

Next meeting: Wednesday 8 April 2015

# ROGI News

**Doors open at 6.15 so members can visit the library, shop or seed bank or just have a chat before our meeting starts. Please be seated by 7pm ready for our speakers.**

**Salvation Army Church  
Cnr McDonald Rd & Macarthur St  
ALEXANDRA HILLS**

## **Admission**

**Members:** Gold coin  
**Visitors:** \$5

**Please bring plate of food -  
savory/sweet or nibbles  
preferably home-made.**

**Tea/coffee provided**

You are welcome to provide a quality plant to help share plants with other members. Bring a bag/box for your purchases and/or winnings.

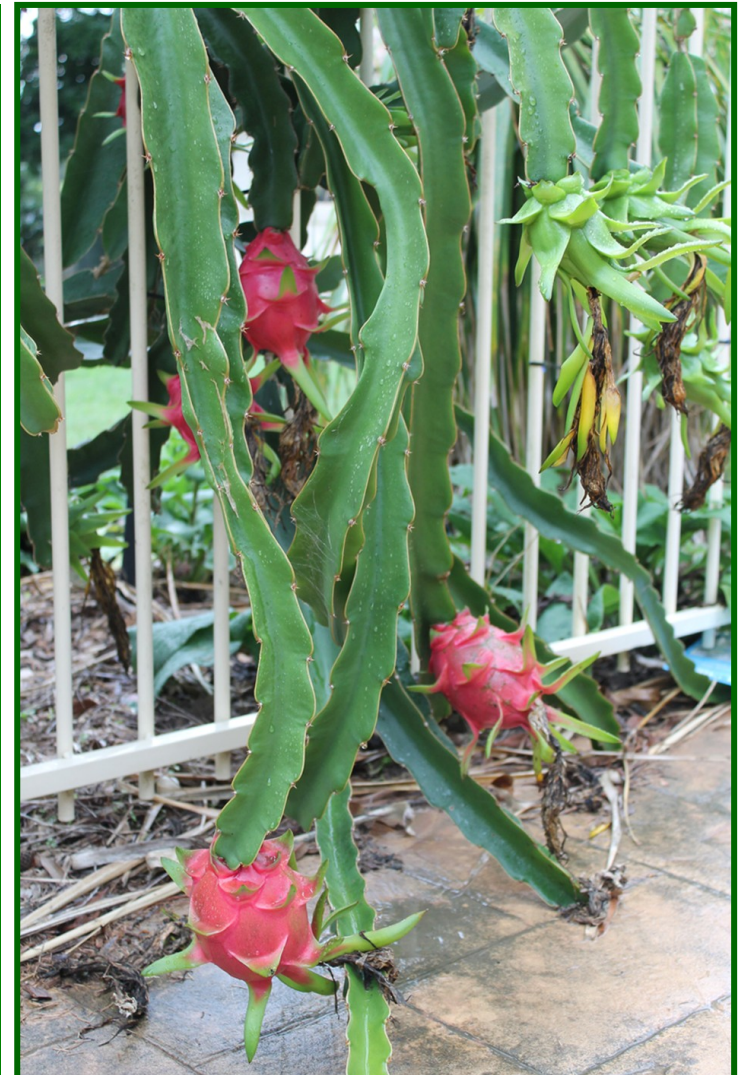
**See you Wednesday ...**

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Dragon fruit growing up and over a pool fence.  
Dragon fruits bloom at night and rely on bats or  
moths for pollination.

Book in for the Garden Visit in late April to see  
these plants plus more. See page 9.



# Jill's Jottings

Hello fellow gardeners

Over the past several months at ROGI, we have had speakers on the topics of bees, butterflies and various weeds.

It seems that most people love (or at least appreciate) bees and the work they do.

Everyone loves butterflies.

But butterflies can be problematic once one really understands that to have a butterfly one has to tolerate a caterpillar.

We have a profusion of butterflies fluttering around our garden lately. There are lots of caterpillars. Our lush grapevine was denuded by the caterpillars of a moth. Jo Hammond from Butterfly Host Plants explained that this moth is a night-time pollinator of plants

such as dragon fruit. So I was happy for them to be here. The vine is still alive and the leaves are growing back.

How different is my attitude now from last year when I spied big fat juicy caterpillars chomping away at our pentas. I chopped them in half and fed them to the chooks, only to find out they were the larvae of a moth also. As with the grape, the pentas recovered, having performed its designated role in nature.

The beautiful large orchard swallowtail butterfly has an interesting caterpillar that likes citrus trees. It has two little red 'horns' that dart out if you touch it—an easy method of identification. Although there are several on our citrus trees, they don't seem to be doing much damage.

So I leave them be and enjoy them when they grow up.



Weeds? Well, they're another matter altogether.

Many people define a weed as 'a plant whose value hasn't yet been appreciated' or 'a plant growing where it's not wanted'.

With the growing concern about the long-term serious negative effects of glyphosate (the active chemical in Roundup and Zero and dozens of other brand names), it is a good idea to rethink one's attitude to weeds. We need to learn their value.

With this in mind, we will have a guest speaker in June to tell us about the medicinal value of eight common weeds in most gardens. You can learn to love your weeds!

At the March meeting, Steve from *Bay-side Mobile Sharpening* explained what he does and then he sharpened many secateurs.

Steve may pop up at a future garden visit where, once again, he will sharpen secateurs for members at a subsidised rate of \$2 a set. Get in early to reserve your spot at a garden visit, as they book out quickly.

