

Bundaberg Organic Gardeners

~ working with nature ~

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NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

Hello and welcome to our January Newsletter.

I hope you have all had a happy and relaxing start to 2023! The recent rain has certainly been great for our gardens! I can testify that my weeds have taken the opportunity to explode! My potted herbs are very happy though!

Like December, weather conditions in January are usually harsh and pests and diseases are so active that vegetable gardening is difficult, for both the plants and the gardener. So do come along to our monthly meeting to check in with our experienced members as to how they look after their gardens at this time of the year!

You are most welcome to contribute your best gardening tips or recipes using healthy ingredients so please contact me by email at newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com

Happy gardening!
Deltry (Newsletter Editor)

CLUB MEETING – Tuesday 31st January 2023

Always the last Tuesday of the Month.

Time: Doors open **6.00 pm** for a **6.30 pm** start

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. Enjoy a cuppa afterwards!

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.

Could those on our supper roster (see last page) provide a list of the ingredients of your contribution due to various dietary concerns of our attendees! Thank you!



Paula with her delicious microgreens!

January Speaker: Paula Wiseman

Paula is the owner and grower of Grow Wise Microgreens which is a new small business running from her home near Gin Gin QLD. She grows beautiful, wildly nutritious microgreens using organic methods to sell at Shalom Market the 2nd and 4th Sundays for the next few months. Paula's mission with her business is to provide healthy vibrant food for her community whilst encouraging people to step away from the toxic food systems in mainstream society and grow their own.

Membership

Membership Fees: These are due before our Annual General Meeting which is held at the March Meeting. There will be a reminder in the February Newsletter and membership fees can be paid in February or March.

Membership fees are:

Single Person - \$15, Family - \$25.

If you are unsure if your membership is still current or you wish to renew your membership, please ring Kay, our Treasurer on 0477014096 or check at the front desk when you come to the next Tuesday night Meeting. Visitors are eligible to apply for BOGI membership after attending three (3) events e.g. evening meetings or Field events. Once your membership is finalised, a membership badge is presented at the next monthly Tuesday night meeting.

We look forward to seeing at our next gathering!

Results from the Christmas Raffle

Many thanks to members who sold tickets in our Christmas Raffle comprising of 3 great prizes which were kindly donated by local members:

1st Prize: 16 litre Swagman Sprayer 12 volt with wheels;

2nd Prize: Stihl Battery-powered hand-held chainsaw;

3rd Prize: Bottle of wine & Box of chocolates.

The draw was held at our Break-up venue (Baldwin Swamp Shelter Shed) on 11th December. And the lucky winners were:

1st: Green C 021 – Marsha Johnson - (sold by Kay)

2nd: Red A 088 – Daryl Cole – (sold by Marlene)

3rd: Red A 059 – Bec Kent – (sold by Marlene)

Members sold tickets amounting to a total of \$921.45. A wonderful effort for our club.

Seedling Give-away: Please clearly name any seedlings you bring in for the give-away table.

That will make it easier for members to choose the plant they would like for their garden.

Our member Effie has submitted an extract from a letter sent to the Editor of Nexus Magazine from Buster Nolan at www.talkingtrees.net. The letter appeared in the December22-January 2023 edition of Nexus Magazine and deals with the issue of tree death in England and a simple method proposed by Viktor Schauberger many years ago.

The author of the letter "made a simple device available in his literature (viz.Viktor Schauberger) and buried stoneware amphoras containing beaten copper and zinc around dying trees. The trees came back to full health!

If you are interested in pursuing this line of thought further, you can get information on Viktor Schauberger and www.talkingtrees.net

Happy Memories from the Christmas Party – Report next page



REPORT ON BOGI XMAS BREAK-UP ON 11 DEC. 2022 by Maureen

Our Christmas Break-Up at Baldwin Swamp was, as usual, a time of good company, great food, terrific music, a trivia quiz and the drawing of our big Xmas raffle.

Just on start time, we realized that our usual music man was not going to show up. Without the use of his microphone, we knew that people wouldn't be able to hear very well in this big shelter shed, so we quickly re-arranged the furniture so everyone and everything was much closer together.

Cat did a marvellous job of assembling and leading a BOGI Xmas Carol Choir at such short notice and I think the scores of 9,9, and a 4 given by Jim, our unofficial music judge, were fair except for the 4 which I felt was a little harsh. He probably gave that score because most of us did not know the second verse to the carol "We Wish You a Merry Xmas"!!

Lyn, Effie and Chris had done a great job transforming the shelter shed with their beautiful flowers and Xmas decorations. Pam had the food tables looking exquisite and she did a great job organising all the healthy and scrumptious food people had brought in.

Joy puzzled us with her trivia quiz and many of us received prizes for our brain straining. Trevor ran our Xmas raffle with a little help and prodding from his young offsidiers.

All in all, it was a wonderful event and I thank everyone who kindly donated their time, effort, materials and prizes. It was a great way to end another successful BOGI Year.

