

# ROGI News

Doors open at 6.15 so you can visit the library, stalls and seed tables or just have a chat over tea or coffee before the meeting begins at 7. Supper is served afterwards. *Bayside Community Church* Macarthur St, (corner McDonald Rd), **ALEXANDRA HILLS**

**REMEMBER to bring:**

- washed pots/punnets (leave at plant table)
- swap and share items
- ROGI Rewards contribution (optional see p17)
- a basket/box/bag for your purchases
- Questions for Plant Clinic
- Something for supper if you can

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If you'd like to surprise someone with a gardening gift or encourage a friend to join our friendly garden club, how about a **ROGI Gift Certificate**? It's easy - just fill in an application and bring cash. If you wish to purchase one online, complete an [application](#) and then pay online by bank transfer. It can be posted to you or the recipient. For details please phone me 0419 987 870 or email [membership@rogi.com.au](mailto:membership@rogi.com.au) Rhonda

I noticed these active aphids on this dwarf Scotch kale on Friday 19 June and decided to leave them be to see what would happen. See back page for the result.

## Jill's Jottings

Why do we choose to grow food? Why organically? For many of us, I think we do it because it makes sense, it feels *right*, it's how it should be, the way it always was done. My earliest gardening experiences were with Mum's mother, Mary, and my father.

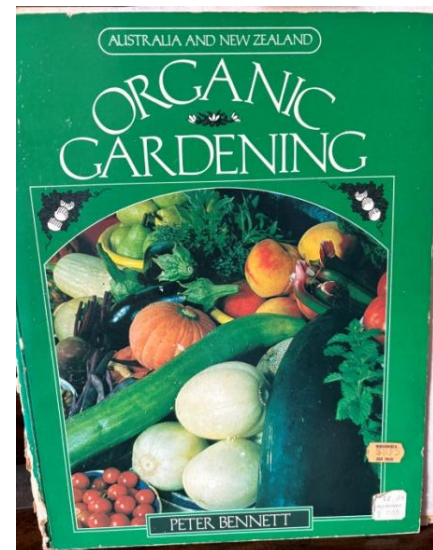
Mary, born in 1898, had a wonderful large garden. Living in a small country town in Victoria provided access to chook, sheep, cow, horse manure. Nana had a sheep she hand-raised (Mary really did have a little lamb!), a milk cow, and chooks for eggs and meat. No town water - everyone used rainwater for everything. No flushing toilet - just a dunny down the back and a commode under the bed - urine was diluted and used under the trees. So many trees - stone fruit, citrus, apple, fig, almond, mulberry, pear, and a hedge of quinces. Passionfruit clambered along the fence. Queensland Blues grew in the huge pumpkin patch; we didn't go there: snakes!

Nana made ginger beer, butter and jam, and baked bread, biscuits and cakes - with her wood stove. Anything that couldn't be used straightaway was preserved for use out of season.

Dad was born in 1917 and experienced the hardships of The Great Depression.. His family were live-in caretakers of the Casterton Racecourse with space for a huge garden and free manure! Dad provided fresh food (including rabbits) for the family as a teenager. He always felt the need to grow food. In 1957, to help grow food on the Palm Beach sand, he used cow manure from Mudgeeraba.

My forebears were probably no different from yours. This was normal life, especially for people in country towns. Everything they grew was organic, although they'd never heard of it. They'd have looked at you funny if you'd tried to sell them a chemical to put on their food. They were doing just fine as they were.

They learned how to garden by copy-ing what others were doing, by word-of-mouth and by trial and error. I doubt if they ever bought books to show them what to do!



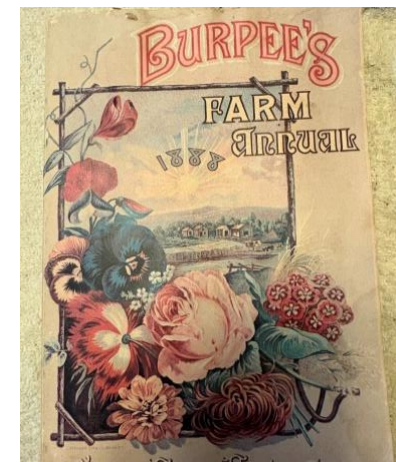
However, in Dad's effects I found this 1888 Burpee's Farm Annual from USA. Interesting reading.

My first foray into growing food was influenced by TV's *The Good Life* which had an effect on many people at the time. Then, in 1979, I found this book - an early Aussie organic growing book. Finally, I had a reference book on gardening the way I wanted to, and I was away!

We cannot know what the future may bring. People seem to be on edge these days. Food security isn't guaranteed. Growing your own is as important as ever. ROGI will continue to be relevant. You're in the right place. Keep at it.

Enjoy the journey ... it's worthwhile.

*Jill*



## Michael's Musings

August is perhaps the most important month for ROGI members. Not only does it mark the beginning of the spring growing season, but it is also the time when a new committee is elected for the coming year.

It's reasonable to ask why all this formal structure is necessary for what is, basically, a garden club. The answer is straightforward: without being incorporated, ROGI would lose access to affordable insurance. That insurance allows us to hire meeting venues, organise garden visits and field trips, and sell seeds and seedlings. Without it, many of the activities we value would simply not be possible. Incorporation absolves committee members from legal liability.

You know the saying:  
"Many hands make light work".  
That's what ROGI needs.

