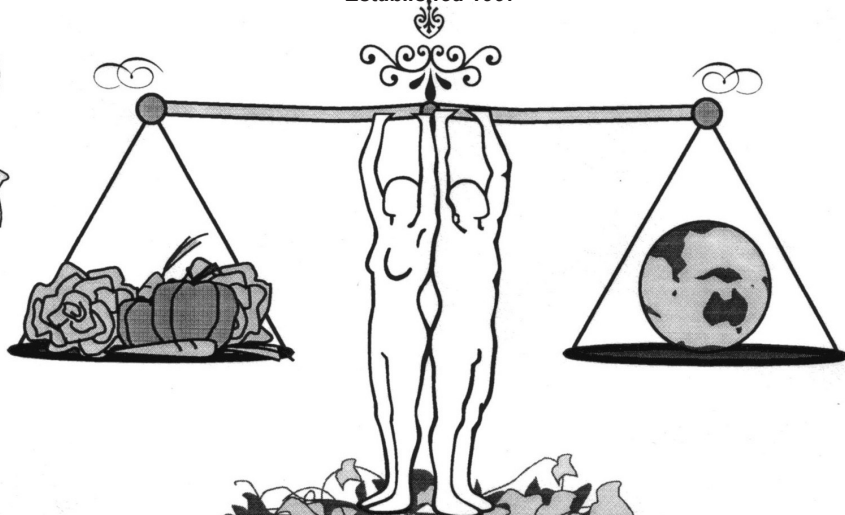


GOLD COAST ORGANIC GROWERS Inc.

Established 1997



NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, 2023 Issue 4
GARDENING IN SUMMER

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OUR NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 23, 2023

Notice Board

1. **To promote organic sustainable food raising for home gardens and farms.**
2. **To foster research into improved methods of organic farming and gardening.**
3. **To provide information and support to all those interested in the various aspects of organic growing.**

Meetings Held:

The fourth Thursday of the month at the Elanora Community Centre, 26 Galleon Way, Elanora.

Annual Membership Fees:

Single: \$20. Family: \$30.

To renew or start memberships please transfer funds directly into our bank account, send cheques (payable to GCOG) to PO Box 210, Mudgeeraba Qld 4213, or just pay at the door.

Name: Gold Coast Organic Growers
Bank: Suncorp
BSB: 484-799
Account: 0014-21651

Seed Bank:

Packets are \$2.00 each.

Members' Market Corner:

Please bring plants, books and produce you wish to sell or trade.

Raffle Table:

This relies on the kind generosity of members to donate items on the night. Tickets - \$1each or 3 for \$2.

Library:

Books 50c, Videos, DVDs \$2, Soil Test Kit \$2. Available to members for 1 month.

Advertising:

1/4 page: \$15 an issue

1/2 page: \$25 an issue

Full page: \$40 an issue

2023-2024 Committee

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Guest Speaker Liaison	Lorraine James Sue Webb
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W: www.goldcoastorganicgrowers.org

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Whilst every effort is made to publish accurate information the association (including Editor, Executive Officers and Committee) accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed in this newsletter.

Notice Board

Membership Renewals

Pay online:

Name: Gold Coast Organic Growers

Bank: Suncorp

BSB: 484-799

Account: 0014-21651

Remember to put your Name and Membership Number (the number in brackets after your name) in the comment field.

Overdue: Ian & Margaret Lee (118), Melanie Glenister (486), Shelley Pryor (72), Murray & Judith Olver (105), Jan Wright (191), Cathie Hodge (304), Beth Orme (343), Rachael Lebeter (367), Rebecca Bowen (422), Janet Shearer (452), Justin Rogers (487), Kerri Beckwith (500), Doddie & Katie Panayi (501), Doug & Sally Beitz (441), Louise Newell (502), Barbara Talty (505)

November: Meegan Keeler (358)

January 2024: Joan Hegarty (506), Sarah Drew (507)

Newsletter:

GCOG members are welcome to contribute photos and articles to our newsletter. Please send any contributions to Leah via the email leahbryan9@gmail.com

Contribution deadlines are:

Autumn issue: end of January

Winter issue: end of April

Spring issue: end of July

Summer issue: end of October

Upcoming Guest Speakers

Our meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Elanora Community Centre, 26 Galleon Way, Elanora. Doors open at 6.30pm with the meeting starting at 7pm.

