

# The Seed Savers'

No 19 • Spring 1995 • Box 975 Byron Bay 2481



notices  
+ Page 25

Thank you for being a subscriber to Seed Savers which is a not-for-profit educational trust supported by gardeners, farmers and non-gardeners. We work together towards saving the many species and varieties of useful plants that are eroding away.

## Seed Saving Overseas

*Since the beginning of Seed Savers we have published letters from aid workers. In the last four months there has been a lot more interest from overseas. This prompted us to prepare a course on community seed banking.*

The programme is about community leaders and groups, agricultural workers, nutrition workers, etc., collecting what useful plants are available in the region. This gives more people access to a wider range of useful plants and enhances food security, which is often precarious.

We have been contacted by a number of non-government organisations (NGOs) and development agencies in Australia and overseas.

### Melanesia

• You may recall the letters of Mr Clement and reports from Tony Jansen from the Solomon Islands over the last two years. Appropriate Technology and Community and Environment (APACE), an Australian development agency, has sent Mr Jansen to the Solomons on a new two year project called "Integrated Kastom Agricultural Resources". Michel is going there from the last week in Sept for four weeks and Jude for two weeks from Oct 7 to conduct Community Seed Bank Training.

### Micronesia

• Palau has put a request to a funding body for the same seed bank training.  
• A group in Yap, a little island in the Federated States of Micronesia also is doing the necessary paper work to join in the programme.

### Polynesia

• The Tonga Trust has arranged funding for training a project officer to establish their own seed and tree banks aiming to avoid such extensive use of chemicals.  
• Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, and Western Samoa have expressed interest in training.

• We have just received expressions of interest from Gabriel Tetiarahi of Hiti Tau in Tahiti. Hiti Hau is the (anti-nuclear) umbrella organisation for 23 non-government organisations in Tahiti. If you have friends or experience in the Pacific do get in touch please.

### Palestine

• We had a request from the Permaculture Ma'an Centre in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank asking for a Permaculture course and help to establish seed banks at the same time as we as we will be in the Solomon Islands. It has been postponed until next year.

### Africa

• While in Brisbane we met up with Miriam Makeba the African singer; we gave her two Seed Savers' Handbooks and a Seed Bank proposal. She thought it would be a great thing for the people of the new South Africa to train in seed banking and promised to give it to a minister she is in contact with in Transvaal where she now lives.

### South East Asia

• At the same time in Brisbane, we met some wonderful tribal people of the Philippines, the T'boli. Through their interpreter, after hearing about Seed Savers, we were invited to come over to their native Mindanao Island to establish seed banks for the Lemuhen Foundation.

• We are negotiating to go to Vietnam and Cambodia to train development workers and ag. teachers in seed practices. Outlines of the curriculum in English and French have been sent over. MF

## Thanks to Seed Growers

One of our main strengths is we attract seeds of unusual species and heirloom varieties from growers who want to share what they have. We then disseminate these through the network. However we are not a seed company. Over the years Seed Savers has published a list in the autumn bulletin of seed that we have in excess. In this year's bulletin we offered over 60 varieties that were guaranteed of good viability and we had a good response. It was heartening to have many gardeners offer to regenerate those seeds that were losing viability and at least one sample of each of several hundred varieties has gone out. How exciting to think it is either in the ground or about to be! We see our role here as receptors and disseminators of heirloom seed. The surest way is for the varieties to be kept in use, so if you are trialling or regenerating we would be happy to hear from you of any traditional uses you have to share or any novel uses you come up with. JF

## CONTENTS

Help, Help, Help, Help ...	2
Foster a Vegie, Annual Conference,	
Upcoming Courses	3
Unusual Arrivals	4
Seed Offers Permaculture Exchange	5
Letters (start)	7
Patent Problems, Requests,	
Indigenous Seed Bank	22
Garden Visits	23
Form for Subscriptions,	
Supporters and Orders	25
Seed Bank News	26
Drought Hardy Vegetables,	
Rush on Potatoes, Supporters	27

STOP PRESS: We had so much good material to go in this issue, but if we go over 28 pages, the postage would be prohibitive.

# ELP, HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP, HE

*It would be a very revealing exercise to account for all the hours that individual subscribers spend in saving seeds and then send back to the seed bank or pass on to others through the network; for the time that the Mt Tamboriners spend in putting seeds into packets and labelling them; for the days volunteers spend helping out at the office. It would run into the \$100 000s a year and into the millions for the nearly ten years since we started.*

The sad news is that the yearly subscription fees and the sale of the handbook hardly cover the cost of running Seed Savers. Therefore there is no money for capital investment. However we are reluctant to increase the subscription fee for fear of losing good gardeners, many of whom have been with us for some time. Most of the people who send seeds back to us pay for the postage and we thank them here for that. For an average of 70 hours a week each, Jude and I have taken as small a retainer as possible. Jude squeezes the odd casual job as TAFE teacher, remedial teacher, and coaching a law student. Myself I consult in farm design. But we would both prefer to concentrate 100% on Seed Savers. Right now, however we have a greater need, and that is to acquire equipment so as to perform our jobs better.

## Supporters

Here are new formulae that will cater for those who wish to help by making necessary capital investments for the more efficient running of the organisation:

\$300 – Life subscription (see listing on page 27)

\$1000 – Foundation Supporter (already we have David Cavagnaro of The Seed Savers' Exchange in USA, Franklin Scarf of The Earth Repair Foundation and K. Berkley)

\$3000 – Patron, in equipment or dollars

PLEASE SEE FORM ON PAGE 25

Donations, funding, sponsorships of any size or form and book savles will ensure the continued activities and efforts of the Network in establishing many seed baskets for the future. For information on tax deductibility, please consult with us.

## Equipment needed

Each time we have bought new equipment, efficiency has improved. A computer five years ago was instrumental in The Seed Savers' Handbook being finished. We wouldn't dream now to do without a fax. Basically any good quality (second hand is fine) office equipment will do. As we have three office rooms to work in now, we have been borrowing each other's equipment.

• **Stationery:** thousands of small envelopes to send seeds, envelopes of all sizes, photocopying paper;

• **Desk accessories:** two good quality staplers (any size), a hole punch, paper guillotine, trays, desk organisers, pens and pencils, small plastic pouches, and just about any office paraphernalia;

• **Office furniture:** filing cabinet, two desk lights, office chairs, large white board, library shelves;

• **Office equipment:** A lap-top (portable computer) is going to be a necessity to carry data (it is a mini office away from the office) for setting up seed banks and running courses etc. If you can think of anything let us know. Seed Savers' Laserwriter printer's main board broke down so we will need either to wait until we get the funds to buy another printer (ours was bought second hand cheaply from friends of Seed Savers) or do without. The laser printer needed should be compatible with Apple Macs. A scanner also is on the cards and as well a modem to communicate with other NGOs around the world. Altogether this totals possibly \$10 000.;

• **Books:** We accept gratefully books on all subjects related to gardens and useful plants, plant propagation, ethnobotany, overseas aid, the Pacific region: its geography, politics and anthropology. Seed Savers library already holds over 500 books on these subjects, but it is continually expanding and updating. As well as Seed Savers' staff, journalists and researchers use the library.

The formulation of the proposals for overseas aid work has taken a lot of time. Seed Savers is lucky to have Deirdre to get on with the daily tasks of answering mail and sending seeds. The financial situation is not brilliant at the moment but the spirits are high. We all work till late every day. We would be grateful for anyone who has the skills and the time to help with writing of proposals and fund raising to work with us for a little. Please call us on 066 856624 for more information.

## Goods already donated

Thanks to **Mr K. Berkley** for the brand new set of Swiss scales that he sent to us. It is most useful to weigh seeds before storing and to check the weight of parcels so as not to incur avoidable postal charges. Thanks also to **Bev McLoughlin** for her donation. They responded to a plea in the last newsletter.

**Andrew Coffey** of Peribo book distributors representing Zed Books sent many great new books. One of them was a 1200 page 1993 Directory: Political Handbook of the World: very useful to find out about political situations and systems, current issues, media, etc., in the small countries we are talking to at the moment.

**Neil Barraclough** always sends interesting old seed catalogues that we use for information on old varieties. **Mike Self**, Phoenix Seed Co, Tasmania, sent copies of his old seed catalogues. **Louis van Deven** from USA sent great old seed catalogues. Thank you too to all of you who sent photocopies of relevant articles, particularly the regulars: **Larry Geno & Janet Wild**. MF, JF

**Volunteers needed for the Annual Conference – to help with front of house, seed exchange, book sales and morning tea – see opposite**

## Handbook Translations

- The Seed Savers' Handbook will be published in England next year by a UK publisher. The book will have the same illustrations but a different jacket and changes in the text to suit Europe.
- From India we have had an offer from a large foundation to publish our book and to go over for a course on seed banking. Generally, we try to make it easy for groups overseas to reprint or have a one time free copyright of text and illustrations.
- We hear from a Permaculture teacher working in Cambodia and Vietnam has translated already. When we offer free copyright we stipulate that we would like to have a say at the final editing and a page to explain what Seed Savers is doing.
- We had news from the Ex Brazilian minister (under the Collor government) that a Portuguese translation may happen.

## Foster a Vegie

*In July news hit the Australian press of Prince Charles launching the Henry Doubleday Research Association's Adopt a Vegie scheme. Seed Savers is starting a similar fostering scheme aimed at collating information on vegetables and making it more accessible.*

HDRA has for a long time promoted organic agriculture. Adopt a Vegie scheme means supporters can finance the safeguarding of a single variety for a year. There is a bulk discount rate for six varieties over four years. Jeremy Cherfas, head of genetic resources with the scheme, said, "It's to give people who don't necessarily want to grow the vegetables a chance to help preserve garden biodiversity. The idea is conservation through utilisation, so people can get hold of these varieties and grow them for themselves." Dr Cherfas has been chosen by our U.K. publisher to adapt the text to British conditions.

In the same vein, Seed Savers' Foster a Vegie scheme will upgrade our recording system for the varieties that come into the seed bank. We will create a database from the eight books containing hand-written entries for the 3 000 accessions; and that takes computer time and wages. We have costed it at three dollars to collate and enter onto the computer the information about each vegie. Your old letters will be scanned through for information on the growing habits for each variety. So if you would like to foster this process for one or many vegies, please see form on page 25.

### SEED SAVING COURSE NOVEMBER 17-19

Presented by Michel and Jude Fanton  
At Seed Savers' office and seed bank

- Seed Saving Practices
  - Seed Banking Practices
  - Establishing Community Seed Banks
- Especially suited to teachers, aid workers, avid collectors, seed farmers and anyone interested in setting up a community seed bank.

There will be a limited number of participants, so do book in advance.  
Tel 066 856624

### SEED SAVING WORKSHOPS FREMANTLE

Sunday 24 and Saturday 30 September

Presented by Jude Fanton

- Background to Biodiversity
- Planning for Planting
- What Plants and Seeds to Save
- Production of Pure Seed
- Selection and Collection
- After the Seed Harvest
- Uncommon Plants Worth Eating
- Working with Development Projects

Contact Robert Campbell on 09 3898325  
and mention you are a subscriber.

Jude will be speaking at the International Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress held in Perth 24-29 September. She will present the case for participatory conservation of useful plants in a workshop shared with representatives from CSIRO, Kew Gardens and Sydney Botanic Gardens on the Tuesday. Tel Congress West 09 322 6906

## The seed fairy

*Deirdre in the seed bank receiving seeds*



## Eighth Annual Seed Savers' Conference

Byron Bay on 28th & 29th October, 9a.m. for a 9.30 start, at Suffolk Park Hall. Tel 066 856624 for details.

**SATURDAY SPEAKERS:** Bill Mollison, founder of Permaculture—the seed situation worldwide; Annette McFarlane, gardening broadcaster and journalist – gardening in the subtropics; Dr Wendy Seabrook – post consumerism; an altogether environmentally and psychologically sane option; Rebecca Lines-Kelly. Dept. of Agriculture – acid sulphate soils; Barry Waters – practical seed saving; Michel Fanton – developing community seed banks in the Pacific; Jude Fanton – the conservation of useful plants in botanic gardens; and other speakers  
**SUNDAY WORKSHOPS (Start 10.30):** Michel Fanton: development work overseas; Jude Fanton: teaching school kids about seed saving; Deirdre Kempson: the practicalities of running a seed bank.  
**ARRANGEMENTS:** \$10 entry fee for both days; tea and coffee etc. available.

Accommodation available at the caravan park next to the hall: Tel 066 853353 or at the Arts Factory backpackers Tel 857276; Tourist Office 858050

**Volunteers needed for the two days.**

## Unusual Arrivals

*Seeds of new and interesting plants arrive in the seedbank all the time. Of course they are only unusual and new to us. Somewhere, some time they have been common useful plants. Take Malu Khia as an example: another name for it is Egyptian Spinach; or Skirret which was one of the staple root crops of Western Europeans until the discovery of the new world. Recently we were sent cuttings of Samphire, a herb related to parsley.*

### Rock Samphire

*Crithmum maritimum*. Sent in by Helga Smith with these notes: The leaves may be eaten any way. You may prepare them including pickling and raw in salads. Lesley Bremness in her book "Herbs" mentions vitamin C and mineral salts content (the last may of course depend on the soil in which it grows - or the salty air in its natural habitat). She also suggests feeding it seaweed fertiliser and watering with seawater - none of which I have done. I have grown them for quite a number of years in different climates but never beyond about 10 km. from the sea. I think the only thing they may be fussy about is good drainage. Apart from that they grow by themselves. No insects like them so far. It is an umbelliferous plant and I don't think that the seeds have a long viability - maybe only 2-3 mths. It is a perennial, and may also be grown from cuttings but it is slow. Under the right conditions it layers itself so with a bit of help that may be quicker than cuttings. They are rather slow for the first year or two but after that - at 5 years one plant covers 1.5 - 2 m. Helga's letter includes the following extract of an article by Stephanie Alexander: Colin Spencer, well known for his book "The Heretic's Feast", clarified for all time the confusion between marsh and rock samphire. The stuff we gather painstakingly from estuaries and inlets in springtime and twist away the tender tops to boil briefly in water to serve with fish, he identifies as marsh samphire (*Salicornia europaea*). Colin quoted a passage from King Lear describing the gatherers of rock samphire who perilously clung to rockfaces and gathered the much-revered plant. So great was society's addiction to this plant that it vanished entirely and now we have forgotten to search for it. I tasted rock samphire in Ithaca. My Greek friend Melita had gathered Kritima from the rocky shore and we enjoyed it boiled and served with potatoes and zucchini with skordalia. I remember recording it as delicate and tarragon-like. Colin had also experienced rock samphire on a Greek island and spoke glowingly of it as tasting "a little of rosemary, a little of fennel, a little of oregano, it seemed almost like the essence of herby savouriness"



*Seed saving for kids: Filming in Seed Savers' garden for a segment on Channel Ten's "Totally Wild" that will be screened on September 21st.*

### Skirret

*Sium sisarum* Extract from J.C. Loudon's "An Encyclopaedia of Gardening" of 1850, sent by Richard Wright.

