

# JANUARY

## AT BOOYONG

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

What a contrast to last year, the rain has just not stopped this Summer. It's fabulous and the property is looking lush and green. We have noticed an increase in wildlife, lots of [Eastern grey kangaroos](#) and Wallabies with baby joey's in their pouches enjoying all of the new growth. They are getting very used to human company too and it's so lovely to provide them with a safe place to live.



We had some fun jumping puddles and exploring the creeks in our gumboots.

The [cicadas](#) have been prolific and noisy this year – the sounds of Summer.

We've welcomed the last of our Booyong Retreat visitors and have Brett has been busy preparing the cabin for long time rental. Some lucky people will be staying at Booyong for up to twelve months!

We are lucky to have a family in Comboyne provide us with Booyong Honey, they've had hives in the front paddock of Booyong for years, it's delicious and we are so grateful. The bees have loved the [Bottlebrush flowers](#) that have been plentiful this

year.

We have five pears growing on the [Pear tree](#) which is exciting, and the citrus trees are all bearing fruit which is great. They are tiny, but they are there. The figs are looking really healthy too.

The [Turmeric](#) which was moved into the food forest is starting to shoot which is fantastic. We are looking forward to a bumper harvest this year and I can't wait to try out the new dehydrator. We also have Galangal and Ginger growing which is exciting.

Three [Rosella](#) seedlings were planted in the Herb Spiral and we are looking forward to making jam and cordial again this year.





Both of our [Persimmons trees](#) are lush and green and one is covered in fruit which is exciting.

The herb spiral has been weeded and is looking great, we've had a little erosion on the bottom edge due to the dam overflow, but that is to be expected and we can't really complain about too much water. The herbs are all going really well and we've researched [Pizza](#) and [Common Thyme](#) and [Red sorrel](#) in the Herb garden this month.

Sadly, we lost three of our [Pecan nut trees](#), in the drought. These trees were well established and hopefully, the last one standing will bear fruit this year. They love the rain so should be loving this weather.

The two [Macadamia nut trees](#) in the orchard are bearing a great deal of nuts this year which is great. We've brought several home to Sydney to dry and crack.

We have discovered the plum and nectarine tree in the shack gardens, along with a Tamarind and Plum tree. We were excited to see the Plum tree bared one fruit this year which made it's identification easier.

Our chicken pen has been thoroughly cleaned and the [chickens](#) returned to our lovely neighbours in preparation for our new tenants arrival.



© Booyong Conservation



### **SEWING SEEDS**

- January is such a great time to spend time in the garden – even when it's raining.
  - Plant seeds of Amaranth, Asparagus Pea, Beans, Beetroot, Burdock, Carrots, Cucumber, Eggplant, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Marrow, Mustard Greens, Okra, Potato, Radish, Rockmelon, [Rosella](#), Swedes, Salsify, Silver beet, Spring Onions, Sunflower, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Turnip and Zucchini.
  - Make sowings of successional crops like Lettuce, Radishes, Beans and Spinach



- In the Herb garden, sew Chives, Oregano, Parsley, Basil, Chives, Coriander, Fennel, Feverview, Lovage, Mint and Tarragon
- Some great pollinators and flowers to attract beneficial insects to sew this month include Cosmos, Borage, [Nasturtium](#), Lemon verbena and [Marigolds](#)

## **PLANT OUT**

- Plant out any remaining seedlings
- Plant out Lemongrass
- We planted Blackberries (Jess at Crop swap)

## **ROUTINE CARE**

- Water regularly and keep weeds at bay
- Pinch outside shoots of tomatoes
- Water pecan trees (1300 litres per day) and fertilise with Zinc and nitrogen.
- Spread mulch around plants to help retain moisture
- Take out any crops or herbs that have bolted
- Prune [Tropical Peach Fruit Tree](#)
- 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. They also like crushed [egg shells](#).
- Fertilise [Macadamia nut](#) tree - When fertilising use a native or citrus plant product as they are sensitive to phosphorus
- Fertilise [Dragonfruit](#) 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
- Avocado – Lost in the drought but after Brett working on a friends Avocado farm we are excited about future planning.
- [Blueberries](#) - water 3 times per week while fruiting
- [Blueberries](#) - while fruiting it doesn't hurt to feed every couple of weeks with seasol or liquid fish.
- Keep mango trees well-watered
- [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)



