

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 just have a chat before the meeting. Please be seated by 7pm ready for the proceedings.

*Bayside Community Church
Cnr McDonald Rd & 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

Inside this edition

	Page
President's Message	2
Coming Events. Membership	3
September Meeting	3
E-Waste Collection & Tool Sharpening	4
ROGI Committee Positions	4-5
Garden Visit - Jill & Ian Nixon	6-9
Plants of the Month	10,11
Attract Birds to Your Garden	12-14
Recent Facebook Posts	15
ROGI Events. Deadline	16
Upcoming Garden Events	16
Biodynamic Planting Guide	17
Seed Sowing Guide	17
ROGI Committee & Office Bearers	18
Meeting Information	18



Spring has sprung! Flowers are bursting into colour, and birds are singing their joyful song. Above is a Brown honeyeater on *Salvia leucantha* Midnight, with coreopsis in the background. Read more about how to attract birds to your garden on pages 12-14.

Jill's Jottings

As I write this, spring has really made its presence felt. With the warmer soils and warmer nights, it's time to plan what to grow so you have plenty in your garden for summertime harvesting. Linda has highlighted some on page 10, and next week our guest speaker Gennaro will talk about many more that will thrive in whatever weather nature throws at us this summer. No doubt he'll include plants that you may not know.

Because of the formerly predominate European heritage in Australia, we tend to go for the European plants that came to our country over the past 200 years. SEQ was never really satisfactory for these temperate climate plants, and the climate becomes more extreme and less suitable for them every year.

There is a feast of greens, beans, fruits and roots originating from other subtropical areas – SE Asia, Central and South America and central Africa – that are becoming more known and popular in our multicultural community. A benefit of matching plant selection to our environment is that it makes everything easier – we're not fighting the forces of nature, but going with the flow. So, be open to trying something new this season.

We've all appreciated and benefitted from the work of Janet who, for many years, has managed the Seed Bank and also raised seedlings for us to purchase from ROGI at bargain prices. A HUGE thank you to Janet. Janet has developed a great deal of knowledge and seed-raising skills in the process, and she now needs to pass the role to someone else. She is happy to give tips and advice to the new Seed Bank team. So far we have two people in this team and we'd love a few more volunteers so that no one will feel overwhelmed. This is the perfect job for those who like

to work together while chatting ... and develop knowledge and skills. Please get in touch with Janet or me to discuss, if you're even a tiny bit interested.

I will not be nominating for President again this year. I have a huge backlog of things that need attending to, which means I couldn't put 100% into the role. We need a new President, and the committee is happy to be accommodating to make the role easier for someone who, for example, may be fairly new to ROGI, or who doesn't relish the idea of speaking from the stage or writing the President's message for the newsletter every month. We also need a new Vice President, and these two roles can be shared in whatever way would suit the new people. Once again, please get in touch to discuss. If you receive a personal request to fill one of these roles, please consider it a compliment and think about saying 'yes'. Please.

May all your gardening dreams come to fruition.
Jill Nixon, ROGI President

A parasitic wasp has laid her eggs in this caterpillar, which stays alive as they develop and form small yellow cocoons. They eventually hatch out and then the caterpillar dies.

They're a good thing to have in the garden, as they're a beneficial insect. Once hatched they will naturally control the pests on your crops.

For more info go to:
<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/wipeout-wasp/9441008>



Coming Events

SEPTEMBER	Thurs 9	ROGI Meeting & AGM
		E-Waste and Tool Sharpening
	Wed 15	Seed Savers Group (see p. 16)
	Sun 19	Field Trip (see p. 16)
OCTOBER	Sun 26	Garden Visit (see p. 16)
	Thurs 14	ROGI Meeting
	Sun 17	Garden Visit

