

JULY IN THE FOOD FOREST AT BOOYONG

WHAT'S HAPPENING

This Winter has been a great contrast to last year with plentiful rain, the creeks are running, and the grass is green. It's lovely to see moss emerging on the forest floor once again.

It was fun to host the first [Garden gate](#) tour and we look forward to many more, a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and ideas with our local community.



We've enjoyed the produce we planted in the [Vegetable poly tunnel](#) and [Garden bed](#) and the Herb Spiral is coming along beautifully. Our guests are enjoying the produce which is wonderful.

Booyong has been booked out most of July and we are grateful for the bookings. We've enjoyed having

regular visitors back and seeing families spend safe, quality time together during this difficult COVID period,

PREPARATION

- Spread well-rotted manure or compost over [vegetable garden beds](#)
- Buy seed potatoes
- Order some seeds and go through seed inventory, this has been fun. I've also enjoyed sharing seeds with our neighbours at Booyong and lovely friends Mette and Francey in Sydney.

SEWING SEEDS

- Sow onion seeds
- Sow artichoke, beetroot seeds, broad beans, cabbage, camomile, carrot,



chicory, cornflower, kohlrabi, lettuce, marigold, mizuna, mustard greens, parsnip, radish, peas, spinach and spring onion.

PLANT

- Plant onion and shallot sets if ground isn't too wet
- We planted out the new [Vegetable garden](#) - broccoli, Brussel sprouts, mustard greens, cabbage, cauliflower, kale and wasabi lettuce.
- Garlic has been added to the herb garden – we are grateful for our lovely Booyong neighbour who gifted this to us.
- More [Salvia](#)'s have been planted throughout the food forest to attract bees and beneficial insects.

ROUTINE CARE



- Force [Rhubarb](#) if new shoots are beginning to sprout
 - [Potash](#) from the fire has been added to the terrace garden bed in preparation for spring planting.
 - Fertilise [lemon and lime tree](#) with cow manure
 - Native plants fertilized
- Fertilise [Seville Oranges](#) with chicken manure
- Avoid leaf curl by spraying your [Tropical Peach](#) tree with lime sulphur spray several times over winter prior to buds bursting.
- Fertilizer [Persimmon](#) in late winter with manure and blood and bone.
- Add coffee grounds to [Blueberries](#)
- [Blueberries](#) - while fruiting it doesn't hurt to feed every couple of weeks with seasoil or liquid fish.
- [Grapefruit](#) - apply a well-balanced organic citrus food.
- [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)
- Dead branches from the Orange and [Grapefruit](#) trees have been pruned.
- [Macadamia](#) trees have been thinned out after harvesting



HARVESTING

- Lemons – ready to harvest (none this year due to drought)
- Pick winter Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Brussel sprouts, Kale and Leeks
- We've continued to harvest [Anne's Bell peppers](#) and shared seeds with friends and family, our guests have enjoyed them too.
- [Grapefruits](#) and [Seville](#) oranges
- [Turmeric](#) was harvested and replanted in the Food forest
- [Oregano](#) and [Stinging nettle](#) have been dried in the dehydrator.
- We once again recycled our coffee grounds – a wonderful body scrub was made and is fantastic after a busy day in the garden.
- [Rosella](#) seeds collected for next year

HERB GARDEN

- Harvest [Borage](#) flowers and dead head flowers to encourage more growth. Leaves can be chopped and dropped and harvested all year round.
- Collect [Liquorice herb](#) seeds
- Harvest [Lemongrass](#) as required
- Harvest [Calendula](#) flowers
- [Marigold](#) seeds collected and shared
- [Landcress](#) has been planted in the Herb Spiral



NATIVE FOOD FOREST

- Harvest [Wild Quince](#)

FARM MAINTANENCE



- The Garden shed has been cleaned out and looks fantastic,
- Shed Gutters cleaned
- Weed – check for [Mother of Millions](#) near Shack dam
- Brett has removed the fencing on the top paddock to allow for better access, it will be some time before we add animals to this area and new fencing will be required prior.

NATIVE and CABIN GARDEN



- Succulents were propagated from our Sydney garden and planted around the new Firewood Shed
- Grevillea [Forest Rambler](#) flowering near cabin
- Harvest [Native Violets](#) and use to decorate cakes and salads

CONSERVATION AREA

[Native Greenhood Orchids](#) have emerged

COMMUNITY

This July we hosted the first Byabarra [Garden gate tour](#).

Michelle did a presentation online with [the Permaculture Sydney West](#) group of which we are members and also attended the PSW Seed savers group to assist in sorting seeds in preparation for Spring.