Happy growing

*JM*



## Coming Events

April	Wed 8	6.15	ROGI meeting—see this page and p9
	Sat 11	9—3	Redlands Good Gardening Expo—see pp7, 8
	Sun 26	2pm	Garden Visit Angela S.—see p9
May	Wed 13	6.15	ROGI meeting
	Sun 24		Garden Visit Janet C.—see p9

## Membership Fees

- **Cash** payment at ROGI meeting
- **Cheques** made payable to "Redland Organic Growers Inc." pay at meeting or by post (PO Box 1257, Cleveland 4163)
- **Direct Deposit** BSB 633-000 A/C No. 136 137 296 (Bendigo Bank—Capalaba Central Branch)

**VERY IMPORTANT!** Reference - Your initials and surname are essential to identify who has paid. This is our only way of knowing it's YOU.

Please bring your membership application form to the next meeting.

Email [group@rogi.com.au](mailto:group@rogi.com.au) for application form.

**Membership fees for 2015 are now overdue.**

**If you are not a financial member by the next meeting you will be charged the Visitor's entry of \$5.**

Please renew online at your convenience, and ensure that you complete a new membership form when you are renewing.

Please provide evidence of pensioner status to claim discount.

Fees	New member/s joining in...			
Member Category	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec of following year
Single	\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$37.50
Family	\$50	\$37.50	\$25	\$62.50
Pensioner Single	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$25
Pensioner Couple	\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$37.50

## April Guest Speakers

Hear from Alexina Johnson and Dave Tardent about the exciting community project to bring back sustainable market gardens to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

In a 'Back to the Future' moment, this project will help re-create the islands' farming heritage and develop economic and other attractions in this unique and proud Redland community.

This talk will be of interest to anyone who wants to make their own garden as productive, and therefore as profitable, as possible.

This is one of the gardens we will visit in June on our field trip to the gardens of Macleay Island.

Get in touch with Toni (see p19) to book for this trip.



# Edible Flowers - *Hibiscus* by Linda Brennan

I grow lots of different flowers here in our garden, and can't pass up the opportunity to use them in as many ways as possible. While some are great for companions and pest control, others are quite exquisite in delicious foods.

Why do we eat certain flowers? Well, we eat with our eyes even before a morsel passes our lips. The anticipation of a beautiful dish will get your digestive juices flowing. Flowers can be a decoration, like garlic chives on the top of a dip, or they can be an integral part of the dish such as caramelised daylily buds.

But before you start chowing down on the garden blooms, there are a few words of caution...

- Don't eat florist's flowers. They can be heavily sprayed with chemicals for preservation, pest and disease control.
- Don't eat sprayed flowers as the sprays can concentrate in the flower parts. All your edible flowers should be organic through and through.
- Some flowers are poisonous eg daylily, arum lilies, hydrangeas, foxgloves and a lot more. So, correctly identify flowers BEFORE taking your first bite and don't serve poisonous flowers as decoration on a plate.

## Are edible flowers worth the effort?

They are not usually calorie laden. They provide a little energy and small amounts of vitamins and minerals. For example, yellow flowers contain vitamin A. They look spectacular and some such as violets or elderflower add a fabulous fragrance to your food. I think they are well worth the effort indeed.

At the talk in March I focussed on just a selection of edible flowers known as Hibiscus from the family Malvaceae. Many hibiscus are edible. Some have edible leaves and roots as well as flowers.

Most of them have mucilaginous flowers and or leaves, which means when cooked, the flowers become a bit mucousy or gluey. The trick is to eat the flowers raw and the leaves lightly cooked to avoid this. In the Philippines, mucilaginous leaves are treated and used for children's bubble making.

## Some edible *Hibiscus* flowers

### *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*

This is the showy Hawaiian hibiscus. Leaves and flowers are both edible. The leaves make an astringent tea. I sometimes put a few flowers into a cup and pour over hot water for a mild herbal drink. The dark flowers may be used as a fabric dye when the colour runs out in boiling water. Hibiscus is the national flower of Malaysia.



*Hibiscus syriacus* The Rose of Sharon is a lovely flower and quite edible, but with little flavour. It's the Korean National flower

### *Hibiscus sabdariffa*

Rosella. All parts of the rosella plant are edible. If you drink lots of the tea it will have a mild diuretic effect on the kidneys. The seeds have a high pectin content and are used for thickening rosella jams and jellies. I use them in cordial, and lots of other ways. There are some delicious recipes at



[www.ecobotanica.com.au](http://www.ecobotanica.com.au) Look for Rosella preserves and rosella cheesecake slice. Yum!

*Hibiscus acetosella*, the cranberry hibiscus, is so named because its flavour is reminiscent of lemony sorrel leaves which have the species name acetosella. Most people eat the red leaves and leave the flowers behind. Next time yours flowers, eat the flowers stuffed, in salads, on cakes and in tea.

*Hibiscus mutabilis* is the Confederate Rose. It looks gorgeous as a medium shrub when in flower and the young pink or white flowers are edible.

*Hibiscus heterophyllus* These native hibiscus grow well in the Redlands and can be found flowering in pale pink, lemon and white colours.

*Abelmoschus manihot* Abika. This tall shrub has very attractive oak leaf shaped leaves which is really the part I eat. They are used as you would use cabbage leaves, they are an ingredient in gumbo and they can be stuffed, rolled and cooked like vine leaves. The flower is hardly seen, but is bland and passable in flavour.

Linda has recently published a 36 page book on the 'Top 20 edible flowers of the Subtropics'.

While hibiscus are included, there are many more beautiful flowers you can try.

It contains growing notes and recipes for how to use each of the flowers in a delicious ways.

To order your copy for \$10, call Linda on 32063605



# How a Dragon Fruit is Born

Following on from my article on the development of a loofah, I decided to do the same for a dragon fruit.

This is a plant that astounds our visitors with its gorgeous flowers and strange-looking fruit.

Our vine is only two years old and grows over our pool fence. Probably not the best spot but when we planted it we didn't have much knowledge of how it grew and we didn't have the means to build a structure. Since then, we have planted other vines in much better places; the best being a yellow variety growing up an old tree stump.