A gardening organisation as active, well-resourced and respected as ROGI does not happen by itself. The opportunities, events, knowledge-sharing and community connections we enjoy are only possible because a small number of members generously

contribute some of their time and energy.

Some roles require particular skills and greater time commitment, while others involve only a few hours each month. The experience can vary depending on the role and the individual. Good communication skills help, as does a willingness to learn a few basic technologies, but no one is expected to know everything from the start.

Most importantly, no new committee member will be left to manage alone. They will have the support of experienced members who have done the job before and are willing to help guide them through the process.

**There is one important reality we need to acknowledge:  
ROGI can only continue operating in its current form if we have members willing to fill the key positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and several committee roles.**

Several current committee members will be stepping down after many years of dedicated service. Some have contributed far more than their share and deserve both our gratitude and the opportunity to enjoy a well-earned

break. ROGI owes a great deal to their commitment and generosity.

Of course, not everyone is in a position to serve on the committee. Health considerations, family commitments, work responsibilities and travel plans can all make volunteering difficult.

However, if you've ever considered becoming involved and wonder whether you could contribute, I encourage you to give it a go. Last year's member survey showed just how much ROGI is valued by its members. The future strength of ROGI depends on members being willing to step up and share responsibility for its success.

From my own experience as secretary, becoming involved with the committee has been incredibly rewarding. It has enriched my life, introduced me to wonderful people who have become friends, and taught me a great deal about gardening along the way.

So I invite you—yes, you—to consider putting your hand up. You may discover that becoming involved is one of the most rewarding decisions you make.

*Mike*

June Speaker  
Michael Finland  
**Biochar**

Pachamama Regen creates regenerative products that restore soil health and enhance gut health. Their core belief is that healthy soil is the foundation of a healthy life and their core purpose is to accelerate the transition to Regenerative Organic Agriculture.

### What's The Problem?

- Soil carbon levels have declined from approx 7% to 1%.
- Farmers have become increasingly dependent on synthetic fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides.
- Food nutrient density has declined.
- Farmers face increasing financial pressure.
- Conventional farming has released significant carbon into the atmosphere.

### What is Regenerative Agriculture (RegenAG)?

A system of farming principles designed to increase soil carbon.

Higher carbon levels improve:

- Farm resilience and profitability

- Can significantly reduce reliance on synthetic inputs.
- Microbial activity
- Soil fertility
- Plant health
- Microbial activity

### Core Principles of RegenAG

Minimise soil disturbance (no or low tillage).

Keep soil covered.

Maintain living roots year-round.

Maximise crop diversity.

Integrate livestock where appropriate.

Integrate biochar to improve soil biology.

### Why RegenAG Matters

- Builds healthier soils with greater biological activity.
- Improves drought resilience and water retention.
- Produces more nutrient-dense food.
- Reduces fertiliser, chemical, fuel and labour costs.
- Increases profitability and long-term farm resilience.
- Major global food companies are committing to regenerative sourcing by 2030.

### What is biochar?

- A specialised form of charcoal infused with microbes.

- Acts as a long-term habitat for beneficial soil organisms.
- Described as "Nature's Perpetual Soil Engine."
- Creates billions of microscopic spaces for microbes, fungi and worms to thrive.
- Originally used by indigenous communities and rediscovered through Amazonian [Terra Preta](#) soils.

### Biochar Benefits

- Improves root growth and root ball development.
- Enhances water-holding capacity.
- Improves nutrient retention and [cation](#) exchange capacity.
- Supports greater microbial diversity.
- Helps sequester carbon in the soil.
- Can improve yields while reducing chemical inputs.



## RegenAG Benefits

- Increase soil carbon and biological activity.
- Improve soil fertility and plant health.
- Reduce water usage (up to 50% claimed).
- Reduce fertiliser and chemical requirements.
- Increase yields and profitability.
- Improve nutrient density and shelf life of produce.
- Reduce erosion and drought vulnerability.
- Create carbon-negative farming systems.

## Key Takeaway

Regenerative Agriculture and biochar work together to rebuild soil carbon, restore soil biology, reduce farm inputs, increase profitability, produce healthier food and help address climate challenges.

For more information and to purchase various biochar products, go to <https://pachamamaregen.com>



## Winter Garden Visits

**Dennis & Mandy Birkdale**  
2 - 4 Sunday 12 July

**Mike & Ella Wellington Point**  
1 - 3 Saturday 15 August

Mike and Ella purchased their property in 2022 and started working on the garden in mid and late 2023. Piece by piece, grassed and gravelled areas were converted into garden beds for veges and some 15 fruit trees. The heavy red clay soil required a lot of effort at the outset but, once the soil is improved, the results are coming in fast! While the pool, added in 2024, took away some space, there are lots of 'hidden' spaces for growing. Ella and Mike took pains to grow according to the particular local aspect with regards to sun and rain, but it took a few misadventures to get there – and it's still a work in progress. Come and see for yourself.

Bring a small plate of homemade food or home grown produce to share, and a mug for tea or coffee. We will have a share table if you have excess harvest/produce. These are free events for ROGI members, but numbers are limited. Please book on TEAM APP, at the July meeting or 0401 157713. The address will be sent to you prior to date.

## Next ROGI Meeting

### The Gardeners' Roundtable: Tips, Trials and Triumphs

Thursday 9 July 6.15 for 7.00 start

**Experienced ROGI gardeners will be sharing their knowledge, practical tips, and gardening journeys, including challenges they've overcome and the achievements they've celebrated along the way.**

To ensure a lively and varied program, each speaker will give a short presentation, offering plenty of ideas, inspiration, and different perspectives.

