



Bundaberg Organic Gardeners

~working with nature~

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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

Today, I am grateful for MY GARDEN! Life gets busy, a little too busy sometimes and I am so grateful for the days I walk out in to the garden and can still find things to eat. Today was a few stems of purple asparagus and some fresh greens. Personally, I love having plants that grow without too much attention, and I give extra brownie points for the self-seeding ones too, like the lettuce and basil I have all over the back yard. What is growing well at your place at this time of year?

BOGI Meeting

CLUB MEETING

Please take note of a new trial of an earlier start time.

Time: Doors open 5.30 pm For a 6 pm start

Venue: McNaught Hall (Uniting Church hall) Corner Barolin and Electra Street,
Bundaberg

Attendance \$3-member, \$5 visitor, Tea Coffee avail

Tuesday 23rd February

Please check your contact details are correct when you sign in to the Meeting

Once again, we will be following a Covid designated protocol. You will be greeted with the now familiar squirt of sanitizer before doing your own registration. Please find your name on the list and sign in and drop your \$3 entry fee in the box provided. Important to bring the correct change as none will be provided. Visitors will be greeted separately.

Nomination forms will be available at the February meeting. **AGM in March at the meeting.**

Bruce McKay is needing assistance at his home with certain jobs, mainly weeding at the moment so if you have some spare time and are willing and able please give Bruce a call. His number is 4154 4405 and he lives in Walkervale

- ❖ **Meeting times.** The February start time of 6 pm will be a trial and we are looking for feedback on what suits our members. This trial is so people can get home a little earlier. Also consider having the occasional Meeting on a Saturday or Sunday from 10 – 3pm for those who are reluctant to drive at night.

From the January meeting...

The last meeting was held on Australia Day and so we put on our best singing voices. While I don't think we'll be up for any music awards if we keep practicing, we might get there next year!

Pests in the Garden – OPEN FORUM

Members brought in various plants with an assortment of pest problems to be identified. Trevor managed to identify most of the problems and members contributed methods of treatment.

The first photo shows a 14 spot Ladybird however the leaf damage is from the larvae of the 28-spot ladybird on the eggplant. The larvae graze on the underside and leave the top of the leaf intact. The adult chews the whole leaf and can kill or diminish production of the host. They also attack potatoes. You can use poisons but it will also kill the good ladybirds. Physical removal is best but you need to do it daily and scrape the larvae from underneath. The best success is a light dusting of Mt Sylvania Diatomaceous Earth. You can cover the plant so it won't affect other insects. Eggplants self-pollinate so don't need bees.



14 spot ladybird on eggplant leaf



Damage from 28 spot ladybird larvae.

3. The dying of the tip of the Pawpaw is caused by a sap sucking insect called Fruit Spotting Bug. It's a long green insect which will run around the back of the plant if you try to get it. Use an insect proof net.



Juvenile & adult Fruit Spotting Bug.
Adult is about 15mm long and 5 mm wide

4. Don't know about the passionfruit. Hoping someone might be able to identify. However, the flavour is still excellent so don't spray.



5. The ring barking is a mystery too. Any ideas? Possibly excessive plant material and moisture causing damping off.

6. Woolly Aphids come when there is lack of air in a cool damp spot. Trim the plant and use Soapy water e.g., Lux flakes. Can also use White or Eco oil. Also hosing away will reduce the population.



7. One more, this appears like a bruise on citrus. The Fruit Piercing Moth is a large moth that may knock a crop of fruit on the ground overnight. After piercing, the spot will soften and allow fruit fly to lay eggs and produce larvae (grubs).





Maureen showed a frog motel made of PVC pipe and fittings. All it needs is some creativity with combinations, a few holes for the frogs to get in and out and a shade place with some cover for safety

Member profile: Joan Smart

To some extent I have inherited my grandfather's green thumb but definitely his love of gardening. For twenty-seven years I grew the cold weather plants of Victoria and got an awful shock to find that Boronia, Daphne, Daffodils and many other sweet-smelling plants were not suited to the Queensland climate. I had married the same year and moved to Queensland with my farmer husband. I had been a teacher in Victoria and when we moved here, I took few years off to have Mark and the next year Debbie. We had bought what was to be our retirement home on three quarters of an acre but after Bruce died in two thousand and two my family persuaded me to move to my present address in Thabeban. I now have a quarter of an acre that I call my little bit of paradise! I bought it as a "blank canvas" and have enjoyed developing it into a lush jungle as three large leafy trees enable me to have all types of tropical plants. My hens prevent me from having a large productive vegetable garden but behind the fence I grow many seasonal vegetables. I am a foundation member of the club and at present hold the position of Vice President. If you find yourself near eighty-nine Wilmington Street Thabeban please drop in.

