

OCTOBER AT BOOYONG

WHAT'S HAPPENING

I can't believe we've been at Booyong for five years now. The time has flown!

Brett and I have both spent lots of time at Booyong this month, tagging each other out so that we can be in Sydney to support our teenagers Poppy and Jack. We have also been grateful for Nana's support and to have the company of Uncle Bill at the farm.

A wet Spring, Summer was promised, and it is certainly looking that way. After a dry start to October the month has finished with lots of rain. The property is looking amazingly green and we have been blessed with new life and growth in the Orchard, Herb spiral and Rainforest.



Uncle Bill and I have been busy mulching the Herb spiral and planting society garlic, lemongrass, and comfrey around the border to stop the grass. In addition, he's been helping Brett fix the gutters in the shack and garden shed and to sort out the water for the food forest and herb spiral. He is certainly a pleasure to have around and very handy, putting in flyscreens and making some amendments to the shack.

As the weather has warmed, we've seen the goannas emerge to enjoy the sun and Brett has seen a few snakes about. Their have continued to be lots of new Spring life about, baby red finches and wallabies and roos with joeys in their pouches – so delightful! I was also excited to see a long neck turtle travelling along the grass to the dam from the creek each afternoon and it was great to see the Wonga pigeon back the other day.





Everything is in flower again; the paperbarks are in blossom and we are seeing lots of king parrots and lorikeets enjoying the sweet nectar. In the cabin garden we've noticed the fragrant native frangipani is back in flower and the cordyline looks stunning too! They were absent in the drought last year.

Brett and I have built an extension to the veggie patch to accommodate some newly planted tomatoes. This was a fun project, and we are looking forward to enjoying the fruits of our labour. I especially loved using the power drill, super fun!

In the food forest, the pomegranate is flowering, along with the macadamia nuts, citrus and peaches. We hope to have a good harvest this year.

The bees are also back at Booyong and we look forward to some lovely honey soon which we will share with guests. I was fortunate to discover a bee swarm in the rainforest floor recently which was very exciting. They are such an important part of our ecosystem.



Our good friend, and one of the original custodians of Booyong David sadly passed away this month. We were grateful to be able to visit his wife Beryl and his children Carolyn and Alan to pass on our condolences. David and Beryl devoted their lives to Booyong, placing it under Conservation and ensuring the property remained true to it's original state. We will forever be grateful to him; he and Beryl have remained a part of Booyong and he will never be forgotten.



PREPARATION

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

SEWING SEEDS

- Sow onion seeds
- Sew Rosella seeds, amaranth,
- Plant Legumes - Red Clover August - October for nitrogen under pecan trees
artichoke, beans, beetroots, borage, broccoli, cabbage, cape gooseberry, capsicum, carrots, celery, chillies, cucumber, eggplants, French beans, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, loofah, mustard greens, okra, parsnip, potatoes, pumpkin, quinoa, raddish, rocket, spinach, spring onions, squash, sunflowers, sweet corn, tomatoes, turnips, warrigal greens, watermelon and zucchini.
Plant asparagus crowns, daikon, rhubarb, yacon
In the aquatic garden plant water chestnuts
- Sew [Anne's Bell peppers](#) late in the month – need 27 degrees to germinate.
Plants need to be replaced in 2021
- In the herb garden, sew chives, coriander, oregano, basil, dill, fennel, parsley, pyrethrum, lemongrass, tarragon and marjoram.



- Some great pollinators and flowers to attract beneficial insects to sew this week include nasturtiums, dianthus, Livingstone daisies, lemon balm, parsley, verbena, snapdragons, petunias, chrysanthemums, Shasta daisies and marigolds (French).
- Red mustard, broccoli seeds have been collected for future planting and shared back to seed savers.

PLANT

- Plant onion and shallot sets if ground isn't too wet
- We planted out the new tomatoes in the veggie patch, warrigal and perennial spinach has also been added.
- More [Salvia](#)'s have been planted throughout the food forest to attract bees and beneficial insects.
- A tamarillo and curry plant have also been added to the food forest this month.
- Cape gooseberries have also been added to berry patch

ROUTINE CARE

- Water pecan trees (1300 litres per day) and fertilise with Zinc and nitrogen.
- Citrus is ever-green so balancing and pruning your tree applies all throughout the year. Fertilise prior to rains.
- Fertilise Paw Paw tree with Sea weed every 6-8 weeks before flowering, they also like potash and a sprinkle of gypsum. Don't overwater to avoid root rot.
- Blueberries - while fruiting it doesn't hurt to feed every couple of weeks with seasoil or liquid fish.
- Keep mango trees well-watered
- Add coffee grounds to Blueberries
- Chickens – Scrub water containers daily to prevent algae. Add crushed garlic to drinking water monthly to reduce internal parasite (1 clove per 2-3 hens)



HARVESTING

- Lemons – ready to harvest
- Pick winter Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Brussel sprouts, Kale and Leeks
- Harvest [Rhubarb](#)
- Red Ball Cornflowers have been harvested and shared with the Byabarra

HERB GARDEN

- Watch the Mint after the rains as they spread like wild fire.
- Harvest [Borage](#) flowers and dead head flowers to encourage more growth. Leaves can be chopped and dropped and harvested all year round.
- Propagate [Borage](#) and [Marigolds](#) by seed
- Harvest [Marigolds](#) and dead head flowers to encourage more growth
- Plant [Landcress](#) seeds and seedlings
- Plant [Liquorice herb](#) from seed and harvest as required



- In the herb spiral, snap dragon, coriander, and parsley seeds have been collected
- Harvest [Lemongrass](#) as required

NATIVE FOOD FOREST

- [Wild Quince](#) flowering
- Macadamia nut trees flowering
- Lots of fruit on Sand paper fig



FARM MAINTANENCE

Brett has serviced the tractor Betsy and cleaned the blades on the mower and slasher.

Gutters have been cleaned and replaced and a tanks have been moved to maximise the capture of rain and prepare for the Summer months ahead.

NATIVE and CABIN GARDEN

- Weed – check for [Mother of Millions](#) near Shack dam
- The native hibiscus are flowering as are the grevilleas, plants are in need of mulching prior to Summer months.

CONSERVATION AREA

The tracks need clearing after rain, the native tamarinds are flowering and there is significant growth in the understory following the rains.

COMMUNITY

Brett and Michelle visited our neighbour Penny and Eric's and Jenny and Lindsay's farm for some inspiration. We are blessed to be a part of such an inclusive and productive community here at Booyong.



Very grateful to our friend and neighbour who has collected seeds in our absence, these will be cleaned and shared.

Michelle attended the local PSW seed savers group and contributed seeds for seed bank.