

Next meeting: Thursday 8 September 2022

ROGI News

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

Bayside Community Church
Cnr McDonald Rd and Macarthur St
ALEXANDRA HILLS

Don't forget:

- Pay your membership dues
- Observe social distancing
- A small plate of food for supper
- Return washed seedling pots
- Bring a basket/box/bag for your purchases
- Any questions for Plant Clinic
- A plant for ROGI Rewards
- Free swap/share/giveaway

Inside this edition

| | Page |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| President's Message | 2 |
| September Meeting. ROGI Events | 3 |
| Garden Visit - Julia & Chris | 4-6 |
| Seed Savers News | 7 |
| Plant Clinic. Grant Success | 8 |
| Oaklands St Community Garden News | 9 |
| Pickles, Preserves & Baking | 10 |
| Mango Flowering. ROGI Innovations | 11 |
| Upcoming Events | 12 |
| Book Reviews | 13 |
| ROGI Committee and Office Bearers | 14 |
| Kobu New Guinea Bean | 14 |
| Newsletter Deadline | 14 |

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



Kobu squash is an unusual round version of the more common New Guinea Bean. It has a mild taste; the creamy flesh is said to have a flavour and texture like green beans. A good alternative to zucchini, which is prone to powdery mildew. Seed is available in the Seed Savers seed bank. More info on page 14.

President Pete's Post

Hello ROGI members,

I hope the September newsletter finds you well, it's a great time of the year to be in the garden. As I am your new President, I thought it would be important to share a little bit about myself and where my passion for gardening started.

My father was a gardener in Victoria, designing and maintaining gardens for his customers - he and Mum had their gardening business for over thirty years. Dad's journey started in Holland as a tulip grower grading bulbs; then country Victoria as a caretaker growing food for a sheep shearing farm; then to Monbulk again grading bulbs. My brothers and I each had our own lawn mowers as soon as we could push one. We worked in the school holidays with Dad at a young age. As we grew up we also looked after our neighbors' gardens, mowing lawns and doing clean up jobs. I've had my own vegie patch my whole life wherever I have lived.

During high school I was in the gardening club. At age 17, I worked with hydroponics at Australian Sprout Suppliers, growing food organically. We mainly specialised in alfalfa, bean sprouts, mung beans and bean mixes. At age 19, I was asked if I would be the Production Manager for the Qld branch. I transferred to Qld and managed the production side of the business until I was 24. In that time, I was in charge of quality control, testing all the seed nationally for germination yields, and the quality of lucerne and husk content. We supplied product to Woolworths and Coles, as well as independent wholesalers at the Brisbane markets - it was a seven day a week operation. We achieved a shelf life of two weeks with high yields by the time I left. The Qld branch were making record profits and supporting the other states financially.

In my spare time I was asked if I could look after the garden of an older lady whose husband couldn't look after them any longer. Her name was Margaret Gibbs. In that time her husband passed, and I stayed on looking after the garden, and several of her friends' gardens who also needed help. I maintained them until Margaret couldn't stay at home any longer. I was a member of BOGI for several years until a friend told me about ROGI.

When I joined this club, I thought I knew a bit about gardening. However, listening to guest speakers and our members challenged me on another level, and I realised there was a whole lot more to learn. I didn't expect to be your President, but I am - because I love ROGI and what it stands for. I hope we can work together and help each other grow. The legacy of this gardening club, and the volunteers who give up their time and energy amazes and inspires me - but we need more members to get involved in supporting the current helpers, as some of them have been in their roles for quite some time. I am a firm believer that many hands make light work, and together we have a stronger foundation to sustain us into the future.

You may have noticed the price of fruit and vegies has gone up considerably, along with everything else. With more erratic and unpredictable weather coming, it is especially important to support this club through growing seedlings to supply our members. If you want to get involved, please see me - we can supply the seed raising mix, seeds and pots and give you the support and knowledge. It is a little task if shared, but gives us all many benefits. I don't know about you, but when I see a heap of seedlings and plants for sale at our meetings, I get excited!

Be safe, and happy gardening. See you at our next meeting in September.