The skirret is a perennial tap-rooted plant, a native of China, known in this country [U.K.] since 1548. The lower leaves are pinnated, and the stem rises about a foot high, terminated by an umbel of white flowers, in July and August (northern hemisphere). The root is composed of fleshy tubers, about the size of the little finger, and joined together at the crown or head... In the north of Scotland, the plant is cultivated under the name of Crummock. Use: the tubers are boiled and served up with butter; and were declared by Worlidge, in 1682, to be "the sweetest, whitest and most pleasant of roots."

Culture: this plant grows freely in a lightish soil. It is propagated both from seed, and by offsets of established roots. The better method is to raise seedlings, to have the root in perfection, young and tender. By seed: "Sow between the 21st March and the 15th April [northern hemisphere]. Sow on light ground, in small drills 8 in. apart. When the plants are 1 in. or 2 in. high, thin them to 5 - 6 in. asunder. They will enlarge in growth till the end of autumn; but before the roots are full grown, in August, Sept, or Oct, some may be taken up for consumption as wanted: those left to reach maturity will continue good for use throughout winter and in spring till the stems run. By Slips: Having some plants of last year's raising, furnished with root-offsets, slip them off, taking only the young outward slips, and not leaving any of the old larger roots adhering to the detached offsets. To Save Seed: Leave some old plants in the spring; they will send up stalks, and ripen seed in autumn."

### Malu Khia

*Corchorus olitorius* and *C. tridens*, an edible version of jute, Malu Khia, or Melukhiya, Molokhia, sometimes called Jew's Mallow or Bush Okra, is an annual, often having a bushy habit, to 1.5 metres. Note that there are many species and varieties of different shapes. When it came in to Seed Savers two years ago we trialled it and found that the plants grew too high and rangy at first. We solved that by tip pruning it and gained more leaf production. We have used its young shoots as spinach and found them to be rather mucilaginous. No wonder as it is used in Africa as a green to thicken sauces. A way to use it in Australia, is to steam the leaves lightly then re-fry in butter. A traditional dish in Egypt is a soup made with Malu Khia. The bark of the trunk of Malu Khia is used as a source of fibre which is made into sacking, fishing nets and carpetting. This plant might be a useful spinach to introduce to arid and drought affected areas. It looks after itself well.

## SEED OFFERS

# The Permaculture Exchange

*The swap of planting material is the purpose of this list. Money does not have to change hands. However, for those who have nothing to exchange, please follow the price structures indicated by the individual offerers. If there is no price given, then follow the payment guidelines that we have suggested.*

### Reminder to those offering

If possible, mark seed packets with

- The plant name and Seed Savers' accession number, if known
- Your name and the town in/near where you live.
- The original source of the seed stock.
- Month and year of harvest.
- Cultivation notes if possible.

Approximate number of seeds to put in each packet: Twenty five seeds is adequate for large seeds and around fifty for small seeds if they are 100% viable. For corn and sunflowers one hundred seeds are necessary to maintain genetic variability.

### Payment Guidelines

In order to avoid the extra charges incurred by money orders and cheques, we have formulated a value for seeds in stamps as follows:

- 2 x 45c stamps for each packet of small seeds.
- 3 x 45c stamps for each packet of large seeds, e.g. corn & beans.
- 4 to 6 x 45c stamps for tubers or cuttings.

**Note that at times some plant movement across borders and between regions may be restricted. Consult your local department**

## NEW SOUTH WALES

MARGARET ANDRESEN, for GLOVER'S COMMUNITY GARDEN, Rozelle Hospital Grounds, Sydney, address:- 66 Austin St, Lane Cove, 2066. Small amounts of the following are available: **Leaf Amaranth**, 2 types, one with red colour on leaves; **Poorman's Bean**, a perennial, fruiting throughout the year; **Madagascan Bean**, a variety of lima bean with attractive maroon markings, perennial in warm climates, picked when pod dry and used as long-keeping dry bean; **Hardy Tom Tomato**, large straggly bush, prolific; **Pigeon Pea**, used as fodder, mulch or source of lentil-like food; **White Scallop Squash**, delicious when eaten small and green; **Warrigal Greens**, (NZ Spinach), hardy Australian ground cover, excellent warm-weather spinach substitute; **Parsnip**, Melbourne Whiteskin, fresh seed;

**Borage**, lovely blue flowers attract bees, good bulk for compost; **Coriander**; **Dill**; **Fennel**; **Italian Parsley**; **Giant Russian Sunflower**.

**KATHERINE SAMARAS**, 62 Robey St, Maroubra, 2035. **Continental Parsley**, "Nick's Greek Parsley", SSN2404, originated on the Island Lesbos in the Aegean, grown 30 years in the same garden since then, grows everywhere, including where the wind blows!, grown in sand coastal soil, temperate climate, med amt, a.y.r., **Cherry Tomato**, Clark Aerby, SSN2403B, hardy prolific little bearer, plant Aug-Sept (in Sydney) and harvest by Christmas, needs staking, resistant to grubs; **Heirloom Yellow Tomato**, orig. from Diggers, stake, plant Aug-Sept, harvest in Jan, more like a persimmon than a tomato, sm amt; **Red Egg-Shaped Tomato**, orig. from Digger's Heirloom Pack, stake, plant Aug-Sept, harvest Christmas time, not like

the Italian-Red Tomato, prolific, hardy; **Chocolate Brown Capsicum**, Heirloom, ex Diggers, mid-sized, sweet, sm amt; **Nick's Long Red HOT Chilli**, via a South American amigo, not for the cautious, sm amt; **Red Beefsteak Heirloom Tomato**, ex Diggers, mortgage lifter, plant Aug-Sept, stake and harvest Dec, sm amt; **Spring Onions**, grown by Mr Leadbeater of Ballina for many years before reaching me via his daughter, sm amt; **Aniseed Basil**, heirloom, orig. from Lesbos 30 years ago, grown for its perfume, purple flower, green leaf, sm amt; **Fennel**, grown in same garden for 30 years, grows to 2 m; **Constantina's Greek Basil**, another heirloom, SSN2407, white flowers, green leaves, suitable for eating, sm amt. All costs as per guidelines. **RUSSELL LOEL**, 1039 Oxford Falls Rd, Oxford Falls, 2100. Tel (02) 9753614. **Sunflower**, organically grown, 1 to 2 thousand seeds.

### Plus Postage

As well as the payment you should send a large self-addressed stamped envelope or the cost of the return postage. Sending seeds, cuttings and tubers can be quite expensive especially if a jiffy bag or similar packaging has to be purchased. We recommend you err on the generous side as quite a deal of work goes into packaging and posting planting material. A few growers reported being out of pocket with postage costs. Please look after these people well by sending adequate postage.

### Abbreviations

- SSN means The Seed Savers' Network and is followed by a number (accession number) which is what we gave the seed when it first came to us.
- sm amt means small amount of seeds – you should be quick to apply for them: med amt means a medium amount; and lge amt means large amount.
- SASE means self-addressed stamped envelope.
- a.y.r. refers to the availability being all year round

**A.J. REASON**, 91 Amy St, Regents Park, 2143. Tel 02 649 8175. **Snake Bean**, from Italian gardener 4 years ago, climber, plant early spring, harvest summer, very resistant, med amt avail. last 6 months of the year, 2 x 45c stamps.

**SANDRA SERAFYN-BLACK**, 25 Adler Pde, Wentworthville, 2145. Tel (02) 6316316. **Early Leaming Maize**, Eden Seeds, sm amt, avail. spring, 3 x 45c stamps + SASE; **Gwenda White Lettuce**, Eden Seeds, prolific grower most of the year, med amt, a.y.r. 2 x 45c stamps + SASE; **Sweet Potato**, Wal Bergman's No. 5, as cutting, from Bill Mollison, Tyalgum, huge specimen, very tasty, great ground cover, avail by the piece, winter/spring, 50c + SASE (7 x 45c), personal visitors welcome; **Lemon Grass**, as cutting, from Eden Seeds, avail. by the piece in winter/spring, \$1.50 + SASE (6 x 45c); **Jarrahdale Pumpkin**, from Eden Seeds, sm amt avail. in spring, 3 x 45c stamps + SASE; will exchange anything offered for interesting seeds, personal visitors welcome.

**GRAHAM DUNNE**, 17 Williamson Ave, Seven Hills, 2147. Tel (02) 6241450. **Brown Tipped Romaine Lettuce**, SSN239J, plant all year round, grown Sydney coastal area, sm amt, avail now; **Yellow Pear Tomato**, from nursery '93, vigorous climbing vine with masses of yellow pear-shaped fruit to 2.5 cm, may be espaliered, plant spring, sm amt, avail. now; **Yellow Oxheart Tomato**, from Margaret Panter SSN1083, weak plant needs staking, good flavoured (sweet), plant spring, good slicing/cooking tomato, sm amt, avail now; **Broad Ripple Yellow Currant Tomato**, from friend '93, very vigorous climbing bushy plant, may be espaliered, plant spring, good for salads, sm amt, avail now; **Yellow Kralowa Tomato**, SSN232H, apricot-sized fruit, needs staking, early maturing, plant after frost, salad tomato, very sweet, sm amt, avail now; **Thai Chilli**, (Piquin or Birdseye), from Erica Vale '93, annual dwarf bush, plant spring, very hot, use whole in Thai curries, sm amt, avail now; **Graham's Chilli**, from my garden (5 years), perennial bush to 1 m, tapered fruit to 4" long, plant spring, continual fruiting, use in chutneys, sauces etc., good drying chilli, sm amt, avail now; **Black Russian**

**Tomato**, from Graeme George [SSN674?], needs staking, dark purple-blackish skin and flesh, medium fruit, plant spring, good slicing tomato, sm amt, avail now; **Thai Chilli**, from friend '92, perennial bush to 2 m, prune in winter, fruit 2" long, goes green then black then deep red, plant spring, extremely hot, use in stir fries, sauces, sm amt, avail a.y.r. All prices as per guidelines + SASE.

**SALLI RAMSDEN**, 57 Cobah Rd, Arcadia, 2159. **Kangaroo Apple**, *Solanum ariculare*; Sally Fisher, from Sydney's wild NE, perennial shrub - bush tucker/poultry forage, (the chooks perch in a bush and love the fruit but don't eat the poisonous leaves), summer, autumn, early winter, frost tender but tolerant of damp and shade, useful in plant stacking, sm amt; **Comfrey**, from 800m altitude SE NSW, propagate from cuttings or crowns, effective barrier planting, pick-up or express post 3 kg: \$15 post paid; **Bunching Leeks**, from James Adams, Central Coast, small leek divides prolifically, before dying down, pick-up or will send about 4/5 young leeks locally, express post \$4.50 further afield, where service avail.

**MARIANNE BACZYNSKYJ**, 11 Jenkyn Place, Bligh Park, 2256. **French Fennel**, SSN1018, good flavour, strong plant; **Dill**, commercial seed, saved for two generations, strong plant, good flavour; **Chillies**, hot, medium-sized, perennial even with our frosts (saved by my grandfather); **Continental Parsley**; **Italian Parsley**, broad leaf, easy to grow and good flavour; **Madagascar Bean**, lima, large crops; **Lomandra**, *L. leucocephala*, grass-like hedging plant; **Melaleuca nodosa**, medium-sized shrub; **Turpentine Tree** *Syncarpia glamifera*; **Sheoak**, *Casuarina cunninghamii*. Please send SASE and 2 stamps or swap for vegie which is hard to kill and does not take up much space. I am also interested in any bush tucker plant.

**JIM DAGG**, "Ollaberry", Dalveen Rd, Largs, 2321. **Pumpkin**, Turks Cap, usually small grey colour with typical "cap", dark yellow flesh, sweet and dry, have been growing these for many years; **White Siberian Cucumber**, SSN1593, white fruit, 15 cm long, harvest with yellow tinge, very crisp, beaut flavour; **Gamma**, "Native Cat", from local market gardener,

round shape, mottled colour, best one for pies; **Preston Bean**, (bush), Eden Seeds, old variety, flat, stringless, good cropper; **Kleckley Sweet Watermelon**, from R.J. Horn offering '94 SSN2767 [new number as it came in in the days before we gave accession numbers], long, dark, green skin, very sweet, old variety.

**CLIVE COWLARD**, 3 Pagan St, Jerry's Plains, 2330. **African Horned Cucumber**, *Cucumis metuliferus*, from a Jerry's Plain resident, sow in spring after frosts, requires support as it tends to climb and trail, semi drought-tolerant, can be harvested at immature fruit stage as a table cucumber (peel) or leave to mature and use as melon, med amt, a.y.r., SASE; **Hyacinth Bean**, *Dolichos lablab* var. *niger*, from Jerry's Plain residents 10 years ago, sow in spring, 20-25 mm deep, 1 m apart, requires strong support, vigorous climber, protect from wind and frost, in frost prone areas, will partially die back in winter and will shoot again in spring, crops from March until frosts and again in late Nov - mid Jan, susceptible to fungal diseases such as rust in warmer climates, med amt, a.y.r., SASE for 12 seeds; **Snake Bean**, *Vigna unguiculata* var. *sesquipedalis*, from Yates four years ago, sow 20-25 mm in spring after frosts, provide supporting structure for climbing, drought tolerant, grows well in warm climates, sm amt, a.y.r., SASE; **Green Mignonette Lettuce**, **Coral Lettuce**, **Buttercrunch Lettuce**, from Yates sow autumn - spring 30 cm apart, 4-6 mm deep, susceptible to snail attack, sm amt of each variety available, a.y.r., SASE; **Luffa**, "bathroom sponge", strong climber, requires adequate moisture, mulching recommended, frost sensitive, sow in spring, sm amt, a.y.r., SASE.