We have been enjoying a delicious crop of white dragon fruit this year and are hoping for a red one next year. Hope you enjoy this photo journey of the birth of one of my most favourite fruits.



Dragon fruit grows quite easily from a cutting although it takes a while to get to the fruiting stage. It will only crop once it hangs over a structure such as the fence shown. The ideal is to grow them up a strong base and over a frame in the shape of a T. Any support for this plant needs to be very strong as the cactus is quite heavy.

One thing I really love about growing dragon fruit is the lack of pests. The cactus is too spikey for possums to climb and, despite our garden fighting off just about every bug and grub in Queensland, our dragon fruits remain well.

*Angela Stafford*



# Sun Festival

Traditionally, equinoxes and solstices were celebrated by primitive civilisations as a vital part of the cycle of life and the growing of their food. In times past—and in many parts of the world today—people have grown food according to the rhythms of the sun, the moon and the seasons.

So it is fitting that ROGI was at the inaugural Sun Festival at Ormiston State School to celebrate the autumn equinox on 21st March.

It was a quiet day but those who attended came past our stand and commented on the display of beautiful lush box gardens that were raffled during the day. The festival started at 7am and finished about 3pm and it was a great day until the massive storm came and chased everyone home.

The winners of the gardens were very excited when I delivered them and talked about getting their own gardens up and growing. Many people who stopped and asked about ROGI have small gardens but were inspired by our organisation and our No Dig Garden flyers. Many plan to attend our April meeting and then the Good Gardening Expo at IndigiScapes next week.

Thanks go to Kathy, Jenny and Frank for their help and especially Rhonda for preparing and caring for the gardens.

Toni Bowler





<b>Organic Stage</b>		<b>Tallowwood Stage</b>	<b>Formal Garden Stage</b>
At the far end of the botanic gardens, near the Redland Organic Growers display.		Located indoors in the Tallowwood Room	Half way down the botanic gardens, on the left hand side.
<b>9.45</b>	<b>Step-by-step guide to growing your own food</b> - Linda Barrett A beginner's guide to growing your own food.	<b>Growing fruit trees in the Redlands - George Allen</b> The key to successful fruit growing is planting the right trees in the right area. Get the low-down on the best local food trees for Redlands conditions.	<b>Beekeeping with native stingless bees</b> - Tony Goodrich, Goodrich Bees A fabulous demonstration of how to split a native bee hive for breeding. Includes information on keeping bees and harvesting their honey.
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Getting the best out of your vegetable garden</b> - Gennaro De Rosa Find out special tips for a productive, chemical-free vegetable garden from one of Redlands most successful home gardeners.	<b>Using herbs in your daily life - Holly Smith, New View Farm and editor for QLD Herb Society Sage Newsletter</b> So easy to grow and so versatile! Learn about the many culinary, medicinal and gardening uses of herbs (including companion planting and natural fertiliser).	<b>The importance of minerals for gardening</b> - Colin Purnell, Earthlife Earthlife's motto is 'Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants'. Discover the secrets of adding minerals and microbiology to your soil for healthy plants with less insects and diseases.
<b>11.15</b>	<b>Worms, Biota and Biochar saving the world</b> - Frank Huysing Learn about setting up your own worm farm. Get the ABC's on setting up your own automatic fertilising system in your garden. There's a chance to take one home with you.	<b>Growing edible flowers - Linda Brennan, Ecobotanica</b> Learn how to incorporate stunning, edible and very tasty flowers into your garden. Linda introduces the tastiest and prettiest flowers and points out those to be avoided.	<b>Floating wetland gardens - Maree Manby, Habitat Protection Officer, Redland City Council</b> Learn how to create a garden in the middle of your dam! Floating wetlands help purify water and provide habitat for fish and waterbirds. Check out our floating wetlands at IndigiScapes.
<b>12.00</b>	Q&A Session - Expert panel: Get your gardening questions answered by the experts!		
<b>12.45</b>	<b>Successful composting tips</b> - Naomi Wynn, Balance Garden Design An easy 'how to' guide to turn your kitchen and garden waste into free nutritious soil for your vegetable garden.	<b>Mineral &amp; microbe management in your garden</b> - Ian Burrow, Greendrop Organics Find out how minerals, microbes and humus are the drivers of healthy vegetable and fruit production and supply you with home grown produce that taste like nature intended.	<b>Beekeeping with native stingless bees</b> - Tony Goodrich, Goodrich Bees A fabulous demonstration of how to split a native bee hive for breeding. Includes information on keeping bees and harvesting their honey.
<b>1.30</b>	<b>'No dig' gardening workshop - The ROGI team</b> Get your hands dirty learning how to create quality, fertile soil for vegetables and herbs, using layering and nutrient profiles.	<b>Keeping backyard chooks - Claire Bickle, Horticultural and Sustainability Educator, Writer and Speaker</b> Reduce your carbon footprint and make your backyard more productive with chooks. Learn the ins-and-outs of looking after them and getting started.	<b>Weaving with weeds</b> - Alys Shilo, weed weaver extraordinaire Join our resident expert in using weedy vines to weave useful and artistic works. No experience necessary, come and go as you please!
<b>2.15</b>	<b>Getting the best out of your vegetable garden</b> - Gennaro De Rosa Find out the special tips for a productive, chemical-free vegetable garden from one of Redlands most successful home gardeners.		
<b>Other exciting things happening</b>			
All day free workshops at the ROGI stand! Make your own fruit fly traps and an organic spray, take a cutting or make a seed pot out of newspaper!			
Cooking demonstrations - Julie Juvancz, IndigiScapes Cafe Learn how to cook bush tucker scones - 11am and 1pm in the Wild Herb Garden, plus free tastings all day!			