Kind Regards,
Peter Haakman, ROGI President

September Meeting

Making the most out of backyard bush food plants

Are you finding it difficult to grow everyday fruit and vegies in our ever changing climate? Dr Ketah Silvester will share with us how to successfully grow alternative edible plants that will thrive in Brisbane and the Redlands.

Ketah runs social enterprise Brisbane Edible Gardening, and has a PhD in Environmental Engineering and 20 years experience as an environmental consultant. She has spent the last 12 years establishing a demonstration garden at Mount Crosby, and is passionate about helping everyone grow their own food successfully.



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

ROGI members and visitors welcome.

Visitors: \$5 entry. Members: free

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

ROGI Events

Thursday 8 September
ROGI MEETING

Saturday 17 September - 10am to 12pm
GARDEN VISIT *

Peter Haakman, Alexandra Hills

Our new President's garden is small but full of life and character, with a lot of bromeliads, some vegies, and an old fruit tree. Pete's garden is his sanctuary, where he gets away from everything. It is predominately put together with recycled materials and is always evolving.

Thursday 13 October
ROGI MEETING

Wednesday 19 October - 7 to 8.30pm
SEED SAVERS MEETING *

More information on page 7

Sunday 23 October - 2pm (maximum 10-15)

Tuesday 25 October - 2pm (maximum 6)

GARDEN VISIT *

Margaret Sear, Capalaba

** Please book to attend event on TeamApp or email
ROGI Events Coordinator Toni at tonibowler@hotmail.com.
The address will be supplied closer to event date, please check
your text/email messages.*

LOST AND FOUND

An outdoor foldup chair was left at Erik van Zuilekom's garden in Thornlands on Saturday 18 June. To claim, please contact Toni Bowler on 0402 323 704 or see her at the September meeting.

Julia and Chris moved to Redland Bay in January 2021. In the short amount of time they have lived here, the 1299m² property has been transformed. In the front yard, a weedy lawn with *Duranta repens* 'Sheena's Gold' hedges has been converted to a mixture of natives, exotics and edibles. A mango tree and viburnum were removed and mulched, and the mulch was used to improve the soil. They have kept the leopard tree, but had it pruned so it doesn't provide too much shade, and underneath are growing strawberries and other part shade plants.

Out the back, steep banks running down to the Redland Bay Channel were overgrown with many different environmental weeds. These have now been cleared and a revegetation program partnering with the "Your Backyard" council scheme is underway. The Your Backyard Garden Program (YBYG) is for urban landholders that live near Council bushland reserves or within wildlife corridors. The program aims to make your backyard more bushland and wildlife-friendly. For more information go to:

https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/info/20286/native_gardening/634/gardening_for_wildlife

The plentiful rain from La Nina has given their gardens a great start. It's also enabled them to work out where drainage needs to be installed, with removed soil being reused in garden beds. They have to manage their water well, as they do not have town water or sewerage. They have rainwater tanks with 23000 litre capacity, and use greywater on the gardens.

It was very interesting to see how a property can be remodelled to create a beautiful space filled with a diverse range of plants. Thank you Julia and Chris for your hospitality.



Multiple fruit and vegetable gardens with a variety of flowering plants for bees and beneficials surround the leopard tree in the front yard. They have repurposed old bricks as garden surrounds, and a shed that was installed in front of the front door (!) by the previous owners has been moved to a more suitable position.



Beside the driveway they have a shared garden, but their busy (and friendly) neighbours have allowed them to take over the planting of the area.

Garden Visit - Julia Geljon & Chris McIvor (cont'd)



Left: Dwarf bananas (not sure which variety) are doing well.

Right and far right: An old hanging basket and drainer have been repurposed to keep strawberries safe from hungry animals and birds.



Below: Alyssum and Gaillardias (pictured inset) are growing beneath the newly planted mulberry tree. Surrounding trees and vegies with flowers attracts bees and beneficial insects to your garden.



This container was made into a wicking bed by Julia and Chris. Plants are loving the water on demand.

The worm farm is looking very healthy. They keep scraps in the fridge, and when needed, put them through the food processor so they're in smaller pieces. They also put in old jeans/jumper/threadbare towel to keep the worms warm.