**ROBYN DARK**, "Tellus", RMB Guyra Road, Tingha, 2369. **New Guinea Bean**, SSN945B; **Spaghetti Squash**, SSN1912B; **Confederate Pumpkin**, SSN2746; **Yellow Egg Tomato**, SSN953C. REQUESTS: seeds of Dipper Gourd, Mexican Canteen (or Tobacco Box) Gourd. **PETER MORGAN**, Lot 4, Bunyah Rd, Firefly, 2429. Tel (065) 591779. **Straight Leaf Spring Onion**, New Gippsland Seeds '89, produces all year, goes to seed in summer - with these there's little need for ordinary onions, plant late summer to

spring, harvest most of the year, very drought resistant, no pests, use wherever onions are used, grown Taree area NSW, sea level a.y.r.; **Bronco Bean**, from New World '93, dwarf, very sweet, heavy crop, plant spring to mid autumn, harvest Nov. to June in frost areas, loves a bit of moisture, grown mid north coast, NSW, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Zebra Bean**, sometimes called Scotia beans, from lady in Nabiac who kept it for a long time, climbing bean, stout and very fleshy, striped seed, plant spring to autumn, harvest Nov. to June in frost areas, grown NSW mid north coast, med amt, a.y.r.; **Epicure Bean**, from SSN198, climbing type with flattish pod, this bean germinates from previous season's leftovers of its own accord, plant spring to autumn, harvest Nov. to June in frost areas, if you keep the green veggie bug away it's great - same goes for all beans around here, grown NSW mid north coast, lge amt, a.y.r.; **Celery**, S.A. Self Blanching(?), grows to 50 cm, sow all year, though seeds quickly in mid summer, grown mid north coast NSW, very tasty and tender, no strings attached, lge amt, a.y.r.; **Manning White Corn**, from Horris McNeil of Krambach who has grown it for years, a maize corn that grows to 10' or more with large cobs - this is one of the few non-hybrid maize cobs available, plant spring till Jan./Feb., likes a bit of moisture, can be eaten raw when "milk is running" or left to mature as a feed corn, grown Taree area NSW, sm amt.

**NEVILLE & SOPHIA DONOVAN**, Box 1285, Taree, 2430. **Hawkesbury Wonder Bean**, Yates bush variety, popular old variety with red seeds, stringless; **Foogar**, from Shipard's, climbing annual, fruit yellow-orange when ripe, seed pulp shiny blood red, seeds and fruit eaten fresh or cooked; **Ancient Gourd**, vigorous annual vine, long trombone shaped fruit, decorative ornamental; **Hawaiian Corn**, very sweet variety, early maturing, medium-sized yellow cobs; **West Indian Gherkin**, Rose-Marie Lacherez, annual vine, small green fruit, spiny on outside, sweet juicy and crunchy, use for eating fresh and pickling; **Richmond River Cucumber**, fruit 30cm long white-yellow in colour, very crisp and sweet; **Mustard Lettuce**, frilly decorative leaves, mustard-

flavoured, used in salads and cooking, prolific and hardy; **Sweet Sorghum**, from Arthur Taylor, tall variety, sweet juice extracted from stalks, grain used for animals and human consumption, forage and mulch crop; **Chinese Spinach**, SSN1584, cabbage like leaf, mild flavour, non-hearting, good bearer, hardy; **Leucaena glauca**; small legume tree to 6m, suited to warm areas; leaves, pods, flower buds eaten; dried seed used as coffee substitute. If anyone would like a Greenpatch Organic Non-hybrid Seed Catalogue, please send SASE and 2x 45c stamps to PO Box 1285 Taree, 2440. Green Patch Open Day: Sunday 29th October, free entry, Tel (065) 50 7327. REQUESTS: Ladino White Clover; Oca; White Kleckley Watermelon; Daffa Bean; Golden Seal.

**DOUG SMITH**, 16 Stacey Drive, Taree, 2430. **Yellow Button Squash; Green Button Squash; White Button Squash; Table Squash; Pimply Squash; Red Cherry Tomato**; 4x45c stamps each.

**GEORGE LATHAM**, PO Box 126, West Kempsey, 2440. The drought has meant severe water restrictions, so I can only offer: **Zebra Climbing Bean** SSN028; **Dixie Lee Watermelon**.

**MELINA MURPHY**, PO Box 49, Stuarts Point, 2441. **Mexican Marigold**, SSN1796 big bush covered with beautiful orange flowers, easy to grow, lge amt; **Basil**, Eden Seeds, lge amt. SASE.

**N.M. SWANSON**, 'Shady Glade' Gleniffer Rd, Bonville, 2441. **Nasturtium**, from old gardens Sydney and Taree, growing free in my garden for 20 years, variety colours, med amt; **Bush Lemon**, as seed, from Thora Farm, hardy and very thorny tree; skin peels from flesh easily, good lemon drinks - sweeter, avail a.y.r.

**JILLIAN CRANNY**, Rees Road, Fernbrook via Dorrigo, 2453. Tel (066) 573273. **Lemon Yellow Bean; Delgado Black Mexican Bean; Zebra Bean; Tagasaste Tree** seed; **Yellow Lupin**, scented.

**URSULA WEHLING**, 8-10 Watson St, Bellingen, 2454. Tel (066) 550029.

**Tumeric**, *Curcuma spp.*, (2 types), as rhizome, from herb nursery; Darwin markets, broad-leaved plant to 60cm, plant spring, harvest winter, thrives in shade, see Seed Savers Handbook for usage, avail in spring by the piece; **Furry-leaved**

## letters

*Although we received many more absolutely interesting letters, we have space for only a few harshly edited extracts.*

We are in a good position to source seed with a large population of Italian students who are avid gardeners. My ideas on the importance of seed saving were confirmed when I attended your workshop at the Ag Teachers Conference earlier this year. Thank you again for your time and the gift you have given so many students.

K. O'Keefe, agricultural teacher, Griffith High School, NSW

I have by me a packet of seeds (sent by Suttons Seeds Torquay) in May 1989, my personal contact with these going back nearly 150 yrs to 1859. At that time my great grandfather Professor James Buckman F.G.S., F.L.S., F.S.A., etc. (and an early member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science) was Professor of Botany and Geology at the Royal Agric. College Cirencester—a position he held for 16 years. Being a colleague and personal friend of Darwin, he was one of the very first to experiment with producing an edible vegetable from the wild - and fully documenting the process. His main work was with the parsnip and starting in 1848; he detailed all his experiments through to the final - which he called the Student Parsnip. In 1859, he consigned the whole of the seed of that year to Suttons (then at Reading). James Buckman writes in 1854 "My plots of Parsnips and Carrots are derived from wild examples ... The wild parsnip leaves are of a dark-green colour, ... clothed with hairs, ... while the cultivated plant possesses foliage ... of a yellowish-green hue, and totally devoid of hairs." Mr Sutton reports in 1860, "The Student Parsnip in our trial ground is the nicest shape of any, more free from fibres and as large as the "hollow crown", which is a good medium size. The flavour seems to be very nice. This is the more important as of late this useful garden esculent has much fallen into disuse, its want of flavour being the assigned cause."

Mrs Buckman, ACT, who was one of the winners of a Seed Savers' Handbook in a Canberra Times competition.

*continued on page 9*

**Dogbane**, *Coleus spreta*, as cutting (often rooted), from herb nursery, aromatic perennial to 60 cm high, reputed to deter dogs, companion under fruit trees, particularly citrus, avail. by the piece, a.y.r.; **Black Mustard**, from friend in Kalang Valley 4 years ago, annual growing to 3 metres, self sows easily - once growing never without, plant and harvest all year round, leaves in salads, soups, casseroles, seeds for sprouting or condiments, lge amt, a.y.r.; **Chilli**, *Capsicum frutescens*, from neighbour, small shrub, fruit 3 cm, use for chilli sauce, flavour for tamari, vinegar and oil, med amt, a.y.r., price - recipes included with seeds; **Leucaena**, grew from seed from local tree, medium-sized evergreen tree, plant spring-summer, good for windbreaks, soil improver and chicken food (grown in pen), lge amt, a.y.r.

**JOHN CAMPBELL**, 24 Hiawatha Road, Minnie Water, 2462. **Large Purple Passionfruit** seeds, sm amt; **Climbing Spinach**, a prolific climber to 2m, fast grower, better flavour than Silver Beet. REQUEST: June Pink Tomato, attracted top price 50 years ago when I was a fruit and vegetable retailer.

**BERNIE JORDAN**, Holy Goat Ranch, Dorrroughby Rd, Dorrroughby, 2480. **Pigeon Pea**, grown since 1981, lge amt, a.y.r., 10 g for 3 x 45c stamps plus SASE; **Iccream Bean**, April; **Black Sapote**, October; **Acerola Cherry**; **Brazilian Cherry**; **Jaboticaba**; **White Sapote**; **Loquat**, avail. on order according to season; sm amt, 20 c each plus SASE, trade possible (e.g., water chestnuts, herbs, heirloom varieties etc.).

**L.G. ROSER**, 1057 Wyrallah Rd, Wyrallah via Lismore, 2480. Tel (066) 298244. **Fitzroy Corn**, old variety, boil and roast, allrounder, v sm amt; **Warty (Corn) Squash**, hard yellow warty shell, sm amt; **Peanut**, N/C 7, large, v sm amt; **Saag Indian Lettuce**, v sm amt; **Golden Hubbard Squash**, v sm amt; **Pumpkin**, Red, dry, old variety, 100 years plus handed down same family savers at Casino NSW, sm amt; **Banana Pumpkin**, v sm amt; **Tenterfield Grey Pumpkin**, very old variety, very dry, small triable, v sm amt; **Newcastle Grey Pumpkin**, roundish, small, very dry, v sm amt; **Atlantic Giant**

**Cow Pumpkin**, v sm amt; **Giant Halloween Pumpkin**, large round type cow pumpkin, sm amt; **Cucumber**, common prickly or African horned, burpless, use when young and crisp, ideal main ingredient for mustard pickles, lge amt. REQUESTS: Yellow/Orange Patty Squash; Yellow/Orange & long Green Marrow. **LYN RUMING**, Lot 3 Binna Burra Rd, Federal, 2480. Tel (066) 884329. **Cassava**, cuttings, from friend's father who may have got it from SSN 5-6 years ago - I got it from cuttings, slice root thinly, deep fry and serve with salt and limes, I break off branches to feed to my cows and the bushes grow to very manageable shade and foliage in the garden, attractive year round, grown 20 mins inland from Byron Bay - frost free site, seeds avail spring, cuttings anytime, price as per guidelines, (cuttings are bulky - 1-1.5' long, so may be costly to post; **Pigeon Pea**, from Wollongbar TAFE several years ago, use as for any dahl or pulse, nitrogen fixing, chop down after flowering/seeding to regenerate, cows love the branches anytime, good garden windbreak, avail spring/summer, as per guidelines; **Lemongrass**, as rhizome/root cuttings, from a Bangalow house 4-5 years ago, mine surrounds the garden and helps keep kikuyu at bay, a.y.r. price as per guidelines; **Coffee**, originally from neighbour's tree (20-30 years old) 2-3 years ago, attractive shrub, seems lower in caffeine than shop-bought coffee, remove seed from pulp, dry, remove skin, roast for a couple of minutes till brown but not burnt, avail spring/summer, price as per guidelines. All offers sm amt unless special quantity requested in advance.

**PHIL THOMAS**, Upper Dungay, Murwillumbah, 2484. Tel (066) 724038. **Black-seeded Climbing Snake Bean**, from Brisbane Organic Growers Goup - B.O.G.G.; FRUIT SEED: **Acerola Cherry**; **Carambola**; **Brazilian Cherry**; **Cherry Guava**, red & yellow; **Cherimoya**, **Coffee**; **Davidson's Plum**; **Feijoa**; **Guava**; **Grumichama**; **Inga**; **Jaboticaba**; **Loquat**; **Longan**, 3 var; **Mango**; **Passionfruit**, super sweet var; **Paw Paw**, orange bi-sexual; **Pecan**; **Rose Apple**; **Tamarillo**; **White Sapote**; **Yellow Sapote**; SHRUB-LEGUME SEED: *Albizia lophantha*; *Cajanus cajan*; *Crotalaria grahamiana*; *Crotalaria*

*pallida*; *Crotalaria semperflorens*; *Tipuana tipu*; Price for all seeds 4 stamps plus SASE, fruit seeds sent fresh; CUTTINGS: **Grape**, Black Rose; **Kang Kong**; **Mulberry**, White (best fodder) & Black Dwarf; **Pepino**; **Pitaya**, red or yellow fruiting cacti, 3 var.; ROOTS, TUBERS ETC.: **Arrowroot**; **Cardamon**; **Cassava**; **Elderberry**; **Tumeric**; **Old Arrowroot**; FRUIT TREE SCIONS: **Carambola**, 5 var; **Cherimoya**, 20 var; **Mango**, 36 var; **White Sapote**, 16 var; ORNAMENTALS: **Heliconia & Ginger**, 30 var. as rhizomes. Price of cuttings, roots, tubers, rhizomes, scions: \$5 inc post & pack. Grape & Mulberry cuttings sent in winter, all others when most suitable to propagate - usually spring/summer. LIVESTOCK: Chickens: **Buff Orpington**, **Brown Leghorn**, **Light Sussex**; **Silver Laced Wyandotte**; Sheep: **Suffolk**; surplus stock occasionally for sale.

