

ROGI News

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

Bayside Community Church
Cnr McDonald Rd and Macarthur St
ALEXANDRA HILLS

Don't forget:

- **\$2-00 entry all members**
- **\$5-00 entry visitors**
- **Return washed seedling pots**
- **Bring a basket/box/bag for your purchases**
- **A plant for ROGI Rewards**
- **Free swap/share/giveaway**

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



Linda Brennan grew Daikon radish over the winter months. She's left the biggest and best to go to seed so she can grow her next harvest for free! ROGI Seed Savers will get some too. It will probably weigh over 2kg when harvested, and will be at least 60-70 cm long. It won't be any good for eating as it will be old and woody with age. Popular in Japan, Daikon is a mild flavoured winter radish that has a crunchy texture and a light peppery, sweet taste.

The Presidential Rambles

Hello ROGI members,

I hope September is shaping up to be a good month for you and your garden. A month of regrowth and emergence. As the new president of ROGI, I thought I should start out by introducing myself and tell you a little bit about my journey and passion for gardening.

My name is Bevan Saul. You might recognise me from behind the AV desk, missing cues, and asking presenters a multitude of questions. I'm a 'more is more' sort of gardener. A scatterbrain whose name strikes fear into my plants, as they may be uprooted and moved on a whim. Always devising overly complex solutions to make gardening easier and save me time, only to find myself with dirt under my fingernails any spare moment I have.

I follow organic principles, and strive to grow as much of our family's food as possible. My garden is landscaped with found and second-hand materials, and I try to keep most of my inputs local. Eventually I would like to produce all my compost, mulches, and amendments onsite.

Growing up, I did not have much to do with gardening aside from mowing lawns or helping to weed. However, I did have a family who were not afraid to get their hands dirty and put in the hard work. I have always had an interest and fascination with nature, and been involved with bush care since I was a teen. I've been involved in several bush care groups since, and currently enjoy attending regular working bees with the Mary Street gang.

It wasn't until around 2013 after meeting my wife Jaye, that I got into succulents. Which quickly escalated into a gardening urge that saw me taking over any bare patch of ground around our townhouse. I soon ran out of space and joined a community garden. This was my first introduction to the gardening community. I learnt so much through the people I met, and enjoyed great fel-

lowship and a sense of belonging. A shout out to Rocks Riverside Community Garden in Seventeen Mile Rocks, which is well worth a visit if you haven't already been there.

Eventually our hobbies outgrew our limited space, and it was time for a move. After close to three years of searching, we found the perfect property. We bought a fantastic house in Birkdale with an established fruit and vegetable garden from a lovely couple you already know...Chris and former ROGI president Julia. Through Chris and Julia we were introduced to ROGI.

The garden was already established. What to do? I ended up filling it with about 20 times as many plants, five chickens, two frog ponds, five compost bays, two hydroponics systems, and one green tree snake (he introduced himself actually...now there may be a few less frogs). The soil has been enthusiastically conditioned with a haphazard array of amendments and organic matter, focusing on facilitating a diverse soil and insect ecosystem. I have started incorporating Korean Natural Farming amendments; for more information check out Jill Nixon's review of *"The Regenerative Grower's Guide to Garden Amendments"* on page 11. Our garden is watered via an elaborate series of drip lines fed from our rainwater tank, which is occasionally topped up from town water. The main challenges I face are the possum, fruit fly and rat pressure, as I need more discipline with my netting game.

I am very excited for the year to come, and feel honoured to be the president of such a passionate group. The things I have learnt, and the friends I have made, are priceless. Here I have found my second home, and am so grateful to be a part of it. Also, don't worry, if we ever sell our property it will be stipulated in the contract that the buyer will have to become the president of ROGI, as is the legacy!

Good luck and hard work in the garden for the year to come. We will grow stronger weathering the heat of El Nino and compost our enemies together.