Members are also encouraged to share their own gardening tips, successes, challenges, and lessons learned, making this a great opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences amongst the membership.

Have a gardening question? Our panel will be on hand to answer questions from the floor and provide advice.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, you're sure to pick up valuable insights, inspiration, and encouragement.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

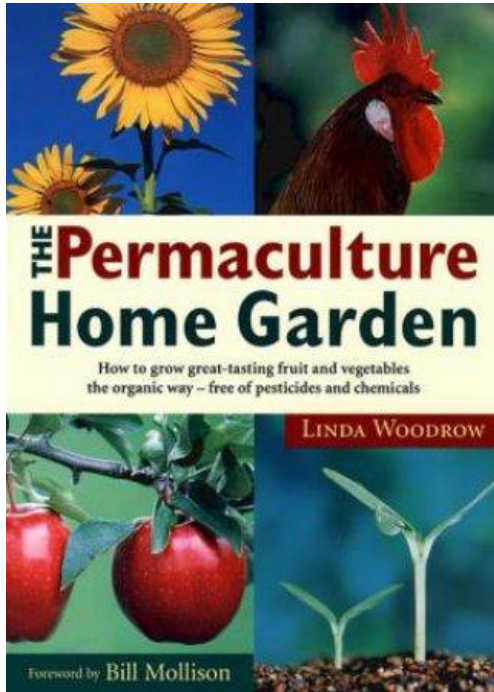


Like most ROGI members, I buy organic food items whenever possible. This can create an ethical dilemma when the supermarkets need to enclose them in plastic to differentiate them from 'normal' food, which costs considerable less.

What is more important – the organic nature of the food or avoiding the plastic?

The other issue is food waste. 'Regular' beetroot etc don't have 'best before' markers on them, but these organic beetroot had reached their 'best before' date – 22 June. However, they were absolutely fine and I got a bargain. If I, or someone else, hadn't bought them they were destined for the tip (or maybe, I hope, [Oz Harvest](#)). I always visit this part of my local Woolies whenever I go.

Read more [here](#).



Linda Woodrow's *The Permaculture Home Garden* (1996) is more than a gardening manual—it's a thoughtful guide to working with nature rather than against it. For anyone starting or reshaping a productive garden, it offers both practical advice and a refreshing shift in mindset.

As I begin developing a vegetable and fruit garden within an already established space, several ideas stood out. Woodrow's concept of "enterprise bargaining" with the garden is

particularly memorable—framing gardening as a negotiation with soil, plants, animals and climate. Her exploration of whether "to chook or not to chook" (keeping chickens) is similarly engaging, combining humour with practical insight.

A central theme is soil care. As she notes, "the average age of the molecules of humus in soil is over 1000 years," a reminder that building and protecting soil is foundational to any productive garden.

Her approach to pests is equally compelling: in a healthy system, there are no pests—only imbalances. The key principle, captured in the line "you don't have too many pests, you have not enough predators," reframes pest control as ecosystem design.

The book is rich in practical guidance, including:

- composting and soil-building techniques
- companion planting and crop rotation

- avoiding bare ground and minimising soil compaction
- timing of planting, including lunar cycles
- clear, drawn plans for annual rotations and garden layouts, including mandala-style beds

There are also thoughtful chapters on sequencing fruit tree planting and integrating herbs throughout the garden.

Beyond the book, Woodrow's website, [The Witches Kitchen](#), expands on these ideas with a broader "living well in the great disruption" lens, alongside practical recipes. I was particularly taken by a recipe for green banana flour—timely inspiration given my current surplus of green bananas.

Overall, this is a generous and inspiring resource for gardeners at any stage, especially those looking to build a resilient, productive garden grounded in ecological principles.

*Monica Richter*

June Speaker  
Nooshin Ansari  
**Wicking Beds**

"A wicking bed is simply a raised garden bed with a water tank underneath it."

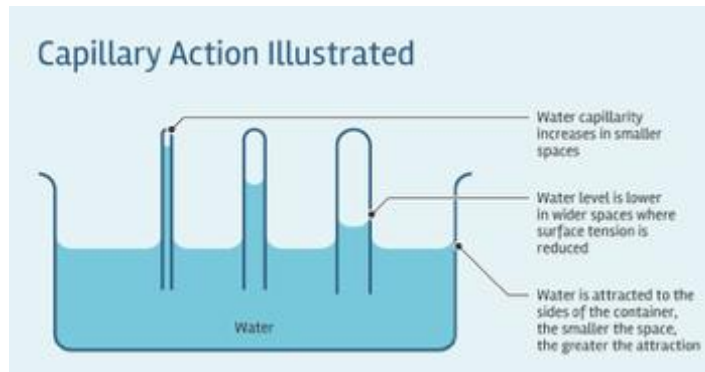
**Transpiration:**

water is absorbed by roots, moves up through xylem, and evaporates through stomata in the leaves.