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

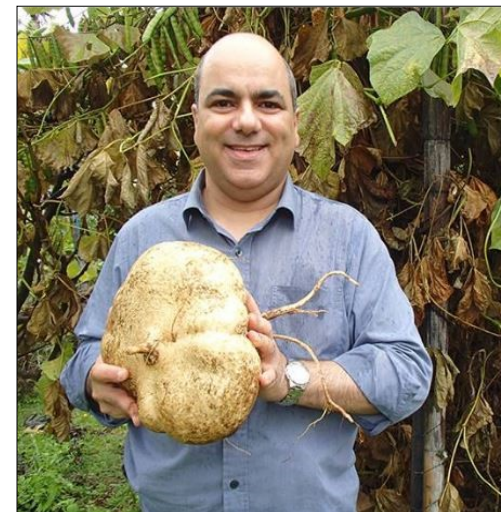
September Meeting

Edibles that thrive in our summer

Passionate local gardener Gennaro De Rosa will showcase some of the best hardy edible plants that will not just survive, but thrive in our hot and humid summer. He'll also tell us how to look after them and how to use them.

This will be preceded by the ROGI Annual General Meeting and Plant Clinic - so bring along your plant and any gardening problems (see p. 18).

Collect any unwanted e-waste (anything with a battery or plug or battery) of yours, your friends and neighbours, and bring it along for pickup by Substation 33, who will repurpose it. There will be tool sharpening for free too, see p. 4 for more details.



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

This meeting is not open for visitors. Entry free for ROGI members.
To join, go to the **MEMBERSHIP** tab at 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.

E-WASTE COLLECTION

ROGI will be having an E-Waste collection at our next meeting on the 9th September. **Bins will be set up outside in the parking bay - please place your e-waste in them as you arrive.**

Electronic waste (E-Waste) is any electric or electronic product that has become non-working, unwanted or obsolete, and has essentially reached the end of its useful life.

Sources of E-Waste include:

- IT and telecommunication equipment
- Large household appliances
- Small household appliances
- Consumer and Lighting Equipment
- Electrical and Electronic Tools
- Toys, Leisure and Sports Equipment
- Medical Devices
- Monitoring and Control Instruments



TOOL SHARPENING AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

Shannon from Pout Sharpening will be providing tool sharpening at the September meeting ... this will be FREE for members.

- One tool per ROGI member. If there is time, a second can be done at your own expense. Prices on Shannon's website: <https://www.poutsharpening.com.au/>
- Please write your name on the tool with indelible ink or name tag it
- Clean hand tools, not spades



ROGI Management Committee Positions

The ROGI Annual General Meeting will be held at our 9 September meeting. All committee positions will be declared vacant at the beginning of the AGM.

PRESIDENT

Leads and inspires ROGI.

Delivers monthly meetings to members.

Seeks guest speakers, field trips and other opportunities.

Promotes ROGI and organic gardening to the community.

VICE PRESIDENT

Assists the President to:

- Lead and inspire ROGI.
- Deliver monthly meetings to members.
- Seek guest speakers, field trips and other opportunities.
- Promote ROGI and organic gardening to the community.

Stands in if president is absent.

SECRETARY

Keeps records of the business of ROGI, including the rules.

Records officeholders and trustees of the association.

Sets agendas and records minutes of committee meetings.

Completes and sends documents to the Office of Fair Trading after the AGM.

Manages correspondence.

TREASURER

Handles all monies paid or received and issues receipts.

Deposits monies into ROGI bank account.

Makes payments from ROGI funds with appropriate authority.

Complies with Associations Incorporation Act.

Submits report, balance sheet or financial statement to the committee on a monthly basis.

Has custody of all accounting records of ROGI.

Reviews transactions online prior to all meetings.

Prepares and forwards financial statements and supporting documents to auditor before the Annual General Meeting.

ROGI Management Committee Positions *(continued)*

ROGI OFFICE BEARERS

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR – INTERNAL (COMMITTEE POSITION *)

Sources and coordinates member workshops, garden visits and field trips.

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR – PUBLIC (COMMITTEE POSITION *)

Organises public ROGI events (eg. IndigiScapes, Green Heart Fair).

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (COMMITTEE POSITION *)

Updates membership list monthly; sends to committee.

Compiles list of visitors each month.

Sends an individual welcome letter to each new member.

PR & COMMUNICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR (COMMITTEE POSITION *)

Handles advertising and press releases.