(Unfortunately, Joan didn't provide me with a picture but make sure you introduce yourself and say HI when you see her next – name badges are great in this instance)

Workshops and Garden Visits

Frog Hotel building workshop at Maureen's house on 15th Feb. Everyone who came enjoyed.



Please register your interest and check out upcoming workshops at the next meeting.

BOGI Tips

The passionfruit is one of Australia's most popular home-grown vine crops. Vines tend to be short-lived with an average productive lifespan of 4 – 5 years.

Passionfruit have a high requirement for potassium. Apply potassium-enriched compost or sulphate of potash before flowering and during fruit development. Yearly applications of dolomite lime can be used to make adjustments to soil pH and provide magnesium and calcium.

Bees and other insects are important for good pollination; can also be hand-pollinated.

Carrots and radishes left to go to flower will attract native bees and other pollinators and beneficial insects to your garden.

And for older gardeners:

Getting the right tools that are designed to allow you to work in comfort and without strain is the key to help our gardening activities.

Longer handled tools will extend your reach without having to bend or stretch too much.

Spades with longer handles will be easier on you if you get them with a D-shaped handle.

Foam grip cut the length of a tool handle and glued in place will also be easier to hold and put less pressure on sore hands. Tools with grip handles are easier to hold with comfort.

What's Happening In our Members Back Yards?

From Peter Van Beek

Last month I showed an empty dam and a dead vegie patch, the second time in two years this happened. So, I decided that self-sufficiency with water has a lot going for it and bought this 20,000 litres tank. The indicator shows the current real water level. It goes up when the tank fills and down when it runs lower, easy to read.



The tank is connected to four other tanks, all filled from our roofs and connected via 2.5 cm pipes, outlet to outlet. Once full, this one should hold enough water to grow 40 square metres of vegies, even if it then does not rain for a year. That should go a long way to feeding us.

Fortunately, we had isolated one tank with tea-coloured water from a gutter that was overlooked when cleaning out leaves and used that to fill the new tank. An excellent mistake, now I have 7,500 litres to start. We must get some rain soon!!

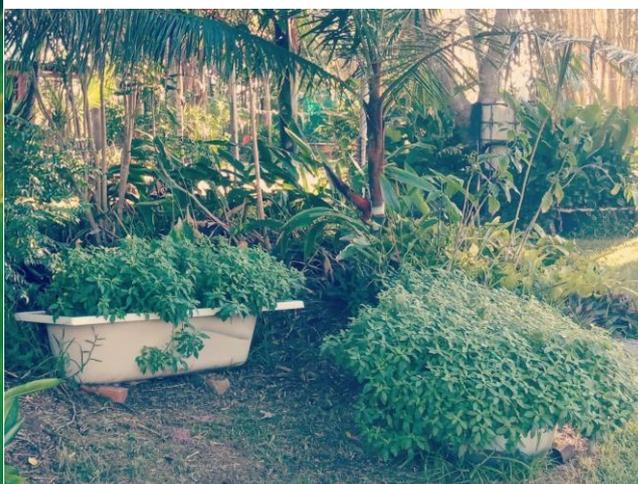
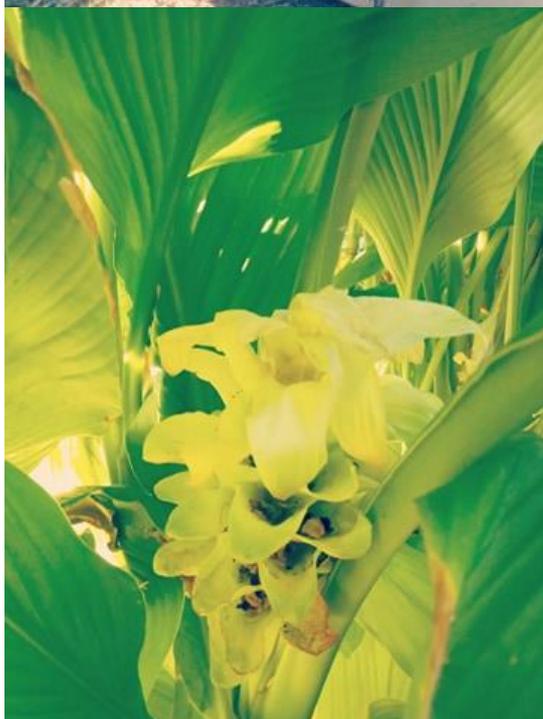
From The Haven at Bucca – Peter & Pamela Burgess.

