



E: newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com M: PO Box 4158, Bundaberg South QLD 4670

E: secretary.bundyorgard@gmail.com Secretary Karyn Ennor 0447 360 882

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

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022

Hello and welcome to our September Newsletter. The feeling of spring is certainly in the air. At home we are enjoying watching the baby birds nesting, the snakes and lizards coming out to enjoy the sun and of course the frogs singing loudly through the showers of rain. The importance of keeping an organic garden is easily recognised when we take time to stop and see who lives in our own little 'zoo'. Biodiversity in our own backyard can be encouraged when we create safe places for pollinators, areas of both shade and protection as well as full sun, water for birds and animals to bathe and drink from, and protection for tadpoles to grow. When we look even closer, we see the bugs above and below the soil. The plants and animals will tell us when we start to get it right and the one ingredient that I always find missing from my garden is time to enjoy it.

Cathy

CLUB MEETING – Tuesday 27th September 2022

Always the last Tuesday of the Month.

Time: Doors open 6.00 pm for a 6.30 pm start

Theme for the night: Malcolm is giving a demonstration on using a pole saw, which will also be available for loan after the meeting. Details further on in the newsletter.

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

Attendance \$3-member, \$5 visitor, tea, coffee avail.

Members please be reminded to wear your badges to the meeting

Get your lucky door ticket (free with entry), bring along produce to show on the 'From My Garden' table and share in the free seedlings at the end of the meeting.

Management Committee News:

The BOGI Club will hold a Christmas Party again this year on 11th December and will be held at Baldwin Swamp Shelter Shed, East Bundaberg.

We have been able to acquire 2 great prizes for our Christmas Raffle, which will be drawn at the BOGI Christmas Party.

First Prize is a 16 litre Swagman Sprayer 12 Volt with wheels (easy work).

Second Prize is a Stihl Battery-powered hand-held chainsaw.

Both excellent prizes. Tickets of books have been issued and plenty more available if you are able to assist in selling. \$2 a ticket or 3 for \$5.00. Selling well already. Make sure you get yours.



16 Litre Swagman Sprayer
with Wheels 12 Volt



From the August Meeting.



We welcomed many guests and new members as well at our August meeting. Lenzie gave a demonstration on grafting and Marlene gave a demonstration on marcotting.

Both are very interesting techniques of propagation and they showed us how to do it with and without expensive store-bought items. One of Lenzie's key points was that when grafting, we should select similar sized branches and join at least one of the sides perfectly. E.g., one side should line up and leave a small overhang on the other side, rather than placing the graft in to the middle of the groove. Use grafting tape to join, ensuring you lock out air and moisture.

Marlene said that marcotting can be used on all types of trees. It is best to do it when there are no flowers on the tree. There are marcotting balls that you can purchase and use in conjunction with coir, but a zip-lock bag tied with string will work just as well if not better in being that you can see through the plastic and know when the plant has produced roots and is able to be successfully removed and potted.



Save the Date - Upcoming Workshops. Contact Maureen for full information or to register.

- ❖ Giles herb farm 10 Careys Road Meadowvale, 9.30 Saturday morning 8th Oct.
Get excited to see, smell and taste herbs, but also gain valuable information on herbs God has blessed to us for our health and healing!! Amanda is our owner host, and Elanor is her elderly long-time customer who says it is herbs that have kept her active into the ageing years. Bring a chair, hat, water and morning tea for an informative morning.
- ❖ Mike & Bev McAuley property Corymbia Cottage at Moore Park Beach. Mike and Bev have created a permaculture style garden and are happy to share their secrets with us.
Sunday Oct 16
Start at 10 and BYO lunch. More information to be given at the meeting or phone 0473014615
- ❖ 19th November Swap Meet and Sausage Sizzle North Bundaberg
Following the success of our last swap meet, it's time to clean out the garden shed and get ready to swap again. Pictured right is an old bucket we brought home which is now a perfect little herb and lettuce planter, and a sprouting tube which is now used as a caterpillar catcher – currently awaiting butterflies to hatch.
- ❖ 11th December Baldwin Swamp Shelter Shed BOGI Christmas Party.
It's hard to believe we are talking about Christmas already. But this is always a fun end of year celebration.



Gin Gin Landcare Plants to be available at BOGI Tuesday night meetings

Bush tucker plants, herbs, bird, bee and butterfly attracting plants are just some of the plants available from Gin Gin Landcare that will be able to be ordered and collected at future BOGI Tuesday night meetings. Val Wright, who volunteers at Gin Gin Landcare Nursery, has come up with a plan to help Gin Gin Landcare, BOGI and time-strapped BOGI members. Members interested in buying plants can ring Ray Johnson on 0419 199 168 up until 4pm on the Friday preceding a meeting, discuss their plant needs and place an order with Ray. Val will then bring these plants to the BOGI meeting for collection and cash only payment.