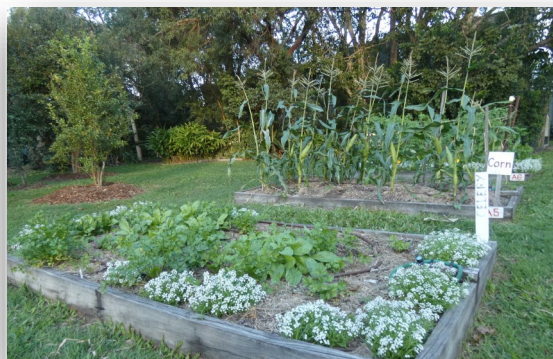
Regards, Bevan Saul, ROGI President

September Meeting

Choose your Topic

Whatever your organic gardening knowledge or interest, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Five ROGI experts will share their experience and knowledge in 20-minute sessions. You choose which three topics you wish to attend from:

- **Fermentation** by Jarryd Goode of Mount Cotton Collective
- **Successful Worm Farming** by Greg Lindner
- **Crop Rotation** by Terry Sullavan
- **Irrigation** by Lindsay Peel
- **Fruit Fly Prevention** by Jill Nixon



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

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Plant Clinic at this meeting.

All ROGI Members - \$2-00 entry

Visitors welcome - \$5-00 entry

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

ROGI Events

**Thursday 14 September
ROGI MEETING**

**Sunday 24 September
FIELD TRIP TO HARE KRISHNA VILLAGE ***
525 Tyalgum Road, Eungella, NSW (car pool)
\$25-00 per person includes tour and lunch **

Nestled in the foothills of Mount Warning, in the heart of the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, the Hare Krishna Farm "New Govardhana" is a beautiful 1000 acre property with orchards, organic veggie gardens, cows, horses, streams and swimming holes in abundance. We will do a tour of the farm starting at 10.30am, and then enjoy a delicious vegetarian lunch.

The car-pooling contact is Toni Bowler on 0402 323 704. Meeting point is PCYC Redlands, Degan Road, Capalaba at **8am**, leave Hare Krishna village at **2.30pm**.

* Please book your spot/s on TeamApp. Numbers are limited.

** Payment required before field trip.

Go to your online bank to make a transfer to ROGI - **BSB 633 000, Account Number 136 137 296** (Use your name as a reference please).

The October newsletter deadline is

28 SEPTEMBER 2023

Please email your contribution to info@rogi.com.au

Garden Visit - Mitch & Anthea, Thornlands

Report and photos by Ann Roffey

Mitch and Anthea Smith have been on their beautiful acreage block at Thornlands for 18 years. The previous owners had planted a lot of productive trees, mostly citrus and macadamias. They have added more fruiting plants, and now have a vegetable garden as well.

Numerous environmentally sustainable initiatives have been installed, including 50,000 litres of rainwater tanks, many solar panels, and a power charger for their electric vehicle. The block is not sewered, so a Biolytix Biopod was put in to treat their wastewater. Black and grey water are channelled back into their gardens. They have never had a problem with too little water. They have also never had to buy firewood as any tree cut down is chopped up for firewood.

We could all see the hard work and love that Mitch and Anthea have invested into their garden. Thank you for sharing with us.



Mitch bought a native beehive a number of years ago. He splits every year and now has seven.



Many macadamia trees provide them with many nuts! To the right is a mango tree, they get fruit from this every 3-4 years. The beautiful lawn is Palmetto, a soft leaf buffalo that is low maintenance and has high shade tolerance.



Tibouchina granulosa Kathleen is a medium-sized evergreen tree. It prefers a full sun to part shade position and grows to approximately 5m.

Garden Visit - Mitch & Anthea, Thornlands (cont'd)



The top of the mulberry tree has been chopped out and branches are anchored into the timber surround to create a beautiful weeping shape.



They have a 2-bin compost system, and try to compost everything. There was much admiration for the large stable fork, which is used to spread 26m of mulch around their property.



Mitch and Anthea love their wild feathered friends. They can be a bit demanding though - picking up coasters off the balcony and throwing them in the pool below to get attention for more food!