Garden Visit - Julia Geljon & Chris McIvor (continued)



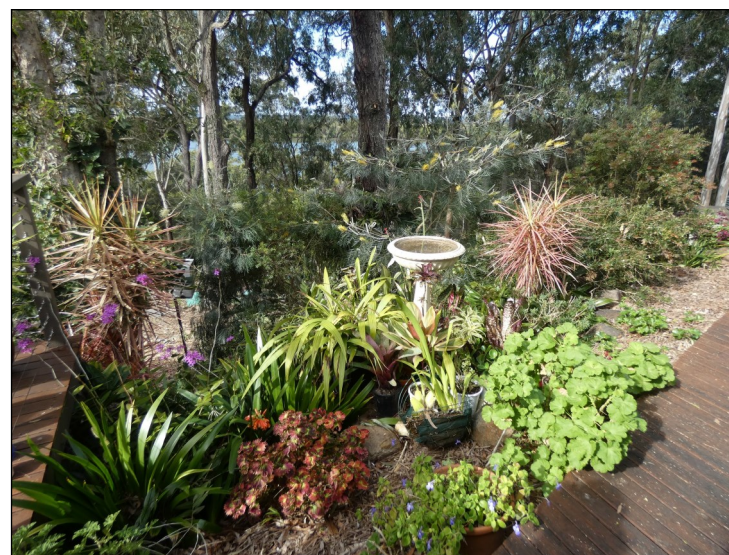
This is the neighbour's embankment, but it is similar to what they were faced with when they moved in.



Native plantings in their revegetation area. Plants are from IndigiScapes and the Your Backyard Garden Program.



View from the back deck of their newly planted banks and the Redland Bay channel - beautiful!



Some natives, exotics, and a bird bath next to their deck to attract birdlife and critters.



Warrigal greens grow naturally at the bottom of the embankment.



A range of brochures from Redland City Council to help with their garden makeover.

Seed Savers News

Our meeting in August focused on roots, and we learnt about how to separate and regrow many different and unusual tubers of root plants including dahlias, ginger, turmeric, Jerusalem artichokes and yacon (*tubers pictured right*).

ROGI Seed Savers meet bi-monthly at our tutor Linda Brennan's house in Capalaba. This is a free event, and it is open to all ROGI members. We alternate day and night meetings to accommodate everyone.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 19 October at 7pm**. We'll be saving home-grown seed to share with ROGI members. You'll get to take home free seed too. Please bring along...

- Paper bags or envelopes to take seeds home in;
- Seeds of plants that you'd like to share;
- Seeds you've grown that need separating - we'll do that as a group and save some in the Seed Bank;
- A cup for tea and small plate of food to share.

We'll also grow seeds in punnets and pots that you can take home and look after for sale at our ROGI meetings. It's a busy meetup but good fun! New members are always welcome.



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.

Plant Clinic

Managed and reported by Margaret Sear

Lemon tree problems

The leaves of Sophie and Garry's *Lots of Lemons* plant appear mottled in colour and disfigured in appearance. There is yellow mottling on the edges of leaves, with yellow blotching around the veins and at the tip (*right*).



Their plant is grown in a large pot with well-composted soil medium, and is producing large juicy fruit. Linda Brennan diagnosed this as a boron deficiency. Yellowing leaf tips will enlarge and eventually curl under. Treatment is with a small amount of boron, which you can find at a plant nursery. It is usually required in small amounts once a year.

Curled and disfigured leaves (*above left*) were the result of leaf miner insect damage. Remove disfigured leaves and dispose of in the bin (no major concerns to the health of the tree). Buy a leaf miner trap (CLM Trap) at the nursery, and position nearby. There is no point in treating the plant with Eco Oil at this time of year, as the damage has already been done, new leaves are not forming and insects are not busy at the moment.

Community Grant Success - New Laptop

Member Peter Haakman nominated ROGI with an application for a community grant of \$1000 through Australia Post Community Grants. Our successful application has allowed us to purchase a laptop to use at meetings and community events, as well as for storage of the many electronic resources ROGI has accumulated on personal laptops. Erin Houselander, with Pal Juvancz's advice, has completed the purchase of a new ASUS laptop. The laptop will be held by the President during their term of office.