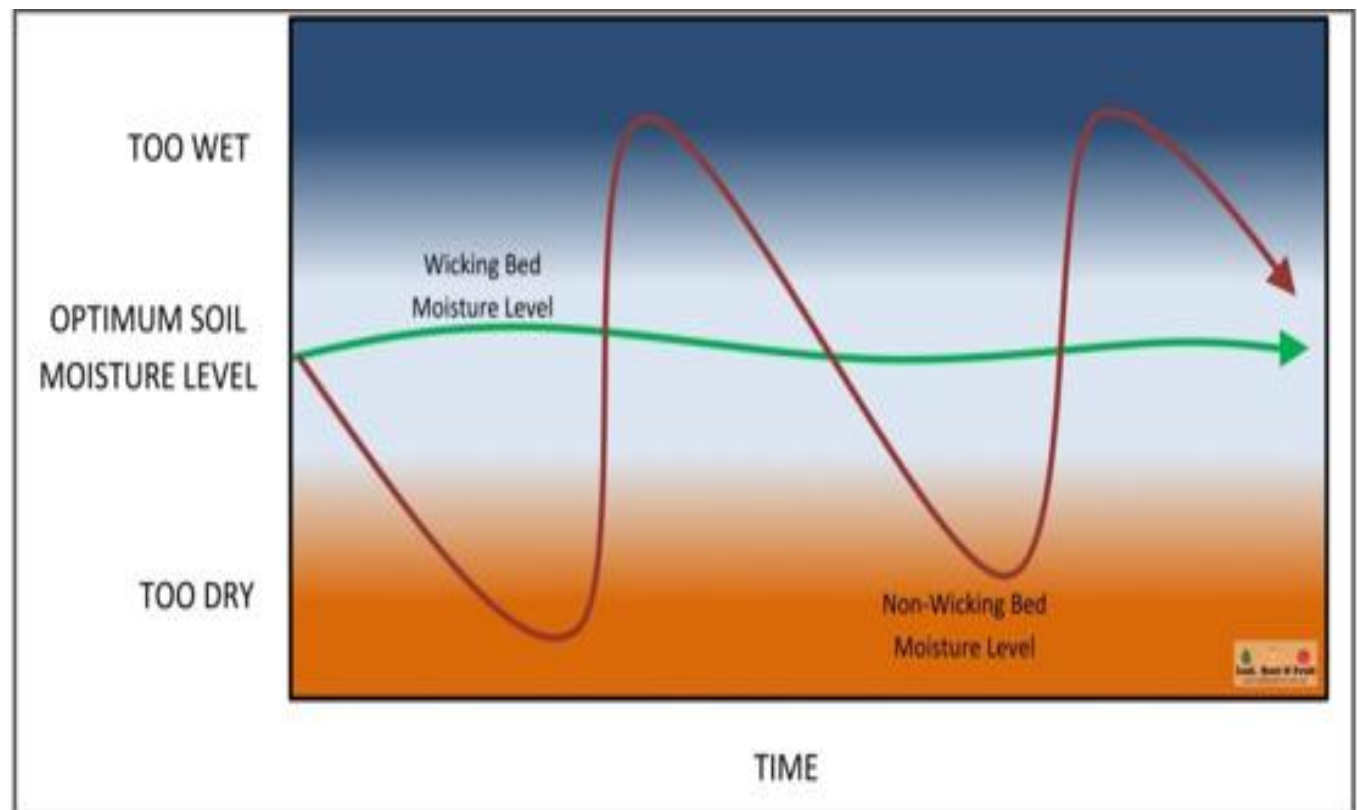
**Capillary action in wicking beds:**

Capillary action is the movement of a liquid through a narrow space or porous material against gravity. It is driven by the dynamic interplay of two forces: adhesion (the liquid clinging to a surface) and cohesion (the liquid molecules sticking to each other)



**1. Rationale for Wicking Beds:**

- Efficient water use
- Minimal evaporation
- Less frequent watering
- Ideal for dry climate
- Utilisation of area where growing in the soil is not possible eg tree root encroachment, concreted or paved area



## 2- Materials for Wicking Beds:

- IBC (Intermediate Bulk Container) cut in half

New food grade: ~ \$500-\$650

Used food grade: ~ \$120-150 (not one which has already had phosphoric acid)

- Gravel, scoria or sand
- Geotextile fabric or waterproof liner (pond liner or food-grade plastic)
- Soil mix

Rich organic matter

Good water-holding capacity

Avoid heavy clay soils

Avoid very sandy mixes

PVC Overflow pipe

- PVC Water inlet

- Ag pipe (Agricultural pipe) is a flexible perforated plastic pipe covered in a Geofabric sock used for subsoil drainage

## 3- Assembly Steps:

- Lay the reservoir layer (gravel/scoria) (can use upturned terracotta pots, milk crates etc to reduce the volume of reservoir layer needed)

- Place geotextile fabric

- Add soil mix on top

- Install overflow pipe ensuring it can be rotated to empty reservoir.

