

# ROGI News

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

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

## Don't forget:

- Pay your membership dues (**only fully paid members may attend**)
- **Wear your mask, tap in QR code**
- Observe social distancing
- There will be no supper
- Return washed seedling pots
- Swap and share has resumed
- ROGI Rewards has resumed
- Bring a basket/box/bag for your purchases
- Any questions for Plant Clinic

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Low-chill apple growing at Hilltop Farm in King's Scrub. Read more about our field trip in September to this amazing property, as well as Millen Farm in Samford (pages 8-11). Photo by Margaret Sear.

# Carolyn's Corner

As your new president, I thought I would let you know a little about myself. I joined ROGI late in 2014 and have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to produce food from my little garden. It is exciting when there is over production, and I have given away strawberries, lettuce, tomatoes and spinach to neighbours and family.

I have been growing things for years, but it is since I joined ROGI that I have really seen results. I live in Alexandra Hills, and thanks to ROGI I found out that my poor production wasn't totally my fault. I have clay soil, and have learned how to work around that problem. My garden solution is growing my plants in raised garden beds and large pots.

I participate in ROGI Seed Savers and attend the Biodynamics course run by Rohanne. Last year, I gained a lot of knowledge from the Permaculture Potager course held by ROGI. I am also a regular at Garden Visits and Field trips. By participating I have learned so much, and I am still learning.

That's enough about me - what about the rest of the 2021/2022 ROGI Management Committee? We have a couple of new additions - Diana Yeo as Vice President, and Erin Houselander as PR & Communications Co-ordinator. Continuing as Treasurer is Lara Brits, and as Secretary Lisa Harsley. The rest of the Committee include Membership Secretary Rhonda Binns, Public Events Co-ordinator Jill Nixon and Internal Events Co-ordinator Toni Bowler. There is so much energy and enthusiasm in this group - we are looking forward to planning a fun-filled year for ROGI members.

## **\* I would like to introduce ROGI Vice President Diana Yeo**

Diana is a keen gardener who is relatively new to ROGI. Prior to moving to the Redlands in June 2019, she was actively involved in community gardening in Canberra. When she moved to

Thornlands, she had the opportunity to create a new garden from scratch - from clearing the ground to turning over hard clay soil, wheeling in barrows of soil, compost and mulch, and putting in planting beds that were purpose-built by her handyman husband. Her new garden is slowly filling up with both flowering and edible plants that include some unusual ones like goji berry, Java-nese ginseng, sweet leaf and wasabi. Her eagerness to understand more about gardening in the subtropics, and be part of a larger gardening community to share knowledge, led Diana to join ROGI. Diana loves visiting home gardens, as she believes that there is always something one can learn from them. So, don't be surprised if she asks if she can visit your garden next.

## **\*Introducing Erin Houselander looking after PR & Communications**

Erin Houselander is the new PR & Communications representative for ROGI. Erin is passionate about directing videos and gardening. She spent nine years working overseas (mainly in Singapore) at a video production house as Senior Director, and trying her best to grow food and flowers in the concrete corridor (up 11 stories). Moving back to Australia just over two years ago, Erin has now continued to cultivate her mother's yard. Erin currently works full time at the University of Qld as a Media Producer, crafting stories for Marketing and Research. Erin hopes to make an impact and raise awareness for ROGI with your help.

Spring has sprung and I am enjoying the better growing conditions that come with the warmer weather. It was great to get some well-needed rain to start the new month.

If there is anything you would like to bring to the attention of the ROGI Committee - whether it be new ideas, or a request for a certain speaker or ideas for a field trip, please do not hesitate to contact one of us - our email addresses are advertised on the back of the newsletter, or you can chat to one of us at the next meeting.

Carolyn Lassen,  
ROGI President

## A Message from the Newsletter Editor

Do you enjoy reading the newsletter? Please think about how you can contribute to it. With Covid disruptions and cancelled meetings, it has been difficult in the past few months to find content for our monthly newsletter. I would love you, experienced or not, to contribute in some small way. Here's some ideas:

- A report on a guest speaker, Garden Visit or Field Trip
- 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 handy technique or tip
- A gardening problem solved
- Anything to do with organic growing
- A review of a ROGI library book
- A notice that you have something to give away or sell

The deadline for the November newsletter is **28 October, 2021.**

I would also really appreciate it if someone else could join me as Newsletter Editor - we could do alternate months. This makes good sense in a club of our size (over 200 members) - saving burn-out of members, allowing holidays to be taken, and time off when sick. I am willing to train whoever volunteers over the Christmas break. You would need good typing and English skills. The newsletter is produced in Microsoft Publisher, and this is easy to pick up if you already have experience in Word.