The home-made chicken tractor (left) features a self-closing door (below). It was bought from Tasmanian company Coop Secure. The chickens free range all day, and return to the tractor at night to roost. They do a bit of damage to the gardens, so chicken wire is laid before planting to discourage them from digging up their plants.



Garden Visit - Mitch & Anthea, Thornlands (continued)



The citrus trees came with the property. They need a ladder to get to the fruit. The best time to prune trees to a preferred size is after harvest. Don't prune too hard, as you might sacrifice next year's crop. Trim back low hanging branches, branches that are rubbing against each other, and create a 'vase' shape by pruning in the middle to let light into the tree.



Left: Camellia peony planted by the previous owners.

Right: The vegie garden started off a couple of sleepers high, but has been added to for easier maintenance. ROGI member Chris McIvor gives advice on what to do each month.



Above: Brazilian red cloak (*Megaskepasma erythrochlamys*) is a great screening and background plant, growing 2-3 m tall. It grows in full sun and shaded positions.





Congratulations Linda!

At the ROGI meeting in August, Life Membership was awarded to our resident horticultural expert Linda Brennan. The honour of receiving a Life Membership is granted to someone who has contributed to the club for a significant length of time. Linda is one of the founding members of the Seed Savers group. She inspires, educates and shares her love of gardening through speaking at meetings, talking to members before and after meetings, and writing many articles for our newsletter. Thank you, and congratulations Linda!

ROGI Seed Savers Group

The ROGI Seed Savers group was started in 2018 by Linda Brennan and fellow ROGI member Janet Crighton. The four aims are:

- ⇒ To inspire and enable people to save their own seeds
- ⇒ To build the ROGI seedbank from locally grown, resilient varieties
- ⇒ To encourage food diversity through saving and sowing heirloom seed varieties
- ⇒ To educate about the techniques of seed sowing, growing and seed saving, thereby building expertise and skills

We've had inspiring and educational topics including:

- Wet seeds, seed viability and testing methods
- Sowing seeds - pods and tiny seeds
- Saving for next spring; storing the best for future crops
- Best seeds for the new gardener; 4-crop rotation method
- Seed treatments (e.g. vernalisation, scarification etc)
- Preparing for spring planting
- Back to basics seed saving - why, why not, how many, when, open pollination, heirloom/heritage, cataloguing and recording, storing
- Propagation from cuttings
- Planting for autumn - sowing and growing as the weather cools
- Seasonal pest and disease control
- Saving summer seeds
- Saving flower seeds from winter bloomers (e.g. violas and edible flowers)
- Growing on your dahlia seeds; saving and sharing seeds
- How to propagate strawberries from runners
- Fruit from cuttings
- Growing from tubers and setts
- Making ROGI seed sowing mix and sowing seed
- Saving seed from diseased plants?
- Intentional pollination, landraces and cross pollination for new varieties

Seed Savers group meets bi-monthly, and is open to ALL members of ROGI. You may attend once, or every time! Come and learn!!!

Should we be Sowing Direct to the Ground or in Pots First?

By Linda Brennan, Ecobotanica

Starting in seed trays or pots	V/S	Starting seed in the ground
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When the weather is cool, you can keep the seeds warmer, thus germinate some of them quicker.• You can give them a head start while another crop is finishing off in the garden bed. Then you'll have seedlings to go in.• If it's really hot weather, you can keep a close eye on them and keep them moist as they germinate.• It's easy to share or sell your seedlings if they are in trays or pots.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Root crops like carrots, radish and parsnips are best when sown directly into their final spot. It ensures straight roots.• Some seeds dislike being transplanted. Good examples of these are root vegies like kohlrabi, beans and peas.• If the soil is warm and the bed is ready, they will grow quickly.• There is no double handling of small plants (seedlings).• Some soils are too rough to plant fine seed into.



Sowing seed

Your soil needs to be good for at least half as deep again as you expect the roots to grow for your root vegies.