November 23 - Jerry Coleby-Williams

If you would like to suggest a speaker for 2024, or would like to speak for five minutes on one of our Members' Nights please contact Lorraine James via lorrainejames@hotmail.com

Workshops

EdibleScapes Gardens welcomes visitors and volunteers. Gardening activities occur on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9am to mid-morning. <https://www.facebook.com/n.ediblescapes>

Thanks to this issue's contributors:

Diane Kelly and Maria Roberson.

View our Newsletters On-Line at:

www.goldcoastorganicgrowers.org.au/

President's Notes
By Maria Roberson

Hello Everyone,

With Australia now in a full El Nino phase we can expect a hot and possibly drier summer. This is not good news for gardeners and is made especially difficult after such a dry spring with no moisture reserve in soils to speak of. Gardens that thrived over the last couple of years of extensive rainfall now look sparse and miserable.

Those of us on tank water only are rationing for the household and the garden. Every drop of grey water makes its way out to the garden and a dish sits in the sink ready to catch rinse water for the roses. So far, the "too important or expensive to let die" are hanging in there.

There are many things we can do to help our gardens cope with drier times, and most are common knowledge, such as using a mulch on the soil's surface. Grey water is a perfectly acceptable and possibly underutilized resource. There are many household cleaning products available that are deemed greywater safe and should not cause any adverse effects in gardens.

Boosting carbon in soils will aid in water holding abilities and there are many ways to do this, however, the easiest way is to add compost to garden beds. Wicking beds may be something to consider as they have their own water reservoir in the base of each bed. They can catch and trap rainfall, then feed it back up through capillary action to plant roots. Plants have continuous access to water if the reservoir has at least 10ml in it.

Growing climate appropriate plants

keeps gardens fuss free. Grouping plants based on their water needs helps prioritise water usage to those thirstier plants. I'm sure you have other little tips and tricks to keep your gardens growing during these trying times and we would love to hear them on our meeting nights too.

Having acknowledged that gardening may be a little more challenging over the next season, I would like to add, that with the onset of summer we should see a few storms that will bring some decent rainfall.

Growing some beautiful fruit and vegetables should be achievable, and there are so many plants that thrive this time of year. Check out the seed table on meeting nights for a huge range of seeds, and don't forget about planting some herbs and flowers too. I always aim to have some lovely salads from the garden on the Christmas table as well as sweetcorn and beetroot, always a hit with the family.

We wrap the year up with our November meeting which doubles as our Christmas party and this year's theme is Garden Party, so wear your florals. We look forward to seeing everyone again at our January meeting for a new year of speakers, plants and fun. Wishing you a great summer in your patch with much abundance, few weeds and the pitter patter of rain drops.

Happy growing,
Maria.

"Gardening requires a lot of water, most of it in the form of perspiration."
- Low Erickson

A Visit to the Valleys

By Diane Kelly

Last weekend I travelled to the Eco Village in the Currumbin Valley. I met up with several of our Club members and had a look at their gardens. Then I came home via Tallebudgera Valley and had a wander through Sally and David Cheetham's garden. Here is a pictorial view of my day – and black and white printing does not do the gardens justice, so go to our Club website and see the coloured version in the newsletter section:



1. Roger and Pauline Behrendorff's garden is a mass of colour at the moment - the purples and brilliant reds mixing with a row of yellow tarragon flowers is just a sample. Pauline gives much credit to the success of her garden to their worm farms – a scoop of worm material in the bottom of the hole where plants are going to be put make all the difference to their successful growth.

But then something else caught my



attention – so I asked Pauline why they had a number of bamboo poles lying in their side yard. They are collected and dried and then Roger and Pauline use them to border their gardens. They “last forever” as they do not rot, and they make a good (and cheap!) alternative to the traditional timber borders. And, yes, something is growing in the rubber boots, but I didn't get to find out what!