To volunteer or obtain more information, please contact me at [info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au), or ring me on the phone number supplied in the accompanying email.

Ann Roffey  
ROGI Newsletter Editor

## October Meeting

### Better control for fruit flies

Colin Harris will speak about his QUT research which focusses on managing the fruit flies in our yards and neighbourhood. Colin works in collaboration with AgriBio Victoria, and is the first full-time researcher dealing solely with parasitic wasps - the natural enemies of fruit flies.



While we will never be rid of Queensland fruit fly (a protected native species) there are practical ways of controlling them - and without bucket loads of chemicals.

Colin loves his job and interacting with his audience, so come along and enjoy his fascinating show-and-tell presentation, where you can experience live insect specimens - if you're game enough!

*As usual at our meetings you're welcome to bring your gardening problems to the Plant Clinic, and we'll see if someone can help (see page 18 for more details).*

*The usual attractions will be there - the well-stocked library and the Seed Bank. Plus for sale are organic gardening inputs, local honey and more. You may bring something gardening-related for the 'swap/share' table.*

**This meeting is not open to visitors. Entry free for ROGI members.**

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

**IMPORTANT! To ensure that we comply with COVID-19 regulations and our COVID-safe plan, everyone MUST sign in at the door before entering, tap their QR code and wear a mask.**

**There will be no drinks or supper.**



## Coming Events

OCTOBER	<b>Thurs 14</b>	<b>ROGI Meeting</b>
	<b>Sun 17</b>	<b>Garden Visit</b> (see p. 16)
NOVEMBER	<b>Thurs 11</b>	<b>ROGI Meeting</b>
	<b>Wed 17</b>	<b>Seed Savers Group</b> (see p. 14)
	<b>Sun 21</b>	<b>Garden Visit</b> (see p. 16)
DECEMBER	<b>Thurs 9</b>	<b>ROGI Christmas Meeting</b>

## Membership Information

- Direct Deposit** to BSB 633 000, Account Number 136 137 296  
Bendigo Community Bank Victoria Point  
Bendigo Community Bank Wynnum-Manly  
N.B. Reference: Please include deposit ID: YOUR NAME MEMB
- Cheques** made payable to:  
Redland Organic Growers Inc.  
Pay at meeting or by post to:  
Redland Organic Growers Incorporated  
PO Box 1257, Cleveland. Qld. 4163.

Member Category	Members Renewing For 2021	New member/s joining in...			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct 21-Dec 22
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

## Vale Karin Blowers

We are very sad to inform you that ROGI member Karin Blowers passed away on Thursday 23 September at Ipswich Hospital at 11.15pm, after suffering a massive stroke.

Fortunately she had been staying with friends at Gatton when it happened, and was taken directly to hospital.

Karin enjoyed ROGI meetings very much, and attended many Garden Visits and Field Trips over the years. For those that knew her well, it would be wonderful if you could relay this message to any of her friends you might know, as her mobile phone is locked and her contacts can't be accessed



Karin Blowers in December 2019 ... getting into the Christmas spirit.



## Congratulations Rhonda!

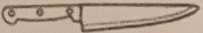
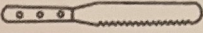
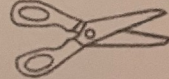
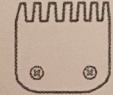

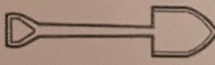


Many of you might not know, but Rhonda Binns was a founding ROGI member, and has been Membership Secretary since September 2016. She greets members at each meeting, attends committee meetings and compiles up-to-date membership lists each month. It's a time-consuming job, but she's done it without complaint. Congratulations on your lifetime membership, and thank you Rhonda!

ROGI members who attended the September meeting were able to get a tool sharpened for free. Many favourable comments have been made about Shannon's expert tool sharpening ... if you weren't able to attend, and need to get a tool sharpened, here are his details:



**0436 193 700**  
[www.poutsharpening.com.au](http://www.poutsharpening.com.au)  
 facebook, instagram /poutsharpening  
[poutsharpening@gmail.com](mailto:poutsharpening@gmail.com)

 <b>STRAIGHT KNIVES</b> \$5 - \$8	 <b>SERRATED KNIVES</b> \$9
 <b>SCISSORS</b> Craft, Dressmaker, General, Kitchen \$8 Grooming Animal \$10 - \$20 Hairdressing \$20 - \$30	 <b>CLIPPER BLADES</b> A5 Size \$11 Large Animal \$14
 <b>TOOLS</b> Chisels \$5 - \$8 Hand Planes \$5 - \$10 Wood Working \$5 - \$15 Circular Saw Blades 30cent per tooth	 <b>GARDEN TOOLS</b> Secateurs/Hand Pruners \$8 Garden Shears \$10 Axe, Tomahawk, Shovel, Mattocks and Hoes \$10 - \$15 Machetes \$15 Chainsaw \$15 - \$20

**POUT SHARPENING PTY LTD**



### Parasitic Wasps Hatching

Jill Nixon cut the relevant parts of each leaf (kale and broccoli) and kept them under cover. She'll leave some of the brassicas in the ground as long as possible, so the wasps will hang around - ready for an early start next year (hopefully!)