**DAVID MURRAY**, 7 Acacia Ave, Gwynneville, 2500. GARDEN PEAS: get ready for next year's planting with Telephone (tall) maintained by me for over 20 years; **Lacy Lady**, maintained for 10 years; and any others listed by Seed Savers over the past 7 years e.g., **Greenfeast**; **Victory Freezer**; **Heritage Snow**, SSN1074B; white flowers; **Edible Pod** SSN266B; coloured flowers, speckled seed coats; **White-flowered Snow** type ex D. Kitchener; similar to Heritage but with clear instead of green seed coats; ALL tall, which means 1.6 to 2m; **Dwarf Oregon** ex Peter Morgan; BEANS: **Zagreb Soldier**, SSN 886; **Hutterite Bush** SSN 892; **Cousin Jack Zebra** (a very tall climber); **Scotia** or **Railway**, originally from Ross Tinson, Kiama; **Stephanie**, a new selection for fungal resistance derived from a dwarf Borlotti type; **Krassner** (New York) a climber with Borlotti coats, now segregated into two types according to intensity of pigmentation in flowers, pods and seeds (Cherry and Ann respectively); **Sunseeker**, a climber with white seedcoat first released several years ago; the **Ukrainian 'Noodle Bean'** from Joanna Simmonds (a very wide pod, attractively marked, with two-tone purple/yellow seeds); **Yugoslavian Bean** SSN034F, from Wally Bergman - last year I grew a 'triffid' from this line - three cotyledons and three primary leaves;



**BROAD BEANS:** **Aquadulce Claudia**, originally from Thompson and Morgan. ALL sm amt, but alternatives can be substituted.

**C.A. MCEWAN**, 14 Waterloo St, Bulli, 2516. **Red Cedar**, *Cedrela australis*, coastal rainforest, med amt, a.y.r., will exchange for onion or garlic.

**E.M. SMITH**, 20 Ascot Rd., Bowral, 2576. **Acorn Squash; Honesty; Horseradish**, as roots; **Mauve Tree Dahlia**, as tubers.

**D. CAIRNS**, Box 193, Kiama, 2533. **Tender & Sweet Sweetcorn; Rainbow Chard**; stalks coloured red, pink, orange, yellow & white; **Purple King Climbing Bean; Windsor Long Pod Dwarf Bean; Asparagus seed; Celery; Red Oakleaf Lettuce**; SSN980; **Porcupine Cucumber; Rocket** (salad green).

**ROBERT & PAT DAVIS**, 65 Akuna Ave, Bradbury, 2560. **Whangaparaoa Crown Pumpkin**; Eden Seeds; variety of the old Crown Prince pumpkin from New Zealand; dry medium orange flesh, thin hard light grey skin; moderately sweet flavour, good keeper, med amt; **Rosella**; New Gippsland Seed Farm; good for jams and jellies, sm amt; **Sweet Chocolate Capsicum**; Diggers Seeds; smallish dark brown tapered capsicum with reddish-brown interior; very sweet flavour with no tang to it, sm amt; **Ancho Pepper**; Kings Seeds; genuine Mexican hot pepper; mildly pungent on the pepper heat scale with a smokey flavour; known as "Poblano" when green, sm amt; **Red Cloud Tomato**, ex Yates Seeds, fine rich flavour in a medium-sized fruit, taste is darker than Grosse Lisse, one really good flush off each bush, v sm amt; **Sugarlump Tomato**, ex Diggers Seeds, small apricot-sized fruit with a sweet tang, long season on a hardy bush, sm amt; **Red Streaked Tomato**, ex Diggers Seeds, furry-leaved bush that will produce through a mild winter given some protection, red orange-streaked fruit that is quite meaty in taste, sm amt.

**JILL COCKRAM**, PO Box 126, Exeter, 2579. **Conqueror Tomato**, SSN400C, large red older style, very tasty & fleshy, late summer fruiting; **Rhonda's Tomato**, friend's gardens grown here 4 yrs; med size, good flavour; **Rocket/Erugula**, from a friend's garden '92, peppery leaves used in salads, especially nice in fried octopus

salad, spring vegetable; **Common Basil**, nursery '90; **Yellow Bubble Squash**, SSN255B, green, grows to approx 25 cms long, very prolific summer squash; **Calendula officinalis**, SSN1429, easy to grow long flowering companion plant, used in herbal medicines; **African Horned Melon**, SSN1057, grows like an apple cucumber with spikes, gets sweeter as it matures, which is later than most cucumbers; **Giant Russian Cucumber**, Eden Seeds via Helen Cushing Feb '93, excellent large very sweet cucumber, turning yellow when fully mature, prolific cropper; **Tansy**, nursery '93, pest repellent around fruit & vegie; **Tommy Toe Tomato**, Diggers Seeds of Dromana, large red cherry tomato, prolific fruiting, very tasty, sow spring, harvested April '94; **Purple King Climbing Bean**, Eden Seeds '93, plant spring (after frost), harvested May '95 (long harvest), large purple bean, prolific, good taste, turns green when cooked. SASE.

**JANE GRANGER**, PO Box 799, Young, 2594. **Red Onion**, obscure origin, from a friend's garden, sweet crisp salad type, does well in cold winters, sm amt, a.y.r., will swap for unusual onion seeds or usual payment.

**JOE SWARTZ**, 35 Rutledge St, Bungendore, 2621. Tel (06) 2381704. **Sweet Corn**, 'Golden Bantam 12-row', original parent acquired from Redwood City Seed Co. USA '90, Large to 2.5 m, plant Nov-Dec, harvest Feb-Mar (65-70 days), med amt, 50-100 seeds per pack, a.y.r; **Rainbow Chard**, grown by me for many years, grows all year round, lge amt; **Silver Beet**, grows all year, lge amt; **Bracteantha** sp., beautiful WA everlasting daisy, mixed colours, from Australian National Botanic Gardens Canberra, lge amt; **Amaranthus** spp., beautiful red weeping to 1.5 m, original parent collected Thyme Garden, Bungendore, probably ornamental, lge amt; **Green Mignonette Lettuce**, from acquired seedlings, sm amt; **Webbs Wonderful Lettuce**, SSN680, nice, pretty big lettuce even in this climate, sm amt; **Italian Lettuce**, SSN1449, large succulent leafy lettuce, grows well here, sm amt; **Sweet Basil**, grown by me for a few years, sm amt; **Grain Amaranthus**, *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, original

letters continued from page 7

Six months ago we got together and started the Bennett School Community Group with get togethers. I had been growing open-pollinated varieties of vegetables all summer with great difficulty as we are in one of the worst affected drought areas. I suggested starting a seed bank to help everyone, which we did and it is growing with great success. We charge 50c a packet or you can trade two of your own open pollinated seeds for one from the bank.

Our seed bank is only young but we are hoping it will grow into a widespread thing as we want to educate people in the importance of keeping the old alive for the young. We have about 30 varieties of herbs, vegetables and native plants and trees. We had to get a large steel box to keep the seeds in as with the drought come the mice.

Karen Smith, Tara, Qld.

My propagating area is capable of propagating most types of fruit trees, with rootstocks raised from cuttings, seed or root cuttings. I put in a number of each of these last winter and then went asparagus picking and was away from home for about three months during a very dry hot spring and early summer. It has a cheap, simple automatic watering system and it never missed a beat.

In autumn some of our [Heritage Fruit] members came along and we had a "budding day". People could bring a piece from their granny's peach or plum that had long ago lost its name and have it budded onto a rootstock, perhaps the only way the variety could be preserved. We even propagated from a local seedling loquat that appears at least a fortnight earlier than most of the others growing locally that dropped their fruit with our heavier-than-normal frosts. As well as preserving heritage varieties we can propagate and distribute locally adapted seedlings.

Now we are sharing it all with the other groups and hoping that together we can preserve the varieties in collections that I recently faxed you about. If you hear of any other collections of fruit varieties facing the bulldozer, please let us know. My phone and fax is 051 455457.

Neil Barraclough, Garden of Eaten, Briargalong, Vic, 3860.

continued on page 11

parent seed acquired from Redwood City Seed Co. USA '83, who say: "'Guegul or ramdana', annual to 7 ft or more, young leaves eaten like spinach, high protein seed can be ground into flour, resistant to drought...". lge amt. All seeds available for costs of postage - please send enough!!

**D. & Y. TAYLOR**, RMB 603, Corowa, 2646. **Amaranth**, (Tampala), grown for four years, Mediterranean climate, a spinach substitute; **Calwonder Capsicum**, sweet bell, either green to red or green to golden, Kings; **Anaheim Chilli**, grown for four years, >15cm long, >2cm wide, green to red, pungent rating 2 on a 1 to 10 (mild to extra hot) scale, dried and ground for excellent paprika; **Celeriac**, grown for four years, strong celery flavour from turnip root and stalks and leaves for soups and casseroles; **Parcel Celery**, curly leaf celery, Kings, self seeds to become permanent, European heritage cultivar, used for flavouring or garnish; **Radicchio Chicory**, Rossa di Verona, Zorzi (Italian pkt seed), sow in autumn for red hearts in winter, then cut and will come again; **Catalogna Chicory**, Zorzi, green upright leaves, sow early spring and autumn, close together for self-blanching, then cut and will come again; **Artesian Cucumber**, actually a melon, *Cucumis melo* var. *flexuosus*, usually called Armenian or Yardlong but our name reflects its tolerance of highly mineralised bore water which often poisons true cukes (*C. sativa*), grown for four years, burpless eaten when young and excellent cooked, freeze as raw puree for soups, sauces etc.; **Florence Fennel**, Zefa Tardo, grown for four years, summer/autumn sowing for winter cutting of swollen stems, which will grow again; **New Guinea Snake Gourds**, sometimes called New Guinea Bean, *Lagenaria siceraria*, grown for four years, fine flavour when zucchini sized; **Gramma**, pumpkin, *Cucurbita moschata*, Jindera German, ovoid, no neck, good size and shape for stuffing; **Musselburgh Leeks**, grown for four years, has become perennial; **Verdi Cos Lettuce**, grown for four years, green upright; **Prizehead Red Lettuce**, grown for four years, loose leaf frilly; **Red Mignonette Lettuce**, grown for four years; **Brown Tipped Romaine Lettuce**, upright Cos, SSN189; **Royal Oak Lettuce**,

SSN1559, broad thick succulent leaves for all seasons, ideal for this [Mediterranean] climate; **Jarrahdale Pumpkin**, *C. maxima*, grown for four years, yielded 12 kg/sq. metre of prepared bed, keeps till next harvest; **Jumbo Pink Banana Pumpkin**, *C. maxima*, grown for four years, up to 8 kg, not long keeper but can be frozen as cooked puree, good for soups, pies or baked in rings with filling; **Salsify**, oyster plant, grown for four years, naturalised in our red clay; **Lucullus Silver Beet**, SSN2399 grown for four years, lighter green, smaller and milder in flavour than Fordhook Giant; **Sorrel**, broad leaf savoyed form of *Rumex acetosa*, grown for four years, fine culinary cultivar, especially in omelets or sauce for grilled fish; **Rouge de Marmande Tomato**, grown for four years, early, crinkled flattened fruit, ideal sandwich tomato; **Roma Tomato**, grown for four years, egg-shaped, vigorous, fruiting till early winter, useful for both saucing and drying; **Burbank Tomato**, SSN885, medium sized round fruit, long fruiting season; **Budiar Tomato**, SSN485, small to medium, early fruiting; **Break O' Day Tomato**, Neil Padbury, Seed Savers, medium to large fruit (to 250g), taste treat; **Northern Sweet Watermelon**, Neil Padbury SSN1940, short vine, fruit to 2 kg, keeps at least 2 months; **Sweet Pea**, grown for four years from NZ seed, old-fashioned highly fragrant with good colour range, some bi-colours, not as vigorous and later flowering than modern multiflora vars. PLANT MATERIAL ON OFFER: **Aloe Vera**, grown for four years; **Comfrey**, grown for four years, roots and leaves used as a poultice for strains and bruises; **Horseradish**, grown for four years, deters competitors for fruit in orchard, companion to potatoes (when growing or cooked); **Lemon Grass**, grown for four years, needs moist, warm situation, protected from frost; **Olive**, improved Californian cultivars with large fruit, can be grown from cuttings, available ONLY in April/May; **Verdale Olive**, grown for four years, med to large fruit, excellent for pickling or pressing for oil; **Wallace Olive**, grown for four years, enormous fruit for pickling green and black; **Queensland Arrowroot**, grown for four years, good thickener for those with wheat

allergy; **Golden Eschallot**, grown for four years, we use them mainly as spring onions, avail. summer; **Tree Onion**, grown for four years, prolific both as spring onions and top bulbets for replanting, avail. summer only. Please send SASE for first packet of seeds and 45c stamps for each extra packet; 5 to 7 x 45c stamps per item for plant material depending on quantity required.

**KIERAN O'KEEFE**, Griffith High School, Coolah St, Griffith, 2680. Tel (069) 621 711. **Atlantic Giant Pumpkin**, New Gippsland, from five plants, lge amt, a.y.r., 3x45c stamps; **Broccoli**, South Pacific Seed, from many plants, lge amt, a.y.r.; **Columbine** *Aquilegia vulgaris* (Nora Barlow), from Hardwick's Propagation Nursery Vic, plant autumn, med amt, a.y.r.; BOTH 2x45c stamps. Kieran has a lot of herb and flower seeds available from his small backyard nursery. Enquiries welcome.

**LYNNE TRAPPEL**, 325 Lt. Bowen Drive, Bowen Mt, 2753. Tel (045) 721742. **Giant of Stuttgart Bean**, SSN732F, Eden Seeds, climber, plant spring, harvest summer/autumn, seems resistant to everything, use fresh when young, collect as dried beans, Blue Mtns near Sydney (300m alt.), sm amt, avail. autumn; **Lebanese Cress**, rhizome, from Henry Doubleday Research Assoc., ground cover, approx. 150mm tall, plant any time though seems to flourish in winter, resistant to almost everything, use fresh in salads, omelettes, quiches, very mild, almost bland taste (children like it a lot), Blue Mtns near Sydney (300m alt.), by the piece.