2. Next it was off to see the first of the Community Gardens in the Eco Village. Bill Smart has been creating an oasis of green and has supplied Oz Harvest with fresh vegetables for many, many months now. And, when I looked at a photo of the same garden which I had taken back in

January 2021 for an article, it is amazing the contrast. More garden beds have been added to the area and the size and quality of the vegies were just amazing.



3. And then it was on to the other Community Garden. This new garden is

located just near the entrance to the Eco Village, tucked around behind the recycling centre. There are actually two areas of garden here, but I suspect the one in the pictures is Bill's favourite. A grant enabled the purchase of ten or eleven wicking garden beds, and their establishment has reduced the time and water usage that is needed for growing a large and continual supply of fresh vegetables for Oz Harvest.



As you can see, Bill is experimenting with a range of lettuces, and there is a bed of bok choy fully grown that was going to be harvested last week. Bill is also thinking about how to successfully net the area to keep the white cabbage moths out – at least, because the wicking bed sides are

high and smooth, there is no problem with mice. Although Bill did tell me how one day he visited the garden and there were distinct kangaroo footfalls in the beds. (In the Eco Village kangaroos range freely, but tend to cause very little damage except flattening the occasional plant.)

4. And so I left the Currumbin Valley and headed out along Tallebudgera Creek Road to David and Sally Cheetham's house and garden, and here was yet another contrast.



The Cheetham's garden is an inspiring mixture of flowering plants and vegetables. Central to it is a metal pergola – ten months ago the flower area was

just being started. Now it is blooming and beautiful. Sally has told me about the battle to keep their vegetable seedlings safe from mice and birds – at the moment she is using coverings of tulle offcuts and that appears to be working well. Here again is a garden that is just a mass of colour.



So that was my day among the gardens – and what interesting, peaceful and inspiring visits they were.

Thanks Roger and Pauline, Bill, and Sally and David!



Let's Be Prepared...

By Diane Kelly

Today we have enjoyed receiving over 30ml of rain and it has been wonderful ... but that has come after weeks and weeks of no rain which has resulted in the grass browning off, the animals looking for greenery, the mice attacking my vegetables for food and the garden needing regular watering.

The experts are warning of increased bush fire danger; they have stated that we have "rainfall deficiency" in all states and territories; and "climate change increases the odds of worsening drought in many parts of the world".

So, what can we do to prepare and, hopefully, counteract such a gloomy outlook? To find some answers I have turned to Josh Byrne's writings – he lives in dry and sandy Western Australia and has some advice we would do well to heed.

In his book *The Green Gardener ... sustainable gardening in your own backyard*, Josh presents his introduction of "we can reduce our energy consumption by keeping climate in mind when we design our gardens. We can create urban habitats for animals and birds by planting native species. We can save water by irrigating responsibly. Finally, we can reduce landfill by composting." And he adds "we can use our gardens to grow healthy and organic food that is both delicious and nutritious. And backyard gardening will become a necessary skill once again, just as it was in our grandfathers' time."

Josh began his passion for green gardening at an early age – a four-metre square no-dig veggie patch triggered his love for sustainable gardening. It is amazing what a few bales of straw, a load of compost and a handful of seeds can do to encourage someone to replace lawn with vegetables, fruit trees and native plants!

So, what does Josh recommend in his book that can help us make our gardens more sustainable?

1. **Placement of trees and vines:**

Planting deciduous trees on the northern side of your house is a great way to provide natural shade during summer, while allowing warming light to enter windows during the winter months when the leaves have fallen. Deciduous vines planted over a pergola is another way of creating shade in summer and light in winter.

A few examples of trees that will lose their leaves by the end of May and have produced a shade canopy by November

are Indian coral tree (pictured), honey locust, catalpa and plane trees. (Please remember that these are big trees, so don't plant them unless you have a large garden.)