I sow rocket and coriander straight into the bed. The rocket takes off like a rocket if planted this way.

Large seeds are easy to plant straight into furrows in the bed. Seed like watermelon, zucchini and pumpkins are grown in a composted mound with two or three seeds per mound.

Plants such as corn that are dependent upon wind pollination are grown in blocks.

When to sow and what to sow?

It will take about 4-6 weeks for seeds sown in seed trays to be ready to plant out by the time they germinate and grow true leaves.

Many people find them easier to handle when transplanting if they have 4 or more leaves.

Protect your seeds from bird and possum attack after sowing with wire, netting or shade cloth.

DATE CLAIMER:

Thursday 19 October 7-8.30 pm

Next Seed Savers Meeting

Topic: Our favourite tips from The Seed Savers' Handbook by Michel and Jude Fanton

Michel and Jude have a lifetime of knowledge in the pages, and we'd like you to read and pick out your snippets of wisdom from the book to share the best bits.

There's a copy in the ROGI library and also BCC and Redlands Libraries. Or you can buy direct from:

<https://seedsavers.net/tools-resources/the-seed-savers-handbook/>

Tropical Peach: Zafiro via Roberta (no plant specimen)

Problem: What to spray tree prevent disease. How to protect fruit from fruit fly.

Possible Solutions: The best preventative is good tree hygiene and good ventilation. For ventilation, prune height to reachable level and prune inner facing branches to form a V or open vase shaped tree. This is best done in summer after fruiting has finished. Always collect, bag, and bin fallen fruit to prevent the spread of disease and ongoing fruit fly cycle.

Fruit fly – Once flowers are pollinated, cover the tree with insect exclusion netting. Fruit fly traps (used to entice and trap male flies) can be set to alert and indicate fruit fly presence. Trees are likely bursting into flower very soon.

Oriental Fruit Moth – this is a pest of stone fruit in our region. Adults are mottled grey-brown moths about 6 mm long. The damage is noticed as wilted and collapsed shoots and/or fruit and branch tips that ooze gum. In the fruit, tunnels are formed and frass (droppings) are noticeable. They can have many generations per year. Prune and remove infested shoots and destroy infested fruit every few days. Wrap hessian or cardboard around the trunk to encourage larvae to pupate, especially prior to winter. Destroy or replace as necessary. There is a spray (spinetoram/spinosad), but it is not recommended for organic gardens. Instead encourage lots of predatory beetles, bugs, and spiders to your garden.

Peach leaf curl – This is a serious, common fungal disease in stone fruit. The spores survive winter on bark and leaf buds. New leaves are affected as soon as they bud burst in spring. Rain increases infection, so dry warm seasons see less of the fungus. Good ventilation helps prevent this disease. When infected leaves fall, rake up and dispose of them. Spray with a copper-based fungicide such as copper oxychloride or lime sulphur while trees are dormant (before leaf bud burst). More than one spray may be needed. Give the tree fertiliser and apply liquid seaweed foliar spray.

Reference: Garden Pests, Diseases and Good Bugs. Denis Crawford. PPs 231, 386-7.

We need a volunteer for the Plant Clinic co-ordinator position. If you would like to take on the role, please see one of the ROGI committee members listed on the back page of this newsletter.



Village Green Event

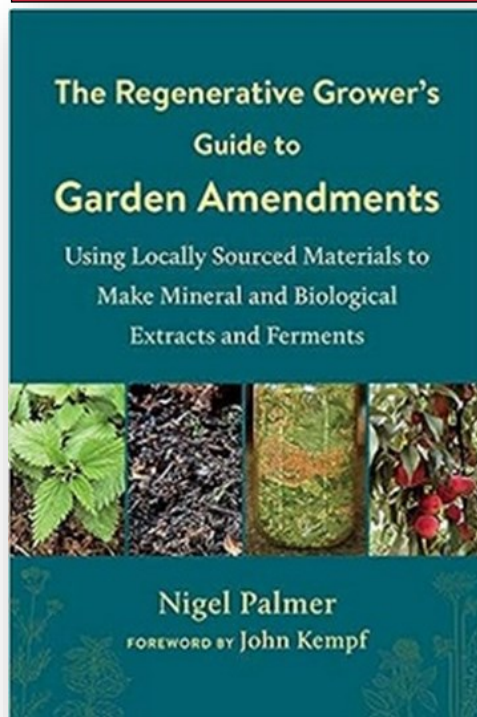
I'm rather fond of the Village Green. As a local student, I spent hours after school eating and throwing mulberries with my mates. I also tried my hand at guerilla gardening pineapple tops in the chip bark beds that were there before it was turned into a gathering place in central Wellington Point.