### Bamboo toothbrushes

Use spent toothbrushes for plant labels. Saw off tops. Put rounded end in the ground. Write on them with 6B pencil.



## September Meeting - Gennaro De Rosa

### Edibles that Thrive in our Summer

Passionate local gardener Gennaro De Rosa showcased some of the best hardy edible plants that will not just survive, but thrive in our hot and humid summers. He also gave us information about how to look after them and how to use them.

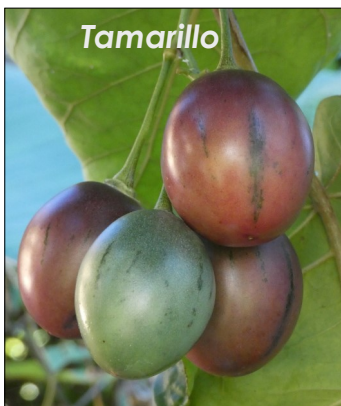
Early spring is the best time of the year to prepare for an ongoing harvest of healthy home grown produce. We should all be aware that there are many alternatives to what is grown in subtropical climatic conditions. As Jill very eloquently outlined in our latest newsletter, we should all work with nature, not against it!

The plants I am about to mention are generally easy to source, easy to grow, and give a fairly quick return. They are mostly not suited to large scale commercial farming, and because of that you will not usually find them in your local supermarket.

**Fruits:** Papaya, Jaboticaba, Tamarillo, Acerola, Guisaro (fruit fly resistant), Fejoas or other Guavas, Cape Gooseberry, Pitayas (dragon fruit, all types), Bananas, Passionfruit, Mulberry, Figs and don't forget to plant the humble Choko (if you have the space), Jackfruit, Custard Apple, Soursop, Wampi/Wampee, Garcinia Dulcis, Mango and (shade loving) Monstera Deliciosa.



Jaboticaba



Tamarillo



Jackfruit



Malabar spinach



Brazilian spinach



Betel Leaf



Elephant Foot Yam



Okinawa spinach



Mushroom plant



Kang Kong

**Leaves:** Spinaches including Sambung, Okinawa, Basella alba/rubra (Malabar), Brazilian, and Surinam, Warrigal greens, Mushroom plant and Ipomea Aquatica (Kang Kong). Shade loving leaves and tubers include Betel Leaf and Elephant Foot Yam.



## September Meeting - Gennaro De Rosa (continued)

**Curcubits:** Tromboncino, Cucumber, New Guinea Bean, Mouse Melon, Piel de Sapo, Pumpkins, Angled Loofah, and Spaghetti Squash.



Angled Loofah



Mouse melon



New Guinea bean

**Hibiscus family:**  
Aibika, Rosella, Okra, Cranberry hibiscus.



Rosella



Okra

**Beans:** Snake bean, Winged bean, Madagascar bean (harvest from the second year), Sword bean, Lab Lab and Pigeon peas.



Pigeon pea



Water chestnut



Sword bean

**Below ground:** Ginger, Turmeric, Galangal, Krachai, Water chestnut, Arrowroot, Yacon, Jicama, Cassava, Sweet Potato, Yams.



Turmeric



Cassava

**Other:**

Corn (in large blocks), cherry tomatoes, as well as Tropic and Scorpio Tomatoes.

Photos by:  
Diana Yeo, Ann Roffey  
and Jill Nixon



## Field Trip - Millen Farm

Report and photos by Margaret Sear



Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September saw 15 ROGI members travel to Samford Valley to “Millen Farm” and “the Mini Farm Project”. This farm is leased from and located on the old CSIRO site. It is a not-for-profit, community-based social enterprise developed over the past four years. CEO and instiga-

tor of the project, Nick, explained that the farmland is split across the two projects. Millen Farm produces 80% of the vegetable crops and sells them for profit through local restaurants, vendor sales and online orders. Profits from these sales fund “the Mini Farm Project” in which the produce is grown for charity. The aim of this project is to find urban land to grow food for charity. The main charities that benefit at present are Meals on Wheels, Food Connect and Oz Harvest. All produce grown for charity is donated free of charge. The goal is to reduce food insecurity by 80% and reduce the carbon footprint.