And think about where you build your swimming pool or create a pond – sum-



mer breezes moving across water can have a cooling influence on your house in summer. And in winter, if you have a water tank next to a wall of a house, it can help warm the building. Water retains heat better than air, and the collected warmth from the day can radiate back into the house at night.

2. **Make your garden wildlife-friendly:**

Creating hiding places for the wildlife in your garden will keep them safe from predators and will give them the chance to breed. Here are some of Josh's suggestions:

Leaf litter, coarse mulch and ground covers will provide a habitat for invertebrates and lizards.

Large rocks and logs attract skinks that like to bask in the sun.

Creating a wood pile in the corner of the garden will provide a habitat for a range of insects and spiders, and attract the birds that eat them.

Thick, prickly bushes will provide refuge for small ground-dwelling marsupials such as bandicoots.

If you are installing nesting boxes for the birds that visit your garden place them as high up a tree or pole as possible so that they are out of reach of predators. Also, make sure they are very firmly secured. Check that no direct sunlight or rain can enter the box, and also monitor the box to make sure that bees and introduced birds don't take up residence.

Think about the impact of cats and dogs: In the six years between 1997 and 2003, the Moggill koala hospital admitted more than 1,000 koalas suffering from dog attacks – most of which took place in the pets' own backyards. Remember too –

dogs can transmit disease – roundworm is just one of the things that can be transmitted to native animals and cause disease. Meanwhile, cats can host a parasite that causes toxoplasmosis and this can lead to disease of the central nervous system and, in turn, death in bandicoots and other wildlife species.

3. **Compost, compost, compost!** I imagine we all know the basics to good composting – getting the carbon-nitrogen ratio right; chop up or shred finely the material put into the compost, as it will break down more quickly; keep the heap moist but not wet (an over-damp heap will lack air and will turn sour). But what else can we learn about composting material that we can add to our gardens?

Oxygen is a vital ingredient of the composting process. So, include small twigs and other irregularly sized items in your compost material so that they help air flow.

When you are starting a new compost pile, add some compost from a previous pile. This will inoculate the new pile with bacteria and kick-start the new process.

There are some herbs that will activate your new compost heap – we all know about the value of adding comfrey, but also consider yarrow and borage.

Be aware that even hot composting won't kill bulbous weeds like onion grass or running grasses like couch. So before adding these weeds to your compost, soak them in a bucket of water for several weeks so they rot down.

4. **Healthy soil means healthy plants:** Native plants that have

adapted to local soils may grow quite happily where they are situated, but if you want to grow food crops or ornamental plants, you will need to improve the soil. The ideal soil for most introduced plants is: free-draining, while still being able to retain moisture and nutrients pH neutral to slightly acidic (pH 6-7) filled with plenty of organic matter and abundant soil life.

So how do we achieve those ideals?

Whatever your soil type, remember to avoid compaction, especially in the case of clay. Make sure that your garden beds have good path access or stepping stones so that there is no need to trample on the soil.

Sandy soil drains too freely and doesn't retain water or nutrients – therefore your plants become water-stressed and hungry. To build up sandy soil add organic matter. When organic matter is added to clay soils, it helps it breathe. When it is added to sandy soil it helps it to retain moisture. To add both moisture and nutrients to sandy soil, try adding bentonite clay – dig it into your soil before planting at the rate of 100 gms per square metre.

When making compost try to add a variety of manures and ingredients. When you compost manures you will find that the humus-rich final product is much more stable than the original manure.

Add green manures to your soil. These crops are best grown during winter and then dug into the soil just before they go to flower in early spring as this is when they contain the maximum amount of nitrogen. The crop will break down very quickly and you will be able to plant out the bed after two or three

weeks.

Add liquid fertilisers to your soil. Make your own by combining a range of manures (at least two) with annual weeds such as milk thistle and dandelions, as they also contain a range of nutrients. Wrap the material tightly in a piece of shade cloth and tie it at the top with twine – a kind of tea bag! Soak the bag in a twenty-litre drum of water for two to three weeks, stirring every couple of days until it becomes a dark brew. Dilute this liquid by half with water and apply over your favourite plants.

So, what else can we do to protect and nourish our gardens?

