position where the leaf scars are close together, this place will be more solid and less likely to allow rainwater into the hollow to cause rotting.

Having eliminated the possibility of disease, if your pawpaw is looking poorly it can usually be boosted by giving it a molasses treatment. Mix 3-4 tablespoons of molasses in a bucket of warm water and water around the tree/s with this. Molasses is high in iron, calcium, magnesium and potassium, as well as containing sulphur and a host of micronutrients. Using molasses provides plants with a quick source of energy and encourages the growth of beneficial microorganisms.



Pawpaw leaves before (left) and after (right) molasses treatment.





Green Heart Fair, Carindale—08/09/19

Wow, what a wonderful event for ROGI! Each year the Brisbane City Council Green Heart Fair seems to get bigger and better with its focus on sustainable living. There were crowds of people visiting, enjoying the atmosphere and learning from the many groups and organisations represented. We were given a large space among the community groups and set up our three gazebos and tables, seedlings and plants, seed sales and potting up area. Our stand looked amazing and inviting as usual. We had 25 wonderful ROGI volunteers helping across the weekend (8 also helping set up on Saturday) and they really did a great job promoting ROGI-enthusiastically chatting about growing your own healthy, nutrient dense foods, and helping to sell the many fabulous plants. The potting area had five seed-raising mix trays and four paper pot-makers in action all day, non-stop from 8am till 2pm, and we must have helped pot up hundreds of seedlings for our visitors to take home and grow on. This is always a very popular area of our stand. Gennaro spent the day talking rare and unusual plants, fruits and vegetables and sharing his samples, while Janet and the rest of the team talked up the plants, seeds and sprouts. Russell, Terry and Oaklands Street Community Garden also joined in the fun and sold many of their flowering plants and conserves left from their recent open day event.

Thank you everyone who came along to help and support ROGI, it was very much appreciated. We made over \$1000.00 as a bonus.











Maraaret Sear



Welcome Back Shorebirds—21/09/19



ROGI joined 16 local community groups at the annual *Welcome Back Shorebirds* event at GJ Walter Park, Cleveland, on the shores of Moreton Bay recently for the first time. Hundreds of people visited our display to find out about the benefits of ROGI membership, and to collect a free organic plant.

A big thank you to Ruth Bolomey and Margaret Sear for organising. Members staffing the display were pleased



with their reception from the community, and believe it was very worthwhile in terms of community outreach. It offered a great opportunity to talk about organic gardening and sustainable practices in general, and promote membership.

Welcome Back Shorebirds is held every September to remind locals that migratory birds are arriving from Alaska and Siberia, having flown 12,000 miles in one go. They rely on the feeding grounds of the internationally protected wetlands of Moreton Bay, coming back to the exact same spots every year to replenish themselves after their journey and to feed up for their long trip back to the Northern Hemisphere. Shorebirds species are the most threatened in the world, as their habitats are lost to development.

Visitors were able to see 14 different species of shorebirds through high powered scopes, including the critically endangered eastern curlew. They also met Millie Formby, a zoologist and aviator





who is planning an epic trip in an ultralight along the Australian migratory bird flyway in 2021. A 300 strong 'flock' of

bird models were also painted brightly and displayed on the foreshore - and will be displayed at future events. The event also focussed attention on a proposed \$1.4 billion mega development at Toondah Harbour, that will build 3,600 units for up to 10,000 people in high rises on 100 acres of reclaimed land in a large area in the Bay stretching from the current Cleveland ferry terminal to GJ Walter Park. This area, and Moreton Bay, is internationally protected under the RAMSAR agreement signed by our federal government. It is also home to a healthy colony of koalas that use the foreshore area extensively should the development go ahead.

The event was organised by Redlands2030 Inc and BirdLife Australia. For more information go to https://redlands2030.net/ or its Facebook page. Kathy Petrik

Water-wise Workshop—22/09/19

ROGI held a water-wise planting workshop at the newly rebuilt Cleveland Scouts Hall, Ormiston, resulting in a brand new native garden in time for the official opening by the Governor in October. It was a great community effort—with an excellent attendance of about 15 young people and adults from the scouting community, and another eight ROGI members taking part. Planning and planting choice for the workshop was directed by Chris McIvor, with assistance from Julia Geljon. Cleveland Scouts have thanked ROGI for the new garden and the knowledge their community gained from ROGI.