The project is supported by a stakeholder panel with Rotary, interested private investors and councils involved. This is more sustainable than relying on intermittent donations. In this way they can integrate different levels of the community and be assured of a consistent and long term ongoing structure. To date they have worked with “Living with dementia program”, USC, additional needs students from schools, University Dietetic students and “Work for dole” workers.

They are growing on  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre and employ a fulltime farmer – Aaron – who is also a permaculture expert, and has been a con-

servation and land management trainer in past years. Volunteers assist with farm labour. They utilise market farming international design and standards, and bed sizes give maximum capacity for space.

The layout has a food forest as the top system and a wildlife ecosystem along the bottom of the farm. There is a native plants eco corridor bioregion close by, maintained by the Queensland Department of Environment. Originally the farm had grass paths between the beds, but they quickly decided to use a tractor to rip the ground. They physically raked out the grass and roots, added cover crops which were mowed and turned in, and employed a tiller to form the beds. The tiller was only used once, and now a push behind hoe is used for the paths only.

As plant canopy covers the soil most of the time, there has been a 50% reduction in weeds. A flame thrower is used on weeds and paths; Dipel, hand squishing, birds/ducks, and beneficial insects for pest control. They tolerate the bad bugs to encourage the good bugs. There is a 30% loss in harvest overall.



Healthy vegetables



Food forest



## Field Trip - Millen Farm (continued)

Seedlings are grown offsite by Rumbalara Nursery. Their high rotation crops such as *Salanova* lettuce and salad mix leaves (harvested every week) are grown at the top. The bottom area has seasonal planting such as tomatoes, capsicum, cucumber, turnip and eggplant. Swales and channels throughout the planting area collect rain runoff, and direct it to beds and holding areas, where it remains and seeps through to crops over time. Water is from a tank and bore, with top-up from mains water if needed. Council has stopped pump access to river water.

The Korean natural farming method is followed. They add microbes gathered from their tree lines, which help produce nutrients that are added to a weed tea. An Agronomist soil test is conducted twice a year, and minerals are added as required. Manure is not used, as it is too high in phosphorus for their needs. They use a spray of seawater at 100 to 1.

To avoid buying minerals in, they make their own weed and bacterial teas. They use an IBC to make compost teas from



Aaron with a harvest of Tokyo Salad Market turnips



Produce available for sale at Millen Farm

weeds and discarded plant material, also adding mycorrhizal fungi. The weed tea takes seven days to dissolve, and is applied through fertigation across the farm. With strong healthy plants they don't need chemical sprays. It's a closed syntropic system. Compost is also used. Plants take what they need, and the soil uses the rest. They are planning to introduce chickens, guinea fowl and aquaponics to their system.

Nick (pictured above right) is currently working with Logan City Council and Griffith University to create a ¼ acre Agro farm, ready to launch in February 2022. They want to create a food security plan across Logan, with council looking for long term connections. They estimate there will be 40,000 people needing food. They are also building a stakeholder panel for Caboolture with Rotary, sports clubs and interested parties in the Moreton Bay area. He is also looking to set up a beneficiary fund to save and work farms from older farmers, who might have no one to pass their farm on to when they retire.

The goal is to have charity farms through to Cairns in five years. Every farm will have one fulltime salaried farmer. Farms will be run independently, but all administration will be done centrally by a salaried operations manager. Fundraising will be undertaken to cover staff salaries.

If you didn't make it to Millen Farm, they have regular open days. It's well worth making the trip to Samford Valley, to see for yourself how a financially and ecologically sustainable urban farming system can offer a helping hand to others who'd like to do something similar.





## Field Trip - Hilltop Farm

*Report and photos by Margaret Sear*

Our second visit was to "Hilltop Farm" in King Scrub, near the township of Dayboro. Colin and Maryanne welcomed us to enjoy our lunch on their cool verandah, with views across the Samford valley. Their five acre property is six years old, and they've built a solar passive eco house with laminated glass, orientated to catch the sun and warmth in winter and stay cooler in summer.

When they bought the property, it was a cow paddock covered in grass, bindi and groundsel. The area around them had many old banana and pineapple farms along the hills. The area is very dry, with no rain in 2019 and only 25ml in the last two months. The soil is volcanic to a reasonable depth before it hits rock.

They have 250,000 litres in water tanks as they are not on town water. The orchard and gardens depend on the rain and some hand watering. They have added 500+ trailer loads of wood chip mulch (mainly black wattle and local tree and leaf), and that is used throughout the orchard to suppress weeds and to hold water in dry weather.