Harvest water. This can be done by re-directing rainwater from gutters and downpipes onto your garden beds. Also, you can layer the paving in your backyard so that the water runs off and soaks into garden beds to be used by plants. And a third idea – build paths made from porous materials so that rain can enter the ground where it lands.

Create micro-climates. Within your garden there will be hot, dry and exposed areas, and there will be shady, sheltered and damp areas. So choose plants to suit each zone. You can create your own micro-climate by creating wind-breaks – hardy trees, large shrubs and trellises can reduce the velocity of wind – but remember not to block out the breeze completely. Solid structures such as timber fences can create eddies that can be just as damaging and drying as the wind.

Plant trees and vines that will provide shade during summer and still allow in valuable winter light. But it is important

to get it right – block out the hot afternoon sun to protect your vegetables (good!) but don't starve them from early-morning sun so that they become leggy and weak (bad!)

Hydro-zoning: this means to group together plants that require similar amounts of watering. For example, lavenders and some herbs have vastly different water requirements to azaleas and pansies. So locate them appropriately so that you avoid over-watering some and under-watering others.

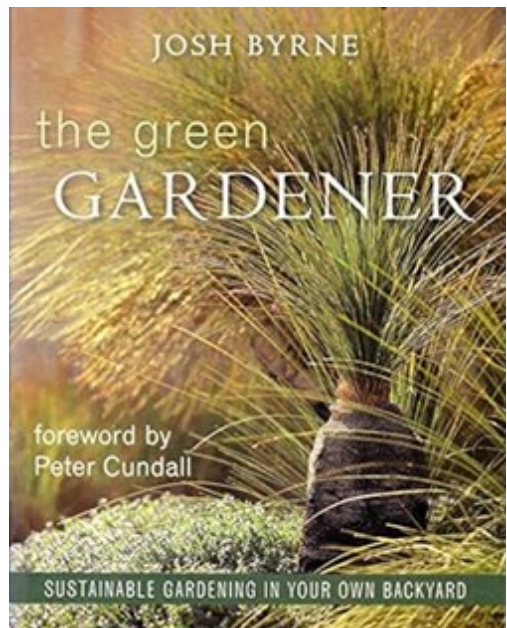
Chose plants that are water-wise. Number one on Josh's list is a tree called Chinese pistachio – its leaves are an attractive orange. Bougainvillea – we all know this climber whose colours can range from white to yellow to pink and to purple – your plants should flower all year round in good conditions. Lambs' ears – I remember these from my childhood on a sheep farm, as they are very lifelike. Yarrow – plant these herbs in full sun or part shade. Bay – keep these pruned to a shrub if your garden is small.

Mulching – one of the final subjects in Josh's book. He writes "Soil should never be exposed to the sun during hot, dry weather". Covering your garden beds with mulch will keep the plant roots cool; retain moisture; and help smother weeds which will compete with your plants for water. There are three types of mulch – feed mulch (such as lucerne and pea straw); woody mulches (including shredded tree prunings and bark mulch) and permanent mulches (such as pebbles and rocks). Feeding mulches break down quickly and, being legumes, add high amounts of nitrogen which makes them ideal for using around hungry plants such as vegetables and annual flowers. Coarse wood-chip and bark mulches suit deeper-rooted, hardy plants

such as natives. And permanent mulches? They achieve a landscaping effect, but they also are important in that they protect the soil and stop it from drying out.

So, there is plenty to learn about preparing our back – or front – yards for any potential climate change that brings heat and low rainfall. As with all gardening we need to plan – think about your property; think about what you would like to plant; think about each plant's environment – and then go ahead and enjoy your very own water-wise garden!

"This is without doubt the most unusual, informative and inspiring garden book I've read"
– Peter Cundall.



Give in a way that helps and does not harm

By Diane Kelly



We have a king parrot that visits our house regularly and who has become so tame that he will eat out of my hand.

However... I recently came across an article that made me question my generosity to my

feathered friend (actually known as Charlie, perhaps because he is a **king** parrot?).