# Redlands Good Gardening Expo

FREE  
ENTRY

**Saturday 11 April 2015, 9am to 3pm**

Redlands IndigiScapes Centre, 17 Runnymede Rd, Capalaba

- Find out about growing your own organic food at home. Tastier, healthier food, the way it was meant to be eaten.
- Learn about native gardening and how you can use natives to create habitats.
- Composting, worm farming, mulching and how to recycle your green waste.
- Buy plants and seeds and get some great new ideas for your garden.
- Get the help you need with advice from the experts.
- Workshops & demonstrations, arts & crafts, music & food!



It's just a few sleeps until the Good Gardening Expo.

It's ROGI's big chance once a year to show the great things we offer to community members who want to grow vegetables and fruit in their backyards – and have a lot fun doing it.

The ROGI area features an excellent program of speakers, a no-dig garden demonstration, the seed bank, garden products to buy, information about our group and gardening tips as well as hands on activities for visitors to try.

And of course our famous lush box gardens are the prizes for our popular raffles that run throughout the day.

Organised jointly by ROGI and IndigiScapes, the Expo will be offering a bumper crop of interesting displays and speakers this year.

There'll be a full array of gardening-related products and services on offer as well as experts speaking about herbs, edible flowers, backyard chooks, soil improvers and bees – and a host of other things.

So come along and check out our new look display. Remember it's not too late to volunteer your services for a couple of hours on the day.

Just contact Kathy Petrik on 3206 1267 or 0468 434 791.



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Redland  
Organic  
Growers Inc



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IndigiScapes  
Centre



Redland  
CITY COUNCIL



## ROGI Garden Visits

2 pm Sunday 26th April

Angela S.—Alexandra Hills

When asked for points of interest in her garden, Angela replied, *'It's a real mix. We do specialise in weeds! We have plenty of fruit trees - some of them quite unusual.'*

So come along and find out what she does about the weeds, and see those unusual trees.

Sunday 24th May

Janet C.—Cleveland

More information in May newsletter.

## ROGI Field Trips

21st June—Macleay Is. gardens

July—Mudbrick Herb Cottage

*Contact Toni (see back page)  
to reserve a spot.*

*Also, talk to Toni about hosting a visit  
to your garden. We'd love to see it.*

## Mushroom Compost, Mulch, Manure, & More

Many people live on large plots in the Redlands and, when building and maintaining their productive gardens, they require bulk amounts of organic inputs.

A ROGI member on acreage is compiling a list of sources. Contact Mena if you have a supply or know of a supply of suitable gardening materials. [mena@stokeit.net](mailto:mena@stokeit.net)

Mena: *'The idea is to collect information on where to buy/source good quality bulk gardening materials such as mushroom compost, mulch, horse manure, chicken poo, soil, etc. Living on acreage means you need lots of everything - so bulk is essential to keep costs down.'*

Good idea, Mena. Thanks for co-ordinating this.

Here is what we have so far:

**Horse manure**—Victoria Point; you do the shovelling; one bag or a trailer load; free, but negotiate a barter system. Contact [info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au) or see Jean at ROGI.

**Sugar cane mulch**—organic, small or large bales; delivered [www.currantcatahoulas.com.au/sugar-cane-mulch](http://www.currantcatahoulas.com.au/sugar-cane-mulch) Andrew 0414 458 175



## Plant of the Month April

Come along to the April meeting when a long-term ROGI member will talk about a plant that is probably growing in your garden and that you probably regard as a pesky weed.

Learn about the well-documented medicinal value of this so-called weed and hear this member's experiences with using this plant to treat a particular medical issue.



Our guest speaker in June will be talking about eight other weeds that grow easily and that also have medicinal value. That will be 10th June: put it in your diary.



# My role as membership secretary by Jenny Sando

I had been a member of ROGI for a short time when I became Membership Secretary. That was when our meetings were at Indigiscapes at Capalaba. A year later we needed bigger premises which we found at the Salvation Army Hall. I have witnessed the club grow from strength to strength and the number of members attending meetings is amazing.



Getting involved: Librarian Mandy, new member Jenny and Helen (2013 Seed Bank co-ordinator) preparing a vertical garden before the first Redlands Good Gardening Expo in March 2013.

I have found that becoming involved is a great way of getting to know other members.

February and March are the busiest times at the door as members renew for another 12 months. Unless they have moved away from the area, most members renew. Before each meeting, I check for renewals online and enter

*If you do not sign in upon entry and have some sort of a mishap at the meetings, you are not covered by insurance because you weren't there!*

them onto the members' list and then print out the sign-in form. This form is for insurance purposes and so we can get an idea of how many people attend meetings.

Also, by signing in you get an opportunity to choose one of our lovely donated gifts, and it is proof of your membership so you can use the library and get the discount from the ROGI Shop.

*Please wear your current membership card at meetings. This card is a great way to start up a conversation as you can easily see who you are talking to and don't have to introduce yourself.*

After each meeting I send welcome letters to new members and prepare their membership cards for the next meeting.

There is a special cloth hanger near the door for you to leave your card so you don't have to take it home with you and run the risk of forgetting when the next meeting, garden visit or event comes around.

When we have various events for ROGI, I am happy to go along and chat with visitors and sign up new members and also help out however I can.

ROGI is a wonderful and friendly club where people share the same interest in organic gardening. Our Annual General Meeting will be in August and all current positions will be available—see the back page.