Arranges maintenance of website, including Directory and Public Events.

Arranges maintenance of social media (Facebook, Instagram, Team App).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (4) *

The committee members will have office bearer positions and be an integral part of the decision-making process. The eight committee members (listed above) are expected to attend ROGI management committee meetings. Currently these are usually held two weeks after the ROGI monthly members meeting.

POSITIONS VACANT:

You may nominate for any committee position (vacant or not) if you wish to be part of the decision-making process. All nominations must be lodged in writing on the appropriate form before the AGM, with a proposer and a seconder and signed by the nominee.

COVID CO-ORDINATOR

Ensures COVID restrictions are adhered to and oversees the COVID cleaning requirements as listed by the Salvation Army and completes the signoff after the members meetings. Coordinates helpers.

AV DESK OPERATOR/S (Two or more people are needed)

Operates AV desk on meeting nights.

LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR

Maintains records of books in stock and all loans.

Acquires new books as directed by the committee.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Liaises with President, Committee, and Office Bearers to publish their articles, upcoming events and other relevant articles/news.

Develops ideas and arranges for members or self to write articles.

Arranges for write-ups from events and speakers.

Edits for accuracy of spelling, grammar, sources and facts.

Sends finished document to President for review and distribution.

SEED BANK, SEED AND PLANT SALES CO-ORDINATOR

Purchases, saves or procures fresh quality seed for seed bank.

Maintains records of seed stock and rotates to maintain viability.

Sells seeds at ROGI meetings, garden visits and events.

Arranges for envelopes, labels and seed-packing days.

Ensures Seed Bank has seasonal stock.

SUPPER CO-ORDINATOR (When allowed)

Supplies consumables and keeps receipts for reimbursement by the Treasurer.

Lays out supper provided by members.

Ensures kitchen is clean after meetings with help of volunteers.

Launders tea towels.

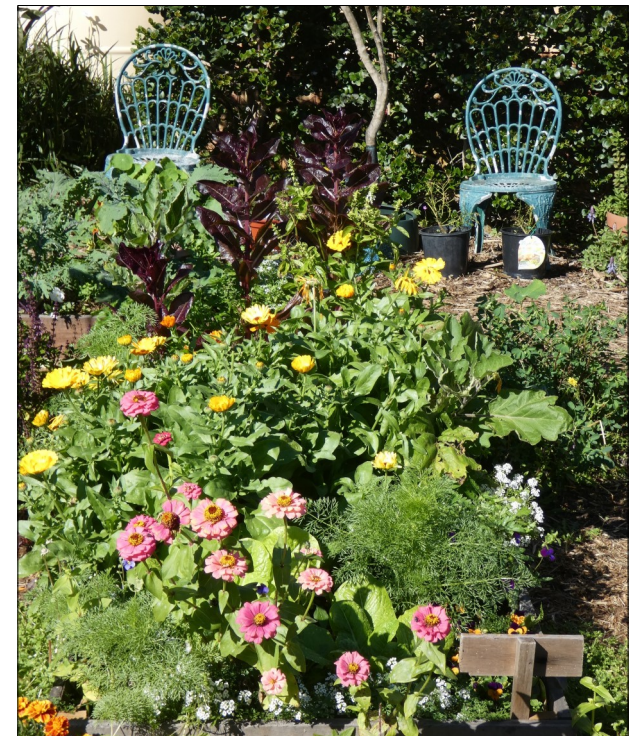
Garden Visit - Jill and Ian Nixon

Jill and Ian Nixon's garden looked pretty as a picture when it was open for a garden visit in late July. There was heaps to inspire us for our own gardens, whether it be plants to grow or items to repurpose.

When the Nixons moved into their Birkdale home five years ago, the front and back yards were mainly grass. Now, their 750 square metre block is brimming with organically grown fruit trees, vegetables, herbs, flowers, and chickens.

The gardens are all hand watered with tank water. Organic inputs include loads of home-made compost which contains biochar, NatraMin, horse manure, coffee grounds, food scraps, shredded paper, spoiled lucerne hay and chook bedding (and sometimes a dead chook). Their suburban block has the beautiful red 'Redlands' soil. Add to this decent rainfall and north-facing sun ... a winning combination for excellent growing results.