In 2021 people in the United States of America spent \$4 billion dollars buying food for wild birds. The United Kingdom also spent large amounts of money feeding wildlife. And in Australia one third of households fed wild birds and animals. The food that was fed varies from lumps of white bread to bits of pizza to carefully cut pieces of lean beef and specially purchased bird seed mix. Sound familiar? If so, read on.

The key to feeding the wildlife that visit our backyards is to do so in a way that helps and does not harm. So what exactly is meant by that? Just as with humans, not all foods for the birds and other creatures that come to us for treats is healthy. So for seed eating birds, think wild bird seed mix. For nectar feeding birds, think honey and water. For some birds and possums, think fresh fruit. For meat eaters, think lean meat. Let's now be specific. Do not feed magpies and kookaburra mince – and how

often have we done that! Mince does not contain much calcium and can cause deficiencies in birds. Don't feed anything bread – it is not a nutritious meal for birds, possums or pretty much any other wildlife, except perhaps rats and mice.

Another hint... be careful with bird feeders. Unless we are scrupulous about hygiene it is very easy for disease to spread between birds that come to the one place to feed. Remember to clean your feeding spot every day.

Professor Darryl Jones, a zoologist from Brisbane, has the following advice:

Cleanliness – Sweep up any leftovers and spray with a mixture of water and vinegar. Dry and then place new food. Do this daily.

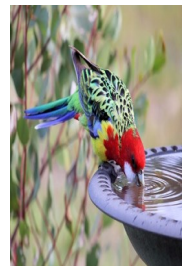
Provide a snack, not a meal. Just a little bit of food goes a long way!

Never feed birds away from your home – feeding bread to the ducks or swans in the park is a definite no-no.

Keep it nutritious. No junk food! No mince! No bread! Depending on who you are feeding, think in terms of whole seeds, fresh fruit, and/or unprocessed meat or pet food (which is more balanced in nutrients).

Also put out a bird bath (and keep it cleaned daily). Many birds love a drink and a bath.

Enjoy – because, really, you're feeding the birds for yourself, not for their benefit.



**1930 Was a Very Good Year...
A Chat With John Trama**
By Diane Kelly

A number of notable events happened in 1930:

1. The first telephone connection between Australia and the United Kingdom came into operation.
2. The inventor Clarence **Birdseye** marketed the first frozen food in the USA.
3. Donald Bradman scored 309 runs in one day of cricket, thus equaling the world record.
4. The first non-stop airplane flight between Europe and the USA took place – its duration was 37 hours!
5. A very limited number of pennies were minted in 1930 – a top quality coin can now be worth up to \$200,000.00, and...
- 6. John Trama was born in Sydney.**

When I went and visited John a couple more notable events happened:

1. John is the oldest GC Organic Growers club member that I've interviewed - he is 93!
2. We didn't talk about gardening at all!
3. I was given one of the nicest cups of tea that I've had in a long time!

John and I sat in the lounge area of his home which is set high above the valley of the Eco Village. John lives in a cottage attached to his son and daughter-in-law's house – from the driveway you have to climb twenty-two steps up to the veranda and John's place. But that is worth the effort as the aspect to the north is both private and peaceful. The view overlooks the dam that fronts on to the road, and off to the west is bushland. To the east is a

cleared area to the block's boundary and then the land rises steeply up the hill – while we were walking around the verandah a wallaby helped itself to whatever was trellised on the side fence. The block is three-quarters of an acre and the house was built in 2012, with a lot of the work being done by John's middle son Martin. Martin and his wife saw a 60-Minutes program about the Eco Village back in 2006-2007 and decided that was the type of place in which they would like to live. So, they built the house, moved in, and then invited John to come and share Eco Village living.

John has lived in a very wide range of places and countries, starting off with Darlinghurst (which is only 2.5 kms from the Sydney CBD). John, his brother, his mother and step-father lived in that area until John was five years old and then they moved to Coogee. Coogee is only 10 kms from central Sydney, but John enjoyed living there as they were close to the beach – he loved the water and spent a lot of time body-surfing. I asked John if his parents were gardeners, but they weren't – and neither was John until he turned 88 years old and had a veggie patch on the block where he now lives.