**E. BAKHUIZEN**, 3 Sidor Rd, Whalan, 2770. **Zebra Bean**, Bellingen farm '93, excellent bean, climber, plant Oct., harvest Dec., warm climate, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Purple Queen Dwarf Bean**, Mr Fothergills '94, plant Oct., harvest Dec., picked young this bean is one of the best, no need to peel, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Strawberry**, Tasty Treats, seed, Yates '93, ground cover, plant Oct., harvest most of the year, has many fruit, small bush 25 cm high, disease resistant; **Cherry Guava**, from 10 year old tree, plant Oct., harvest Dec. to May, eat fresh or jam, warm - hot climate, avail. Jan - May; **Peach**, miniature, Coffs Harbour '75, easy to grow, 90 cm high, plant Oct, harvest

Dec. to Mar., pest resistant, warm to hot climate, seeds avail. Dec to Mar [may not grow true to type]; **Cobra Melon**, market gardener '94, plant Oct., sm amt, a.y.r., fruit ripe when skin splits; **Pimple Squash**, market gardener '94, oval-shaped vegetable, sweet taste, plant Oct., sm amt; Kiwana Cucumber, Coffs Harbour Markets '91, prolific cropper, plant Oct. to Nov., harvest late April, pest and disease resistant, med amt, a.y.r.; **Salad Bowl Lettuce**, Mr Fothergills '94, plant Oct., pest and disease resistant, a good tasting lettuce that bugs don't eat! lge amt, a.y.r.; **Macadamia Nut**, Coffs Harbour farm, seeds from 10 year old tree, hot climate, a.y.r.; **Cape Gooseberry**, from Mrs Anderson '94, shrub, delicious fruit, plant July & Oct., warm climate, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Black Russian Tomato**, from Mr George '94, purplish black skin and flesh, plant Oct., sm amt, a.y.r.; **Long White Marrow**, Eden Seeds '94, plant Oct., eat when young or stuff them, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Broccoli Romanesco**, Eden Seeds '94, head has a spiralling pattern, plant Oct., a.y.r.; **Bell Capsicum Chilli**, market gardener '94, green bell-shaped that turn red, plant Oct., sm amt, a.y.r.; **Green Zebra Tomato**, Diggers '91, Julie Firth '94, yellow tomato with green stripes, plant Oct., sm amt, a.y.r.; **Pepino**, shrub, as cutting, markets '90, grow in large pots or in the garden, ripe when yellow with purple stripes, by the piece, a.y.r.; **Dwarf Cupid Marigold**, yellow, keeps pests at bay, from Coopers '94, plant Oct. to March, a.y.r.; **Golden Yellow Tomato**, large, market gardener '95, grows to 10 cm, sweet taste, plant Oct.; **Red Cherry Tomato**, Defender '93; prolific cropper, plant Oct., a.y.r.

**J. STOLLEMA**, 46 Loren St, Eglinton (via Bathurst), 2795. Tel (063) 371746.

**Potato**, Dutch - "Eigen Heimens", came with immigrant 30 years ago. REQUEST: Potato - "Crana".

**CHRISTOPHER SMITH**, Lot 2, Turner St, Barry, 2799. **Perennial Nettle**, *Urtica dioica*, as rhizome, from creekbank (wild escape), grows to 1 m, use for biodynamic preparations, nettle liquid manure, sm amt avail by the piece in winter/autumn, 2 x 45c stamps + large SASE, will swap (please enquire); **Cardoon**, *Cynara cardunculus* (unnamed var.), from local nursery,

herbaceous perennial, sow spring after frost, eat raw or cooked like celery, blanch stems, grown in cool temperate climate at 800 metres, sm amt, avail early spring/summer, 3 x 45c stamps + large SASE, or will swap. REQUESTS: Sea Kale, *Crambe maritima*; Quince root stocks A-B-C; Globe Artichokes (named varieties).

**GEOFF STRAIN**, 104 Gobolion Street, Wellington, 2820. **Long Butternut Pumpkin**, seed selected over 10 year period from best pumpkin on vine, result is a long fleshy sweet pumpkin with seeds confined to a small end knob, strong demand for this one last year so I have saved extra this year, sow up to late October, harvest about May; **Boggabri Rockmelon**, very sweet, good colour, seed passed on from friend who has grown it for years, origin unknown; **Bethany Pepper**, capsicum Jalapeno chilli cross, flesh similar to capsicum but smaller and slightly hotter, sm amt.

### A.C.T.

**JONATHON BANKS**, Pialligo Apples, 10 Beltana Rd, Pialligo, 2609. APPLES, the following varieties are available as scionwood or budwood (all may be virus-infected): Vista Bella, Jersey Mac, Discovery, Gravenstein, Newton's Apple, Gala, Lord Lambourne, Jonathon, Snow, Macintosh, Cox, Bramley, Red Delicious, Gold Delicious, Cleopatra, Five Crown, Egremont Russet, Granny Smith, Rome Beauty, Democrat, Winesap, Queen of the Snow, Yates, Lady Williams, 'Tiger', 'Acid Red', 'Fireman\*', 'Statesman', 'Pippin', Northern Spy, Red Granny Smith, Kidd's Orange, King Cole\*, Geeveston Fanny, Tydeman's Early, Prince Edward\*, Belle de Boskoop, Pink Lady, Mutsu, Calville Blanc d'Hiver, King of the Pippins, Christmas Apple\*, Bonza, Stewart Seedling, Yarlinton Mill, Bess Pool\*, Blenheim Orange\*, Pinzapfel\*, Fenovillet Gris\*, English Russet\*, Blundell's Apples (which is a collection of apples from an old orchard in the Brindabellas near Canberra). Budwood and grafting scions available in Aug & Feb, approx 10 buds, \$5.00 + p&p.

**ROSS TINSON**, 10 Matcham Pl, Kambah, 2902. **Tree Onion**, as bulbs, not available until end Dec, \$1.80 to cover postage costs.

*Letters continued from page 9*

I have most success and ease of growing my tomatoes using a trellis that has vertical strings only 6-8" apart, and pruning the plants to a single stem. This way I space the plants that distance and gain extra space by growing up instead of sprawling plants on the ground ... I find this method of growing tomatoes saves me heaps of time, saves me bending my back when picking, saves heaps of money on tomato stakes and used up old plastic bale string. I also like not having to tie the plants onto individual tomato poles, and not having to knock in dozens of poles too. I get two years out of a trellis, and then move them. In winter, peas grow up the same trellis and add nitrogen ready for next years' tomatoes. I grow about 12 varieties of heirloom tomatoes.

Lorna Freeguard, Albany, WA.

In my area of work, I deal predominantly with diabetes and obesity, and whilst there are definite genetic predispositions to both of these conditions, the greatest modifying factors appear to be activity and diet ...

My observation is that people are losing the skills and information to cook healthy and delicious meals ... and so establish a vicious cycle: the only activity in food preparation becomes driving to the supermarket or take-away for a high-fat feed.

What is the solution? Assessing the global picture helps, e.g. looking at subsistence societies in SE Asia or the Mediterranean societies where there is little heart disease or diabetes. The food is home grown, putting the final and equally important factor into the equation: exercise ... How do we apply this to 20th Century Australians, particularly city dwellers? Bring back the backyard garden, no matter how small, instill the ideology that heirloom seeds produce bountiful, quality crops and that seed stock should be perpetuated and shared; that cooking your own meals from the garden, supplemented with commercial produce as required, provides the highest quality, healthy and delicious meals; and finally that the physical activity that creates all of this is benefiting our bodies. I suspect that those active home gardeners who eat a healthy low fat diet don't need my services much.

Katerina Samaras M.D., Maroubra, NSW.

*continued on page 13*

---

**VICTORIA**


---

**MARK CALLOW**, 80 Parker St, Williamstown, 3016. **Tomato: I.P.B.; Abel**, SSN405; **German, Green Grape; Green Zebra; Greenwich; Snowball**, from USA (package checked by customs); **Black, Schimmeig Creg; Colossal Yellow**; seed, mail order and local, a.y.r., in exchange for old/rare varieties.

**BOB AIKENHEAD**, c/- PO Box 69, Carlton North, 3054. **Szechuan Chilli**, grown by my family for over 20 years, hot and fragrant, use fresh or dried, med amt, a.y.r., SASE; **De Arbol Chilli**, from a Mexican immigrant, quite hot, usually used dry, sm amt, a.y.r., SASE; **Chiltepic**, seed from a dried chilli sold for cooking, very hot, used dry, supposedly one of the wild chillies, bears prolifically in the second year.

**STEPHEN ONIANS**, 12 Lindon Strike Crt, Research, 3095. Tel (03) 94370332. **Welsh Onion**, *Allium fistulosum*, Seed Savers, plant all year, use as spring onion, med amt, a.y.r.; **Daikon Radish**, from Yates, rosette plant, plant anytime, slice root for stirfry/curry, grate for dips, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Cape Gooseberry**, from a friend, low shrub, plant spring-autumn, harvest all year, some frost tolerance, med amt, a.y.r.; **Broad Ripple Yellow Currant Tomato**, from Diggers Club, 2 cm fruit, prolific, early, very long season, med amt; **Tigerella Tomato**, from Diggers, striped fruit, medium size, heavy cropping, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Peruvian Sugarlump Tomato**, from Diggers Club, 20 cent-sized red fruit, very sweet, early, med amt; **Italian Plum Tomato**, SSN410, flattish deep red, acid sweet tomato, med amt, a.y.r.; **Pixie Tomato**, from Diggers Club, dwarf tomato, no staking, early, medium size, med amt, a.y.r.; **Rocket**, (*Eru-gula*), from Diggers Seeds, rosette plant 30 cm tall, plant all year, will establish as a wild vegetable, med amt, a.y.r.; **Cos Verdi Lettuce**, green, from commercial seed co., med amt, a.y.r., ALL SASE + 2 stamps; **Jerusalem Artichoke**, two varieties - smooth globular and branching like ginger, as tubers, from local old garden, tall annual, plant spring, harvest winter, avail by the piece July-Oct,

7 x 45c stamps; **Water Chestnut**, as corm, from local aquarium suppliers, 50 cm tall rush, grown in water, eat raw or cook in stir fry, lge amt avail July-Oct, 8 x 45c stamps.

**MARY MICHAUX**, 8 Allambi St, Ashwood, 3147. **Early Shorthorn Carrots; Hollow Crown Parsnip**, Yates; **Pink Shirley Poppies; Aquilegia**, purple and asst. colours; **Dianthus microchipp (?)**; **Pink Californian Poppy; Iceland Poppy**.

**MRS PAMELA DANN**, Box 160, Edenhope, 3318. **Red Cos Lettuce**, SSN1598, fast growing, mild flavour, dark red and green loose leaf, matures 8-10 weeks; **Italian Lettuce**, SSN1449, open hearted bright green oakleaf, slightly bitter when mature, matures 10-12 weeks; **Buttercrunch Lettuce**, from Yates, soft, pale green crinkly leaves, small hearted, fast maturing about 8 weeks; **Webbs Wonderful Lettuce**, SSN680, large, solid hearted, sweet flavour, lasts well; **Wanganui Giant Carrot**, SSN1562, large dark orange roots to 30 cm plus; **Mexican Tomatillo**, SSN927, annual with lots of 3-5 cm yellow fruit, similar to gooseberries; **Maltese Tomato**, SSN1390, egg-shaped, firm meaty type, excellent for sauce or paste; **Big Boy Tomato**, from Margaret Panter SSN243, round medium sized fruit, good flavour; **Latvian Tomato**, from Bay Seeds, slightly flattened, excellent salad type; **French Red Tomato**, from Jenny Spencer, large flattened fruit, very tasty; **Japanese Cabbage**, SSN311, very serrated soft leaves, non-hearting, ideal for stir fry; **Strawberry Popcorn**, SSN081, 969 or 1034 through H.S.C.A., tall vigorous plants, several small cobs per plant, red colour; **Purple Oakleaf Lettuce**, from New Gippsland, fast growing; **Red Mignonette**, from New Gippsland.

**P. DENNY**, 38 Nathan Dr, Bacchus Marsh, 3340. **Richmond River Cucumber**, from Michael Porcher, Gisborne, Vic, SSN866, grown here 5 years; **Chocolate Capsicum**, Phoenix Seeds, medium-small size, brown skin, brick-red sweet capsicum; **Corno Di Toro Rosso Capsicum**, from SSN five years ago, long red bulls horn type; **J. Wilkinson Lettuce**, SSN1268 grown in my garden 3 years, loose-leaved, very quick growing lettuce, sow spring to mid autumn in southern Vic; **Black Prince**

**Pumpkin**, originally from Greenpatch Seeds Taree NSW, medium-sized pumpkin; **Charantais Rockmelon**, orig. from Diggers Seeds, French variety, good for southern Vic, nice tasting; **Peruvian Cherry Tomato**, SSN870B, cherry-sized, nice tasting, prolific; **Brandy Wine Tomato**, SSN884, deep pink colour, different taste, somewhat spicy, not at all bad; **Graf Zeppelin Tomato**, SSN366, small to medium size, definitely very tasty, needs rich conditions and staking, if not grown in really good soil not prolific; **Original Grosse Lisse Tomato**, from original seed kept by L. Robertson in Frankston, Melbourne at time of original release 1930, from SSN 7 years ago [pre accession no.]; **Rouge De Marmande Tomato**, from Hortico 8 years ago, top taste, heavily fluted tomato, top cool weather or early maturing tomato, produces before Christmas in southern Vic; **Burbank Tomato**, SSN885B, good large firm tasty red tomato

**MAREE CROSBIE**, RMB N115, Ballarat, 3352. Tel (053) 413295. **Dolichos**, old-fashioned pink-flowering climber, hard to come by, small pea-sized seeds, to 3 metres, plant almost any time, harvest seeds January onwards, hardy, deciduous, can be cut back each year if you like a tidier plant, sm amt, available summer/autumn, 2 x 45c stamps.