It wouldn't have been possible to hold this workshop without support of various community minded local businesses—Bunnings, Ibrox Wholesale Plant Nursery and Colonial Landscapes, who donated plants, vouchers or soil. Financial contributions from ROGI and the Cleveland Scouts were also greatly appreciated.

Water-wise gardening is a way of drought proofing your garden:

- Native plants generally need less fertiliser and water
- Thirstier plants are placed at the bottom of a slope
- Mulch is used to reduce evaporation, retain moisture, protect plant roots and limit weed growth

Plants need training to be water-wise:

- Give them occasional deep watering only
- Direct water only around plant roots
- Water during the cooler parts of the day

A design for the garden and plants were chosen according to:

- Sun/shade requirements
- Size at maturity
- Colour/foliage
- General look (for the best view)

Tasks for the afternoon included shifting 6m³ of soil to contour the site, digging up blue flax lilies (*Dianella*) to divide and replant along the edge of the billy cart track, and clearing the area of leaves and sticks. Holes were dug, filled with water, and water crystals added. Planting of shrubs and trees was achieved in record time. Once planted and watered, natural leaf mulch collected from the grounds



was spread around. As a final touch, some thick fallen branches were placed along the edge of the billy cart track. When you are next passing the new Cleveland scout hall or shopping at Ormiston organic market (every Thurs 2-6pm), have a look and see what active community participation can achieve in one short afternoon.

Julia Geljon

Sustainably ROGI

SINGLE USE PLASTICS: Remember to choose to refuse!

- ⇒ Think about those single use plastics you can substitute with another sustainable product—toothbrushes, cotton buds, razors, soap and shampoo containers, bottled water, straws, plastic cutlery and plates, Styrofoam to-go containers, take away coffee cups and stirrers, , six-pack rings, plastic wrap and plastic tape.
- ⇒ Instead use paper and stainless steel straws, reusable drink bottles and cups, canvas or reusable fabric bags, glass and metal containers, wax paper, foil, silicone or wax wrap, metal cutlery and reusable plates, bamboo toothbrushes, swabs with paper or bamboo stems, masking tape etc.
- ⇒ Take your own shopping bags/boxes when shopping—or just pack straight into the trolley. Keep a couple of bags in your bag or in sight in the car, so you can grab them as needed.
- ⇒ Take your own containers, jars, food-grade boxes and fabric produce bags when buying fruit, vegetables, meat and bread products. Shops are happily accepting these now and will zero tare your containers before filling.
- ⇒ Use containers, produce bags and wax wraps to cover and keep foods in the fridge for storage or reuse. Food can be frozen in glass jars, just leave an expansion gap at the top.
- ⇒ Compost your food and vege scraps—have a container on the bench and then put in your compost bin, trench compost, worm farm or worm tower. This gets rid of most wet kitchen products. Check: <u>https://sharewaste.com/share-waste</u> or your phone app if you are unable to compost. There are sites close by that want your kitchen waste, as will most community gardens.
- ⇒ Save all unavoidable soft plastics (washed if necessary and dried). Take to 'REDcycle' bins at Coles and Woolworths. Soft plastic potting mix, mulch and fertiliser bags are also accepted. Check out their website: <u>https://www.redcycle.net.au/</u>

- ⇒ Bread tags (if you still buy plastic-wrapped bread) can be recycled into wheelchair components. We'll collect these at ROGI and distribute.
- ⇒ Soft plastic lids, such as milk, cream, water bottles, soft drink and tetrapak lids. These must be stamped with the recycle symbol 2 or 4 only. Wash thoroughly and dry before bringing them to ROGI. We'll distribute to Lids4Kids and Envision Hands where they'll be melted into plastic thread and used to 3Dprint parts for prosthetic hands for children.
- ⇒ Any other recycled symbol number should be added to the recycling bin. Hard plastic lids not numbered go in the landfill bin. The plastic ring, white plastic inner lid seal and all other plastics cannot be collected at this point in time.
- ⇒ If you need to line a bin or compost bucket, use newspaper or magazine pages rather than plastic bags. Inks are environmentally compostable these days. Most of the so-called compostable or biodegradable bags still do not readily decompose in normal compost environments, but require specific conditions to break down. Going into landfill they continue to act like normal plastics or break down into microplastic particles or chemical components, causing even more problems.