NOTICE OF THE 16th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2023
AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Our 16th Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 6.30 pm at our regular venue: McNaught Hall (Uniting Church hall). It will include the election of the Management Committee for the year 2023/24. The AGM agenda will be included in the February 2023 Newsletter and will include motions to be voted upon, if any.

The AGM will be followed by our normal monthly meeting.

We hereby invite nominations for all positions on the Management Committee. The Committee consists of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four ordinary members.

These positions become vacant at the end of each year and can only be filled by nominations at the AGM. Please help ensure BOGI's continuation by agreeing to be nominated or nominate another member (subject to their written agreement).

A nomination form with the required details is attached to this Newsletter.

Blank forms will also be available at the entry table at our monthly meeting.

Membership fees due 28th February

All membership renewal-fees are due by 28th February 2023. Fees are unchanged: Single \$15, Family \$25.

You can pay:

- by cash at the February meeting, or
- by cheque made out to 'Bundaberg Organic Gardeners (Inc)'
 - hand it in at the February meeting or
 - mail it to 'PO Box 1458, Bundaberg South, Qld 4670',
- by Direct Bank transfer:
 - BSB number 64 56 46, Account number 105739103,
 - Reference: YOUR NAME.

NB If using Direct Bank transfer, please add your name after the reference.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR

2023/24

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 6.30 pm at our regular meeting venue McNaught Hall (Uniting Church hall). The agenda will include the election of the Management Committee for the year 2023/24 consisting of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Ordinary members (4)

These positions are for one year and are filled by nominations. To nominate someone for one of these positions, please complete a Nomination Form (provided below).

To nominate, stand for, or vote for a position your membership fee for 2023/4 must normally be paid by the close of the meeting on 28 February 2023. As this is short notice, payment can be made up to the March Meeting but before the AGM proceeds. A nomination box will be available at the February/March meetings.

Alternatively, nominations may be emailed to: secretary.bundyorgard@gmail.com or posted to: The secretary, Bundaberg Organic Gardeners (Inc), P.O. Box 4158, Bundaberg South, Qld, 4670 by Tuesday 28th February 2023.

Candidates will be published in the March newsletter. If you are unable to attend the March meeting, please contact the Secretary so a Proxy form can be sent to you.

Nomination Form - 2023 AGM

For one of the Management Committee positions

of the Bundaberg Organic Gardeners (Inc.)

I hereby nominate

for the position of

1. Nominated by:

.....

(Name – please print)

(Signature)

2. Seconded by:

.....

(Name – please print)

(Signature)

3. Accepted by the Nominee:

.....

(Name – please print)

(Signature)

NEWSLETTER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEETING ON 19/1/2023

1) Positions Vacant – Microphone Attendant

We are still looking for a person to set up and pack up the microphone and speakers at each monthly meeting. I understand it is not a difficult task and there are clear instructions with the equipment. If you have any interest or knowledge of speakers, microphones etc. this may be the role for you. Please ring Cathy on 0403 430 969

2) Herbal Tea Maker – Many thanks to Tony Wolfe for his assistance with organising the Herbal Teas last year. If you can access herbs that can be used in herbal tea making, would you please consider taking on this role at our Tuesday night monthly meetings? Having one or two herbal teas available really adds to the enjoyment of the night. Please ring Maureen on 0427517759 for more information or talk to any committee member.

3) Guest Speakers and Outings for 2023. If you have any suggestions for guest speakers or outings for 2023, please talk to a committee member. This would be a great help!!

4) Privacy for hosts of garden visits, outings etc. If you are hosting a garden visit or outing, BOGI wants to respect your privacy. You will be asked beforehand if you are happy to have your phone number and address put on the BOGI Facebook page, BOGI Newsletter and What's On. If you don't want this to happen, only your phone number will appear in the above.



Planting by the Moon – February (Full Moon to ¼ Moon) 6 – 13 Feb:

Gravitational pull decreases and moonlight decreases, so leaf growth reduces and root growth increases. Plant root crops now.

(First ¼ to Full Moon) 14 – 19 Feb: Increased light from the waxing moon benefits leaf growth, and root growth slows down. Best time to sow/transplant fruiting annuals.

(Last ¼ to New Moon) 20 – 26 Feb: 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) 27 – 6 March: 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 February/March:

Asian vegetables; Choko; Carrots; Eggplant; French Beans; Lettuce; Leeks; Luffa; Marrow; Mustard Greens; Pumpkins; Radish;; Shallots; Squash; Sweet Potatoes; Squash; Tomatoes; Zucchini.

Plant these in seedling trays first: *Capsicum; Cucumber; Chillij; Tomatoes;*

To make water go further in your garden...

- 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 your plants to direct water to the roots where it is needed. Avoid wetting the foliage to reduce the incidence of some fungal diseases.
- 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 needed.
- Soak the soil well rather than sprinkling the surface. Excess watering damages the soil structure and washes nutrients away.