**WINIFRED ALLEN**, 4 Laurine Crt, Wendouree [Ballarat area], 3355. **Jack Wilkinson's Curly Lettuce**, open heart, Joanna Simmonds, Bonang Vic SSN, plant any time except winter, frost resistant, med amt, a.y.r.; **Rabbits Ear Lettuce**, open heart, SSN317, plant anytime except mid winter, frost resistant, med amt, a.y.r.; **Golden Lettuce**, Seed Savers, plant anytime except mid winter, a.y.r.; **Gold Rush Lettuce**, SSN1075, sm amt; **Amsterdam Forcing Carrot**, Exhibition Seeds, good size and flavour, plant spring, summer, autumn, lge amt; **Kinko Carrot**, Louis Van Deven USA, they do all right in clay, plant spring to Feb., harvest autumn, med amt; **Japanese Carrot**, Linda & James Dean Seed Savers '89, sweet flavour, plant spring to Feb., lge amt, a.y.r.; **Hollow Crown Parsnip**, Phoenix Seeds (via Ron & Kath Lea), good size and flavour, plant spring to Feb, sm amt; **Tree Onion**, (or

Egyptian Onions), Mrs Blackmore, Hamilton Vic, has top bulbs and bulbs in ground - am offering top bulblets, sow in spring, harvested early Feb., good for pickling or salads, use bottom bulbs as ordinary onions, med amt. 3 x 45c stamps plus SASE for onions, 2 x 45c stamps plus SASE for other seeds.

**MARGARET PANTER**, 7 Butterworth St, Castlemaine, 3450. Tel (054) 705072.

**Chinese Spinach**, like Mizuna, origin Yates; **Russian Red Kale**, leaf vegetable cabbage family, high in nutrients incl. calcium, av. yield 300 g per plant, origin Phoenix via Michel Porcher; **Calabrese Broccoli**, Eden Seeds, small heads, can keep harvesting for at least a year after picking main head, likes cooler weather; **Wendy Yellow Tomato**, SSN2383 '87, to 5 cm diam, good strong flavour, early - 15 weeks to 1st harvest; **Long Keeper Tomato**, Dudley Rush, Manilla, from Seed Savers, uniform 5 cm dia, red, late - 24 wks to 1st harvest; **Grosse Lisse Tomato**, Eden Seeds, medium to big, red, tasty; **Roma Tomato**, Phoenix via grower at Barkers Ck, Ctrl Vic, small-med, oval shape, good flavour, av. yield 1 kg/plant, bush type 2' tall; **Big Boy Tomato**, SSN243, medium to big, almost spherical, rich flavour, av. yield 900 g/plant, 23 wks to harvest, vigorous plant to 4'; **Topweight Carrot**, Eden Seeds; **Hot Chilli**, Vaughan, Vic, grew right next to mild chilli; **Mild Chilli**, Nagoorin (near Gladstone); **Borage**, Castlemaine; 4 pkts, 25 seeds ea; **Coriander**, Castlemaine; **Holy Basil**, Phoenix via grower at Barkers Ck, Vic; 1' tall; **Florence Fennel**, Ravenswood; **Italian Parsley**, already growing at my place in Melbourne in 1979, self-seeds, no pests, to 45cm; **Curly Parsley**, Merbein, to 9", isolation distance only 50m; **Silver Beet**, commercial seed pkt, growing for 14 yrs, to 1.5', self seed, 4 yrs Castlemaine, 10 yrs Melbourne; **Musselburgh Leek**, Eden - 2nd generation, smallish; **Green Mignonette Lettuce**, Mr Fothergills; soft, loose hearts, sweet - even outer green leaves; **All Year Round Lettuce**, origin poss. Dudley Rush, Manilla, soft hearting, planted May, 20 weeks to harvest; **Cabbage\***, **Earliball**, origin Yates; **Shungiku**, edible chrysanthemum, SSN306, use leaves in stirfries; **Violetta di**

**Napoli Eggplant\***, SSN942A, up to 5 x 24 cm fruits, av yield per plant 750 g, 22 weeks to harvest, harvest period 10 weeks; **Epazote**, lemon-scented herb, Phoenix Seeds, used in Mexican cooking; **Rabbit's Ear Lettuce**, SSN317, looseleaf, soft, long green leaves, planted Sept, 11 weeks to harvest; **Spring Onion**, White Lisbon, origin Mr Fothergill's; **Welsh Onion**, origin: grower at Bet Bet, Central Vic, perennial salad onion, pick a leaf at a time; **Hollow Crown Parsnip**, origin Yates, 34 weeks to harvest, planted Sept, seeds only viable till Feb; **African Horned Cucumber**, *Cucumis metuliferus*. REQUESTS: I'll swap any of the above for seeds/plants/tubers etc. of the following (if not available, stamps are OK. For offers asterisked\*, please add an extra stamp to what SSN recommends): **Angelica**; **Balm of Gilead**; **Basil** (not Holy Basil); **Bergamot**; **Cat Thyme**; **Celery**; **Chives**; **Lawn Chamomile**; **Chamomile** (for teas); **Chinese Yam** (*Dioscorea alata*) tubers; **Corsican Mint**; **Chervil**; **Heliotrope**; **Horseradish**; **Hyssop**; **Jicama** (Yam Bean); **Lemongrass**; **Pasque Flower**; **Peppermint** (the one used for teas); **Pyrethrum**; **Soapwort**; **Turnip**; **Lettuce** (crisphead): Great Lakes / Pennlakes / Imperial / Iceberg / May King. **JUDY HARRIS**, RMB3064, Eganstown, 3461. Tel (053) 482354. **Lottie's Cucumber**, European style, from German neighbour, plant spring, harvest when approx. 15 cm long, use fresh or pickled, flavoursome, crisp light green flesh, lge amt, a.y.r.; **Florence Fennel (Finocchio)**, New Gippsland Seed Farm, plant spring-summer, lge amt, a.y.r.; **Rainbow Chard**, red, yellow, pink, white, orange stems, New Gippsland Seed Farm, grows like silver beet, plant spring-summer, med amt, a.y.r.

**CATT LUMMIS**, c/- PO Maldon, 3463.

**Betty's Bean**, (dwarf), from old orchardist's wife in Elphinstone who had saved the seed for over 20 years, plant spring, I've been planting this variety for over 12 years, excellent germination rate, plant two beans to one hole, a handspan apart - they will then support each other, vigorous variety, seems disease and pest resistant, excellent raw or cooked, central Victoria (dry), sm amt, a.y.r.; **Yellow Mangel Beetroot**, Phoenix Seeds, huge bright orange roots

Letters continued from page 11

Can anyone help with tomatillo growing? I germinated one plant in December and put it in a big tub in a sunny spot. It grew about 3' tall and 3' wide, and produced heaps of flowers, but the only a few at the end of the season turned into fruits and they were tiny (about 1cm across). The soil was a mixture of compost and horse manure. What did I do wrong?

Margaret Panter, 7 Butterworth St, Castlemaine, Vic. [A big thank you to Margaret who regularly sends Seed Savers bulked-up seeds, ed.]

I have "borrowed" The Seed Savers' Handbook and would like to become a member of your network. I am almost 72 years of age and have been growing vegetables for 62 years. I started as a Junior Farmer and exhibited my first entry in the Uralla Show in 1934. I entered vegetables in every show since. I have grown most vegetables and herbs that will grow in New England. I save a lot of my own seeds such as tomatoes, pumpkins, melons, herbs, beans, peas and many potatoes; plus many more - I'll be happy to exchange.

A.R. Williams, Uralla, NSW

This is a Roberts' sweet potato renowned in this area for its great flavour and keeping qualities (they don't discolour when cut either). As the story goes someone came through "in the days of spring carts" and gave old grandfather Roberts some sweet potatoes, corn, and apple cucumbers as times were bad (frequently were in those days it seems).

Instead of eating them he grew them and the family has been growing them ever since. The last of the family (grandsons) Reg and Jim still grew them till Reg died last year in his seventies and Jim has just sold up and gone to live in town. Another old timer here is growing the corn (a maize style) so I hope to get that and cucumbers to send later.

Naomi Waters, Paynes Crossing, NSW  
[We sent off some of the cuttings to Wal Bergman whose sweet potato collecting habits we featured last issue.]

End of Letters

as big as footballs, pale yellow inside, plant autumn & spring, germinates quickly, grows faster than normal beetroot, seems resistant to drought, pest and disease, great for juicing because of size and high sugar content, greens good to eat also, germinates quickly, grows faster than normal beetroot sm amt, a.y.r.; **Viking Sugar Pea**, Broersons Seeds, short climber, plant July - Feb., prolific producer! pick young as a snow pea and eat raw or stir-fried, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Pak Choi**, Chinese Cabbage, Eden Seeds, plant autumn & spring, these can be invasive, good raw in salads as entire stem is tender, stir-fries also, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Mizuna**, Japanese Cabbage, Eden Seeds, raw in salads - has a nice pungency, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Salad Burnet**, Eden Seeds, bushy perennial, plant spring, seems resistant to drought, pest and disease, foliage contains vit-C and tannins, tastes like cucumber, use tender young leaves raw in salads or as garnishes, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Evening Primrose**, from my mother, erect herb, flowers open as sun sets, plant spring, entire plant is edible, nutritious leaves and seeds, seeds a rich source of gamma-linoleic acid - sprinkle on cereals, sm amt, a.y.r. As suggested in the guidelines or all above will swap for the following REQUEST: Miners' Lettuce, Quinoa, Salad Mallow (*Corchorus olitorius*), Gota Kola, Skirret, Arnica, Melukhiya, Chia, Tuberous Chervil (*Chaerophyllum bulbosum*), Earth Chestnut (*Bunium bulbocastanum*), Marshmallow.

**J. STAVRAKIS**, PO Box 30, Bridgewater on Loddon, 3516. **Bendigo Big Red Tomato**, from an elderly gardener who has grown it for 40 years, very prolific, very tall plants need pruning and stakes, grown 200 m from other tomatoes to prevent cross pollination, large fruit - some 3 1/2 lbs, delicious flavour, grown in Central Victoria, sm amt; **Greek Tomato**, from my grandfather who has grown it since 1965, large plant with wide leaves, needs staking, large fruit, nice flavour, sm amt; **Ironbark Pumpkin**, from David Watt, SSN512, good keeper, nice flavour; **Rockmelon**, from a friend in Mildura '85, very sweet tasting melon; **Giant Russian Sunflower**, Phoenix Seeds, if plants are well fed and watered, the flowers are the size of a dinner plate; **Ottawa Tomato**,

SSN984, very prolific, bearing apricot-sized fruit. All payment in stamps please. **KAY BENNETT**, 20 MacDougall Rd, Golden Square [central Victoria], 3555. Tel. (054) 416052. **Peruvian Cherry Tomato**, SSN870, sm amt; **Red Odourless Onion**, nice in salads; **Zebra Molly Bean**, beautiful bean; **Oak Leaf Lettuce**, pick leaves as needed, lge amt; **Broccoli**, sm amt; **Tomato**, from friend, needs staking, very large, purple/red colour, very nice flavour, sm amt; **Red Mignonette Lettuce**, these last from Phoenix.

**MRS P. NILSSON**, Box 9, Seymour, 3661. **Aquilegia** (Columbine, Granny's Bonnet), various gardens in southern Vic, herbaceous perennial, seeds a variety of colours, good ground cover under trees and shrubs, a.y.r. SASE; **Bushy Yate Tree**; *Eucalyptus conferruminata*; originally WA, a single tree in a garden at Seymour Vic, spreading tall shrub to sm tree, highly ornamental, green flowers and fruit, often used in floral arrangements, hardy to coastal conditions, but adaptable, drought & frost hardy when established, seedlings frost tender, use in windbreaks, shelter & erosion control, small amounts for SASE.

**AILEENDUNNING**, RMB 3220, Euroa, 3666. **Gem Squash**, SSN167 '88.

**K. & R. BALZER**, RMB 6571, Wodonga, 3691. Tel (060) 289303. **Chinese Mini Corn**, Greenpatch Organic Seeds Taree, grows to 1.5 m high, plant spring-summer, grown at Port Macquarie, med amt, a.y.r., 3 x 45c stamps; Lettuce, Side Pick or Golden Harvest, from Greenpatch, loose leaf type, picked as plant grows up, plant spring and autumn, self sows, med amt, a.y.r., 2 x 45c stamps; **Buttercrunch Lettuce**, Eden Seeds, open bunched, small head, plant spring and autumn, heat tolerant, bolt resistant, crisp and sweet, grown NE Vic/Port Macquarie, med amt, a.y.r., 2 x 45c stamps.

**NEIL PADBURY**, RMB 6471, Wodonga, 3691. **Amaranth**, *A. caudatus*; "Belga A": grain amaranth, SSN'93, rare; small seeds, sow spring, harvest summer, grows to 1m, weeping red tresses of flowers/seedheads, harvested March '94; **All Seasons Carrot**, Yates '93, large roots; good colour and flavour; **Napkor Radish**, SSN589, rare, round red roots; **Black Mustard**, unnamed, *Brassica nigra*;

SSN2198, plants to 1m with many branched stems, grown next to Napkor radish; **German Pickling Cucumber**, SSN430, oval yellow-skinned when mature; **Royal Oak Lettuce**, SSN1559, deeply lobed leaves, pick as required; **Goliath Pumpkin**, *Cucurbita maxima*; SSN1969, rare, long runners to 6m, huge oval orange fruit to 30 kg, thin skin, bland taste; **Northern Bush Pumpkin**, *C. pepo*; SSN620, rare, bush to 1m across, small pointed oval fruit about football size, bland taste, early ripening; **Bush Ebony Marrow**, *C. pepo*; SSN1879?, rare, small bush to 1m across, small pointed oval fruit with prominent longitudinal ridges dark green to black skin, early ripening; **Golden Arch Crookneck Marrow**, *C. pepo*; SSN1891, rare vigorous bush to 1.5m across, very early, profuse flowers, fruit golden with hooked neck and wider base, skin warty, probably used immature as for zucchini, fewer flowers when fruit allowed to mature, mature fruit has hard skin (open with a saw) and little flesh; **Zucchini Black-skinned**; **Northern Sweet Watermelon**, SSN1940, rare, spreading plant to 3m long; round fruit to 30 cm diam., green with draker markings, early maturity, the only watermelon that ripens here so far; **Garcia Mexican Twining Bean**, Mazza, annual dwarf bean to 50 cm, prolific yield of small black seeds, excellent flavour dry-shelled, used for refritos in Mexico; **Snake Bean**, A.L. Dunning, from Seed Savers, climbing, sm amt; **Scotia Bean**, SSN762 spring '92, zebra bean, black stripes on brown/grey background, plump round pods; climbing, sm amt; **Purple King Bean**, Eden Seeds '90, large, flat, purple pods; turns green when cooked, climbing; **Yugoslavian Bean**, Mazza Grafton, spring '92, climbing, sm amt; **Scarlet Runner Bean**, Timboon Vic, sm amt; **Red Kidney Bean**, Naytura, medium-sized red seeds; **Cannelini Bean**, Naytura, small white seeds, prolific; **Borlotti Bean**, Naytura, medium-sized, very flat seed, red markings on fawn background, occasionally all red, pods also have red markings, dwarf plant; **Lima Bean**, Naytura, very vigorous climber, wide, flat pods, very large white seeds sm amt; **Carrot Topweight**, ex Yates, '90; **Dandelion**, Chiltern Seeds, England '91, thick-leaved; **Webbs Wonderful Lettuce**,