So I was thrilled when Councillor Wendy Boglary and the local Rotary asked ROGI to help put on a citrus care workshop and paper potting activity for the kids at a community park social at the Village Green on August 16. Also entertaining was the Birkdale Men's Shed Ukulele Band, who set toes a tappin' early of a Saturday morn. It was an intimate gathering and day of getting to know the locals. Special thanks go out to Rhonda Binns, Jan Haughton, and Viga Misztal for getting down and potty and putting ROGI in the spotlight!

by Terry Sullavan



Book Review



Do you enjoy reading? We would love to hear what you think about books borrowed from the ROGI Library. Please send your review/s to the Newsletter Editor at info@rogi.com.au.

Jarryd Goode of Mount Cotton Collective will present the topic FERMENTATION at our Round Robin at the September meeting.

The Regenerative Grower's Guide to Garden Amendments Using Locally Sourced Materials to Make Mineral and Biological Extracts and Ferments By Nigel Palmer

This book was gifted to ROGI by Jarryd from Mount Cotton Organic Collective after his presentation in June. (See page 8 <https://www.rogi.com.au/uploads/ROGINewsJuly2023.1.pdf>)

This book is pretty fantastic, and very information-rich (or 'nutrient-dense', if you like). It has taken me ages to study it. The concepts would be unfamiliar to many people, but make sense when you really think about it. As usual, it is the type of book that would be good to own, or share between a small group of friends who all wish to follow the suggestions therein. In fact, the author suggests that this is a desired approach because of the work involved.

Nigel Palmer is an experimental gardener (and a good record-keeper, which is important) and was heavily inspired by the discoveries and work of many agricultural pioneers, especially the founder of the Korean Natural Farming method (Cho Ju-Young). He proposes that we can avoid the use (i.e. purchase) of commercial fertilisers and make our own that are appropriate to our local ecosystem. But it's about more than fertilisers. His recipes can boost soil biological activity and availability of minerals, as well as increasing pest and disease resistance, yields and, yes, nutrient density.

The recipes inside include how to:

- *extract nutrients from plant (weed) residues using simple rainwater techniques*
- *extract minerals from bones and shells, including eggshells, using vinegar*
- *ferment plant juices and fish culture indigenous microorganisms (IMO)*

Inside you will also find explanations of plant-soil interaction, and guidance on compost, cover cropping, mulching, measuring the quality of fruits and vegetables using a refractometer, conducting a soil test and other aspects of sustainable gardening.

A lovely little snippet – there are four IMOs that you can make, and the microbes in IMO #4 will '*digest faeces and urine, eliminating smells and quickly transforming these wastes into more desirable material.*' (page 177) How good is that?

If you are keen to maintain a truly sustainable garden ecosystem, read this book, find a like-minded team and get stuck in.

Reviewed by Jill Nixon

Upcoming Events

BETHANIA STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

Bethania Street, Lota

Organic Gardening - Backyard Abundance

Friday 8 September,

10:00am - 12:00pm & 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Participants to attend both sessions and bring own refreshments and lunch.

Cost: Free - email bethaniabooking@gmail.com to book

Learn how to grow abundant organic fruit and vegetables in small suburban backyards. 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.