Colin has planted 220 assorted fruit trees, and 80 native bush tucker and exotic nut species including macadamia and bunya nut pine. 10% of the original plantings weren't successful. They can't grow breadfruit or mangosteens or anything you need to pamper!

Pineapples do very well, and they have 600! Among the exotics are a cinnamon tree, naranjilla, Peruvian apples and Inca nut vine. Colin also has several Carbonara Tetragonula native beehives. At the back of the house they have an aquaponics set-up under cover, vegetable beds, banana plants and monstera deliciosa. A solar dryer has been built by Colin for their excess produce from an old fridge. They participate in an edible exchange group for excess produce. Animals include one brown and one white cow, and chooks. Maryanne grows a variety of plants and flowers around the house and across the property including many beautiful roses, hippeastrums, basil, salvias and hoyas. Many of these were bought as rejects from Bunnings and are now thriving.

Hilltop Farm was originally a cow farm. It was amazing to see the transformation that Colin and MaryAnne have made in six years - from paddocks of grass and weeds to an edible paradise!



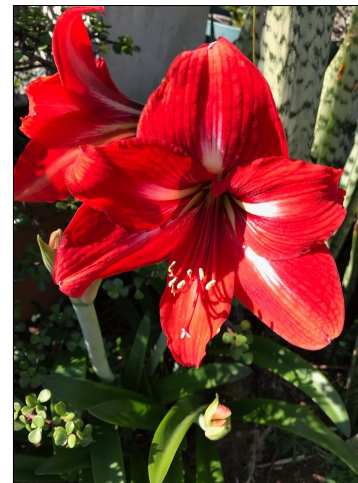
## Field Trip - Hilltop Farm (cont'd)



Peanut tree, *Sterculia quadrifida*. A fast growing, highly ornamental rain-forest tree with edible nuts.  
<https://www.daleysfruit.com.au/bushfood/peanut.htm>



Indoors, Colin has created a living wall with planter pocket system.



One of Maryanne's beautiful hippeastrums



Above: A solar dryer for excess produce made by Colin out of an old fridge!



Pummelo, *Citrus maxima* are the largest of the citrus fruit. It's related to the grapefruit and comes from south-east Asia.



Coffee tree, Arabica. An evergreen shrub which is relatively problem free. In as little as three years the plant will be covered with white jasmine-scented flower clusters, followed by cherry red berries. Available at <https://www.daleysfruit.com.au/buy/coffee-arabica-tree.htm>





## Plant of the Month - Winged Bean

*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*

*Last summer a number of ROGI Seed Savers were tasked with growing winged beans - some to eat, but the best saved for seed for future crops and ROGI members. **These are now available for sale in the ROGI Seed Bank.***

Also known as asparagus, four-angled, goa, or princess bean, the winged bean is a tropical herbaceous legume that is hardy and disease resistant. Plants require shorter days (reducing light) to produce beans. In south-east Queensland, the best time to sow is in November or December.

This vigorous climbing vine grows 3-4 metres, and needs a medium to grow over (eg. trellis, A-frame or fence). To improve germination, rub seeds with sandpaper or soak in hot water until seeds swell. Plant in full sun in well-drained soil, 30-60cm apart. Good moisture is required to do well; it tolerates acidity. As the winged bean is among the world's most effective nitrogen fixers, it does not require added fertiliser (although I prepared the soil with home-made compost before planting).

All parts of the plant (pods, leaves, flowers and tubers) are edible, and can be eaten raw or cooked. Use the pods as you would a green bean. Pick pods early (at about 10cm), as they are best eaten when young and tender. Picking often will encourage more growth.

The young leaves (top three sets of leaflets on a shoot) can be prepared as you would leafy vegetables like spinach. The flowers may also be added to dishes, and can be used to add colour to rice or pastries. Tubers can be used in a similar fashion to potatoes, but are more nutritious. The root contains 20% protein, whilst seeds contain 34% protein and 17% oil.

Bean pods left to mature grow more than 20cm long and develop a round seed - it can be shelled, cooked and eaten, dried for later use or saved for seed.

I can highly recommend growing winged beans. In the past I have struggled to grow any type of bean in summer (yes, even snake beans). It is easy to grow and provides a plentiful harvest.

