

# JUNE IN THE FOOD FOREST AT BOOYONG

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Unlike last year, which was dry and dusty, it's once again lovely lush and green at Booyong! We are so grateful, this is just how we like it, especially in the cooler months when you're sitting by the fire. The mornings are especially misty, and the days have been lovely, fresh and clear.



Brett has been busy sourcing and replacing the kitchen in the cabin (recycled) to provide more storage for glasses ect. This was a great find and he did a wonderful job, with a little help from a friend.

The [firewood shed](#) has been a fantastic addition to the farm and has been consistently stocked up for us and our guests. It makes such a difference and we're grateful to Bob for building it for us.

We've been picking up sticks, removing low branches and using the mulcher to make mulch for the farm, keeping resources in the system. Brett has also been busy removing old fences and slashing the paddocks in preparation for the Winter season. The entranceway is looking much tidier and inviting.



Brett and Michelle had a lovely weekend at the farm and spent time tidying up the shack gardens, they are looking so much better and we've added some garden edging to keep the weeds at bay.



The chickens have especially loved filling the soil and the edging keeps the bark and mulch in the one spot. The dam is looking so beautiful and the outlook is greatly improved.

Old chicken feed bags have been used as weed matting, we fortunately found a few bags Bob had stored in a plastic tub. Additional bags were also generously supplied by our neighbours Marlene and Lyn.

We have once again added cow manure and mulch to the fruit trees in the food forest and additional salvia's have been added to attract bees and beneficial insects. These plants are so hardy and such wonderful additions to the farm.



The Veggie patch and Poly tunnel are doing really well and providing lush green produce for us, neighbours and guests. The Herb spiral is also almost done – such a labour of love and we're so happy to see that the wire is working well and no native critters have been able to get in and eat the new young plants.

The citrus trees ([grapefruit](#), orange and [Seville orange](#)) have provided no fruit this

year (perhaps due to lack of water) sadly we won't be making our grapefruit marmalade unless our lovely Sydney neighbour Marg delivers some to our door.

## **PREPARATION**

- Spread well-rotted manure or compost over vegetable garden beds
- Buy seed potatoes
- Order some seeds and go through seed inventory

## **SEWING SEEDS**

- Beans broad and fava to Harvest from September
- Sew Cabbage and carrot seeds to Harvest from July
- Plant Garlic cloves to Harvest from October
- Kale to Harvest from July
- Continue to plant lettuce seeds and mustard greens
- Plant radish, mustard greens and pea seeds
- Plant out strawberry seedlings to harvest from September
- Plant beetroot seeds and spinach
- Plant Legumes - Red Clover March-June for nitrogen under pecan trees

## **PLANT**

- Plant onion and shallot sets if ground isn't too wet
- Garlic has been planted out – thank you Lynne!

## **ROUTINE CARE**

- The [Rhubarb](#) at our home in Sydney has successfully been separated, Booyong's plants are just newly established so will be separated (2019 and then every three to four years). It has actually been moved into the Herb spiral this year and has settled in well.





- The [herb and chilli garden](#) bed has been mulched and nasturtiums added.
- Weed [fireweed](#) from the long grass in dam walls
- Add Blood and bone to strawberries
- Continue to collect [potash](#) from the fire for the food forest gardens
- Avoid leaf curl by spraying your [Tropical Peach tree](#) with lime sulphur spray several times over winter prior to buds bursting.
- Net [Paw Paw tree](#) to protect from frost – it also doesn't like allot of water in Winter.
- Net Malabar Chestnut tree to protect from frost
- Fertilise [Dragon fruit](#) with light fertiliser (Chicken manure) and lime. Make sure it is mulched well in preparation for summer and take any cuttings from Ariel roots on pole.
- Add coffee grounds to [Blueberries](#)



- Prune the [Apricot tree](#) and fertilize with well-balanced fertiliser.
- Prune the [Pomegranate](#) lightly and remove ant limbs causing crowding in the centre.
- Prune the [Mulberry tree](#) lightly feeding leaves to chickens and using them as fodder, feed with blood and bone afterwards.
- [Chickens](#) – Scrub water containers daily to prevent algae. Check net litter weekly and replace if soiled. Add crushed garlic to drinking

water monthly to reduce internal parasite (1 clove per 2-3 hens)

- Prune [Goji Berry](#)
- Fertilize the Mandarin in Spring and Winter with cow or chicken manure and Seasol.
- The Brahmi has been separated and trimmed as it was getting very heavy in the floating pot. Plants have been put aside to share with neighbours and friends

## HARVESTING

- Harvest Lemons
- Harvest [Bell Peppers](#)
- [Grapefruits](#) harvested
- [Seville Oranges](#) harvested
- If you have them, pick winter Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Brussel sprouts, Kale and Leeks
- Dig up [Turmeric](#)
- Continue to harvest remaining [Macadamias](#) (sadly we didn't get any this year – no water, although the trees still look very healthy)



## PROPOGATION

- Collect seeds from Anne's Red Bell Peppers
- Seeds have also been collected from the [Rosella](#) plants for next year

## NORMAL FARM AND CABIN MAINTANENCE



- The Shed gutters have been cleaned out to ensure water stays clean.
- Paddocks have been slashed in preparation for winter

## NATIVE GARDEN & GARDEN BEDS AROUND THE CABIN

- The Frangipani's by the outdoor shower have been protected from frost.
- Shack gardens tidied up and weeded

## COMMUNITY

Michelle has been actively involved in crop swapping and seed savers and Anne's bell peppers have been abundantly shared with friends and neighbours.