SSN680, '91, tight green heads; **Sucrine Lettuce**, SSN263 '92, upright, oval loose heads; **Red Mignonette Lettuce**, SSN1117, '92; Smaller red/green loose heads); **Stupice Tomato**, Phoenix Seeds '93, leggy staking plant, thin stems and few leaves, very early golf ball-sized red fruit; **Budiar Tomato**, SSN403A; **Lutschis Zurich Tomato**, SSN398D, tall thin staking plant, very heavy yield of 30 - 40 mm wide fruit, good acid tomato taste; **Grosse Lisse Tomato**, Mazza, Grafton, tall plant, large, smooth skinned red fruit, good yields); **Rouge de Marmande Tomato**, tall plant, large to very large red fruit, inclined to wrinkle, early season; **Burnley Bounty Tomato**, Phoenix seeds, '91, tall plant, good smooth-skinned red fruit; large size, good taste, early ripening; **Kotlas Tomato**, Phoenix seeds '92, tall plant produces small to medium-sized red fruit, very early; ripened here 4 weeks earlier than Rouge & Burnley Bounty planted at same time; **Large Yellow Tomato**, SSN'92, very vigorous plant, large, meaty, smooth skinned yellow fruit, very heavy yielder; **Yugoslavian Tomato**, C. Edwards Allens Flat, very tall; vigorous staking plant, large pear-shaped pink fruit, very fleshy, few seeds, little juice, late ripening, many fruits split as they ripened; **Red Siberian Oxheart Tomato**, M. Chernih, large staking plant, pink fruits to 500g; **Break-O-Day Tomato**, Phoenix '93, commercial variety now out of production due to thin skin, classic sweet flavour, good size, smooth, round red; **Tree Onion**; neighbour; produces a cluster of small bulbils at the top of the stem instead of flowers, bulbils used to produce new plants, avail only as bulbils Feb to June; postage \$1; 50 and padded bag; **Hulless Barley**, Phoenix; **Rye Corn**, Chiltern, Vic; **Sweetcorn Mexican**, Phoenix, very tall 2.5 to 3m. 2-3 cobs per plant, long season - 4 mths; **Lipstick Capsicum**, ex Phoenix, early ripening, conical red sweet capsicum. the only one that I can reliably get mature fruit from, suit cooler areas; **China Rose Radish**, ex Phoenix, Large, cylindrical roots, bright pink colour, very hot; **Epicure Climbing Bean**, ex Eden; **Fordhook Zucchini**, ex Eden Seeds, heavy crop of dark green marrows with lighter speckles; **Trombone Gramma**, *C. moschata*, SSN803, Very

large pear shaped fruit, green skin with lighter pattern, turns yellow at maturity; **Sweet Sorghum**, Phoenix, Corn-like plant to 2.5m tall, produces terminal cluster of round white seeds, forage or grain for stock; **"Strawberry" Tomato**, Sydney Seed Saver, Polish origins, very vigorous plant produces masses of flattened ribbed fruit with pinkish colour; **Green Zebra Tomato**, Lorna Freegard WA SSN2538, 50mm plum-shaped fruit with lighter stripes, turns green/yellow at maturity, Lorna notes that her tomato-pinchng parrots don't recognise it as a tomato so she gets some; **Atlantic Giant Pumpkin**, *Curcubita maxima*, Lorna Freegard WA SSN1369, huge "cattle pumpkin" to 95 kg this year, not recommended for eating as yellow flesh is watery and tasteless, good for winning largest pumpkin comps, impressing visitors or neighbours and as stock feed; **Kentucky**, a banana pumpkin, *Curcubita maxima*, bright orange skin, fruit to 70 x 30 cm with pointed ends, good taste, dry texture; **Pennsylvania Crookneck**, *Curcubita moschata*, elongated pear shape about 30 x 15 cm with curved neck, similar to butternut in taste, texture and colour; **ROOTS: Eschallot**, K. Donker, Allens Flat, small bulbs leaves to 25 cm tall, bulbils multiply rapidly during growing season, dies down in summer, does not flower, avail only as bulbils, Dec to March; postage \$1.80 and padded bag; **Italian Garlic**, supermarket, the variety sold in shops, see price below; **Garlic Giant Russian**, tub grown in Vic, very large cloves, multicloves to 500g, reputed to be milder than ordinary garlic, extra postage please as 5 cloves weigh 250g plus, available March/April to early spring, both avail March to July; **Jerusalem Artichoke**, Vic, smooth cylindrical type, and also nobbly type, avail as tubers April to August, ALL four of the above: postage \$1.80 plus padded bag or large envelope. **OTHER USEFUL PLANTS: Comfrey**, invasive and persistent, has many uses like for compost, as a nutrient recycler, weed barrier; **Horseradish**, very invasive here and difficult to get rid of, long white roots grated as a condiment; ALL \$1.80 plus padded bag or large envelope. **TREES: Carob**, very slow growing, large trees, pods used as stock food, trees either male

or female, pods produced only on females, scarify or pour boiling water on seeds to speed germination, large seeds, send extra postage; *Paulownia tomentosa*, very quick growing tree used for light timber, leaves as stockfood; **Honey Locust Tree**, fodder tree with sweet pods in autumn and winter, treat seed as for carob, seed from thorny and thornless trees avail.

**JANE HARKER**, RMB 2420, Goorambat, 3725. Tel (058) 286210. **Harris Spring Onion**, *Allium fistulosum*, SSN1577, 4/ '93, harvested Jan '95, hardy perennial, grown NE Vic, sm amt, avail '95/'96; **Brown Romaine Lettuce**, *Lactuca sativa*, SSN189, harvested spring '95, no insect problems; price as per suggestions.

**M. SCHULZ**, RMB 5041, Sale, 3850. **Garlic Chives**, Erica Vale Seeds, leaves as normal chives, strong garlic flavour, purple flowers, very productive, divides well, sm amt; **Salsify**, original plant on roadside, now in my garden, beverage - info with seed, sm amt; **Chicory**, roadside (original plant), hot drink - info with seed, sm amt; **Bells Climbing Butter Bean**; **Large Leaf Bush Pea**, *Pultenaea daphnoides*; dwarf, not edible, native bush pea bright yellow and brown flowers, collected from the wild, sm amt; **Long Flowering Marlock**, *Eucalyptus macrandra*; small tree, sm amt; native to W.A. - attracts birds; **Black She-Oak**, *Casuarina littoralis*; small tree, sm amt; **Late Black Wattle**, *Acacia mearnsii*; sm amt, info with seeds, ALL a.y.r.

**GRAEME GEORGE**, "Blackwood", Deering Avenue, Healesville, 3777. **Climbing Butter Bean**, SSN1607; **Golden Bantam Sweetcorn**, Mulders strain, SSN1792; **Tasman Potato**, red skin, white flesh, good baker; **Serrana Potato**, white skin, cream flesh, good baker, BOTH from Toolangi Research Institute; **Rocamboles Garlic**, top setting, long keeping.

**BETTY SINGH**, Dykes Road, Dollar, via Mirboo North, 3871. **Jenny's Carrot All Seasons**, SSN1751, **Broad Bean**, saved for many years, **Buff Soya Bean**, **Black Soya Bean**, both varieties for cool climates, from Phoenix; **Oriental Poppy**: mixed colours and styles, very beautiful, from a Nimbin Seed Saver; **Climbing Bean**, from Numurkah, ten inch pods. REQUEST Canyon Bush Bean originally from Phoenix, lost due to weather change

last March when a crop I was growing for seed failed to mature.

**JOANNA SIMMONDS**, Ambyne Rd, Deddick via Bonang [North Gippsland ranges] 3888. **White Cypress Pine**, *Callitris glauca*, local wild trees, med tree, drought tolerant, swap or SASE; **Kurrajong**, *Brachychiton populneus*, med tree, drought tolerant, needs frost protection when very young, aborigines ground seeds for flour; **Clary Sage**, *Salvia sclarea*, Phoenix, plant spring, summer, biennial, frost hardy, highly aromatic flowers for medicinal/aromatherapy uses; **Green Orach** or Mountain Spinach, *Atriplex hortensis*, R-M Lacherez SSN816; spring - summer up to 2m annual, beautiful tender leaves as spinach substitute; **Red Orach**, *Atriplex hortensis*, from Rose-Marie Lacherez SSN815, red leaves, otherwise same as for Green Orach; **Green Italian Beet**, from an old packet of Italian seeds ("Bieta Verdi"), similar to silver beet but more tender and succulent, light green stems, plant spring, summer & early autumn, tolerates frost; **Australian Yellow Leaf Lettuce**, Diggers, tender and delicate yellow-green lettuce; **Rabbit's Ear Lettuce**, SSN458, W. Allen, Ballarat, sweet leaves; **Red Oak Leaf Lettuce**, New Gippsland, hardy and attractive, self sows and grows readily in almost all conditions; **Broad Ripple Yellow Currant Tomato**, Diggers, prolific producer of small very sweet yellow fruit; **Purple Calabash Tomato**, Diggers, very deeply grooved purple fruit, wonderful flavour; **Summer Savoury**, *Satureja hortensis*, from English seed company many years ago, now self sows, useful for herb bread, salads etc.; **Echinacea purpurea**, Phoenix, upright perennial, very attractive cone flower, medicinal, dies down over winter; **Corn Salad**, from friend's garden years ago, small annual, self sows, thrives in winter, leaves used in salad; **Blue Lake Climbing Bean**, Snowy River Seed Co-op, good flavour, productive; **Purple King Bean**, Snowy River Seed Co-op, very prolific purple-podded climbing bean; **Noodle Bean**, from Ukrainian friend, broad-podded, yellow climbing bean, very productive, unusual textured flesh; **Muffet Bean**, W. Allen, Ballarat, climbing beans, large pods, crops well over long period.

## QUEENSLAND

**B. SHARRY**, 4 Baringa St, Clontarf, 4019. **Dwarf Snake Bean**, Brisbane Organic Growers, plant all year subtropics and tropics, keeps producing for months, grown hot summers, a.y.r.; **Dorris Snake Bean**, speckled seed from Brisbane Organic Growers, climber, plant all year subtropics and tropics, long harvest period, a very nice tasting bean, a.y.r.; **Lazy Housewife Climbing Bean**, Diggers '94, plant spring & summer, harvest autumn & summer, subtropics, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Yellow Snake Bean**, long pods, from Michael Pascall - SSN Spring '94 catalogue, climber, I found the pods to be only slightly paler than the common snake beans, plant spring, harvest summer, anywhere with hot summers, a.y.r. No charge but extra stamp on SASE please. **LOUIS PAULIN**, 16 Wienholt St, Auchenflower (Brisbane), 4066. Tel (07) 3715435. **Mary Washington Asparagus**, from Stanthorpe, cross, till I run out, probably 200 g; **European Dandelion**, *Taraxacum officinale*, Eden, sow warm months, root used in third year roasted and ground for coffee, leaves in salad year round, particularly spring, prefers cooler climate, till I run out, 2 x 45c stamps. **MARINA CHERNIH**, 5 Gibbins St, Sunnybank Hills, 4109. Tel (07) 2731769. **Red Amaranth**, leaf vegetable, Minara Seeds; **Black Cuban Bean**, SSN1067 (Michael Rooney); **Canadian Black Bean**, tasty short beans, from Jenny Smith; **Dutch Brown Dry Bean**, Phoenix Seeds, heavy bearing bush; **Rice Bean**, tiny, tan beans, nutritious, heavy bearing, from Tea Tree; **Black Soy Bean**, from Peter Lawrence, climbing, bears well; **Tepary Bean**, Phoenix Seeds, drought resistant, hardy, bears well; **Jicama**, Minara Seeds; **Chinese Mini Pop Corn**, Tea Tree, several small cobs per stalk, red seeds; **Brown Mignonette Lettuce**, Yates; **Buttercrunch Lettuce**, Yates, velvety texture, grew well in far north QLD; **Continuous Lettuce**, SSN1019A; **Luffa**, smooth, Eden Seeds; **Redskin Okra**, New Gippsland, lovely red, long, slim pods; **Long Red Cayenne Chilli**, very hot, from Coopers; **Radish**, Minara, large, fast growing (40 days), oriental radish; **Popping Sorghum**, Phoenix Seeds; **Sweet**

**Sorghum**, Phoenix Seeds; **Red Siberian Oxheart Tomato**, large, low acid, fleshy fruit; **Kotlas Tomato**, Phoenix Seeds, early, cold tolerant; **Stupice Tomato**, short season, plum-shaped fruit; **Klondyke Watermelon**, Eden, sweet, large melons; **Cardamom**, rhizomes; **Vetiver Grass**, Shipard's Herb Farm, moisture conservation, soil erosion control.

**DEREK & MARIA COOPER**, PO Box 1176 Beenleigh, 4207. **Moon Flower**, Diggers Club '92, climber, saucer-sized white perfumed flower, survived very dry couple of years, grown on poor soil, great for climbing on fence, med amt. a.y.r.; **Rosella**, SSN1725, shrub, harvest easter onwards, grown in poor soil - good results, med amt, avail. winter; **Luffa**, vegetable sponge, SSN065, climber, survived dry time, [eat fruits when immature] or allow to mature [and soak when still green] remove skin, flesh and shake out seeds, use as sponge, med amt, avail. winter.