If you would like to become more involved in your club and, in the process, improve your gardening knowledge and skills, put your hand up to become part of the committee. Don't leave it up to everyone else—I'm pleased I didn't. Jenny



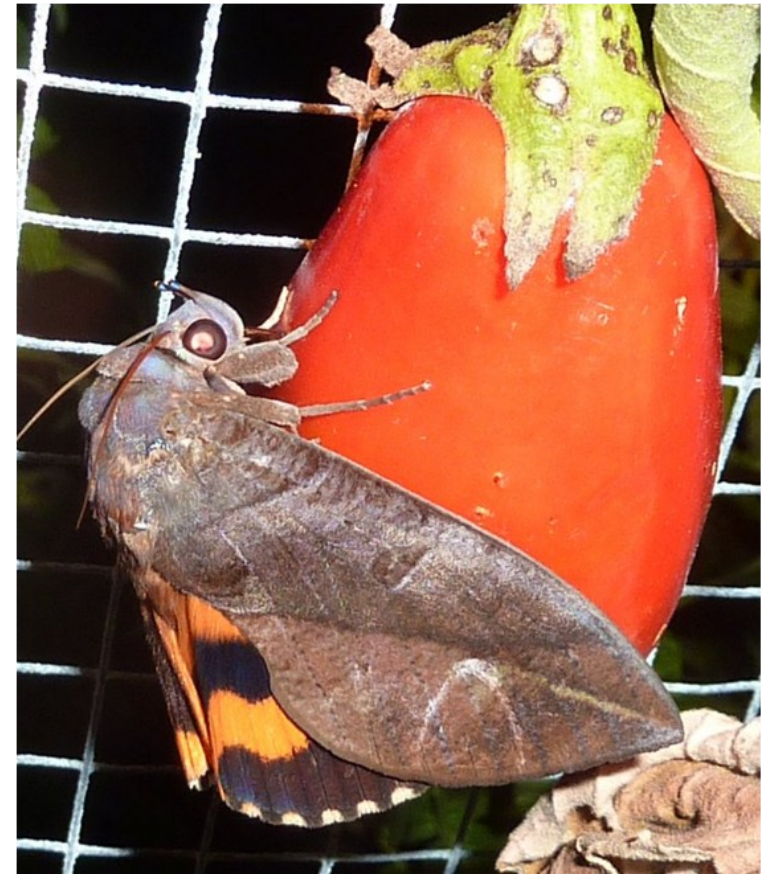


## Photos from members

Clockwise from left:

The delicate petticoat-like interior of a dragon fruit flower as it was closing the morning after it bloomed. Taken by Jill.

Fruit-sucking moth getting stuck into an egg-plant. Taken at night by Mena.



The beautiful night-flowering dragon fruit taken at 10pm in full bloom after rain, hence the shining 'crystals' on the petals. Taken by Bernadine.

A gardener's bench seat made using spade handles. One way to re-purpose old tools. Submitted by Jenny.





# Critter of the Month - Friend or Foe?

## Foe

### Three Striped Potato Beetle

(use this phrase if you want to do an internet search)

Order: Coleoptera (beetles)

Family: Chrysomelidea (spend most of their lives on leaves)

Species: *Lema trilinea*



**Identification:** The beetle is easy to identify by the three stripes or lines on its abdomen, a long yellow/reddish abdomen and the antennae that are half the body length. Although it can fly, it tends to not waste energy and prefers to crawl away, and hence it is easy to catch.

The beetle lays 20-30 yellow eggs at a time and populations increase rapidly.

The grub-like larvae are voracious feeders and do enormous damage. They have an unusual defence strategy by placing their excreta on their backs as shown in the photo (right). Nice.

#### Interesting Facts

Feed on plants of the Family *Solanaceae*, loves tomatillos, cape gooseberries, egg plant, some tomatoes, occasionally eat potatoes (have been known to eat fig leaves)

Has a complete life cycle and pupates in soil, 2 generations per year, survives winter

Very rapid population growth

#### Control Measures

Mulch inhibits the beetles' ability to find host plants

Grow beneficial plants (fennel, cosmos etc.) to encourage predators

Hand removal into detergent water as the beetle does not seem to waste energy flying

#### Predators:

Eggs—lady beetle and nymphs; lacewings

Beetle—assassin bugs; spiders

Larvae on the ground—lizards; skinks



#### For the month of March

the following insects (common names used) have been photographed:

**Predators:** Assassin Bugs, Lady Beetles and larvae, Lacewing, Mantids

**Pests:** Fruit Spotting Bug, Bean Piercing Bug, Fruit Piercing Moth, Katydid, army worms

**A request:** Phasmids (stick insects) are out and about and I would appreciate a photograph as my camera is not good enough for a clear shot.

