

# DECEMBER AT BOOYONG

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Unlike last year, the rain has not stopped falling and the property is lush and green. The creeks are running and the dams and water tanks are full. We are so grateful for the rain!

Brett and I visited [Bago Bluff](#) – finally which was fun. The view was amazing and so well worth navigating up the track. Brett has also been very busy taking care of guests and working at a friend's avocado farm. So many of us have been affected by Covid and we've tried to make the most of a challenging situation. We don't know what the future holds but are so grateful for the opportunities we've had. It continues to make us happy to be able to share Booyong with guests.

We've had some wonderful [AIRBNB](#) guests and Brett has received some fantastic reviews, the outdoor shower continues to be a feature everyone enjoys which is fantastic.

The Herb garden is flourishing and looks fantastic, we have added Lemongrass, Comfrey and Society garlic to the edges to stop the grass from creeping in and they are all establishing well. All of the mints are going crazy in the rain and I will need to look at some edging to keep them contained.

The [Persimmons tree's](#) leaves are beginning to turn green and the Dragon fruit is going well. I will need to explore how to train it up the post and share some cuttings.

The finger lime is looking good and the blueberry plant sadly died. The , it looks very healthy as does the dragon fruit.

Our [pomegranate tree](#) is looking good, I've learnt not to worry as it loses its leaves in Winter and comes back in Spring. One of the two pecan trees is greening up nicely,



The Macadamia nut trees are looking very promising with so much rain.

The grapes have been protected by wire and the plant is still alive, We lost the apricot tree in the drought and a caterpillar appears to have eaten the leaves from the two orange trees.

The aquatic floating pots are doing very well and we enjoyed rainbow celery in a quinoa salad recently which was lovely.

### **SEWING SEEDS**

- Sow asparagus seeds, climbing beans, beetroot, borage, cape gooseberry, capsicum, carrot, celery, bell peppers, chilli's, chives and choko.
- Sow cucumber, eggplant, tarragon, Kolrabi, leeks, lettuce, loofah, marrow, mustard greens, okra, oregano, parsley, pumpkin, rockmelon, radish, parsley, sage, spinach, rosella, sunflower, sweet corn, squash, tomatoes, turnips, fennel, chicory, watermelon and zucchini seeds.

### **PROPOGATE**

- Propagate Oregano Cuttings
- Our lovely neighbour has collected seeds for us and we have many to sort clean and share.

### **PLANT**

- Plant out cucumber, sweetcorn, melon and tomato seedlings. I have to say the tomatoes are going so well in the new veggie patch.
- Plant any herbs you have grown from seed
- Plant out Amaranth



### **ROUTINE CARE**

- Water regularly and keep weeds at bay
- Thin out new seedlings if they are overcrowded
- Spread mulch around plants to help retain moisture
- Water pecan trees (1300 litres per day) and fertilise with Zinc and nitrogen (not happening this year due to drought).
- Tie up supports for runner beans
- Feed asparagus but don't cut down till autumn
- Net cabbages and other brassicas to protect from caterpillars and birds

- 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. Paw Paw's also like crushed egg shells for calcium.
- Add coffee grounds to Blueberries – this plant is flourishing in the heat!
- Blueberries - water 3 times per week while fruiting
- Blueberries - while fruiting it doesn't hurt to feed every couple of weeks with seasoil or liquid fish. Sadly we lost the blueberry in the drought.
- Avocado – Keep up water on dry hot days (sadly these trees have died)
- Avocado - Searles Kickalong Fruit & Flower organic plant with a bit of extra potash
- Keep mango trees well-watered
- Fertilise Apricots with a well-balanced organic fertiliser
- Grapefruit - iron sulphate. I put one tablespoon in 4 and half litres of water and apply.



- 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). No chickens at Booyong currently.

- Chickens - Don't remove litter as hens will scratch deep into it on hot days to cool down. Keep shell grit topped up as shells become thinner in

hot weather. Provide additional water and add frozen water bottles to the water as hens dislike warm water.

- Fertilise Jaboticaba with a liquid fertilizer like Maxicrop or Powerfeed
- Kaffir Lime - Fertilize during late summer

## **HARVESTING**

- Peas and Broad beans, Warrigal Spinach and Kale.
- New potatoes, onions, carrots and turnips, as well as beetroots
- Harvest [Rhubarb](#) and artichokes as well as salad
- Lift all garlic and lay the bulbs out to dry
- Harvest Peach Tropic Beauty
- Harvest Mulberry trees



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- Garlic was harvested
- Dry Oregano Leaves

### **HERB SPIRAL**

- Harvest [Borage](#) flowers and dead head flowers to encourage more growth. Leaves can be chopped and dropped and harvested all year round.
- Propagate [Borage](#) by seed
- Harvest [Marigolds](#) and dead head flowers to encourage more growth
- Separate and share [Watercress](#), can also be propagated from seed at this time.
- Water herbs well
- Harvest [Licorice herb](#) as required
- Harvest [Lemongrass](#) as required
- [Lemon Mint Bergamot](#) is flowering beautifully

### **NATIVE FOOD FOREST**

- [Wild Quince](#) flowering