



# Bundaberg Organic Gardeners

~working with nature~

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## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

Welcome to our October Newsletter. Did you get the rain last weekend! We received 14mm at home in Bundaberg East. It was such an exciting thing to see after being dry for so long. The kids were out in the dark filling buckets with excitement, and... apologies to the neighbours, but my husband was out in his boxer shorts spreading organic lawn fertiliser. It was such a beautiful sight to wake Sunday morning with everything washed clean and the air was fresh. Here's hoping for plenty of follow up rain to come ☺ Cathy.

### **CLUB MEETING**

Time: Doors open 6.30 pm  
For a 7 pm start

Venue: McNaught Hall  
(Uniting Church hall)

Corner Barolin and Electra Street, Bundaberg

Attendance \$3 member, \$5 visitor, includes  
supper

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

- **Speaker : Dave Jacq**

Dave is a new member of our group and is interested in the surrounds to gardens and how we make them extra welcoming and attractive. If you wish to incorporate a BBQ, archway, seat, fire pit swing or even a chicken coup etc then make sure you come along and listen to some great ideas. Don't forget recycling also.

As always we will have the BOGI

~Library      ~Shop  
~Info sheets    ~Buy & Sell  
~Seeds        ~Tea of the Month  
~Lucky Draw    ~Photos from workshops  
~Freebies      ~Workshop registration

*Enjoy a Cuppa at Supper*

### **Upcoming workshops and Events**

Workshops are winding up for the year with our one and only scheduled event the BOGI Christmas Party.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November:** BOGI Christmas Party.

See more information in the newsletter.

**Who would like a Wicking Bed Workshop** held at your house? 1.4m x 1.4 m wicking beds at a cost of approx \$30 (Plus the soil) to be built at your house with the help of other members. Sign up for yours at the meeting

## News From the September Meeting *From Betty-Ann Stephens*

At the September meeting – Hannah Lemon, Project Officer for the Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers spoke about the Bundaberg Fruit Fly Community Awareness Program.

Last year the State Government announced that a community-based approach to managing fruit fly would be piloted in the Bundaberg Region. The program was designed to engage the community and increase their understanding on the impacts of Queensland fruit fly and how through simple measures they can reduce pest populations which is beneficial both for the home gardener and the commercial producers in the region.

The Queensland Fruit Fly is a native pest occurring throughout eastern Australia. It is most active after periods of rain or high humidity. The adult is about 7-8 mm long, reddish brown and has yellow markings.

The fruit fly has four stages of life –

- Laying up to 100 eggs per day, females inject their eggs into a host fruit
- Eggs hatch within 2-3 days, growing as maggots to approx. 9mm long
- Larvae mature in 7-10 days, drop from the fruit and pupate in the ground
- If conditions are suitable, the fruit fly come out of the ground, to look for food and mate. The life cycle takes about 2½ weeks in Summer

Since April this year, the Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers have been involved in an awareness program to assist people within the community to participate in the control of the Queensland fruit fly. Over six months, more than 480 traps have been provided to people within the Bundaberg, Agnes Waters, Childers and Gin Gin areas and this has resulted in farmers and community members catching more than 94 000 Queensland fruit flies. The Bundaberg area was divided into 23 zones, with community members reporting weekly on the number of fruit flies caught in their trap. Bundaberg North and Branyan areas recorded the highest number of fruit fly per trap over this time.

Fruit fly traps and online resources have also been delivered to four local Reef Guardian schools within the Bundaberg area, and this has been integrated into their sustainability programs.

Queensland fruit fly infests both indigenous and introduced fruit and vegetables including citrus and stone fruits, avocados, grapes, apples, strawberries, capsicum chillies and lychees.

To protect your garden,

- Hang traps, monitor and catch Queensland fruit fly
- Apply baits and cover sprays to control Queensland fruit fly
- Pick up and dispose of fallen fruit
- Remove unwanted fruiting trees and vegetables
- Net host fruit and vegetable plants.

Fruit fly infestations impact commercial growers and their ability to market their fruit and vegetables at interstate and international markets, and this can cause huge economic losses. While farmers exercise a

range of control methods, the support of community members has seen a notable reduction in the number of Queensland fruit fly in the area.