By Ann Roffey. Photos by Jill Nixon & Ann Roffey



Garden Visit - Jill & Ian Nixon (continued)



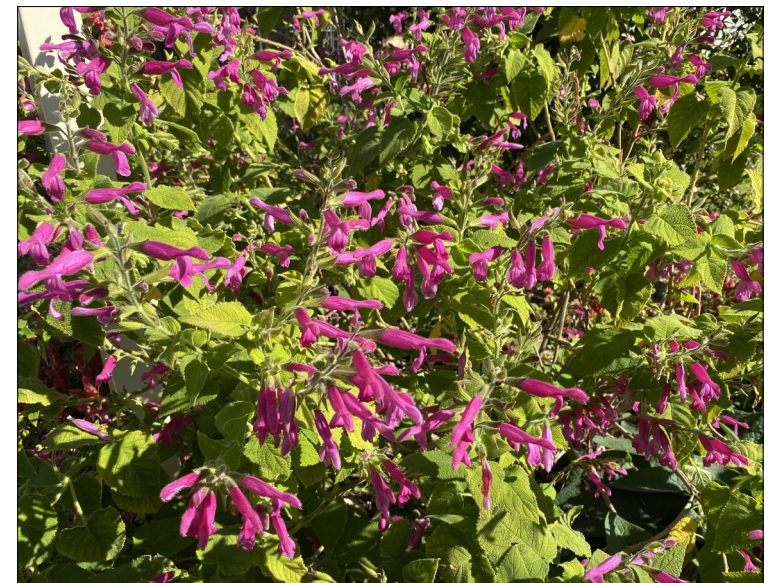
Left: White cabbage butterflies are dealt with by using flowers to attract predators and parasites, and highly scented plants to confuse the butterfly.



Above: The black sapote (aka chocolate pudding fruit) is fruiting heavily. It is 8 years old, and started out its life growing in a large pot. It was planted in the ground 5 years ago, and this is the second year it has fruited. The fruit is picked when it is green and mature, and left to ripen on the bench. It is a relative of the persimmon.



Left: Kale and other leafy greens growing in their new hardwood beds in the front yard.



Salvia dorisiana (fruity sage) in full flower. The lovely fruity scented leaves and the flowers can be used in salads, fruit salads, iced teas and fruit punches.

Garden Visit - Jill & Ian Nixon (continued)



Above: Arrowroot Rojo - A rare form of Qld arrowroot. It is a clump-forming perennial plant to 2m high, with an edible tuber. The tuber has a high potassium content, and 1-3% protein; the young leaves and shoots are nutritious and contain 10% protein. The leaves can also be cut for mulch and the plant used as a weed barrier, low windbreak or animal fodder. For more info or to buy plants, go to: <http://greenharvest.com.au/Plants/Information/Arrowroot.html> and <http://greenharvest.com.au/Plants/SoilImprovers.html>

Right: The dwarf mulberry was cut back a few weeks prior to this photo, and has already started shooting again! Mulberries fruit on new wood, so it's best to prune after fruiting has finished to encourage new growth and more fruiting. If you prune it hard, it will also be a manageable height.



Finger lime



Left: A prolific patch of nut-grass is growing alongside the shed ... it is the bane of their life! They have tried: digging it out, applying a heavy application of sugar and heavy mulching to get rid of it, but all to no avail. They are trying a biodynamic pepper next. Right: Florence fennel was planted about four years ago. Every year it self sows. It is entirely edible from the bulb to the leaves and seeds.



Garden Visit - Jill & Ian Nixon (continued)



Salad Burnett. They strip the leaves to add to a salad. Grows in part shade.



Growing well on repurposed reinforcing mesh are a few varieties of climbing beans .

Senorita bananas are the size of Jill's smallest finger!



Lots of bananas! Left are their dwarf Ducasse bananas or sugar banana - the small fruit have a sweet, fragrant flavour. The Blue java banana is native to south east Asia. It is said that it has a flavour similar to vanilla and an ice-cream like consistency. The tiny Senorita banana is one of the shortest banana cultivars, growing to a height of only 2.44m!