John left school at the age of 16. He had a strong aptitude for maths and numbers and was offered the chance to be trained as an accountant by Qantas. This career with Qantas continued for the next 37 years, and John ended up being the "Budget Consolidation Accountant" for half of the geographical world for Qantas. John started work at Mascot and then had the opportunity to travel and work in a number of countries around the world. He moved to Darwin for several years after getting married in 1954,

and then the family moved to New Guinea where John was to set up the regional operation. They were there for five years and then returned to Perth.

The next move was to Mexico and the opportunity to live at 7,500 feet above sea level (a height at which you can start to suffer from altitude sickness). The 1968 Olympics were held in Mexico City (remember the black gloved salute by the two American athletes in support of black equality?) and John, being involved in the travel industry, was able to spend a lot of time with the athletes participating in the Games. I asked John does he like Mexican food – the answer was a definite “YES!!”, and he also loved the people; the lifestyle and the history of the country. During this time John’s three sons attended international schools – he felt the experience of living overseas was important for them so that they learnt how the rest of the world lived.

In 1969, John and the family moved to Fiji. And after that, at the age of 53, John retired. His comments about adjusting to retirement were this: “When people retire, they often don’t look out for interests or ways to help others. We are here to think of others and help them. People tend to not get involved, but that is why we are here on this earth.”

My next question to John was about his involvement with Oz Harvest. Living in the Eco Village, John had noticed with concern that a lot of the fruit from the citrus trees in the area was going to waste on both private and common land. John wanted the fruit to be made use of, so he put it to the community group that it be collected to help those who needed it. Initially the collection was handled via Wool-

worths, but then Oz Harvest agreed that they would come every Monday and collect whatever had been contributed. John organized for a group of people to pick the fruit and, for the past two years, as much as 2,000 kgs of fruit has been collected to contribute to Oz Harvest for distribution. This concept has continued to be used and fresh produce and non-perishable food is now collected each week, with eight styrofoam boxes of fresh vegetables being given each week. Oz Harvest collects the food and then distributes it to community groups such as Agape Outreach (who provide meals and food hampers) and Fred’s place (who also provides accommodation for those in need).

So what else does John do in his spare time? Apart from reading the works of Shakespeare (which got him into serious reading) John has been involved in the tree planting in the Eco Village’s common areas. He loves the bush and what it can teach us. And then there is the tennis – in 1994 he played in the World Masters’ Doubles – and has the medals to prove it! John played tennis up until the age of 88, when injury stopped his involvement. One of John’s main interests in life is people, and he shows this by doing things for others. Within the Eco Village John is the treasurer for four committees, including those who look after any commercial operations and also raise funds for the community. He is also involved in the community’s cricket club. A couple of other things John has achieved: he wanted to have a multi-purpose ball court built for the children within the Eco Village. This has now been done. He also wanted to have a bike track built for the young people. Done! And he wanted a play centre for the children. There are sev-

enty children living in the Eco Village and a school is now being built for them.

One more achievement – John was nominated for the “Senior Queenslander of the Year” award and came within the last three of that honour.

To end the interview and this story, here is some of John’s wisdom that comes from years of experience – “Look at other people’s lives from the view of contributing. Do not isolate yourself in your own little world”. After this advice, I asked John about his life and if there was anything he was sorry about. His reply was that he “had no regrets in life. You’ll make mistakes but don’t waste time thinking about what you did wrong – because that takes away from the time to be doing good”.



VEGETABLES

NOVEMBER:

Artichoke, Asian Greens, Beans (French and Snake), Capsicum, Chili, Choko, Cucumber, Eggplant, Gourd, Kale, Lettuce, Luffa, Marrows, Melons, Mustard Greens, Okra, Peanut, Pumpkin, Radish, Rhubarb, Rosella, Shallots, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet corn, Sweet potato, Tomato, Zucchini.