Happy Critter Hunting  
Dave Praeger



# The New ROGI Seed Bank see over for more info ...

Root Vegetables	Fruiting Plants	Green Vegetables	Herbs	Flowers
BEETROOT 'Chioggia' ... 'Detroit' CARROT 'Nantes' ... 'Paris Market' ... 'Purple Dragon' ... 'Red Kuroda' CELERIAC 'Caesar' Florence FENNEL JICAMA Gennaro's own ONION 'Lockyer Gold' RADISH 'Cherry Belle' ... 'Daikon' ... 'Purple Plum'	BEAN, Coastal Jack BEAN, bush Borlotti ... 'Red Rooster' ... Borlotti Gennaro's Own BEAN, bush 'Provider' ... 'Roc d'Or' BEAN, Climbing, 'Coastal Jack' ... 'Lablab' ... Lima 'Madagascar' Gennaro's Own BEAN, Snake Red Gennaro's own CAPSICUM, Perennial ... Bell colour mix CHILLI, Birds Eye, Cayenne CUCUMBER 'Lebanese' ... 'Lemon' EDAMAME (Soy beans) EGGPLANT 'Mini-violet ruby' ... 'Little Finger' HONEYDEW Melon LOOFAH PEA, Sugarsnap 'Cascadia' ... 'Greenfeast' ... Snowpea 'Oregon' PEA, Pigeon, Gennaro's own SQUASH, 'Golden Scaloppini' ... 'Green Hubbard' SWEET CORN 'Bicolour' ... 'Legacy' TOMATO 'Red Truss' ... 'Thai Pink' ... 'Grosse Lisse' ... 'Cherry Yellow Pear' ... 'Green Zebra' ... 'Oxheart Red' ... 'Tropic' WATERMELON, 'Sugar baby' ZUCCHINI, 'Romanesco'	AMARANTH, Grain AMARANTH, Red Calaloo BROCCOLI 'Green Sprouting Calabrese' ... 'Romanesco' CABBAGE - 'Cabeza Red' ... 'Golden Acre' ... 'Red Express' ... 'One-Kilo Slow-Bolt' ... Pak Choi ... 'Chokito' ... Bok Choi CELERY 'Tall Utah' CLUCKER TUCKER for chooks KALE, Tuscan Black ... Blue-Curled KANGKONG (Water Spinach) KOHLRABI 'Purple Vienna' LEEK 'Giant Carentan' ... Varna LETTUCE 'Great Lakes' ... 'Lollo Rossa' ... 'Marvel of 4 Seasons' ... Organic Mix ... 'Freckles' MIZUNA MUSTARD GREENS 'Red Giant' MUSTARD 'Osaka Purple' ... 'Ruby Streaks' SILVERBEET 'Rainbow Chard' ... 'Ruby Chard' SPINACH, Egyptian, Gennaro's Own ... European Bloomsdale TATSOI	BASIL, Dark Opal ... Italian large leaf ... Lime ... Thai CHERVIL (French parsley) CHICORY CLUCKER TUCKER for chooks CORIANDER DILL GARLIC CHIVES ONION CHIVES PARSLEY, Italian, Gennaro's own ... Triple Curl PURSLANE, Jill's Own ROCKET	BORAGE CHIA GOOD BUG MIX MARIGOLD 'Sparky', 'Fiesta' NASTURTIUM 'Jewel Mix' PHACELAI QUEEN ANNE'S LACE SUNFLOWER 'Sunbird' SWEET PEA 'Mammoth Mix'



# New ROGI Seedbank

You will notice a big difference in the seed bank at the next meeting.

The seed packets will be stored in drawers inside three timber cabinets. Each drawer will be the same colour as the category of seeds inside.

**Root vegetable seeds in the brown drawer.**

**Fruiting vegetables in pink drawers.**

**Green vegetables in dark green drawers.**

**Herbs in the pale green drawer.**

**Flowers in the yellow drawer.**

## A gardening tip.

When planting tomato, eggplant, capsicum or chilli, it is far more productive to bury the stem deep into the soil—often to a depth of several centimetres.

New roots will sprout from the submerged stem section and a much more vigorous root system will result.



# Seed Planting Guide

Compiled with information from Gennaro De Rosa & Annette McFarlane

## April

Artichoke; Jerusalem artichoke  
Asparagus  
Bean: Lablab, Madagascar, French  
Beetroot  
Broccoli  
Brussels sprouts  
Cabbage  
Capsicum/Chilli  
Cauliflower  
Carrot  
Celery  
Chicory  
Endive  
Florence fennel  
Kohlrabi  
Leeks  
Lettuce  
Onions/garlic  
Potatoes  
Radish  
Silver beet  
Spinach: (Brazilian, Egyptian, Warrigal, Kangkong)  
Sweet potato  
Tomato  
Yacon

## May

Artichoke; Jerusalem artichoke  
Asparagus  
Bean: Broad, French  
Beetroot  
Broccoli  
Brussels sprouts  
Cabbage  
Capsicum/Chilli  
Cauliflower  
Carrot  
Celery  
Chicory  
Endive  
Florence fennel  
Kohlrabi  
Leeks  
Lettuce  
Onions/garlic  
Parsnip  
Peas  
Potatoes  
Radish  
Silver beet  
Spinach  
Other spinach: Brazilian, Egyptian, Warrigal, Kangkong  
Swede  
Sweet potato  
Tomato  
Turnip

Keep in mind that this is only a guide.

Be aware that micro-climates and weather conditions may mean that certain seeds may be sown before or after the recommended times.

**ROGI Seedbank is available at ROGI meetings and Garden Visits.  
\$1 per packet for members. \$2 for non-members.**



# ROGI Library News

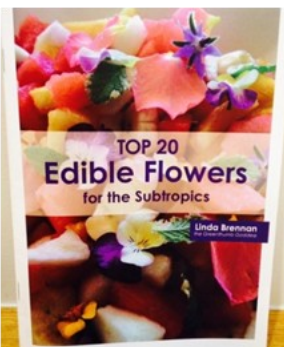
Hello to all our members.

I hope to see you using the library. This is a free service for all our members and we carry a great range of books to help you with your gardening. We also have a selection of magazines and some great DVDS.

The weather should cool down a bit now and we've had heaps of rain so everything is growing quickly. Hope you all have your gardens ready for this seasons plantings. Broccoli, cauliflower, beetroot, silverbeet, carrots, kale, beans, peas, Asian greens, etc. So get your seeds and some books on growing these vegetables. We also have a large range of books on growing and using herbs.

Don't forget to check out Linda Brennan's new book **Top 20 Edible Flowers for the Subtropics**.

Linda gave us a lovely talk on flowers focusing on Hibiscus family at our last meeting. As flowers-with-food is quite



trendy at present I recommend you have a look at this book. You might find you already have a fair few of the flowers mentioned. It brought back to me early memories of sugaring heartsease and sweet peas with my grandma.

Linda lists the growing conditions of each plant, harvesting and the edible parts as well as a recipe on each type. I am keen to try some of the different rosella recipes (after I make hubby's jam) as my bushes are loaded and I need to start picking them so the smaller ones can grow. There are hints on preserving flowers, drying flowers and a very interesting idea on a freeze floral ice bowl. Next year hopefully my elder tree will yield enough flowers to try the elderflower syrup.