Plants of the Month

Plant now for an edible spring and early summer

It's still cool in the evenings and overnight, yet day time temperatures are positively balmy and bright, with low humidity. August through to late October is the perfect time of the year to be working out in the garden, preparing your soil and planting into your productive garden beds. And if you don't wear gloves or shoes in the garden, you'll be feeling the soil warming up too. Seeds and plants all respond to this warmer soil temperature with more rapid germination and growth.

I've been harvesting winter cabbages, kohlrabi, snow peas galore, Asian greens including pak choy and tatsoi, and some of the most beautiful baby carrots from the garden. Each of these grows so well over winter and will fill up your beds with abundant produce. But as the harvest of winter vegies happens, you'll be left with gaps in the vegie garden, so what can you be planting now? Here are 10 of my favourite vegies to plant in September and October...

Beetroot *Chioggia* have pink rings and are so pretty as well as being mild in flavour

Carrots I love the *Dutch Baby* and *Golf Ball* shaped carrots as they are quicker to mature and give an easy harvest.

Climbing Beans Before it gets too hot, try the *Climbing Purple King Beans* and the range of Italian climbing flat beans. We have a few different types in the ROGI seed bank for you to purchase.

Corn Sweet corn is marvellous at this time of the year, but also try the flint corn varieties such as *Glass Gem* or *Hopi Blue* if you'd like corn for cooking with or for grinding.

Cucumber It's early season for cukes I know, but do try cucumbers for yourself. The *Gympie Gold* are tremendous, but the little pickling gherkins are just as good.

Lettuce We have such a beautiful range of lettuces in the Seed Bank, take a look and be inspired to grow a wonderful mesclun mix.

Radish Radish is such a fast crop from seed. I'm harvesting perfectly round red *Cherry Belle* radish that grew from seed in just 22 days!

Snow Peas Be sure to give them a climbing frame and remember to harvest regularly for continuing production.

Sugar Snaps These are even better than Snow peas I think! Crispy, thick and the perfect crunchy vegetable for summer salads. I find the climbers better than the bush types.



Purple King beans for dinner



Cherry Belle radish

Plants of the Month *(continued)*

Yakon Sow the setts which are the growing part of the plant now. We will be covering how to grow these at the next Seed Savers Meeting on Wednesday 15 September. Book your spot on the ROGI team App. If you haven't been to a Seed Savers meeting before, you may need to go to the Team App booking and request to be a member of Seed Savers first.

You can't go past a few plants of rosellas, grown from seed at this time of the year too. Come the heat of summer you'll have loads of rosellas ready to harvest from bushes that are about 1-1.5 metres tall and a similar width. They make excellent jams, cordial and preserves

If you've dug up your ginger and turmeric and saved a few of the rhizomes for the next season, they need to go into the ground or a large pot as soon as possible. Turmeric is always slower to germinate than the ginger, so add a garden stake or a plant tag to remind you where you have planted the pieces.



Would you like to sharpen up your food growing skills? Book in for an organic garden class with me at Ecobotanica, Capalaba. You'll find the dates, descriptors and more at: www.ecobotanica.com.au

Happy growing, Linda Brennan

TROMBONCINO ZUCCHINI

What are you growing in your patch this summer? Now is a good time to plant seeds for zucchini Tromboncino, an Italian heirloom vining zucchini. The plant is highly productive over a long period, has good disease resistance, with a comparable flavour to conventional zucchini.

The tromboncino is most productive when it is grown on a trellis or similar, but it can also be grown on the ground.

Pick the fruit at around 25cm to eat (when they are sweeter), or leave on the vine to mature for seed saving - when it will harden and turn orange. Once the seeds are scooped out, the rest can be cooked and eaten like pumpkin. Such a versatile vegetable! For more info go to pages 14-15 of the August 2020 ROGI newsletter. Seeds are available from the Seed Savers Bank (for free!)



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.