DECEMBER:

Asian Greens, Snake Beans, Capsicum, Chili, Choko, Cucumber, Eggplant, Gourd, Lettuces, Luffa,

Marrow, Melons, Mustard Greens, Okra, Peanut, Pumpkin, Radish, Rhubarb, Rosella, Shallots, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Tomato, Zucchini.

JANUARY:

HERBS

Asian Greens, Capsicum, Chili, Choko, Cucumber, Eggplant, Gourd, Lettuces, Luffa, Marrow, Melons, Mustard Greens, Okra, Peanut, Pumpkin, Radish, Rhubarb, Shallots, Snake Beans, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Zucchini.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER:

Annual: Amaranth, Basil, Borage, Calendula, Dill, Herb Robert, Italian parsley, Misome, Mizuna, Giant Red Mustard, Nasturtium, Rocket, Salad Mallow.

Perennials & Bi-Annuals: Catnip, Ceylon Spinach, Chicory, Chilli, Chives, Comfrey, Perennial Coriander, Echinacea, Fennel, Hyssop, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Licorice, Lovage, Marjoram, Mint, Mushroom Plant, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Salad Burnet, Stevia, French Tarragon, Thyme, Upland Cress, Watercress, Winter Savoury, Winter Tarragon.

JANUARY:

Annual: Amaranth, Basil, Borage, Calendula, a, Dill, Herb Robert, Misome, Mizuna, Giant Red Mustard, Nasturtium, Italian Parsley, Rocket, Salad Mallow.

Perennials & Bi-Annuals – Catnip, Ceylon Spinach, Chicory, Chilli, Chives, Comfrey, Perennial Coriander, Echinacea, Fennel, Hyssop, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Licorice, Lovage, Marjoram, Mint,

Mushroom Plant, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Salad Burnet, Stevia, French Tarragon, Winter Tarragon, Thyme, Upland Cress, Watercress, Winter Savoury.

FRUIT TREES

NOVEMBER:

Custard Apple: Increase irrigation. Mulch trees. Apply fertiliser with Sulphate of Potash - 1kg-mature trees, 1/2kg-small trees.

Figs: Pruning should be done. Figs only produce on new wood or new season's growth. Keep well mulched and watered.

Lychee: Peak water needs. Low chill stone fruit: Use fruit fly control programs. When fruiting is finished and harvested, prune trees.

Mango: Peak water needs. Passion-fruit: Prune. All dead parts to go. Keep up the water. Paw-paw: Increase irrigation. Apply 20 gms per sq m of organic fertiliser.

Strawberries: Keep well watered to encourage runners for next year.

Bananas: Have one plant with fruit on, one half grown and one sucker. Discard all others. De-sucker plants by cutting down to centre with a sharp knife taking the centre out and add 1teaspoon of kerosene in the well. Apply fertiliser, 1kg/stool.

Citrus: Keep up the water. Spray with pest oil for leaf miner. Paint trunks with a white water-based paint.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Custard apples: Hand-pollination of Pink Mammoth and Hillary White.

Figs: Keep water up and mulch well.

Low chill stone fruit: Prune trees. Apply organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash – 1 kg for a mature tree and ½ kg for young trees.

Lychee: Peak water needs. Cover trees with net for protection from fruit piercing moth, birds and bats. Fertilise with an organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash – 1 kg for a mature tree and ½ kg for young trees. Harvest only when fruit on the pendant stalk are sweet and full colour.

Mango: Net trees or bag fruit to protect from birds and beasts.

Passion-fruit: Apply 1 kg organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash. Keep up the water. Paw-paw: Apply organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash – 1 kg for mature trees and ½ kg for young trees. Apply a copper based spray or leaf microbes for black spot control.

Persimmon: Apply organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash – 1 ½ kg for mature trees.

Strawberries: Keep well watered to form new runners for next year. December is the time to mark old strawberry plants. Watch for their new runners to develop. This makes it easier to define plants when you are ready for new planting.

Bananas: Keep them well watered.

Citrus: Water tree well. Keep up pest oil spray for citrus leaf miner.

Source: Brisbane Organic Growers Handbook