These are just a few hints to get you started, or strengthen your resolve. Why not check out your ecological footprint at http://ecologicalfootprint.com/. It is a measure of human impact on the Earth's ecosystem. At present, it is estimated that we require two-three Earths to sustain us as a planet—and we know there is only one Earth! More hints next month. Happy sustainable gardening!

DON'T FORGET to bring your BREAD TAGS and SOFT PLASTIC LIDS such as milk, cream, water bottles, soft drink and tetra Pak lids to our next ROGI meeting. They'll be distributed and recycled into worthwhile products, such as wheelchair components and plastic thread used to 3D print parts for prosthetic hands for children.

Book Review



Garden Pests, Diseases & Good Bugs By Denis Crawford

This book is brand new to the ROGI library. To do a research trial on it, I decided to find out what the annoying critter is that's on my strawberries. So I looked on page 20 under 'Fruits' and easily found 'Strawberry'. There are 17 pests listed – I knew it wasn't a beetle or a weevil or a budworm and so on. By a process of elimination I settled on Rutherglen Bug. I'm sure

you're all fairly familiar with it as well.

I was directed to page 174, where the overview says it's a native sap-sucking insect found all over Australia. They're swarming us at the moment because their usual native grasses and weeds have dried off. Apparently the swarming adults are looking for mates and a feed of nectar, and do little damage to most plants. (I have found that I can blow them off quite easily.)

This is followed by the headings: Description; Target plants (this also says which plants they breed in and feed on); Damage; Life cycle; Prevention; Natural enemies; and Control.

All the pests are covered in a similar fashion. It's logical, which makes it easy to use.

Then there are the Diseases, Disorders and Deficiencies. As before, there is an overview and the headings: Conditions; Susceptible plants; Symptoms; Prevention; and Control.

Once, a book like this would have leapt straight from the problem to the chemical solution for the problem – using one of the '-icides'.

Not here. Crawford has included a large section on Beneficial Organisms – the Parasites, Predators and Pollinators. This covers an organism's name, what it attacks, what it looks like, its life cycle and behaviour information, and what to do to make the most of it. Nature is cruel – just read the sections on parasites and predators. At the outset, he discusses his philosophy regarding his garden and the myriad life forms it contains. He only waters by hand; this is so he can monitor everything and 'nip problems in the bud' so to speak. Prevention comes before Control, always (except in the dictionary).

Yes, there is a section on Pesticides. It's at the end, and it's very short – just 15 pages in a 446 page book.

There are wonderful clear photographs . . . lots of them. Of course, this isn't the sort of book you sit down and read from cover to cover. I would think that you will borrow it from our library, realise how invaluable it is, and then buy your own copy. Borrow it, and see what you think. I'm buying one now.

Reviewed by Jill Nixon

We welcome reviews from readers of ROGI library books you've read. Please tell the newsletter editor or our librarian that you are doing a review, and email it to <u>info@rogi.com.au</u>.

SEED SAVERS NEWS

Learn about **wet/moist seed saving** at the next Seed Saver's meeting. **All ROGI members are welcome.** You will receive expert tuition from ROGI member and *Ecobotanica* organic garden consultant Linda Brennan.

Meetings are held at Linda's house in Capalaba. Join us at the next meeting on **Tuesday**, **15 October at 7pm**. See Janet at the plant table if you have not registered to attend—more details will be sent by email closer to the date.

Learning how to save seed from cucumber at a Seed Savers meeting in 2018.