Tube stock sell at \$2.50 per plant and prices for larger pots depend on the pot size and plant type. From every plant sold, BOGI will receive \$0.50. In time, Val will have a plant list of what is on offer from Gin Gin Landcare to show BOGI members.

Malcolm will be doing a demonstration on how to use a pole saw on our meeting 27th of August 2022

After this meeting any members wishing to borrow will find it housed at Kay & Les De Gunst.
10 Limpus Ct, Kalkie
Kay's phone no: 0477014096

All you have to do is ring Kay and make arrangements: time & day that you can pick it up
Please sign the book with your name, phone number and address
Then you can take the pole saw.

If you wish to have support call Marlene on 0402216188

Organic gardening is working with nature, using the natural resources of soil, air, water and the return of animal and plant waste to create healthy soil. Plants grown in healthy soil are healthy and resistant to pests and diseases. Learning the techniques of organic growing and building up a healthy soil takes time, patience, a willingness to learn and a little effort. The rewards of growing your own vegetables are more than compensation.

Soil and soil types: To an organic gardener, soil is the most important aspect of the garden. Building and maintaining a fertile, healthy soil must be the first priority.

Soils are usually formed from the degradation of parent rock, or volcanic deposits, silt from old rivers, or wind-blown deposits.

The type of soil and how it is formed, determines its depth, nutrient status, acidity and alkalinity.

2 types:

Good Structure - where soil is easy to dig, has a sweet earthy smell, not hard, lots of worm channels and plant roots penetrate deep.

Poor Structure - where soil is sticky or dry, has unpleasant smell, a compacted topsoil layer, few worms and plants are shallow-rooting.

Planting by the Moon – October

(First ¼ to Full Moon) 3 – 9 Oct: Increased light from the waxing moon benefits leaf growth, and root growth slows down. Best time to sow or transplant fruiting annuals.

(Full Moon to ¼ Moon) 10 – 17 Oct: Gravitational pull decreases and moonlight decreases, so leaf growth reduces and root growth increases. Plant root crops now (below ground).

(Last ¼ to New Moon) 18 – 24 Oct: The waning moon is good for balanced growth. No sowing or planting during this phase. *Harvest vegetables, weeding, digging, pruning and cultivate. Apply mulch.*

(New Moon to ¼ Moon) 25 Sept – 31 Oct: Influences balanced growth; a lower gravitational pull decreases and this stimulates root growth. The best time to sow or transplant leafy vegetables.

What to plant in October:

Asian vegetables; Beans; Beetroot; Capsicum; Carrots; Chilli; Choko; Cucumber; Eggplant; Leeks; Lettuce; Luffa; Marrow; Melon; Mustard Greens; Potatoes; Pumpkins; Radish; Rosellas; Shallots; Squash; Sweet Corn; Sweet Potatoes; Tomatoes; Zucchini.

Plant these in seedling trays first: *Capsicum; Chilli; Cucumber; Eggplant; Lettuce; Luffa; Marrow; Pumpkins; Silverbeet; Squash; Sweet Corn; Tomatoes; Zucchini.*

Field Trip Reports

Notes on visit to Pam and Paul Bidens' garden on Sunday, 18th September, 2022

Last Sunday we had the privilege of visiting Pam and Paul Bidens' garden, at Burnett Heads. The moment you step onto their property you can see they love plants as their place is ablaze of colour and diversity. As you walk up the side of the house, you see a mix of flowers with garlic and herbs in the ground layer. The enormous pot overflowing with flowering coriander was eye-catching. Citrus, avocados, mulberries, blueberries and mangoes are just a few of the fruit trees they grow with great success in pots. Paul says they just use Boylan's potting mix with some added goodies then regular top-ups with potting mix and fertiliser but whatever they are using, it is sure working as the trees are flowering and fruiting profusely.

Next was the vegetable garden which had cauliflowers, carrots, peas, beans, corn, kale and strawberries just to name a few. Everything just looked so healthy and they say they grow all the veggies they need to feed themselves.

Around the perimeter of the veggie garden were the in-ground fruit tree, most of which were in fruit or flower.

Pam and Pauls' Garden, is an inspiration and they so readily shared their experience and knowledge. The morning continued with lunch much chatting and Pam's delicious chocolate slices. Thanks Pam and Paul for a wonderful BOGI outing!!



Mulberry in pot



Avocado in a pot covered with new shoots

Covered strawberries



A flowering mango that just wants to break free!!



Paul says blue berries do well in pots but you have to compete with the birds for the fruit hence the netting.



Huge pot of coriander in flower



Kale rules!!



Maureen discussing egg production with the chooks!



Photo of Pam, Mike and rose



Chooks in their pen



Entry into their wonderful garden



Photo of Paul with Bruce and Pam and Rose

After the excitement of seeing Bruce's amazing homegrown Kohlrabi at our last meeting, I thought it was time we learned more about it. Here's an article from ABC Gardener magazine.

How to grow kohlrabi Grow kohlrabi in your vegie garden and discover an ingredient that will add crunch and flavour to salads and stir-fries.