2021-2022 Committee with Peter and our new laptop.
From back left to front:
Lisa Harsley, Lara Brits, Toni Bowler, Jill Nixon, Diana Yeo,
Erin Houselander, Carolyn Lassen, Peter Haakman, and
Rhonda Binns

Oaklands Street Community Garden News

By Terry Sullavan

All Abilities Access Garden Beds

Incorporation of Oaklands Street Community Garden has enabled the gardeners to really take control of affairs. For some particularly keen members, it led to a grant application which was gratefully received from the Redlands City Council. Such a great example of taxpayers' dollars going back into their community.

For those of us who knew these beds well, there was a lot more to contend with than just Alex Hills soil - the local fig trees have for years now, satisfied their roots in the soil in our beds at the expense of our crop and backs!

But we can now look forward to easier tasks, as soon the beds will be 60cm higher thanks to our lovely volunteers. Thanks folks, this is the magic of community gardening – Redlands Growing Together.



A Crown Fit for a King

If you follow Oaklands Street Community Gardens Group on Facebook, you might have noticed a few posts about asparagus crowns. These just happen to be coming into season and are well advanced, and they're up for grabs!

Those in the know, know that asparagus crowns are the preferred method of propagation - being far faster and easier to establish than seed. These are ready to shoot now.

Ian and Meagan helped dig the crowns, which had become very dense in places since they were planted about 10 years ago. It was decided that removing and relocating was the best option, but we could only use so much, and they're available from the nursery. Oaklands Street is open on Wednesday and Friday 9-noon, and on Sunday afternoon 2-5pm. We're located at Oaklands Street, Alexandra Hills.

**** Volunteers are needed to help at the upcoming Carers Week Expo at Alexandra Hills Hotel on Wednesday 19 October. Contact Terry at: events@rogi.com.au**

Pickles, Preserves and Baking

We all have our favourite recipes to use up excess produce when we have it. How about sending them in to info@rogi.com.au and they can be shared with ROGI members in the newsletter? Here's some for starters:

Francke's Pawpaw Pudding

½ cup/113 grams butter, melted and cooled

1 cup/200g sugar

1 ½ cups/190g plain flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

¼ teaspoon ground ginger

¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

3 eggs

2 cups/45g pawpaw pulp

1 ½ cups/355ml whole milk

1 teaspoon vanilla

- Heat oven to 180°C, grease a 33 x 22 x 5cm baking dish.
- In a large bowl, whisk together sugar, flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg.
- In another large bowl whisk together eggs and pawpaw pulp until smooth.
- Whisk in milk and vanilla.
- Whisk in melted butter.
- Pour in sugar mixture and stir only till combined.
- Pour batter into prepared dish.
- Bake for 50 minutes or until just set in the centre.
- Cool to room temperature on a wire rack before cutting.

Serve with whipped cream or ice cream. Serves 12.

Francke Latter

For this newsletter issue, I've been asked to provide the recipe for the Rocket Pesto enjoyed by participants at the recent garden visit at our property in Redland Bay. As I'm a very imprecise cook, who generally just throws things together according to what is on hand in the garden, the pantry and the fridge, (I'm sure many of you do as well), all ingredients given are in approximate amounts.

Julia's Easy Rocket Pesto

Good big handful of fresh rocket leaves (big stalks removed)

Small handful of Italian parsley (remove stalks)

¾ cup of raw cashews/almonds (substitute other nuts if preferred)

1-2 cloves of garlic, peeled and roughly chopped (can be more or omit)

¼ cup of olive oil, 1/3 cup of lemon juice, salt (as needed and/or wished)

- Place rocket, parsley, nuts and garlic in food processor and briefly blitz until finely chopped and blended.
- Add olive oil, lemon juice and salt and blend briefly again. Taste the pesto and add more lemon juice and oil if needed to balance bitterness of rocket.
- Finally, blend in some fetta or parmesan cheese if you would like more flavour.

This pesto retains a fresh green colour and freezes well for future use.

We're all familiar with basic basil pesto, but many other fresh herbs from our gardens can be made into delicious pestos and dips. In the past I've made pestos and dips using combinations of the following:

- chickweed, coriander and almonds
- oregano, Italian parsley and sunflower seeds
- Italian parsley, chickweed and walnuts
- garlic chives, basil, parsley and pine nuts

Be adventurous and experiment with the fresh herbs from your garden.