By Ann Roffey

Sources: <http://greenharvest.com.au/SeedOrganic/VegetableSeeds/Beans.html>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winged\\_bean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winged_bean)

*The bean pods are four-sided and winged, with attractive wavy margins.*



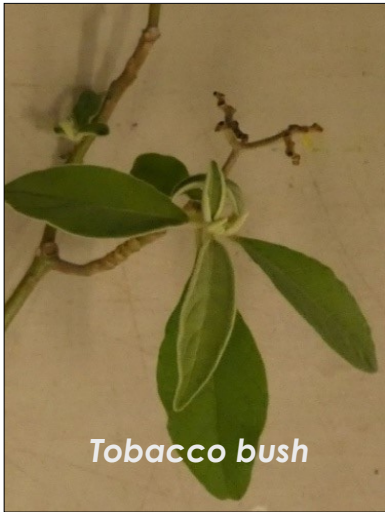
*The pretty mauve-blue flowers of the winged bean reportedly taste like sweetish mushrooms.*



*Just two winged bean plants provided us with beans for about three months last summer. Sulphate of potash was applied to improve flowering.*

## Plant Clinic

We had four queries at the September meeting for Plant Clinic, all from Bill Mellor seeking identification of plants. The Plant Clinic service is carried out by ROGI members. Thanks to Dominic Newland for his assistance this month.



Tobacco bush

1. This plant was identified as Tobacco bush (*Solanum mauritianum*). Tobacco bush can grow to around 4 metres, and has dull yellowish-green leaves that are covered with fine hairs on both sides of the leaf. The plant has purple flower spikes, which develop into an inedible fruit. The fruit and leaves are toxic to livestock and humans. Tobacco bush has been declared a noxious weed in Queensland and NSW. It can reproduce both from leaf and stem cuttings that fall on the ground, as well as from seed. An adult plant can produce up to 200,000

seeds per year! Seeds can remain viable for several years and are easily spread by birds. It's recommended that this plant is removed immediately, taking care to *not* break the stems or leave seeds behind that could germinate. Do not compost or put in the green bin.

2. Identified as the native soap bush (*Alphitonia excels*) is also known as Red Ash or Soap Tree. It is an evergreen tree up to 10m, with small, fragrant cream flowers and glossy green leaves. This is a great tree for native birds. It is also a host plant for many insects including the Green-Banded Blue butterfly, Blue Jewel, Indigo Flash and Fiery Jewel butterflies. Native soap bush is resistant to disease, although insect damage is a problem due to the amount of species that use it as a host plant. It is an excellent tree for supporting a rich, bio-diverse ecosystem in your garden. The

leaves contain saponin, and when mixed with water will create a soapy foam, hence its common name. The leaves also have anti-inflammatory properties and were used by aboriginal peoples to treat insect bites and gastric upsets.

3. Identified as cheese tree or buttonwood tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi*). The name "cheese tree" comes from the way the fruit looks like a pumpkin or a wheel of cheese that has been wrapped and tied with string. Other common names include water gum, button wood and pencil cedar. The tree can grow to 8 metres, and the fruit is loved by many birds including figbirds, king parrots and honeyeaters.

4. Possibly identified as being a star apple tree. This is an attractive tropical tree which is native to the West Indies, where its fruit is popular. The fruit can be purple or green skinned and has an attractive star pattern when cut in half. The flesh is sweet and aromatic.

Rohanne Young  
The Delectable Garden



Native soap bush



Cheese tree



? Star apple tree



## Seed Savers News

After cancelling our meeting in July due to a lockdown, we finally managed to meet in September on a beautiful sunny spring day in Linda Brennan's garden. The topic for discussion was dividing and growing dahlia tubers and yakon setts.

Our next meeting will be held at Linda's house in Capalaba on **Wednesday, 17 November at 9.00am to 10.30am**. Book your spot on TeamApp, or ring Linda on 0416 157 470. If you are unable to attend please cancel prior to the day so someone else can take your spot.

ROGI member and plant grower extraordinaire Janet will teach us how to grow from seed. We'll learn how to prick out and pot up seedlings, and make up her recipe for potting mix.



**FREE SEEDS!** ROGI Seed Savers group has been busy saving seed from various plants. These are donated to the Seed Bank for use by members—for FREE! See the Seed Bank to check out what seeds are available.

*Report by Ann Roffey; Photos by Erin Houselander, Linda Brennan*

### USED POTS NEEDED

Please **return seedling pots (that have been washed)** to the next meeting so that they can be reused, especially the 4-cell ones like these:



Also other clean used pots (small sizes up to 120mm 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.*

## The WeedScan Project



The WeedScan project aims to identify all weeds in Australia by compiling a photographic data base. A national project, it is conducted by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and the NSW Department of Primary Industries. It will then allow Australians to identify any weed from its photograph, and to be provided with advice on how to control or eradicate it.