FYI: The National Palm & Cycad Show is just 6 weeks away. It is at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Auditorium, Mount Coot-tha, Saturday 4 March 9am – 4pm, Sunday 5 March 9am – 3pm. Lots of free parking. There will also be a massive low-cost plant sale for indoors/outdoors, full sun/shade, feature/screening, fan/tall, rare/common. So it is a great place to indulge your gardening passion.

Did You Know: RECYCLING BATTERIES: Rather than throw your old batteries in the bin, you can take them to Woolies, Aldi, Bunnings, Trade Tools, Total Tools and Office Works for recycling!

Field Trip Report

Visit to Hannah Reed's "Food for Ever" Garden on Sunday, 22nd January 2023 by Maureen

We had a fantastic turnout of BOGI members, family and friends to Hannah's garden last Sunday morning - I think we had close to 30 in attendance.

Hannah gave us a guided tour of the garden and it was quite obvious the huge macadamia, mango and native fig were the dominant features of the back yard. The shade is wonderful but it reduces the area that receives sunshine for growing other plants and these trees would have their roots going all over the block. There were various opinions as to which trees should stay or go, but the general consensus was that the Queen palms and other ornamentals should definitely go as they are only taking nutrients and water and providing nothing in return.

A few of the other suggestions from members include:

1. Give the passionfruit vine something to climb up by attaching it to the macadamia tree. Eat passionfruit when they fall to the ground.
2. Turn rampant leaf ginseng (Surinam spinach) into eggs by feeding it to chickens. Apparently, it is high in Vitamin A and C, Calcium and antioxidants, so keep eating it.
3. Dan said that his pomegranate tree is planted in their lawn and gets no special treatment. Marlene added that you tell pomegranates are ripe by their weight.
4. Sida retusa coming up in your garden indicates low boron.
5. Trevor suggested there is room for 15-20 fruit trees along the southern fenceline and at the back on the house in the grassed area. Espaliering fruit trees sideways along trellises is another option where space is limited.
6. Trevor noticed yellowing along the veins on the mulberry tree and found it to be an iron deficiency. He suggested using iron sulphate or getting a bucket of red soil from the Hummock and throwing it around the base.
7. Peter suggested using wicking beds but not to cover them with more than 30% shade cloth to keep out pests.
8. Lyn suggested keeping only 1 plant of each type of fruit tree as you can only eat and give so much away otherwise the garden can overwhelm you.
9. Maureen agreed and said that sometimes you have to be a bit ruthless with your plants otherwise the garden becomes relentless hard work and all the fun and enjoyment disappear.
10. Joan concluded the discussion by highlighting the huge potential she saw to make the garden even more edible.

Good food and chatter followed and we all thanked Hannah for giving us the privilege of visiting her garden.

Members and friends enjoyed their time at Hannah's place on Sunday 22nd January



The November BOGI 'guest' speaker was Trevor Galletly who spoke on one of the most important topics relevant to all gardeners and farmers - soil biology. Trevor taught all in attendance how to improve the soil biology in a home garden by using simple steps that can be easily carried out at home.

A practical demonstration with an accompanying slide show, was given of the procedure to follow in order to make a DIY Soil-biology Booster. He had several examples of ones he had already made at home at various stages of fungal growth.

The Soil-biology Booster can be used as is, in the home garden, or it can be used as the starter/innoculant for a brewed compost tea.

An example of brewing apparatus suitable for the home gardener, was on display for members to see and an explanation given on how it works to aerate the tea in order to encourage the microbes to grow at an exponential rate to then be applied to the soil. The goal of this is to increase the numbers and species of soil biology.

The diverse soil eco-system we should be all trying to foster, is responsible for the health of your plants in many and varied ways.

The idea that soil biology feeds plants (one of a number of its functions) is relatively new in the gardening world but the information available about this topic is growing rapidly.

If you visit the BOGI website, you will find the information handouts with the recipe - ingredients and method to make your own biology booster.

Thanks Trevor for a most informative, interesting and important presentation. I for one, will be looking forward to learning much more about this subject in the near future.

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.

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– Deltry Dickie-0414992553
 Assistant Editor – Donna Watton

This Month's Supper Roster January 31st

Jeff Hawker	Joy Millet
Susan Jackson	Effie Hadjielia
Lee Mclvor	Karyn Ennor
Bruce McKay	Rose Apap
Lyn Mcllwain	Annie Mackay

Deadline for February 2023 Newsletter

Friday 10th February 2023

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 Deltry 0414 992 553

Please send through articles at any time, if they

Treasurer Report for NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2022

Opening Balance November	\$5282.23
Income	\$ 899,11
Expenditure	\$ 980,91
Closing Balance December	<u>\$5200,43</u>

Our Objectives



- To promote the understanding of the health and environmental benefits of organic gardening and food production.
- To encourage members to grow some of their own herbs, vegetables and fruit using organic principles.
- To help preserve traditional, non-patented and heirloom varieties.
- To provide fellowship and enjoyment in growing and eating organic food.
- To encourage active participation by members in supportive and fun social activities in pursuit of the above objectives.

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.