Julia Geljon

Mango tree flowering success

Following up on my article published in the ROGI June 2022 newsletter about mango flowering using potassium nitrate - look at the photo on the right! It is typical of the whole tree, so it looks as though the application has done the job.

Last year we had no flowers on the tree whatsoever. My neighbour has a mango that has not flowered in the past two years and it has again not flowered - so perhaps this is some sort of proof.

It was a bit of work to spray the tree - it is huge, so we did half a job and got all lower parts of the tree sprayed.

We're looking forward to getting some mangoes to eat ... looks good so far!

Peter & Rhonda Brigg



ROGI Innovations

Left: We store our wooden stakes and tools in 100mm PVC plumbing pipes - look out for them at the tip (for free) and in skips after renovations.

Linda & Bill Barrett

Right: I've bought new netting for my blueberries, to protect them from the currawongs who've taken a liking to them. I didn't want the bamboo stakes to damage the netting, so I used caps from various bottles in the bathroom, with BluTak on the end of the bamboo to ensure it stays on. Thanks for this idea Bevan.

Ann Roffey



Upcoming Garden & Sustainability Events

The Electric Vehicle Experience (Display & Ride Day)

Redland Showground,
Long Street, Cleveland
Sunday 11 September - 10am to 2pm

Electric vehicles are a hot topic at the moment, and if you want to find out what they're all about, you can attend our free event. There will be a wide range of EV makes and models. Owners and businesses will display new models, production cars and conversions from petrol to electric motors and answer any questions from visitors. There will also be stalls featuring battery charging equipment, electric bicycles, scooters, motorbikes, e-powered vehicles and a solar-powered electric bus.

For more information contact:

Jon Day, Chairman, Qld Branch of AEVA, phone 0411 534 456

<https://www.facebook.com/events/202417965147356>



Bethania Street Community Garden

Bethania Street, Lota

Organic Gardening: Backyard Abundance Workshop

Friday 16 September

10:00am – 12:00pm & 12:30pm – 2:30pm

** Participants to attend both sessions and bring their own refreshments for lunch.

Learn how to grow abundant organic fruit and vegetables in small suburban backyards. You will gain knowledge on the establishment and the ongoing maintenance of a thriving backyard system.

Acclaimed presenter Michael Wardle will use the community garden environment for hands-on activities including design, plants and seasons, soil relationships, nutrient cycling for the backyard – (worms, compost, compost teas), preparing garden beds for planting and crop rotations.

FREE - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL email: bethaniabookings@gmail.com

Springtime on the Mountain

Tamborine Mountain Garden Club

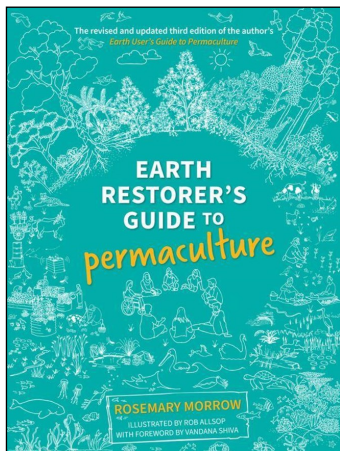
Friday 23 and Saturday 24 September

The festival will showcase 5 open gardens with their own unique character and springtime flowers. There will also be plant sales on both days at the Botanic Gardens and two of the open gardens.

- Tickets online \$20 for all gardens over two days.
- Or \$5 cash at each gate. Correct change requested.
- Dependent children are free.
- There are many lovely commercial food outlets on the mountain, and places to picnic if visitors choose to bring their own. However, the **Tamborine Mountain Show Society** is also supporting our festival by providing light refreshments for sale at the picturesque Tamborine Mountain Showgrounds on Main Western Road. This will help raise funds for their organisation.

To book online go to: <https://>

www.tamborinemountaingardenclub.org.au/springtime-on-the-mountain



Earth Restorer's Guide to Permaculture By Rosemary Morrow

Rosemary Morrow trained in agricultural science in Sydney, rural sociology at the Sorbonne, development at Reading in the UK, and horticulture at TAFE - but, after spending time in Africa, she realised there needed to be a better alternative to conventional agricultural practices. She found this in the ethics and integrated applied

science of permaculture. She's been teaching permaculture ever since. Rosemary brings her lifetime of global knowledge to *Earth Restorer's Guide to Permaculture*.