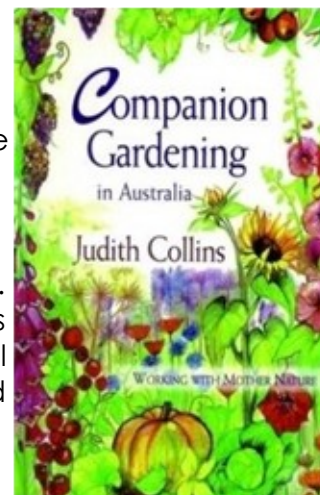
Those of you who have visited the garden of our 'President Nixon' will know she is a fan of companion planting and the following book is one her favourites.

**Companion Gardening in Australia** by Judith Collins will help with your garden design for companion planting. It lists over 200 plants and their preferred companions which will help you

grow bigger, healthier and more plentiful crops of vegies and fruits. lists plants that repel pests and plants that encourage

helpful insects. Over the years you do start to notice plants that do not like each other. Like lettuce near parsley. It took me quite a while before it finally clicked not to plant the lettuce near the parsley. By reading this book you will save yourself grief by not making those mistakes.

Judith might help you with your fears of weeds so that you encourage friendly weeds and have a self-maintaining garden. It is one of those books that each time you read it you will take away more information and it is a handy reference book to use time and time again. So if you want a lovely garden like Jill's then I recommend you read this book and put in the hard yards too.



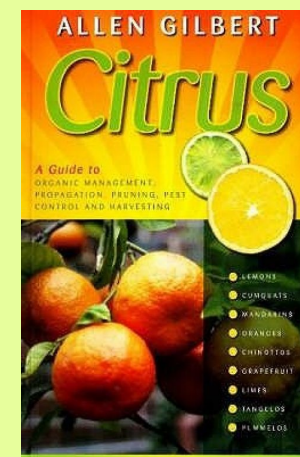
It

## Citrus by Allen Gilbert

We got this book for the library on the recommendation of our experienced member Kevin Turner. He said this is the best book on citrus care that he has come across.

It is a guide to the organic management, propagation, pruning, pest control and harvesting of citrus fruits. Most of us grow some citrus so it will be a handy book for all of us. Thanks Kevin for the recommendation.

We carry other books by Allen Gilbert: **Berry Bounty** and **Toma-toes for Everyone**.



Don't forget to bring your library books back and please come and check out our other books  
Mandy and Joh



## We want your Strawberry Punnets

We need **250gm cube-shaped strawberry/cherry to-mato punnets** for use at our public events.

One of ROGI's activities is making a seed-sowing pot out of newspaper. After making this pot visitors sow a seed into it and take it home in a strawberry punnet for safe-keeping.

At Redlands Good Gardening Expo and Indigi Day Out each year, we use thousands of them, so please bring them along to every meeting and we'll store them until they're needed.



# ROGI Shop News

## Members' Sales Table

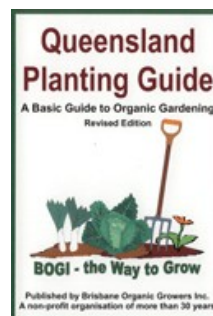
Next to the ROGI Shop, this is where you as a member can place items you've produced that are surplus to your requirements and that **you wish to sell** to other members eg eggs, honey, jam, seedlings, lemons, avocados – things that have cost you money (& time & effort) to produce.

See Frank, Marion, Linda or Janet at the ROGI Shop.

**The Swap/Share/Giveaway table is near the front door.**

We have more copies of *Queensland Planting Guide* by Brisbane Organic Growers. They sell pretty fast. They are \$7.50 for ROGI members.

If you are a new gardener you will find this book a great help, and it's a handy reminder and reference for the more experienced gardeners.



## Autumn Sale

Celebrating autumn? And the cooler weather when you can dig in the garden without suffering heat stroke?

Well, we are having a sale on soil conditioning materials:

### Dolomite

It will help increase the pH and sweeten the soil. It provides magnesium and calcium to grow your plants strong and lush.

### Gypsum

Great to break up heavy clay soils but won't alter pH, so take care to stabilise the pH after application.

### Turf Master

Most of us don't eat grass, but it's pleasing to the senses to have a nice patch of green lawn. At this time of the year, it (the grass, that is) will slow down and even die back. I am led to believe that, with a good fertiliser, the root system will keep developing so that when spring comes around again (and it will) your lawn will have a head start. Turf Master will do the trick.

**ROGI Shop has these at the sale prices of:**

<b>Dolomite</b>	<b>35c kg</b>
<b>Gypsum</b>	<b>50c kg</b>
<b>Turf Master</b>	<b>70c kg</b>

Bring us proof that you can buy it cheaper elsewhere and we will beat it by 10%.



ROGI is a beneficiary of the My IGA Card Program for the **Cleveland IGA** store.

This is how it works:

- Pick up a My IGA Card next time you are in the store
- Register online
- Tick ROGI as the community group you wish to support

Then, every time you shop in the store and use your card, not only do you receive discounts, you are also helping to raise funds for ROGI.

ROGI uses its funds to help provide more services to members such as new library books, discounted gardening products, paid expert speakers, and free or low-cost field trips and workshops



## Request for Articles

### What can you share? It could be to do with:

- your garden
- a photo
- an unusual plant
- a request
- garden/nutrition info
- a recipe
- a current affair of relevance to ROGI members.....

**Send your articles to  
keep the  
newsletter  
Interesting and  
relevant**

**[info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au)**

# Plant Clinic

Puzzled by a pest?

Not sure if your plant is a weed or a 'goodie'?

Does it have a deficiency or is it a disease?

That's what **Plant Clinic** is about.