- [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

## **HARVESTING**

- Lettuce and spinach
- Eggplant, chillies, cucumbers and capsicums
- Continue harvesting beans, carrots, beetroot, celery, peas, beans and zucchini.
- Lift potatoes, onions and shallots
- Dry Oregano Leaves
- Harvest [Rhubarb](#)
- Passionfruit's are being harvested from the shack garden – they are growing beautifully this year!
- Harvest [Tamarind Indica Tree](#)



## **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.
- Water herbs well
- Harvest [Licorice herb](#) as required.
- Harvest [Lemongrass](#) as required.

## **NATIVE FOOD FOREST**

- [Wild Quince](#) flowering
- [Sandpaper figs](#) are lovely and plump

## **OTHER TASKS IN THE GARDEN**

- Take cuttings of herbs to propagate and dry.



## NORMAL FARM AND CABIN MAINTANENCE

- The cabin garden beds have been weeded along with the car port area
- Brett has slashed the meadow
- The herb garden has been refreshed, weeded and mulched.
- Shell has brushed down the external cabin walls
- Shell has once again weeded and mulched around the fruit trees

## GARDEN BEDS AROUND CABIN



- The pink ([Grevillea Lollypops](#)) and apricot grevillea in front of the cabin are flowering beautifully and the new grevillea is lush and green (I forget what type this is but will let you know). The [Eastern Spinebill](#) bird is a regular visitor to these plants, enjoying the sweet nectar of the flowers.

- The birds are also enjoying the little seeds of the [Poison peach](#).

- The pink [Hibiscus Barambah Creek](#) is flowering near the Cabin car port and looks stunning.

- Brett has been feeding the

Lorikeets's and now has [King parrots](#) and Galahs visiting regularly.

- The wisteria is lush and green and growing beautifully up the poles at the front of the cabin.
- There is ample birdlife and the [little wrens](#) and [finches](#) have been enjoying the new birdbath. The [kingfishes](#) remain in the dam gardens and is happily scooping down to eat the insect, lizards and bugs.
- There have been many [skinks](#) around the cabin, enjoying the sunshine, they're cute!
- The weeping native with little white flowers (to be identified) is flowering beautifully.
- Seeds have been collected from the [Grevillea Venusta](#) and the [Grevillea Prostrate](#). The Grevillea Hileana is flowering prolifically this year.
- In addition, seeds from the [Native Frangipani](#) have also been collected and we will endeavour to propagate these plants for Farmgate.
- The [shower bed garden](#) is coming along ok and the frangipanis are flowering beautifully, one pink and one fragrant and white.



- The succulent hanging baskets are doing well by the [firewood shed](#), and Shell has replaced some of the other plants as they require more attention, and this is not always possible when holiday letting. We have also discovered the [possums](#) love the germaniums and the little succulents in pots.
- Shell has hooked the climbing roses against the pole, she is determined to see them flower this year.

### **CONSERVATION AREA & NATIVE PROPOGATION**

- [Wattle Matt Rush](#) seed Propagation late January – Early February near the bridge in the meadow
- The edible [Blue Flax Lily](#) is flowering along the cabin driveway – the fruit are such a stunning and vibrant blue.
- [Azolla](#) has been researched and it's properties explored – so many great uses in the garden and compost.
- The red gums continue to shed lots of bark and have revealed a stunning red trunk that glistens in the sunlight.
- Brett and I discovered the Native apple tree fruiting coming down from Snake Alley.
- A voice recorder was placed in the Conservation area to record Koala's as part a government project to determine where they live and we are very much looking forward to receiving the results and sharing them with you.



© Booyong Conservation