Attract Birds to your Garden

By Ann Roffey

The one thing that has kept us sane in recent times has been our garden, and the creatures that share it with us. There's nothing more satisfying than enjoying a cuppa on the porch, and watching the birds that visit. From our resident Little wattlebird, who is keener than any guard dog at protecting 'his' patch, to the male blue Superb fairy wrens with their harem of brown females, flitting here and there eating tasty insects. Each one plays an important part in the garden's ecosystem (eg. helping with pest control).

What would the number one bird attractant be in our yard besides plants? Bird baths! We have them in numerous places ... atop the brick pillars of the fence, on the ground hidden amongst some greenery, and as a feature near the front porch. They are all visited at some time by the birds that frequent our yard. They are cleaned every couple of days with a scrubbing brush, and filled with fresh tank water. This is done daily in summer, there's almost a queue of birds waiting whilst I finish!



Little wattlebird



Providing water (preferably tank) for bathing and drinking will attract a great many birds to your garden. Bird baths don't need to be expensive ... a terracotta dish will suffice. Providing different depths for small and large birds will attract many different birds to your garden.

Before I became an edible garden convert, the plants on my patch were chiefly natives. Now I'm into so many plants, but the natives and flowering plants remain, because I truly believe we need to keep a balance between our need to feed ourselves and feeding nature.

We've never been ones to "feed" the birds - this only creates dependency on humans and gives them the wildlife equivalent of junk food. On a couple of occasions there's been up to 20 magpies in our yard, because other people in the area feed them. They've become very tame, and so cheeky! It's not normal behaviour though, and when there are too many of one large bird it displaces other smaller birds, causing an imbalance in bird populations.

Instead, we grow plants that flower and feed them - grevillea, eucalyptus, banksia, melaleuca, lilly pillies and golden penda to name a few. In summer, the soft pink blooms of the Euodia tree (right) bring in the nectar feeding birds, followed by seed pods that attract seed feeding birds such as Fig birds and Olive-backed orioles. Although exotics, Salvias are great bird and insect attractants; they are hardy and easy to grow.



Superb fairy wren



Magpie morning chorus

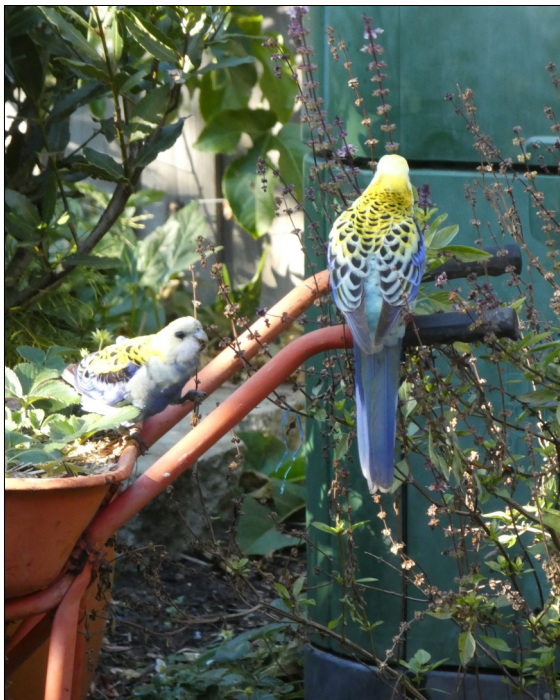


Rainbow lorikeet in Euodia

Attract Birds to your Garden (continued)



Left: Juvenile fig bird eating the fruit of our small-leaved lilly pilli *Syzygium luehmannii*. We have to cut this lilly pilli back every few years so it doesn't shade our solar panels. Smaller growing varieties are available, check out Timbara Garden Centre in Thornlands, they have a good selection.



During the drought our back yard was visited almost daily by this pair of pale-headed rosellas. They loved to eat the seeds from my scrappy looking basil (and I was thinking of pulling it out - shame!) and the First Fleet lettuce which had been left to flower so I could collect seed. It was lovely to think it was also providing sustenance to wildlife.