Bring along your plant, fruit, leaf, root (as many parts of plant as you can) in a sealed plastic bag (if it's a diseased plant) and fill in the form.

Place the plant parts together with the form on **Plant Clinic** table well before the start of the meeting.

Someone will have a look and may be able to answer your questions.

Also, see Critter of the Month on p12



## Newsletter Deadlines

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor by 28th April for the May edition.



# ROGI Shop Products

For any pricing or technical advice, or if you have a suggestion,  
please refer to Frank on 3390 2277

Products Dry	3kg	2kg	1kg	500g	100g	Each
<b>Soil Conditioners</b>						
Blood & Bone	7.50		4.00	3.00		
Blood & Bone 25kg						29.50
Blood & Bone 16kg						24.00
DE Fine Food Grade		15.00	8.00	4.50		
DE Fine Food Grade 20kg						110.00
DE Pet & Garden	16.00		7.00	4.00		
DE Pet & Garden 20kg						80.00
Dolomite	5.50		3.00	2.00		
Eco88	8.50		4.00	2.50		
Gypsum	5.50		3.00	2.00		
Humic Acids					3.50	
Organic Booster	6.50		3.50	2.50		
Organic Xtra	6.50		3.50	2.50		
Organic Xtra 25kg bag						18.50
Organic Xtra 16kg bag						14.00
Organic Xtra 5kg bag				2.50		7.00
Rock Dust #3 25kg bag						29.50
Rock Dust #3 Mix	6.50		4.00	2.00		
Sea Mungus						
Turf Master	5.50					

\*DE is Diatomaceous Earth—can kill insects by desiccation.

## Tools & Equipment

Soil pH Test Kit	15.00
Banana Bags	3.50
Fruit Fly Exclusion Bags set of 4	5.00
Paper Pot Maker	28.00

Products Wet	5 litre	1 litre	500ml	150ml	100ml
<b>Soil conditioners</b>					
Eco-Amingro		18.00	10.00		
EcoFish	32.00				
Eco Naturalure				15.00	
Eco-Neem					16.00
Eco-Oil		22.00	16.00		
Fish & Kelp solution		13.00			
Potassium Silicate					3.00

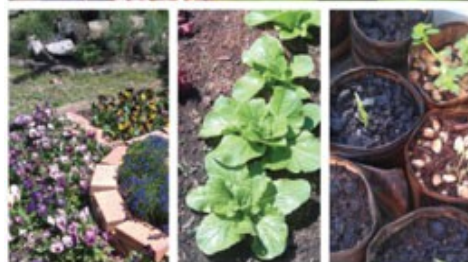
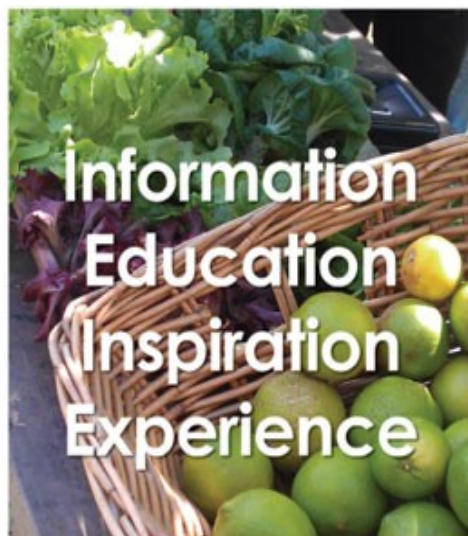
## Pest & Weed Control

Burn Off		9.00			
Eco-Pest Oil			10.00		
Naturassoap			17.00		
Pyrethrum Spray					20.00
Wild May (for fruit fly)					2.00

## Aloe Vera

Aloe Vera Raw Material	33.50	9.50
Aloe Vera Raw Bio Fertiliser	37.00	10.00

**ROGI Shop News**  
**ROGI Shop Sale at April Meeting**  
 See page 16 for more details



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[www.rogi.com.au](http://www.rogi.com.au)

PO Box 1257  
Cleveland 4163

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groups/  
redland.organic.growers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers)

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

<b>President</b>	Jill Nixon 0418 717 735 <a href="mailto:president@rogi.com.au">president@rogi.com.au</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lindsay Peel <a href="mailto:group@rogi.com.au">group@rogi.com.au</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Terry Sullavan <a href="mailto:group@rogi.com.au">group@rogi.com.au</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Margaret Sear <a href="mailto:secretary@rogi.com.au">secretary@rogi.com.au</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Jenny Sando <a href="mailto:membership@rogi.com.au">membership@rogi.com.au</a>

## TECHNICAL TEAM

<b>Seed bank</b>	Angela Stafford <a href="mailto:seeds@rogi.com.au">seeds@rogi.com.au</a>
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## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

<b>PR &amp; Marketing</b>	Kathy Petrik 3206 1267 <a href="mailto:info@rogi.com.au">info@rogi.com.au</a>
<b>Club Events</b>	Toni Bowler 0402 323 704 <a href="mailto:events@rogi.com.au">events@rogi.com.au</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Position vacant <a href="mailto:info@rogi.com.au">info@rogi.com.au</a>

## MEMBER SERVICES TEAM

<b>Shop</b>	Frank Huysing 3390 2277 <a href="mailto:group@rogi.com.au">group@rogi.com.au</a>
<b>Library</b>	Mandy Harrison 3824 3222 <a href="mailto:library@rogi.com.au">library@rogi.com.au</a>
<b>Supper</b>	Yolanda Sampson <a href="mailto:group@rogi.com.au">group@rogi.com.au</a>

The views expressed  
in ROGI NEWS are  
those of the editors  
and submitters, not  
necessarily those of  
Redland Organic  
Growers Inc

# Join Us

See page 3 for current  
membership fees



Flowers of chicory, Dianella,  
cornflower, heartsease viola.