Hi All, we are still in the land of the living, but with the lack of water & dry dams, we have been full on, watering from 1000lt pods from the river, very time consuming. Having said that we have had just enough rain to grow some grass, everything else, including the trees are stressing. We have lost a lemonade tree, a few big bamboos, a rainforest tree, a few wattles & a GUM TREE! Things are crook in Tallarook!

But.... all is not lost, we have just had a mammoth harvest of dragon fruit, over 200, so the dehydrator & freezer are getting a workout.

The bathtubs have been an absolute blessing, as they do not waste any water, so we have 2 x Japanese Menthe Mint for tea, 2 x Turmeric, they are flowering at present, just lovely, 1 x Gotu Kola, which is coming back after being harvested for dehydration & storage, 1 x Ginger which is coming along very nicely, & another few with shallots, chicory & strawberry runners. Our food plants are getting the priority waterings, and the comfrey patch lets me know when it is thirsty, it flops. The wicking beds are home to last year's collard greens, garlic chives, eggplants, both black and white, the dying parsley plants and some really happy young paw paws. Hopefully fruit this year, I am almost ready to net them. I harvested almost 3 cups of Italian Parsley seed from only 3 plants! So, we have enough seed to start a very large parsley farm. lol. That's it from The Haven. We hope all of you are coping with this heat. Cheers from Pete & Pam





Local Info

- ❖ Buy organic seeds locally at Woodgate, Claudia and Charlie who have a business Simply Organic Farming@gmail.com 0407699283.
- ❖ Sign the petition against Coal Mining at https://www.plantogrow.org.au/protect?utm_campaign=plan_to_grow_petition_qld&utm_medium=email&utm_source=lockthegate
- ❖ **Local honey suppliers** Bundy Honey, 5 Banks Court, Bargara 0438 882 220 Bundy Honey, 89 Honors Rd, Bundaberg 0409 921 600
- ❖ Honey Bees for sale. Contact Steve 0419541250
- ❖ Lychee plants for sale Marcotted Kwai Mai Lychee. 60cm high. \$22, 60cm high. Phone Kaye 0402207901.

Bundaberg Organic Gardeners Club

President - Maureen Schmitt, **Vice President** - Joan Smart, **Secretary** - Karyn Ennor, **Treasurer** - Lara Hawker.

Ordinary members- Kay de Gunst, Chris Jeffrey, Pam Biden, Marlene Fuller.

Non-Committee members- Membership secretaries- Ross and Ramona Lane, Kitchen- Pam Biden.

Other jobs are not yet allocated as we are all helping with reduced numbers, help with set up and cleaning is always appreciated before and after meetings.

Please be sure to check out our WEBSITE and see the new information added under INFORMATION and then INFORMATION SHEETS

<https://www.bundaberg-organic-gardeners.com/>

**We want your feedback - is this the type of info / articles you want?
Do you want to discuss this info at meetings, garden visits?**

Give your feedback to Maureen or Trevor

Support the club by purchasing some products from our shop which is always open on meeting nights, or pick up can be arranged at other times.

Deadline for February Newsletter

Please send through information to the editor by the second Friday of each month.

We would love FEEDBACK from club members on anything and everything.

Tell us about your success and your failures in the garden and help others learn along the way.

Let us know about community events or what's up and coming in the area.

To include notices and details of Club activities email: newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com

Or ph Cathy 0403 430 969

BOGI SHOP

Products available are:

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

They are available for sale at our meetings, but please contact Bruce McKay on 41544405 for collection from his address in Walkervale.

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.