Garden Events October & November	Basilea Farm Propagation Workshop	
Spring Brisbane Garden & Plant Expo Saturday 5 October 9am—4pm Sunday 6 October 9am—2pm Brookfield Showgrounds, Brookfield	133-135 Hawthorn Road, Burpengary Cost: \$72.00 (tickets from Eventbrite) (Maximum 12 people)	
 Entry: \$10-00 Adult, \$8-00 Concession (card) Free entry for children under 15 Celebrate spring in Brisbane with the family and create, grow and enjoy your garden. Organic gardening practices Environmental awareness Plants, products and produce Gardening inspiration 	Learn the principles of how herbs grow and their propagation techniques, which will equip you with the skills to make the most of the herbs you already have growing in your home garden. Sarah will also cover seed storing, collecting and germination.	
	The workshop includes morning tea and herbal refreshments. Take home lots of herb cuttings propagated by you. Time will be given at the end of the workshop for a private walk around the farm for those who wish to purchase plants.	
 Guest speakers Children's activities Parking fees donated to a local community group. For more information: <u>https://plantexpo.com.au/</u> 	Harvest Share—Bethania Street Community Garden Lota Street, Bethania Sunday 27 October—2.30 to 4.00pm GOLD COIN DONATION - NO BOOKING REQUIRED	
Qld Orchid Society Inc. Spring Orchid Show Sat 13 Oct 8.30am—3.30pm, Sun14 Oct 8.30am—3.00 pm Belmont Shooting Complex, 1485 Old Cleveland Road, Belmont Entry: \$4.00 Beautiful flowering orchids on display. Plants for sale with excellent	Celebrate and share the bounty from your garden and kitchen. Bring along herbs, fruit, vegetables, seedlings, jams, home baked goods, eggs (dated please) and enjoy swapping with other gar- deners over a cuppa - or just come along. This is a community event so please bring your friends, relatives and neighbours.	
variety of species and hybrids. Plant minding area. Floral art for sale. Orchid accessories on sale. Potting demonstrations. Light re- freshments available. Supporting Queensland Children's Hospital.	Bromeliad & Tropical Spring Show & Sale Presented by the Bromeliad Society of Qld Saturday 2 Nov—8am to 4pm, Sunday 3 Nov—9am to 1pm Belmont Shooting Complex, 1485 Old Cleveland Road, Belmont Entry: \$4-00 Display and show of competition plants. Thousands of bromeliads and other tropical plants for sale. Free advice from growers. Book sales and refreshments, monster raffle.	
Buderim Garden Festival Friday 18 October—Sunday 20 October \$15-00 weekend ticket (entry to open gardens and flower show) \$2-00 entry to flower show only (in Buderim War Memorial Hall)		
For more details go to: <u>https://www.buderimgardenclub.com/festival</u>		

Seed Bank Info

Please return seedling pots and punnets to the seed bank so that they can be reused -especially the 4-cell ones like these.





Also other clean used pots (small sizes up to120mm diameter). Square pots are good too.

Bigger pots, such as those you get through ROGI Rewards can be put on the swap/ share/giveaway table in the foyer.

ROGI is a beneficiary of the My IGA Card Program for **Cleveland IGA** store. This is how it works:

October

Asparagus

Beetroot

Carrot

Cucumber

Eggplant

Ginger

Lettuce

Pumpkin

Radish

Rocket

Rosella

Sauash

Tomato

Zucchini

20March%202017.pdf

Rockmelon

Silver beet

Sweet corn

Sweet potato

Watermelon

Okra

Beans: French, Snake

Capsicum/Chilli

- Get a My IGA Card at the Cleveland 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, but you also help to raise funds for ROGI, which we use to benefit our members.

The Seed Sowing guide (right) is for sowing seeds, not Keep in mind that these are only guides. Be aware that micro-climates and seedlings. There may be several days or even weeks weather conditions may mean that certain seeds may be sown before or after between the optimal time to sow a seed and to trans- the recommended times. ROGI Seed Bank is available at all ROGI meetings plant a seedling. and Garden Visits. \$1 per pack for members, \$2 non-members

Seed Sowing Guide

November

Asparagus Beans: Snake, Lab Lab, Pigeon Pea, Madagascar Beetroot Capsicum/Chilli Carrot Choko Cucumber Egaplant Jerusalem Artichoke Lettuce Okra Pumpkin Radish Rockmelon Rosella Silver beet Squash Sweet corn Sweet potato Tomato Watermelon Zucchini For a list of the seed bank stock, please go to: http://www.rogi.com.au/uploads/seed%20bank%20list%