- Add a PVC or terracotta worm hotel in the centre of the wicking bed to ensure health of soil and effective composting - Worms need to be fed once a week

Reservoir Material	Advantages	Disadvantages	Approx Cost (SE Qld)
Scoria	Lightweight, excellent water storage, good aeration	Higher cost	\$600-850/m <sup>3</sup>
Gravel	Durable, widely available	Heavy	\$150/m <sup>3</sup>
Coarse washed sand	Cheapest	Can compact and reduce drainage	\$110-140/m <sup>3</sup>

## 4- Maintenance:

- Monitor water levels
- Top up reservoir as needed
- Check for roots in the reservoir

## 5- Crops:

### Suitable Crops

Lettuce  
Silverbeet  
Tomatoes  
Cucumbers  
Herbs  
Beans

### Less Suitable

Deep-rooted trees  
Very large shrubs

## 6. Advantages and Disadvantages

### Advantages

- Saves water
- Less frequent watering
- Fewer weeds
- Excellent in drought
- Excellent for non-productive areas

### Disadvantages

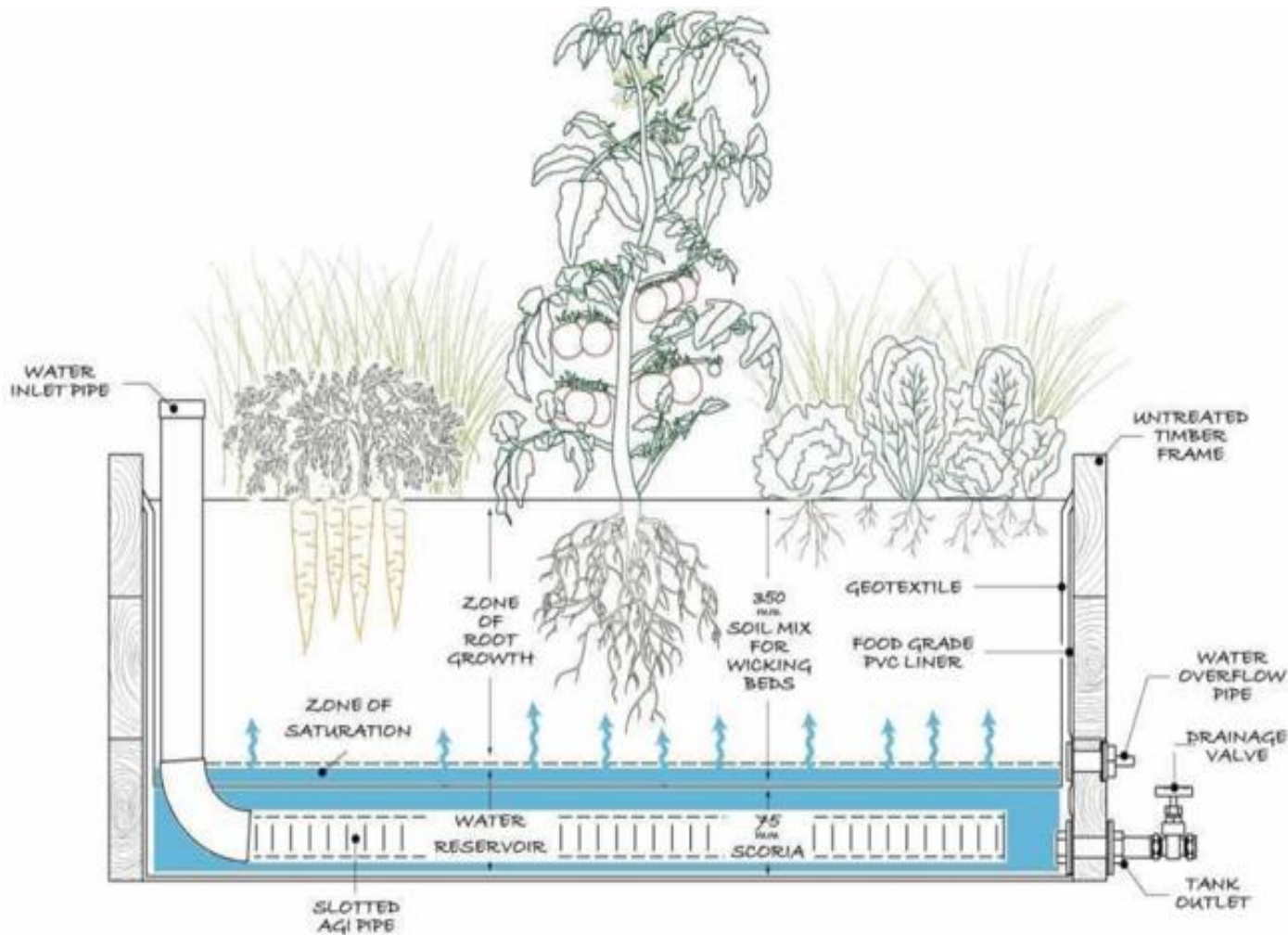
- Higher initial cost
- More complex construction
- Can become waterlogged if poorly designed
- Roots can eventually invade the reservoir

## 7. Common Mistakes

- No overflow pipe
- Poor soil mix
- Reservoir too shallow
- Using fine material in reservoir
- Letting roots invade the reservoir
- 

## 8. Useful resources:

[How to make a wicking bed](#)  
[And another](#)



A wicking bed water outlet, water level indicator and reservoir drainage valve all in one.

**My Key Lessons After Using Wicking Beds:**

- Use a good soil mix.
- Never omit the overflow pipe or the bent pipe to have the option to empty the reservoir.
- Check occasionally for root intrusion.
- Mulch heavily to stop evaporation
- Fill the reservoir before plants show signs of stress.

**Would I do it again?**  
 Absolutely with some minor tweaks.  
  
 Photos over ...



## NOURISHED LANDSCAPES FIELD TRIP

In mid-June, a large group of keen ROGI members visited Nourished Landscapes in Jimboomba for our first field trip for 2026. This 5-acre 'Land for Wildlife' property is owned by Doreen Jachmann, an experienced and qualified gardener who is passionate about sustainable living and the benefits of growing your own food. Since purchasing the block 10.5 years ago, and whilst working full-time, Doreen has transformed the property using permaculture design. Her aim is to be off-grid and become self-sufficient.