For more information phone the BFGV office on 4153 3007 or email project officer Hannah Lemon at [ido@bfgv.com.au](mailto:ido@bfgv.com.au).

This program was funded by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.



Queensland Fruit Fly is a pest the community can help control.



A local citrus grower within the Bundaberg Region sent these photos of more than 1300 fruit flies that were caught in his traps to Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers. To compare, a community member from the same area as him with the second highest count was 411.

Photos from Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers

<https://www.bundabergnow.com/2019/04/19/fruit-fly-awareness/>

## What are you reading this month?

Bill Larkman shared with us that he highly recommends a book called 'Who's Minding the Farm? In this climate emergency' by Patrice Newell, she is a garlic, bee and livestock farmer in the Hunter Valley who is into sustainable practices, both on the land and produce marketing. She questions soil management and other farming practices that have to change. She has kicked shins with many of her own kind, committees, politicians, mining corporations and those that promote chemical farming. She has tested and tried different things, some successful, others not. I found it a good positive read.

The other book that was recommended to read was 'Call of The Reed Warbler' which shows the way forward for the future of our food supply, our Australian landscape and our planet. Author and radical farmer Charles Massy explores transformative and regenerative agriculture and the vital connection between our soil and our health.

**Bill has also offered if any member wants to bring their blunt secateurs with them to the next meeting he will bring along sharpening gear and put a new edge on for them. It does not take long but just suggest they give them a bit of a clean beforehand.**

**(I think you'll have a line up Bill!!)**

## **Watering your Garden by Kay DeGunst**

Plants draw water from the soil where their roots grow.

Your challenge as a gardener, is to manage watering so that there is just enough water in the root zone for your plants to stay healthy. As a rough guide, mixed plantings in a warm climate, require 10 – 20mm of water every 7 – 14 days in hotter months.

### **To make water go further ...**

- Mulch, mulch, mulch to retain moisture in the soil.
- Water in the early morning or evening so water is not wasted by evaporation in the sun.
- Water at the base of plants to direct water to the roots where it is needed.
- Water once or twice a week rather than giving mean amounts more frequently.
- Use shade netting over young crops to prevent evaporation and reduce the amount of water they need.
- Avoid wetting the foliage. This can reduce the incidence of some fungal diseases.
- Soak the soil well rather than sprinkling the surface. Excess watering damages the soil structure and washes nutrients away.

### **Unwanted Snails and Slugs**

Sprinkle sawdust around your plant that is getting attacked by snails or slugs. They don't like to work their way across the gritty feel of the sawdust and (as snails are allergic to copper) a trickle of Copper Sulphate around plants will also deter them. Putting out baits containing stale beer is also an alternative as the snails have a liking for the amber fluid.

**Did you know?** You can speed up the ripening of a pineapple by standing it upside down (on its leafy end).

Below is a list of plantings suitable for our area this month of October.

#### # **Seeds to be planted directly into your prepared ground:**

*Asian Vegetables; Capsicum; Chilli; Cucumber; Eggplant; Lettuce; Luffa; Marrow; Pumpkins; Rosellas; Squash; Sweet Corn; Tomatoes; Zucchini.*

#### # **Seeds to be planted into seedling trays:**

*Asian Vegetables; Asparagus; French Beans; Choko; Cucumbers; Eggplant; Lettuce; Melon; Marrow; Mustard Greens; Pumpkins; Radish; Rosella; Shallots; Squash; Sweet Corn; Sweet Potatoes; Zucchini.*

## The club has a seed bank library consisting of seeds from our member's gardens. Club members have the opportunity to swap or select organic seeds for their own home garden use.

## THE FOLLOWING IS A SHORT SUMMARY TO START DISCUSSION AND THINKING ABOUT OUR GARDEN SOIL MANAGEMENT – From The President

### THE IMPORTANCE OF CARBON IN THE SOIL

The carbon cycle is a fundamental part of life on earth. ‘Soil organic carbon’ (SOC) – the amount of carbon stored in the soil is a component of soil organic matter – plant and animal materials in the soil that are in various stages of decay.