To cut or not to cut ... that is the question! Some growers maintain that leaving the banana bell lessens the size of the fruit, with energy being directed to the flower instead. We leave ours on - every day it is visited by nectar feeding birds, and at night the flying foxes come too.



Grevilleas come in many sizes, and are hardy and easy to grow. Some varieties flower almost continuously. Pictured left is *G. Honey Barbara*. Other favourites include Honey Gem, Moonlight, Fire Sprite, Strawberry Blonde and Lollipops. Nielsen's Native Nursery in Loganholme has a wide selection and plenty of advice.

Attract Birds to your Garden *(continued)*

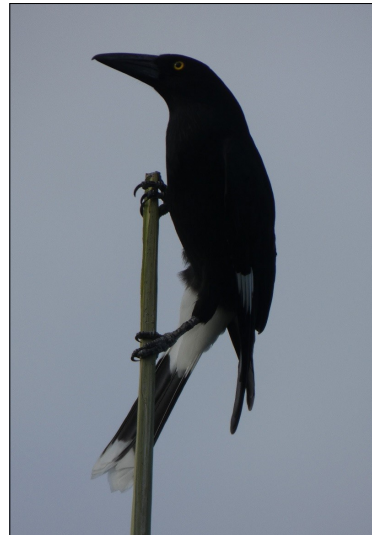
Of course, not all the birds that visit our yard are welcome. We find the common crow most annoying. They scare away smaller birds, and steal the eggs from other birds' nests. We have them in abundance in our suburb because of the school nearby, and they are also fed by humans so there are plenty of them. A black rake is waved in the air to scare them off, and if that doesn't work, the hose on 'jet' setting works a treat! Another unwelcome visitor last year was a junior bush turkey, looking to set up home in our yard. Not likely! There ensued quite a war to move him on.

Cats are bird killers, so if you or your neighbour own one, birds (especially small ones) will probably stay away. Consider keeping your cat inside, or provide a cat enclosure. If it belongs to the neighbour, teach your dog to chase it away, or do it yourself (we do!). The Brisbane City Council conducts pest animal management programs, targeting feral cats that frequent local areas. Petition your Council to run a similar program.

Attracting birds to your garden is easy and so rewarding. Provide some bird baths (near plants, so they feel safer), and plant flowering natives, or even some exotics - they'll find it hard to stay away from the smorgasbord of water, nectar, seeds and insects. The Aussie Bird Count is coming up again during the week of 18-24 October. Mark it on the calendar, and make every bird count!



This young kookaburra loves to find a perch from which he can spot prey. He's very patient, and will sit for quite a time waiting.



Currawong sitting on the top of an unopened fox-tail palm frond ... a good vantage point.



We couldn't believe it when we spotted this bird sitting atop his freshly killed prey, as if in a trance. It's a Collared sparrowhawk, and our yard became a killing field that summer, with pigeons being the main prey.



Cockatoos chew the gumnuts of *Eucalyptus ptychocarpa* (pictured above in flower) to keep their beaks trim.

Recent ROGI Facebook Posts

Sorting through my seeds to plant this morning and I came upon my corn. Oh dear!!! The little ziplock bag had holes in it and the corn has been decimated by insects. Amongst the mess left behind I see dead ants and weevils. I've had to throw all of these corn seeds into the garden. They're no good at all. The lessons here are:

- Harvest disease and pest free seeds.
- Allow them to dry completely before picking through them and removing any suspect looking seeds.
- Once dry, seal in a bag and freeze for two days to kill any pests.
- Remove from the freezer and then when storing, choose a cool and dark spot with protection from insects.
- Record your seed harvest and storage details so you can cross check others for problems too.

...And now I'll have to check my whole seed bank to ensure weevils are not chewing their way through any other precious items.

Linda Brennan, Ecobotanica



Erin wondered what was wrong with her blueberry plant. Linda Brennan replied that it looks like mites. The black dots under the leaves are a dead giveaway. The treatment is Eco Oil sprayed to both sides of the leaves. Repeat in 10 days to kill any juveniles coming through.



Erin asked what the best treatment was for the bugs on her dwarf blood orange. There are ants too.