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Meeting Information Garden Visits & Field Trips Please consider contributing to any or all of these at various times: As always, space is limited, so book early. Please see Toni Bowler at the next meeting or phone her on 0402 323 704 or email her at **ROGI Rewards:** Good quality plants and other garden-related events@rogi.com.au to put your garden on the schedule. Toni items brought along by members. Everyone who attends the also welcomes suggestions for field trips and workshops related to meeting (including visitors) are eligible for a ROGI Reward. Please ROGI's organic growing interests. label plant with its name and some details before placing it on the table. FIELD TRIP: Saturday, 5 October—Redlands Research Facility, Cleveland Members' Sales: Items you've produced that are surplus to your requirements that you wish to sell to other members - egas, **GARDEN VISIT:** honey, seedlings, lemons, jam, sustainable craft items - things that Sunday, 13 October—Ann & Mark Roffey, Calamvale have cost you time, money and effort to produce. Please make Originally a garden to attract birds and wildlife (with many native sure items are labelled, named and priced. It is preferable that shrubs and trees), and now extended to include organic fruit you staff the stall yourself or time-share with a friend. trees and vegetables. Close to Karawatha Forest if you want to check out the discovery centre, have a picnic or go for a walk. FREE swap/share/give-away: (Members only) For those items you don't want payment for-FIELD TRIP: empty pots, cuttings, unwanted volunteer plants (named), surplus Saturday, 16 November—Green Harvest at Maleny tour and Witta produce, shredded paper, strawberry runners and so on. You may markets want to work out an arrangement with other members to do some swapping outside of the meetings. NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE— Please send contributions to Remember : bring a bag/box/basket to take everything home. the newsletter editor by the 30/10/19. We'd like to hear from you! For example, send us: A notice that you have something to give away or sell • A story about your garden A handy technique or tip • A photo of an interesting plant A gardening problem solved An article about an unusual plant Anything to do with organic growing A request for items or information A review of a ROGI library book Specific garden or nutrition information Email your contribution to info@rogi.com.au A recipe for home-grown produce Please send your items to the editor and help keep ROGI News topical, interesting, local and relevant.

		Hive Parking for Native Bees	
V. PRESIDENT SECRETARY (Acting) TREASURER COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Jill Nixonpresident@rogi.com.auKathy Petrikpresident@rogi.com.auMargaret Searsecretary@rogi.com.auGreg Lindnertreasurer@rogi.com.auRhonda Binns, Toni Bowler,Ann Roffey, Terry Sullavan	We are always interested in keeping our native stingless bees in other people's backyards. We need new spots for the com- ing season. Here are some requirements: * Suburban acreage	
MEMBERSHIP SECRETAR NEWSLETTER EDITOR PR,COMMUNICATIONS CLUB EVENTS PUBLIC EVENTS LIBRARY SEED BANK SUPPER WEBSITE	OFFICE BEARERSY Rhonda Binnsmembership@rogi.com.auAnn Roffeyinfo@rogi.com.auGail Bruceinfo@rogi.com.auToni Bowlerevents@rogi.com.auRuth Bolomeyevents@rogi.com.auViga Misztallibrary@rogi.com.auSeed Savers Grpseeds@rogi.com.auYou?group@rogi.com.auPal Juvanczpal@pcpals.com.au	 South, east and south-west side of Brisbane and als south of Brisbane along the coast to say Ballina. The site needs to be safe, secure, tamper-proof, shac 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 of you know someone who would be able to help. Some ROC members are already happy hosts to our bees (talk with Ar Roffey or Margaret Sear). We do not pay an agistment fee; the benefit to you is the you enjoy the pollination services provided by our bees. 	
info@rogi.com.au wy PO Box 1257, Clevelan www.facebook.com/g The views expressed in ROGI News and at ROGI meetings are those of the editors and submitters, and quest speakers	ww.rogi.com.au d 4163 groups/redland.organic.growers gardening groups using organic methods: ne Organic Growers Inc (BOGI) — rsday every month (except Jan), Albion Peace 22 McDonald Rd, Windsor, r 7.30pm. 3357 3171 <u>http://bogi.org.au</u> erb Society —1st Tuesday every month, n Peace Hall. 7.30pm. 54268299	Russell and Janine Zabel Keepers of Australian Stingless Native Bees 0404 892139 bees@zabel.com.au www.zabel.com.au	
not necessarily those of Redland Organic Growers Inc	www.qldherbsociety.org.au/qhs nds Street Community Garden—Wednesday ay 9 - noon, Sunday 2- 5pm. Oaklands St, adra Hills. 0419987870	Did you know? You can go online <u>www.rogi.com.au/resources.php</u> and read every edition of ROGI News since September 2014.	