

# FEBRUARY AT BOOYONG

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Unlike last year, we have continued to be blessed by continuous rain this month. All of the fruit trees, herbs and vegetables are doing really well and the grass is lovely and green.



All of the fruit trees are in great shape and becoming well established. Our [Limes](#) are starting to fruit and should be ready for harvest next month. The [Persimmons](#) are also close to harvesting, interestingly the tree by the cabin is covered in fruit and the one in the food forest, while lush and green is not. The [Pears](#) are more prolific this year, as are the [Macadamia nut](#) trees.

The passionfruit near the shack are also growing really well.

We actually had some help from our lovely neighbours Ashleigh and Lily when harvesting Macadamia nuts and little red tomatoes this year – thanks girls!

Honestly, it's such a blessing to have a wet Summer after the threat of [bushfires](#) last year. The rainforest is lush and green, and the creeks are full and running. We've noticed a great deal more [kangaroos](#) and baby [wallabies](#) about due to the abundant feed and water available to them.

Brett and I have been busy clearing out the cabin for the arrival of our new permanent tenants. The cabin is sparkling and clean with the new gas oven installed and we are very excited to meet our new Byabarra additions, please make them welcome!

I have visited the Secret Garden in Richmond and purchased a wine coloured salvia, golden pineapple sage and creeping saltbush.



## PREPARATION

- Collect seeds from Fennel, Radishes, Coriander, Parsley and [Bergamot](#) – lemon mint.

## SEWING SEEDS

- It's not too late to sow, Cabbages, [Chillies](#), Corn, Oriental greens, Spinach, Sunflowers and Zucchini.
- Sow Amaranth, Beans, Beetroot, Carrot, Cucumber and Cauliflower.
- Sow Kohlrabi, Leeks and [Lettuce](#) seeds, Raddish, [Rosella](#), Spring onions, Spinach and Turnips.



- Towards the end of the month you can start with to sow your Broccoli, Cauliflower, Celery and Brussel sprouts.
  - In the Herb garden sow Basil (we're trying Thai, Lemon and Sweet basil), Chamomile, Chives, Coriander, Echinacea, Fennel, Feverfew, [Lemongrass](#), Mint, [Oregano](#), Parsley and [Thyme](#).

- Some great pollinators and

flowers to attract beneficial insects to the garden this month include Livingstone Daisy, [Snapdragon](#), Pansy, Viola, Linaria, Poppy, [Nigella](#), [Nasturtium](#), Verbena, [Marigold](#), Petunias, Cosmos and Alyssum.

## ROUTINE CARE

- Continue to weed and water regularly.
- Ensure plants are well mulched to retain moisture.
- Water pecan trees (1300 litres per day) and fertilise with Zinc and nitrogen.
- Pull up any plants that have bolted to seed
- Fertilise [Lemon and Lime tree](#) with cow manure
- Citrus is ever-green so balancing and pruning your tree applies all throughout the year.





- Fertilise Paw Paw tree with Sea weed every 6-8 weeks before flowering, they also like potash, egg shells and a sprinkle of gypsum. Don't overwater to avoid root rot.
- Blueberries - Add coffee grounds to Blueberries and while fruiting it doesn't hurt to feed every couple of weeks with seasol or liquid fish.
- Avocado – Keep up water on dry hot days
- Keep mango trees well-watered and feed with Fish emulsion and seaweed
- 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).
- 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.
- Fertilize Coffee plant with high potassium fertilizer, they also like potash
- Fertilise finger limes – 1/3 of citrus fertiliser
- Fertilise Jaboticaba, with a liquid fertilizer like Maxicrop or Powerfeed
- Fertilize Olives - Fertiliser in early spring and late summer with a well-balanced fertiliser, such as Yates Dynamic Lifter Advanced for Fruit & Citrus or Osmocote Plus Organics Fruit & Citrus, which feeds the plant and enriches the soil, too.
- Cut back [Dragonfruit](#) – pieces from the low level were cut off to share with friends and neighbours.

## **HARVESTING**

- Harvest corn, remaining tomatoes, cucumber, peppers, eggplant and chillies
- Continue picking any beans, carrots, parsnips, celery, beetroot, peas, zucchinis, beans and spinach
- Life remaining onions and shallots or potatoes
- Harvest Malabar Chestnut
- Harvest [Rhubarb](#)
- Harvest [Tamarind Indica Tree](#)
- Harvest [Macadamia nuts](#)
- Harvest Passionfruit's near shack



## **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 [Liquorice herb](#) as required
- Harvest Lemongrass as required
- Cut back [Tansy](#) to the ground and use leaves in compost or as Mulch
- Cut back herbs
- The Rosella plants are flowering and doing really well.



### **NATIVE FOOD FOREST**

- [Wild Quince](#) flowering

### **NORMAL FARM AND CABIN MAINTANENCE**

The lawn mower blades have been sharpened and Betsy, our beloved tractor has had some maintenance.

Brett has also been busy mowing and I have weeded and mulched the food forest – just the berries to go.

We've also had the driveway graded as it was quite eroded following the consistent rain.

### **GARDEN BEDS AROUND THE CABIN**

Shell is very happy to see the [little wrens](#) and [finches](#) have returned and we've kept the birdbath full during the hot Summer days so they can bath and play, always delightful!