Compost and Worm Farms

Sunday 8 October, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Cost: Free - email bethaniabooking@gmail.com to book

Join us for this hands-on workshop, where you will learn the basics of composting and worm farming, various types of composting and what is compostable. There will be time for troubleshooting problems and answering your questions.

HELP NEEDED!

ROGI will be holding a stall at the Welcome Back Shorebirds Festival (see advert on the right). We'll be selling plants, mugs and hats, and telling the public about ROGI. We'll also be having a children's 'potting up' activity.

If you can help, please call Toni Bowler on 0402 323 704.

FREE EVENT!

**BEAKO
THE LARGE PUPPET
WILL BE ATTENDING!**

TOONDAH ALLIANCE PRESENTS

WELCOME BACK SHOREBIRDS FESTIVAL

CELEBRITY MC HANNAH MOLONEY

**MUSIC FROM RENOWNED FIRST NATIONS
SINGER/SONG WRITER JOE GEIA
~TALENTED LOCAL MUSICIANS~
CHUCK'S BLUES WAGON AND CLARA DURBIDGE**

- **FIRST NATIONS SMOKING CEREMONY • YUMMY FOOD VANS •**
- **FUN KID'S ACTIVITIES • JUGGLING/ACROBATICS •**
- **ART COMPETITION W/PRIZES • ROCK ART • PHOTO BOOTH •**
- **SHOREBIRDS EXPERIENCE • COMMUNITY STALLS AND MORE!**

SAT 14 OCT 1PM - 5PM

GJ WALTER PARK

SHORE STREET E, CLEVELAND QLD 4163

Bring a picnic rug/chair to relax
Arrive by public transport

Shuttle bus
12:20pm - 5:20pm

Details here:

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION | Ubuntu Foundation | ACF Community Bayside | birdlife AUSTRALIA | Redlands 2030 | Wilderness Society | SIMO

ROGI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Bevan Saul	president@rogi.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	YOU???	vp@rogi.com.au
SECRETARY	Patricia Stuart	secretary@rogi.com.au
TREASURER	Bernadette Reid	treasurer@rogi.com.au
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Rhonda Binns, Toni Bowler, Romana Langdon Ann Roffey, Terry Sullavan	

OFFICE BEARERS

MEMBERSHIP SEC'Y	Rhonda Binns	membership@rogi.com.au
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Ann Roffey	info@rogi.com.au
PR & COMMUNICATIONS	Gail Bruce	info@rogi.com.au
CLUB EVENTS	Toni Bowler	tonibowler@hotmail.com
PUBLIC EVENTS	Terry Sullavan	events@rogi.com.au
LIBRARY	Viga Misztal & Astrid Strich	library@rogi.com.au
SEED BANK	Geoff & Cheryl Rynja	seeds@rogi.com.au
SEED SAVERS GROUP	Linda Brennan	linda@ecobotanica.com.au
TECH DESK	Terry Sullavan, Bevan Saul	
WEBSITE	Pal Juvancz	pal@pcpals.com.au

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

Email: info@rogi.com.au **Webpage:** www.rogi.com.au
www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers

Other gardening groups using organic methods:

Brisbane Organic Growers Inc (BOGI)—

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

Qld Herb Society—1st Tuesday every month,

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

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



Attract Frogs to Your Garden

If you didn't attend the August meeting, you missed a very interesting talk about frogs by Maree Manby (left) from Redland City Council.

You can find information on how to attract frogs to your garden on these websites:

[Frog-friendly gardens | Redland City Council](#)

[Howto make a frog hotel | Redland City Council](#)

[How to make a frog pot | Redland City Council](#)

My New Favourite Tool

As we get older, we look for things to make our lives easier. My new Nisaku Hori Hori knife is amazing! It slices through the soil, lifting weeds with ease. It's useful for garden tasks that involve digging and cutting. The knife is stainless steel with an oak hardwood handle, made in Japan, and reasonably priced at \$45-00. Buy online at:

<https://www.huntgathergrow.com.au/nisaku-650-185mm-stainless-steel-hori-hori-soil-kn>

Ann Roffey