Photo: GAP Photos

What do you get when you cross a cabbage with a turnip? It may sound like the opening line of a bad dad joke, but it's also pointing you in the direction of one of the vegie garden's most underrated performers – the humble, the bulbous, and the delicious kohlrabi.

Despite its similarity to an above-ground [turnip](#) and the oft-used moniker of German turnip, the kohlrabi

(*Brassica oleracea*, Gongylodes Group) is not a root vegetable, instead having a swollen stem that grows above the ground. It is a member of the brassica family and has a subtle, almost sweet flavour with a texture similar to that of a potato.

Like all members of the brassica family, kohlrabi traces its roots back to the 'Wild Cabbage' and is believed to have been first cultivated in Northern Europe in the 14th century. We can thank the Germans for the catchy name, with kohl meaning cabbage and rabi turnip in German.

The plant is now cultivated in home gardens and on farms around the world and it would seem that kohlrabi is finally coming out from the shadows.

Being [frost-hardy](#) and fast-growing, kohlrabi can be planted from late winter to spring so you can grow and harvest it before frost-tender spring plantings like tomatoes. Not only that, it looks stunning in the patch and when harvested creates lots of interest in the kitchen, where it's worth experimenting with this new ingredient.

Are you convinced yet? Are you on the kohlrabi train? Yes? Good!

Growing needs

Kohlrabi is a relatively compact plant so can happily be grown in containers or the garden. It thrives in full sun, though will tolerate some shade, and like all brassicas, does best in rich, free-draining soil with a pH between 6.0 and 7.5.



The plants are shallow-rooted and will greatly benefit if the top layer of soil is lightly aerated and enriched. Before planting, gently fork in some aged compost, worm castings or organic fertiliser. Also, if your soil is acidic, add lime as needed according to packet instructions. Kohlrabi is best grown from seed with sowing times depending on your climate zone. Cold temperate: spring and summer; warm temperate and arid/semi-arid: late winter to mid-autumn; tropical and subtropical: autumn to early spring.

Kitchen uses

We've established that kohlrabi is not a cabbage or a turnip, and when it comes to the kitchen, I find it has a sweet, peppery flavour – something like a subtle combination of apples and radishes. To prepare a kohlrabi, get yourself a robust vegetable peeler and use it to remove the fibrous outer skin. Once peeled, there are numerous options. I like to thinly slice the stem into discs to use as crudité's, cut into thin matchsticks and dress in mayonnaise for a remoulade-like accompaniment, or cut it into larger matchsticks to be used as a part of a stir-fry. You could also use

kohlrabi as an addition to soups and stews, although the flavour and texture are lost. For me, it's raw, quickly cooked or nothing!

Keys for success

Position: Full sun to partial shade

Soil: Free-draining and enriched with compost, manure, worm castings or organic fertiliser.

Plant: Sow seeds direct

Maintenance: Water lightly and frequently at soil level, feed once every week or so with a liquid organic fertiliser

Pests: Be mindful of cabbage white butterfly and brassica downy mildew.

Harvest: 4-7 weeks.

Member Contributions

Freshly dug and cooked beetroot from Les and Kay De Gunst Garden.



The favourite things growing in our yard at the moment (and over the back fence) are strawberries, mulberries, cherry tomatoes and Shahtoot mulberries. Here is why we think it's great to have all of these things in your backyard.

They are all best picked ripe, this is when they are full of flavour and nutrients.

If you buy store bought, make sure you choose certified organic. They have no outer protection to peel away so any sprays used in conventional farming are directly absorbed in to the fruit.

Another reason is that they are all generally sold in plastic punnets which are a single use plastic.

Cathy & Olive

BOGI SHOP – See Bruce before or after the meeting to purchase any of the following gardening inputs. This is one way that the club supports its members by buying in bulk and sharing the savings.

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, or please contact Bruce McKay on 41544405 for collection from his address in Walkervale.

This Month's Supper Roster

*Sarah Park ~ Marlene Rayner ~ Tony Wolfe ~ Colin Walmsley
Effie Hadjielia ~ Pam Biden ~ Val Wright ~ Donna Watton
Linda Cameron ~ Les De Gunst ~ Hilary Reed*

President – Maureen Schmitt

Vice President – Marlene Kent

Treasurer – Kay De Gunst

Secretary – Karyn Ennor

**Committee Members - Trevor Galletly,
Christine Jeffery, Joan Smart and Pam Biden.**

Herbal Teas – Tony Wolfe

Library – Joy Millett

Supper – Pam Biden

Workshops and Field Trips – Trevor Galletly

BOGI Shop – Bruce McKay

Newsletter Editor– Cathy Critchlow

Assistant Editor – Donna Watton

Deadline for October 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 successes 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 Phone Cathy 0403 430 969

Management Committee News:

Opening Balance 1 st August	\$4800.30
Income	\$149
Expenditure	\$235.59
Closing Balance 31st August	\$4713.71

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