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Soil organic carbon is the basis of soil fertility. It releases nutrients for plant growth, promotes the structure, biological and physical health of soil, and is a buffer against harmful substances.

Soil organic carbon is part of the natural carbon cycle, and the world’s soils holds around twice the amount of carbon that is found in the atmosphere and in vegetation. Organic material is manufactured by plants using carbon dioxide from the air and water. Plants (and animals, as part of the food chain), die and return to the soil where they are decomposed and recycled. Minerals are released into the soil and carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

Soil organic carbon accounts for less than 5% on average of the mass of upper soil layers, and diminishes with depth. According to the CSIRO, in rain-forests or good soils, soil organic carbon can be greater than 10%, while in poorer or heavily exploited soils, levels are likely to be less than 1%.

The amount of soil organic carbon present in soil can vary hugely according to soil and landscape types. This will change in the same paddock over time depending on climate and farming methods. Temperature, rainfall, land management, soil nutrition and soil type all influence soil organic carbon levels.

In Australia, soil carbon levels have dropped by up to half of pre-agricultural levels in many areas because of activities such as fallowing, cultivation, stubble burning or removal and overgrazing.

Increasing soil organic carbon has two benefits – as well as helping to mitigate climate change, it improves soil health and fertility. Many management practices that increase soil organic carbon also improve crop and pasture yields.

The large losses of soil organic carbon in the past means that many of Australia’s agricultural soils have the potential for a large increase in soil organic carbon.

If more carbon is stored in the soil as organic carbon, it will reduce the amount present in the atmosphere, and help reduce global warming. The process of storing carbon in soil is called ‘soil carbon sequestration’.

Some of the practices that increase soil organic carbon include conservation farming (reducing or eliminating tillage and retaining stubble from previous crops), improving crop management (e.g. through better rotation), **maintaining and improving tree/forestry management**, improving grazing management and adding organic materials such as composts and manures.

The above discussion is a summary of widely held views on soil carbon.

Now we are learning that the plant / soil biology relationship is critical and far more complex and important than previously thought. Also many current practices need to be re-evaluated.

As organic gardeners and stewards of the earth, we need to adopt practices that continually increase soil carbon reserves.

**How do we do that ?**

# Field Trips!

## War on Waste - Plastic bag fusing - with Elizabeth Hunter

Well that was fun! You know the old saying, "Oils ain't oils, Sol", that was the same for the plastic bags a few of us bought along to be transformed into something useful. "Plastic ain't plastic " either.

But first we had to do a quick tour of the back yard, visit the chickens, check out the amazing workshed & admired all the lush growth. No drought here, Elizabeth is being water wise in house & the gardens are flourishing.

Now, the plastic, some that looked like foil, are plastic & fused well, others that looked like plastic, are PVC & will NOT fuse, then there are other plastics like bread bags that one can fuse multiple ones together to create a sheet of stronger plastic. An ideal backing sheet of plastic were the bags that had potting mix in them. Then a cut here & there, a tuck or two done with the sewing machine, a folded piece or 2. some seam sewing & suddenly we have a rugged, useful, fashion statement that was another plastic bag, lol,....but one that we can re use to go shopping with over & over.

Peter Burgess chose the bird feed bag for me to take & wouldn't you know it made a great shopping bag. I can highly recommend morning tea & crafty shinannagins with Elizabeth.





Have you checked out our Facebook page yet? It's a great way to connect and show what's happening in your garden, and see others tips and ideas too.

Search for **Bundaberg Organic Gardening Inc** and request to join the group online.

## Christmas Party BOGI

**Sunday 24 November at 2.30** we gather at Baldwin Swamp Shelter Shed off Steindl Street.

We celebrate another great year for BOGI by sharing our favourite foods with friends with some light entertainment.

Each member is asked to bring along an entrée or salad or sweet. Please nominate your choice by placing your name on the list at the October meeting. Now Trevor requests you make it colourful, tasty and your favourite just because it is Christmas and we wish to share great food with friends. Please try to stick to the club ethos by bringing along something that contains home-grown, organic and or healthy ingredients.