It's a call to action.

It shows us that by working in our local patch we can do our small part to help restore our global ecosystems before they reach the tipping point.

If you have delved into and enjoyed *RetroSuburbia** by David Holmgren which focuses on permaculture on the suburban level, then this is the next step - showing how a permaculture approach can work on a global level.

This book is new to the ROGI library.

* There are two copies of *RetroSuburbia* in the ROGI library.

If you read a book that would be valuable for our library please tell a committee member about it, see back page. We welcome reviews from readers of ROGI library books you've read.



The Big Switch By Saul Griffith

An inspiring, practical plan to transform Australia's energy system and supercharge our response to the climate crisis.

An optimistic - but realistic and feasible - action plan for fighting climate change while creating new jobs and a healthier environment - electrify everything.

Climate change is a planetary emergency. We have to do something now - but what? Australian visionary Saul Griffith has a plan. In *The Big Switch*, Griffith lays out a detailed blueprint - optimistic but feasible - for fighting climate change while creating millions of new jobs and a healthier environment. Griffith explains exactly what it would take to transform our infrastructure, update our grid, and adapt our households. Billionaires may contemplate escaping our worn-out planet on a private rocket ship to Mars, but the rest of us, Griffith says, will stay and fight for the future.

'I'm a scientist, inventor and father who wants to leave my kids a better world. The data convinces me that it is still rational to have hope.' Saul Griffith. **So says the blurb about this book.**

"I found this book riveting. A topic such as this could be rather dreary and ideal bedtime reading (should you need help getting to sleep). However, the author has a very engaging writing style with a wonderful sense of humour - I found myself quietly chuckling while reading.

But the best part is his well-thought-out plan for Australia to lead the world in tackling the important issue of climate change. He has an answer to every 'yes, but...' you may come up with. Borrow it, read it ... and take action. We did."

ROGI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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| SEED SAVERS GROUP | Linda Brennan | linda@ecobotanica.com.au |
| TECH DESK | Terry Sullavan, Erin Houselander | |
| WEBSITE | Pal Juvancz | pal@pcpals.com.au |

New Guinea Bean Kobu (*Lagenaria siceraria*). Janet grew this vigorous vine over a trellis last summer, and saved seed for ROGI. Seed can be planted from spring to early autumn in SEQ, germinating best at 22-25°C soil temperature. Soak seeds overnight in hot water before sowing. Plant in full sun to part shade, direct into the soil at the base of a trellis. It likes fertile soil with a pH of 6.6 - 7.5. Pick the green fruit when young, and prepare in a similar way to squash.

<https://greenharvest.com.au/SeedOrganic/VegetableSeeds/Beans.html>



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

info@rogi.com.au www.rogi.com.au
PO Box 1257, Cleveland 4163
www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers

Other gardening groups using organic methods:

Brisbane Organic Growers Inc (BOGI)—

1st Thursday every month (except Jan),
Albion Peace Hall, 102 McDonald Rd, Windsor,
6.30 for 7.30pm. 3357 3171 <http://bogi.org.au>

Qld Herb Society—1st Tuesday every month,

Albion Peace Hall. 7.30pm. 54268299
<http://www.qldherbsociety.org.au/qhs>

Oaklands Street Community Garden—Wednesday and Friday 9-noon, Sunday 2-5pm. Oaklands Street, Alexandra Hills. 0408 259 445

We'd like to hear from you!

For example, send us:

- A story about your garden
- A photo of an interesting plant
- An article about an unusual plant
- A request for items or information
- Specific garden or nutrition information
- A recipe for home-grown produce
- A notice that you have something to give away or sell
- A handy technique or tip
- A gardening problem solved
- Anything to do with organic growing
- A review of a ROGI library book

Please send your items to info@rogi.com.au and help keep the ROGI Newsletter topical, interesting, local and relevant.

**The October
Newsletter
deadline is**

29 SEPTEMBER 2022