**At least 1000 pictures of each weed species need to be collected from locations across Australia. The database will use the photographs to identify any weed.**

Current weed identification relies on expert knowledge, interpreting taxonomic or morphological identification keys, trying to match a weed with an image in a weed guide or app, or sending a weed image or specimen to herbariums for identification. This often leads to delayed or incorrect identification that impedes timely action, particularly on emerging weeds, and requires State herbaria to allocate scarce resources to respond to community identification requests for well-known established weeds.

This project will develop, trial and implement Australia's first real-time, artificial intelligence-based, automated identification of national, state and regional priority weeds. It will also develop and promote a fit for purpose community weed management, alert reporting and communication system - WeedScan - building on

the currently available FeralScan platform to better enable co-operative community-led weeds management.

The new tool will provide an easy to use digital tool enabling:

- Weeds to be identified quickly without expert knowledge.
- Easy access to best practice management information.
- Enable action either at the individual enterprise level or as part of a cooperative regional WeedScan community-led management and communication system.

Garden Clubs of Australia is asking as many as possible of the 55,000 gardeners who are associated with Affiliates of the GCA to participate in this project - all you need is a **mobile phone** or a **digital camera**.

**Spend a little time between September 2021 and May-June 2022 photographing weeds in your garden, on street verges in your neighbourhood, in parks, gardens and sports-grounds, on the sides of roads, on the banks of creeks and waterholes or at the beach and send them into WEEDSCAN.**

Submitting photos to WeedScan is a relatively easy process. First, for each weed, photograph the whole plant. Then take photos of leaves, flowers (if present), growth habit or distinctive features. Take lots of photographs! Submit photos separately by the weed species and location at:

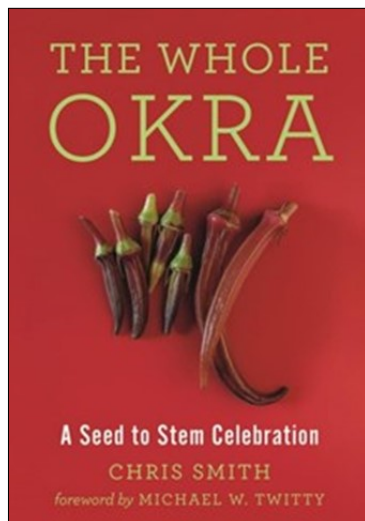
<https://weeds.org.au/identify/weeds-photo-submissions/>

More tips on identifying weeds are available online at the submission form link. There is lots of information covering topics including leaves, buds, flowers, and spent flowers, fruit and pods.





## Book Review



### **The Whole Okra A Seed to Stem Celebration By Chris Smith**

I LOVE this book! And I think I'm in love with okra as well! I can't wait for the soil to warm up and the moon planting guide to indicate that it's the right time to plant okra seeds.

Why all this enthusiasm? Because I have read this book. Twice. Janet lent it to me, and I said, "What!?! A whole book about ... okra!!!" Then I mentioned the book to a few other ROGI members, who exclaimed the exact same words. I mean, what is there to say about this much-derided fruit/vegetable (it's a seed carrier, so that makes it a fruit, but it's eaten as a vegetable) that would fill up a 258 page book. Well, there are lots of photos – beautiful photos. And recipes – I'm going to need these once my okra grows. And more. There's everything I wanted to know about okra (which admittedly wasn't much), and more than I ever dreamed there could be to know about okra. It has a fascinating history.

In the book there is much said about the 's' word. Not succulent (but it is). Not superfood (but it is one, apparently). Slimy. Another word is mucilaginous. This is why it's much maligned. It's also one of the reasons why okra is a plant of choice for a self-sufficient garden if you're preparing for the apocalypse. Here are some things you can do with it or use it for: cosmetics, soup, marshmallow, curry, stew, frozen, dehydrated, pickled, bottled, fermented, tempeh, tofu, coffee, flour, paper, cordage and even biodegradable drinking straws. And that's not all!

The book is so well-written that it is rather gripping at times, and so humorous that I often chuckled out loud – even on the

second reading. The author is a Brit who married a Southern Belle from South Carolina, whose name is Belle, and also fell in love with okra at about the same time. So he came at okra without any preconceived ideas. Now he's hooked and spreading the word. And now I am hooked and I'm spreading the word.

*The Whole Okra* is new to the library and can be borrowed for one month. Two varieties of okra seeds are available from the ROGI Seed Bank. Seeds can also be bought from :

<http://greenharvest.com.au/SeedOrganic/VegetableSeeds/OkraToOnion.html>  
<https://www.theseedcollection.com.au/vegetable/okra>

See page 16 in the August ROGI Newsletter for more information about okra.