Ham and chicken will be provided.

If any questions or offers of assistance please contact Lyn McIlwain 0438 028 246

## SEEDLING BRING AND TAKE

This activity has now been going very successfully for 2 years. When you buy a punnet of lettuce or whatever and only want 2 or 3 plants then bring the remainder along to share. Also when you plant a few seeds then please bring along some to share.

Also when taking cuttings of greens or herbs, we always have a few extras, then bring them along to share. We can share fully grown seedlings or some not ready for transplanting – another gardener will care for your plants.

### *Supper and Washing Up Roster for October*

#### **Rockmelon and Kale**



**Sue Zunker**

**Fred Pennell**

**Myra Gilder**

**Pam Burgess**

**Marlene Rayner**

**Alison Larkman**

**Daniel Critchlow**

**Joy Millett**

### **Management Committee and Co-ordinators from April 2019**

<b>President -</b>	Trevor Galletly 0417 196 315
<b>Vice President -</b>	Joan Smart
<b>Treasurer –</b>	Vicki Stuart
<b>Assistant Treasurer -</b>	Lara Hawker
<b>Part Time Secretary -</b>	<b>vacant</b>
	Karyn Ennor 0448 141 894
	secretary.bundyorgard@gmail.com
	PO Box 4158 Bundaberg South QLD
	4670
<b>Committee Members -</b>	Maureen Schmitt 4155 2172
	Pam Biden
	Reisha Marris
	Vacant
	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Coordinators</b>	
<b>Membership -</b>	Reisha Marris
<b>Field Trips -</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>Workshop -</b>	Pam Burgess
<b>Catering -</b>	Pam Biden, Richard Amsler
<b>Newsletter Co-Editors -</b>	Cathy Critchlow
	Heidi Brown
	newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter meeting notes -</b>	Betty-Ann Stephens
<b>Welcoming Person -</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>Buy and Sell -</b>	Jeanette Cox
<b>Lending Library -</b>	Kay de Gunst
<b>Seed Saving and Swap -</b>	Joan Smart
<b>Herbal Teas -</b>	Julie Burry
<b>BOGI Shop -</b>	Les de Gunst
<b>Seedlings -</b>	Eddie and Jill Galea
<b>Co-Webmasters -</b>	Peter Van Beek



### BOGI SHOP

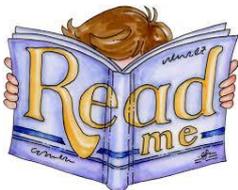
Products available are:

- Liquid Lime
- Liquid Kelp
- Liquid Fish
- Mineral Granules
- Microlife
- Organibor and
- Katex Organic Super Growth.

If you would like to buy any of these products please make arrangements with Les de Gunst by phoning 4152 9587. They are also available for sale at our meetings.

The library catalogue is maintained by our Librarian, Kay de Gunst.

The catalogue can be found at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/BOGardeners>. Each item's record includes a cover picture, title, author, publication date, the Dewey Decimal Classification and subject tags. There is also the facility to read and write reviews and to rate each item.



This is the official monthly newsletter published by and distributed to the members of Bundaberg Organic Gardeners Inc. Whilst every effort is made to publish accurate information, the Club accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, or any consequence arising from them. For further information, contact the Secretary.

## Deadline for October Newsletter

5pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

To include notices and details of Club activities

email: [newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com)

Or ph Cathy 0403 430 969 or Heidi 0410 561 314

We would like to put together a register of members who own their own business, or work in a field that is relevant to our club. Please contact the Editors for this

## Advanced Notice

### Supper and Washing up Roster

### November



### *Banana & Fennel*

**Richard Amsler      Vicky Stuart**

**Gordon Whitby      Peter Van Beek**

**Bruce McKay      Jeanette Cox**

**Katrine Rayner      Cathy Critchlow**

If you would like to contribute a dish when you are not on the roster, please do so. They are always welcome.

*For dietary purposes – please list all ingredients*

*Please note that these members are also requested to assist in sweeping and cleaning up after the meeting.*

If you are unable to come to the meeting, please advise Pam Biden (ph 4159 4223) so that other arrangements can be made