During our 2-hour walk around the property, we were able to see firsthand the different growing systems she has installed— including a grey-water garden, food forest, kitchen garden with wicking beds and syntropic system. Doreen is a conscious meat consumer - she raises and harvests on-site her own chickens, ducks, geese, sheep, turkeys and sometimes pigs.

Doreen's willingness to share her knowledge, experiments, and lessons learned offered inspiration for gardeners at every stage of their journey. It was a catalyst to try new techniques

at home—whether improving soil health, rethinking water use, or exploring more sustainable ways of producing food. It was a rewarding and insightful field trip that highlighted what's possible when passion and permaculture principles come together.



*Right: **Velvet beans** (*Mucuna pruriens*) are tropical legumes native to Africa and Asia, widely known for their heavy biomass. They are prized as a natural soil-improving cover crop and for their medicinal properties, containing high levels of L-DOPA, a precursor to dopamine. More [here](#)*



*Above: **Lagos spinach** (*Celosia argentea*) is rich in protein, calcium, iron, and Vitamins A and C. This highly nutritious, drought-tolerant leafy green thrives in full sun and well-drained soil. Leaves, stems, flower buds are edible cooked.*





The above area had to be netted to protect crops from brush turkeys, cockatoos and other wildlife. It features single reach gardens and walkways with overhead irrigation.

Below: Several species of clumping bamboo are grown in a far corner of the property. It is used as a supplement for fodder (high in silica), and the canes make excellent tree and tomato stakes.



A Food Forest is an agricultural design that mimics the layers and symbiotic relationships found in a natural forest. It replaces single-crop farming with a diverse, low-maintenance ecosystem of edible and companion plants that produce food, forage for animals, timber for construction, and fuel.

Food forests rely on a multi-tiered structure, known as layers, to maximise space and reduce the need for fertilisers, weeding, or watering once established.

Layers include:

**Root crops** – Sweet potato, cassava, peanuts, arrowroot

**Ground cover** – Pinto peanut, native strawberries, pumpkin, mint

**Herbaceous layer** – Rosemary, lemongrass

**Shrubs** – Elderberry, Coffee

**Nitrogen fixing trees** – Pigeon pea, acacias, icecream bean

**Understorey trees** – Moringa, Fingerlime, Nectarine, Bushtucker

**Overstorey (canopy) trees** – Mango, Jackfruit

**Climbers** – Passionfruit, Yams, Madagascar bean, Lab lab



Below: Doreen practises rotational grazing. The sheep provide lawnmowing and manure until they are butchered. Meat chickens are normally harvested at 6-7 weeks; Doreen lets hers grow to 12-14 weeks.



Left: The Cold Smokehouse is used to add delicious smoke flavour to cheese, eggs, spices and meat.





*Left: Water is a huge concern on a rural property, especially since Jimboomba is known to be in a “rain shadow”, receiving a lot less average annual rainfall than the greater Brisbane region. However, Doreen has more than enough water – she has a 60 000-litre dam and has also installed a 175 000-litre Pioneer Aqualiner tank. The roof is the only catchment – 125m<sup>2</sup> – and the tank has never been empty.*



*Above: Wicking beds are utilised for the kitchen garden. They are netted to protect plants from pests and wildlife, and all beds are daisy chained (joined) to make the system efficient and functional. Note the tap within easy reach of the beds and the kitchen. Overflow from the beds goes to the bananas (hungry and thirsty feeders) growing at the back. Some wicking beds are made from timber, whilst the majority are made from IBCs. These have been painted with a spray gun to preserve the plastic. Surrounding the beds Doreen has planted flowering plants such as salvias to attract beneficial pollinating insects.*



*Left: a timber cabin for interns and visitors to stay.*

*Doreen regularly uses [WOOFERS](#) to help manage the property.*

Report by Ann Roffey.  
Photos by Linda Brennan, Mike Qualmann and Ann Roffey.



## CareerGrow – Get Set for Work Program

Start Your Career. Grow Your Future.



### Looking for Work?

The CareerGrow Horticulture Program supports young people to gain real-world skills, build confidence, achieve a nationally recognised qualification at no cost.

### Am I eligible?

Get set for work may be right for you if you:

- Are you 15-24 years old
- Not currently enrolled in school
- Are a Queensland resident
- Want a job, training or a fresh start

### Details

**Start Date:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2026  
**Training Hours:** 9am - 3pm Monday and Tuesdays for 12 weeks  
**Location:** 1 Adam Street, Wynnum 4178  
**Training Provider:** CSTC Pty Ltd  
 RTO Code 0699

### What you'll get

- AHC20422 Certificate II in Horticulture
- Hands on work experience
- Help finding a job or moving into further training
- Assistance with work and interview clothing
- Ongoing support for 6 months after the project is completed
- Transport assistance
- Snacks each day
- Fun team-building activities while making new friends
- Supportive trainers and a welcoming environment

### Ready to Get Started?

Contact us today to discuss your eligibility:  
 Nicole Louange  
 0458 983 383  
 nlouange@myhorizon.org.au

**Our next Seedsavers meeting** will be just after the AGM.

It's scheduled as a daytime meetup for

**Tuesday 18 August 9.30 am**

Our topic is **'Growing Successful Root Crops'**. We'll have suggestions, practice and seed saving on the day as well.