*Reviewed by Jill Nixon*

## *ROGI Events*

### **GARDEN VISIT**

**Tony Garbett, Capalaba**

**Sunday 17 October - 2pm**

*Tony and Linda Garbett live on a beautiful acreage property in Capalaba. The gardens are made up of a variety of trees and plants, including a large number of citrus trees. They have a veggie garden and chickens, and also agist native bees. Bookings on TeamApp, or email Toni at [tonibowler@hotmail.com](mailto:tonibowler@hotmail.com)*

### **GARDEN VISIT**

**Terry Sullavan, Alexandra Hills**

**Sunday 21 November - 10am**

*A suburban garden filled with an abundance of fruit trees (some unusual), chickens, and a home-built organic hydroponic system to grow vegetables in.*



## Rohanne's Biodynamic Planting Guide: the best time to sow, propagate or prune in October

Looking after your soil. Includes composting, adding nutrients, applying cow horn manure	14th to 26th
Sowing seeds (refer to relevant plant group below), grafting, plant propagation and foliar feeds, applying horn silica	3rd-12th
Plant and care for fruiting annuals including tomatoes, eggplant, peas and beans	3rd-5th, 11th-13th, 20th-23rd, 31st
Plant and care for root crops including carrots, beetroot and potatoes	5th-8th, 13th-16th, 23rd-25th
Plant and care for flowering annuals	7th-9th, 16th-18th, 25th-28th
Plant and care for leafy annuals	1st-3rd, 9th-11th, 18th-20th, 28th-30th
Peppers	Apply weed pepper on waxing moon, do not create or apply insect/animal peppers. Apply animal peppers 48 hours before full moon.



### EGGPLANT FAILURE!

*I'm fairly new to growing eggplants, so when some of the fruit on my plant turned yellow (when it should be a light purple), I contacted Janet to see what was going on. Oops! In winter, they don't grow to the same (larger) size as in summer, when they're at their best. So I should have picked them earlier. These ones will only be good for saving seed from. Lesson learned!*

Ann Roffey

## Seed Sowing Guide

### October

Asparagus  
Beans: French, Snake  
Beetroot  
Capsicum/Chilli  
Carrot  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Ginger  
Lettuce  
Okra  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Rocket  
Rockmelon  
Rosella  
Silverbeet  
Squash  
Sweet corn  
Sweet potato  
Tomato  
Watermelon  
Zucchini

### November

Asparagus  
Beans: Snake, Lab Lab, Pigeon  
Pea, Madagascar  
Beetroot  
Capsicum/Chilli  
Carrot  
Choko  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Jerusalem Artichoke  
Lettuce  
Okra  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Rockmelon  
Rosella  
Silver beet  
Squash  
Sweet corn  
Sweet potato  
Tomato  
Watermelon  
Zucchini

**PLEASE NOTE: JANET WILL NO LONGER BE PROVIDING SEEDLINGS FOR SALE AT ROGI MEETINGS. PLEASE RETURN WASHED SEEDLING POTS.**

This guide is for sowing seeds, not seedlings. There may be several days/weeks between the optimal time to sow a seed and to transplant a seedling. Please keep in mind this is only a guide - micro climates and weather conditions may mean that certain seeds may be sown before/after the recommended times. **ROGI Seed Bank is available at all ROGI meetings and Garden Visits. \$1/pack members, \$2 non-members.**

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

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

## Meeting Information

*Please consider contributing to any of these at various times:*

### **ROGI REWARDS:**

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

### **MEMBERS' SALES:**

Items you've produced that are surplus to your requirements that **you wish to sell** to other members – seedlings, eggs, honey, lemons, jam, sustainable craft items – things that have cost you time, money, and effort to produce. Please make sure items are labelled, named and priced. It is preferable that you staff the stall yourself or time-share with a friend.

### **FREE SWAP/SHARE/GIVE-AWAY:**

For items you don't want payment for— empty pots, cuttings, unwanted volunteer plants (named), surplus produce, shredded paper, strawberry runners and so on. You may want to work out an arrangement with other members to do some swapping outside of the meetings.

### **PLANT CLINIC:**

Bring along your plant problems—insect/plant/weed (as many parts as you can - fruit, leaf, root) in a sealed plastic bag. Fill in the form on the Plant Clinic table (located just inside the door to the main hall) before the meeting starts. Someone will have a look and may be able to answer your questions. Any solutions will be given to you on the night and published in the newsletter. *Please be aware that, although we do our best, there may not be anyone present who can solve your problem or identify your plant, especially if it is not related to organic gardening.*