Terry advised that the bugs are scale, and can be rubbed off. The ants will farm them, however, and will also need to be controlled.

Madeleine suggested putting Vaseline around the tree stem so the ants can't climb up - however, Rohanne replied that this will ringbark the tree. You need to put masking tape (sticky side out) or tree banding tape first, then apply the Vaseline or horticultural glue. This will stop the ants from climbing the tree.

ROGI Events

SEED SAVERS GROUP

Wednesday 15 September

9am to 10.30am

Linda Brennan's - 8 Silverash Court, Capalaba

All ROGI members are welcome, even if you are new to Seed Savers. We will be learning how to divide and grow dahlia tubers and yacon setts.

Please BYO cup if you'd like a herbal tea.

We will be working outdoors.

Book your spot on Team App, or ring Linda on 0416 157 470.

FIELD TRIP

Millen Farm and Hilltop Farm

Sunday 19 September

\$10-00 per person, maximum 25 (bus provided)

Leaving from PCYC at Capalaba

Enjoy a day exploring the delights of the Samford Valley. Visit Millen Farm in Samford - a diversified small-scale urban farm divided between two farmers, maximising production and donating half its produce to a local charity. Followed by Hilltop Farm in King Scrub - a sustainable house and garden with subtropical orchard (over 220 trees and 80 bush tucker trees), and an extensive automated aquaponics system.

GARDEN VISIT

Ruth Bolomey's house, Capalaba

Sunday 26 September - 2pm

Ruth has established an edible garden almost single-handedly on her suburban block. Come and be inspired!



Upcoming Garden Events

OAKLANDS STREET OPEN GATE DAY

Keith Surridge Park East, Alexandra Hills

Sunday 12 September - 2-5pm

You are invited to discover Oaklands Street Community Garden with tours, open nursery, pizza and produce.

Enquiries Tony 0437 721 33 or Terry 0408 259 445

SPRINGTIME ON THE MOUNTAIN

5 Open Gardens at Mt Tamborine

Friday 24 and Saturday 25 September

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

- Tickets online. The cost is \$20 for each adult.
- Go to: <https://www.tamborinemountaingardenclub.org.au/springtime-on-the-mountain>

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 the editor and help keep the ROGI Newsletter topical, interesting, local and relevant.

Email: info@rogi.com.au

The October newsletter deadline is 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Rohanne's Biodynamic Planting guide: the best time to sow, propagate or prune in September

Looking after your soil. Includes composting, adding nutrients, applying cow horn manure	1st-5th and 17th-30th
Sowing seeds (refer to relevant plant group below), grafting, plant propagation and foliar feeds, applying horn silica	6th-15th
Plant and care for fruiting annuals including tomatoes, eggplant, peas and beans	7th-8th, 14th-16th, 23rd-26th
Plant and care for root crops including carrots, beetroot and potatoes	8th-10th, 16th-18th, 26th-28th
Plant and care for flowering annuals	1st-3rd, 10th-12th, 18th-21st, 28th-30th
Plant and care for leafy annuals	3rd-5th, 12th-14th, 21st-23rd
Peppers	Apply weed pepper on waxing moon, do not create or apply insect/animal peppers

Jill Nixon grew this unusual plant recently - Watermelon radish. She bought them as seedlings from Diggers. They are white on the outside, with a narrow green shoulder and pink interior. So pretty on a plate.

They can grow rather big for a radish (up to 8cm), but it's better to harvest them at about 3cm (pictured). Otherwise they're too big, and the skin gets hard and needs peeling. They are sweetish, with a very slight spicy nudge of heat. Leaves can be eaten, but she prefers giving these to the chooks - plenty of other nicer greens in the garden.



Seed Sowing Guide

September

Artichoke: Jerusalem Artichoke
Asparagus
Beetroot
Beans: French
Capsicum/Chilli
Carrot
Chicory
Choko
Cucumber
Eggplant
Kohlrabi
Lettuce
Okra
Melons: Water, Rock
Potatoes
Pumpkin
Radish
Silver beet
Squash
Sweet Corn
Sweet Potato
Tomato
Zucchini

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

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 & 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.*