Please book your spot via Team App.

## Seedsavers' in June ... with Linda Brennan

Our soup night was a cosy affair. It was warmed with soups, bread and wonderful companionship. We were enthused by the invigorating talk of garden companions and guilds, and with saving lots of seeds for the ROGI meetings as well.

Just to give you a brief resume, companion plants are those that grow well with certain other plants, providing services such as pollinator attraction, predator food, or a decoy against pests.

When we combine three or more plants that are mutually beneficial, this is called a guild. Our exercise for the night was to select guild and companion plants from a table of possibilities.

Some of our suggestions included:

**Problem:** A fig tree problem is cluster caterpillars that defoliate the leaves and affect the harvest.

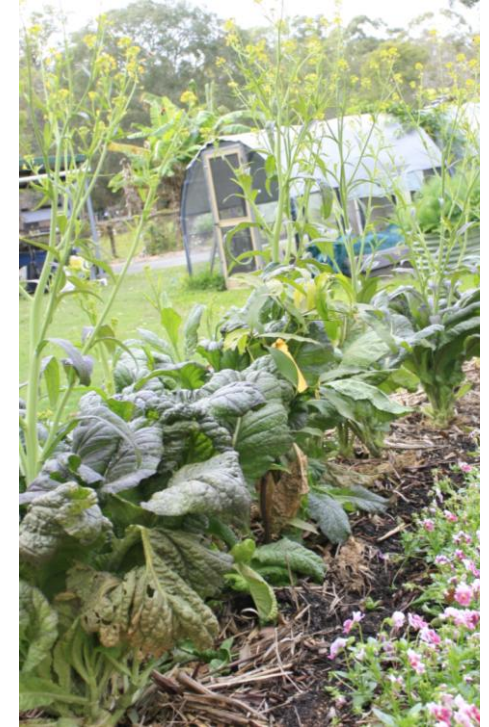
**Solution:** *Tansy (R)* is a great companion understorey plant for figs as it deters the caterpillars. *Society garlic* grown under figs will also deter pests.

**Problem:** Tomatoes appreciate a bit of sulphur to protect against fungal diseases. They suffer from fruit fly & nematodes.

**Solution:** A Guild: *Mustard greens like giant red mustard (R)* and *rocket* are peppery and hot, exuding gas that kills nematodes & *Marigolds* help to reduce nematodes. Plant them with or after a crop. After flowering, dig & cut off roots and solarise them. The leaves of mustard greens can be used as a high nitrogen mulch for both marigolds and tomatoes.

**Problem:** Zucchini needs many visits by pollinators for its monoecious flowers (male or female). It can be tricky to hand pollinate successfully.

**Solution:** A hive of native stingless bees will provide pollination for many plants & use the leaves of comfrey growing nearby to make a garden tea. A spray of the diluted tea will help to prevent mildew on the zucchini leaves.



**Bethania St Community Garden.**

Cox Park, Bethania St, Lota – walking distance from Lota station.

## **Upcoming Events & Workshops**

### **Growing Healthy Organic Fruit Trees      Sunday 26 July, 10:00am - 12:00pm.**

Healthy trees and abundant, organic harvests, that's the goal. Presented by Doreen Jachmann, a professional horticulturist and workshop facilitator who is passionate about sustainable living and growing organic food, this hands-on workshop dives into everything fruit trees (including citrus) need to thrive: organic feeding routines, watering strategies, and natural pest prevention. You'll leave with the know-how to keep your fruit trees vigorous, resilient, and loaded with healthy, nutritious fruit, season after season.

### **Pruning Fruit Trees      Sunday 26 July, 12:30 - 02:30pm**

Pruning doesn't have to be confusing or intimidating. In this workshop, presented by Doreen Jachmann, a professional horticulturist and workshop facilitator who is passionate about sustainable living and growing organic food, you'll learn the key pruning rules that keep your fruit trees healthy, balanced, and bursting with fruit. You'll understand how trees respond to cuts, how to shape for strength and airflow, and how to work with the tree's natural growth patterns. You'll have hands-on experience in the community garden's food forest so you'll know exactly when, where and how to prune to get the best from your fruit trees year after year. (The techniques taught can be applied to any tree).

### **Growing Abundant Organic Vegetables      Sunday 30 August, 10:00am - 12:00pm**

Learn how to grow abundant organic vegetables. Acclaimed presenter, Michael Wardle, will use the community garden environment for hands-on activities, with topics including soil, plants and seasons and nutrient cycling. Suitable for beginners and experienced gardeners. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

### **Growing Organic Fruit Trees      Sunday, 30 August, 12:30 - 2:30pm**

Learn how to grow healthy, organic fruit trees in small suburban backyards. You will gain knowledge on the establishment and ongoing maintenance of a thriving backyard system. Acclaimed presenter, Michael Wardle, will use the community garden environment for hands-on activities. Suitable for beginners and experienced gardeners. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

**Bookings essential for the above 4 FREE workshops. Text 0439 048 585 including your name**

### **Seasonal Get-Together      Sunday 25th October, 2:30 - 4:00pm**

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Seasonal Get-Together.

Bring your friends and neighbours to wander through our productive garden, talk to our friendly gardeners, meet new people and celebrate our garden and wonderful community. Come for a cuppa and a chat.      **Free. No booking required**

## ROGI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Jill Nixon	<a href="mailto:president@rogi.com.au">president@rogi.com.au</a>
V. PRESIDENT	Linda Barrett	<a href="mailto:vp@rogi.com.au">vp@rogi.com.au</a>
SECRETARY	Mike Qualmann	<a href="mailto:secretary@rogi.com.au">secretary@rogi.com.au</a>
TREASURER	Rose Faleafa	<a href="mailto:treasurer@rogi.com.au">treasurer@rogi.com.au</a>
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OFFICE BEARERS		
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Rhonda Binns	<a href="mailto:membership@rogi.com.au">membership@rogi.com.au</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	<a href="#">vacancy</a> Jill Nixon	<a href="mailto:jill.nixon@bigpond.com">jill.nixon@bigpond.com</a>
PR, COMMUNICATIONS	Gail Bruce	
CLUB EVENTS	Linda Barrett	
PUBLIC EVENTS	-	<a href="mailto:publicevents@rogi.com.au">publicevents@rogi.com.au</a>
LIBRARY	<a href="#">Vacancy</a>	<a href="mailto:library@rogi.com.au">library@rogi.com.au</a>
Library Assistants	Lin Peart, Dee Armstrong	
SEED BANK	Geoff & Cheryl Rynja	<a href="mailto:seeds@rogi.com.au">seeds@rogi.com.au</a>
Seedsavers Group	Linda Brennan	<a href="mailto:linda@ecobotanica.com.au">linda@ecobotanica.com.au</a>
TECH DESK	Mike Qualmann	<a href="#">&amp; vacancies</a>
WEBSITE	Pal Juvancz	<a href="mailto:pal@pcpals.com.au">pal@pcpals.com.au</a>

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

Other gardening groups using organic methods:

**Brisbane Organic Growers Inc (BOGI)**— 1st Thurs monthly (not Jan). 6.30. Albion Peace Hall, McDonald Rd, Windsor. 0438254673 <http://bogi.org.au>

**Qld Herb Society**—1st Tues monthly, Albion Peace Hall. 7.30pm. 045879 663 <https://qldherbsociety.org.au>

**Oaklands Street Community Gardens**— Mon, Wed, Fri 9-12 . Alexandra Hills. 0410 974 458 <https://www.oaklandsstcommunitygardenqld.org>

**Bethania St Community Garden**—Wed mornings, Cox Park, Lota. 0439 048 585 <https://www.bethaniastreetcommunitygarden.org>

## General 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 and signs in is eligible for a Reward. **Please label plant with its name and some growing details before placing it on the table.**

### MEMBERS' SALES:

Items you've produced surplus to your requirements **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- on table outside

For items you don't want payment for— empty pots, cuttings, surplus produce, unwanted plants (named), shredded paper, strawberry runners and so on. Maybe arrange with other members to do some swapping outside meetings. Take home what's left after meeting.

### 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 form on the Plant Clinic table (just inside the door to the main hall) before the meeting starts. Someone will look and may be able to answer your questions. Any solutions will be given 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.*

**Also, the ROGI WEBSITE:** Under RESOURCES tab, you'll find:

- ROGI's month-by-month Seed Sowing Guide
  - Seed viability Chart
  - Good Bugs
  - No-dig gardening ideas
  - Permaculture
  - Copies of all newsletters since September 2014.
- ... and lots more. Have a browse.

## We'd like LOVE to hear from you.

For example, send us:

- A photo or article of/about an interesting plant
- A request for items or information
- Specific garden or nutrition info
- A recipe for home-grown produce
- A notice of 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

**August 2026 newsletter deadline is Thurs 30 July**

Send contributions to [jill.nixon@bigpond.com](mailto:jill.nixon@bigpond.com)

### STACK TEAM APP

With TEAM APP, you can:

- keep up to date with club events in real time
- not wait till the meeting to book your place for Garden Visits, Workshops, Field Trips.
- make bookings as soon as they are posted on TEAM APP.
- Cancel your booking if needed to free up a spot for someone on the waiting list

**If you haven't already registered for TEAM APP, here's how to get TEAM APP on your phone or computer.**

On your smart phone **or tablet**.

- Go to the App store (apple smart phones) or Playstore (Android smart phones)
- Look for the TEAM APP logo. (above)

If you need assistance to set up your TEAM APP account on:

- **a phone or tablet**, someone can help you at the next meeting.
- **your computer**.

Go to <https://www.teamapp.com>

SIGN UP using your email address and a password. Click on MY TEAMS and select your team as ROGI.

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*Right:* This is the same kale branch on Monday 23 June.

As you can see, there are no aphids in evidence.

We make sure we have a yard full of assorted companion plants to deter pests and attract beneficial insects. In this case, it could have been green lacewings or their larvae, which have ferocious appetites.

We didn't see it happening as our trips to the garden that weekend were quick and made in between rain showers.

It was good that the aphids were there as they provided a meal for the good guys, thus keeping them on the premises to predate on other pests, some of which we'll probably never know about.



**Gardening tip:** Blue flowering plants such as lobelias and cornflowers (left) will repel the Cabbage White butterfly when planted between brassicas.

*Linda Brennan*

**Gardening tip:** Keep rhubarb leaves rather than composting them. They make an excellent mulch around new seedlings as they prevent slugs and snails from eating the little plants. Just poke a hole in a rhubarb leaf and sit this hole over the seedling, laying the leaf like a skirt around the seedling.

*Linda Brennan*