**DAWALHAMO**, c/- PO Blackbutt, 4306. **Pigeon Pea**, Eden Seeds, good in drought, a.y.r.; **Poor Man's Bean**, from friend, good in drought, a.y.r.; **Snake Bean**, from friend, good in drought, a.y.r.; **Bunching Onion**, a.y.r. Prefer swapping owing to drought reducing my seed bank. REQUESTS: *Rugosa* rose cuttings (for rosehips); Cootamundra Wattle seed.

**E.J. HURST**, PO BOX 33 Kalbar, 4309. Tel (074) 637 129. **Italian Lettuce**, SSN 1449; **Dunafolvar Pumpkin**, unsure of purity, may have crossed with Queensland Blue, would appreciate someone who is familiar with this variety growing the seeds and letting me know if they are true-to-type; **Vegetable Spaghetti**, very prolific and good bearer, some powdery mildew on mature plants, April '94 seeds, none grown this year; **Black Turtle Bean**; **Okra**, sm amt; **Climbing Spinach**, very sweet small-leaved spinach, succulent vine, black seeds.

**M. MANN**, "Craigielea", 1 Litzows Rd, Tarampa, 4311. Tel (074) 261733. **Madagascar Bean**, *Phaseolus lunatus*; perennial climber, hardy, soups - dried or fresh picked, as steamed vegetable in white sauce, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Hyacinth Bean**; **Cotton Tree**, seeds, producing cotton of good quality for spinning into yarn for knitting & crochet.



**ROSE MAGNOLI**, PO Box Stanthorpe, 4380. **Pumpkin**, very hard skin, stores well, grown in cold climate, sm amt, SASE.

**BERNIE SMITH**, PO Box 467, Beaudesert, 4285. **Blue Quandong**, *Eleocarpus grandis*, attractive tall spreading tree, harvest spring/summer, bush tucker, blue fruit, edible flesh, attracts birds, found in the rain forest, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Plum Pine**, *Podocarpus elatus*, slow-growing shapely tree, harvest in spring/summer, bush tucker, edible fruit, used for jam, found in the rain forest, sm amt, a.y.r.; **Stinking Roger**, *Tagetes minuta*, wide-spread weed, tall-growing, used as a companion plant for tomatoes to control nematodes, harvest summer/autumn, med amt, a.y.r.

**ROSS CLISBY**, MS 902, Dalby, 4405. **Pie Melon**, local, semi-feral, on sandy ridges all over the district; **Red Bean**, roadside, N.T., grown & saved for 9+ yrs, similar to mung bean only more prolific; **Chinese Pepper Cabbage**, M. Lee, Pine Creek, N.T., spicy winter green, very hot when bolting; **Evening Primrose**, local, semi-feral, on sandy ridges, sm amt; **Hyacinth Bean**, Eden Seeds '93; **New Guinea Bean**, Phoenix '88. REQUEST: Kudzu, *Pueraria thunbergiana*.

**ROSE-MARIE LACHEREZ**, PO Box 118, Mount Nebo, 4520. **Red Amaranth**, Minara Seeds '89, attractive 2 m shrub, 90 days, black seeds, large green and red leaves used in summer as a tasty spinach substitute; **Amaranth**, (Tampala) African Spinach, Nigeria, West Africa, 1.2 m tall, 45 days, green, serrated leaves, young leaves and shoots used in summer as a tasty spinach substitute, also used in stews and stir-fries; **Fanny Wang Pak Choi**, 60 days, hearting, smooth round pale-green leaves, white mild ribs, mild and nutty, sm amt; **Purple-leaved Mustard**, Cabbage, Phoenix Seeds 10 yrs ago, 60 days, huge purple and green leaves, pungent taste, sm amt; **Chinese Mustard**, Mustard Cabbage, Sarah Greens, 60 days, smooth leaves with slightly serrated edges, mild taste becoming pungent at maturity, sm amt; **Cress**: Reform, Broerssen, tall bush (70 cm), 30 days, long thin leaves produced over a long period, tasty; **West Indian Gherkin**, *Cucumis anguria*, 60 days, young fruit peeled and eaten in salads, cooked in stir-fries, makes delicious pickles; **Cornichon**

**Vert Petit de Paris**, pickling gherkin, 60 days, usually used very small (5 - 7 cm) when dark green and crisp, larger fruit may be used for cucumber pickles or eaten in salads; **Antigua Eggplant**, 90 days elongated fruit, white with purple stripes, very pretty, sweet flesh, few seeds, sm amt; **Aubergine du Mali**, **Eggplant**, perennial, white pumpkin-shaped fruit (8 cm wide, 6 cm long) turning orange at maturity, slightly bitter, sm amt; **Bohemian Early Eggplant**, 4 months. dark purple fruit, 13 cm long, 10 cm wide, purple stems and leaves, very productive; **Dourga Eggplant**, 90 days, white skin, fruit length 20 cm, very sweet and fleshy; **Italian White Eggplant**, 4 months, plump fruit 18 cm long x 10 cm wide, greenish-white, few seeds, sweet; **Turkish Orange Eggplant**, *Solanum aethiopicum*, Dave Pomare, Diggers, 90 days, round fruit turning bright orange at maturity, usually eaten green in stews and Thai curries; **White Egg Eggplant**, M. Porcher SSN1247, 90 days, small fruit, perfect egg shape, sweet and fleshy, sm amt; **Jilo Tingua Verde Claro Eggplant**, *Solanum gilo*, 4 months, oval fruit 7 cm x 5 cm, green turning orange then red at maturity, sweet, sm amt; **Central Queensland Lettuce**, L Blaney, 40 days, large, tender light-green round leaves, sweet flavour, can be harvested for 3 months or more; **Edible Jute**, *Corchorus capsularis*, another variety of Melukhiya, 60 days, young leaves and shoots eaten steamed or boiled; **Gobo Burdock**, *Arctium lappa*, Phoenix Seeds, 90 days, took four years to flower, tastes similar to Salsify, young roots eaten in Japan in stir-fried dishes, in miso soups or sauteed; **Jew's Mallow**, a.k.a. Salad Mallow, Bush Okra, small annual shrub. *Corchorus olitorius*, 50 days, young leaves eaten fresh in salads, young shoots in stews or stir-fries, young seed pods may be used as 'baby okras'; **Korila**, *Cyclanthera pedata*, small hollow fruit (8 - 10 cm long) tasting of cucumber, 60 days, strong climber, produces heavily, may be eaten raw in salads when immature or stir-fry or stuff when older, **Malabar Spinach**, Ceylon Spinach, *Basella rubra* var. *alba*, Vietnamese grocers, Brisbane, climbing, summer substitute for spinach, succulent green leaves and stem-tips eaten

raw in salads, steamed or stir-fried; **Queen Anne's Pocket Melon**, *Cucumis melo*, Dudaim group, 60 days, a tiny melon (5 - 7 cm diam.), yellow with brown markings, very fragrant, edible but lacks sweetness, was carried by ladies in their pockets to give out a musky fragrance; **Turkish Parsley**, SSN2201, bushy, very productive flat parsley, 90 days, sweeter than regular types; **Rat-tail Radish**, Seed Savers' member, produces seed-pods, not roots, 45 days, very productive, the long slender pods are eaten raw as radishers, in salads or cooked.

**ISABELL SHIPARD**, Box 66, Nambour, 4560. Tel (074) 411101. **Salad Mallow**, Hurovs, hardy annual, high in protein, leaves good raw and cooked, also dried as survival food; **East Indies Clove Basil**, friend at Gympie, hardy perennial to 1m+, leaves have very strong fragrance of cloves, edible & good companion plant; **Evening Primrose**, biennial, hardy to 60cm, roots and leaves eaten, seed valued for gammalinolenic acid; **Arrowroot**, very hardy perennial to 2 m, ideal for quick windbreak and animal food, tuber for human food raw and cooked and made into arrowroot flour, tubers available all year; **Rice Bean**, *Vigna umbellata*, ground cover or climber, excellent weed smotherer, mulch bee & animal forage, young pods raw & cooked, prolific bearers, seeds delicious sprouted and good survival food which is viable over 6 years & is not bothered by weevils; **African Cucumber**, hardy, fruit keeps for 2-3 mths when picked, use as a vegetable when green; when yellow can be eaten like a fruit, tasting like a banana with a lime undertone; **Tampala**, *Amaranthus giganteus*, very hardy, leaves steamed, quiche etc, seed added to bread, scones etc.; **Bhajhee**, *Amaranthus lividus*; a valued Indian seed used as grain in baked goods etc.; **Black Aztec Corn**, very hardy & heavy bearing; **Chia Roja** *Chenopodium berlandieri*, hardy and so attractive to 1m, young leaves raw and cooked and animal fodder, seed is used like grain, in cereals, flour, soups, pasta, etc.; **Asparagus**, *Asparagus officinalis*; heavy bearing, delicious raw & many therapeutic uses too; **Ginger**, tubers \$3 + \$2.50 p & h; **Brooklime**, *Veronica beccabunga*; hardy ground cover, looks great in hanging

baskets etc., very rich in Vitamin C & valued for tonic & cleansing properties, \$4 + \$2.50 p&h; **Fever Plant**, *Ocimum viride*, hardy bush to 60 cm, leaves made as tea or decoction for fevers and pain, good companion plant, leaves dried and added to insect repelling sachets etc.; **Toothache Plant**, *Spilanthes acmella*, 40cm, a leaf of the toothache plant can be rubbed on sore gums, mouth ulcers, gums of teething babies which brings relief with quick anaesthetic effect, leaves can be eaten in salads, sandwiches etc., are a natural antibiotic and have been found to give relief from candida, thrush etc.; **Mushroom Plant**, perennial bush 60 cm, chlorophyll-rich leaves, if you like eating mushrooms you will enjoy leaves raw or cooked, higher protein than mushrooms, add to salads, stir-fries etc., \$4.95 + \$4.00 p+p.

Anyone who would like to get our catalogue & info articles, with extensive range of vegies, fruits & herbs can send 10 x 45c stamps.

**BEATE SEEGER**, c/- PO Cooran, 4569.

**Coffee**, my husband bought tree many years ago at the local produce store, I don't know any more about them only that they make nice coffee, best to plant fresh seed for good germination rate; **Leucaena**, from friend; **Pigeon Pea**, from friend; **Comfrey**, from friend; **Queensland Blue Pumpkin**, Eden Seeds; **Birds Eye Chili**, from friend, bush, very hot; **Bottle Gourd**, Erica Vale 9 years ago; **Dill**.

**C.P. KEELER**, MS 591 Casuarina Ridge, Wolvi Rd, Wolvi via Gympie, 4570.

**Queensland Silver Wattle**, *Acacia podalyriformis*, Eden Seeds, spreading shrub 3 to 5 m by 3 to 5 m, subtropical to temperate climate, sm amt; **Wattle**, *Acacia holoserica*, Brisbane Shopping Centre carpark, shrub 4 to 8 m, resistant to drought, pest, disease, tropical/subtropical climate, sm amt, avail. spring. Both these shrubs useful for orchard interplant and/or windbreak (nitrogen fixers), hardy pioneers, I grow on north facing shale-clay ridge, they have endured drought, flood, high winds and still thrive. Swap for other pioneer species.

**K. & M. KNOTT**, Moy Pocket Rd, Kenilworth, 4574. Tel (074) 460128.

**Perennial Capsicum**; lasts 2-3 years, Eden Seeds Gympie, small shrub, plant late

spring-summer, harvest summer-autumn, seems very hardy, our present bushes are into their 3rd year, ripens to bright red, smallish, very sweet capsicum, grown in sub-tropical climate, sm amt; **Black-Seeded Snake Bean**, (AKA Yard Long Bean), Eden Seeds Gympie, Climber, plant late spring-summer, harvest summer months, bean fly resistant, suits humid summers - best bean for summer rain areas, use whole, lge amt, a.y.r., stamps or tomato seeds (prefer exchange).

**LYN GRIMES**, "Jindawarra", M/S 322 Gayndah, 4625. **Climbing Rose**, "Dorothy Perkins", very old climbing rose with pale pink flowers, dates back to the early 1900s, plant all year, drought proof, grew and flowered with very minimal water through three years of drought, cuttings available by the piece, a.y.r.

**JOY DEL CASTILLO**, PO Box 65, Eldsvold, 4627. **Shungiku**, *Chrysanthemum coronarium*, (edible chrysanthemum) I'm

able to grow two crops yearly - one in autumn and another lot late Aug./early Sept., the autumn crop does best, happy under other plants, vine-covered pergolas or in full sun, grown for three years with no bugs or diseases, young tips yummy in salad, other leaves in soups, stir-fries etc., I use petals in salads, our goats love the older bits I can't keep up with plus flower heads, fresh flower heads also nice for tea; **Orach**, *Atriplex hortensis*, two types - burgundy and/or rich green, very attractive, nutritious soft-leaved vegetable, Phoenix 3 years ago, up to 1 m high, longer growing season than spinach and more vigorous, plant spring/summer (& autumn in Qld), good germination, long picking period, tolerates and frosts, over three years planting with no pest/disease, use as salad veg, steamed, in stir-fries, spinach-type pie, makes a great pesto, also for animal/poultry greens, grown in semi-temperate climate where hot days and crisp nights are likely and droughty conditions the norm, generous sample envelope each type 2 x 45c stamps plus SASE; **Popping Sorghum**, *Sorghum bicolor*, Phoenix, 1-2 m high, creamy pearls grains on massive grain heads, plant spring to early summer, harvest late summer to autumn, grain hulls easily and is best cooked without oil in a heavy-based pan over low heat, gently

shake pan to keep grains moving - popped in 2-5 mins, our poultry love it and the goats enjoy both green and dry foliage, good for growing climbing beans on and provides a wind shelter, after harvesting, debris makes a great mulch, suits wide climate range, but thrives in our hot dry (drought) area with minimal watering, 100 g grain for 2 x 45c stamps plus SASE, 200 g grain 7 x 45c stamps; **Gotu Kola**, *Hydrocotyl asiatica* or *Centella asiatica*, root, creeping herb, prefers damp situations - happy around bog, plant anytime, powerful Chinese and Indian herb, restores nervous system, reduces inflammation and fever and acts as a tonic, used in rheumatic and skin diseases, wounds and ulcers and nervous disturbances, a.y.r. 8 x 45c stamps (covers postage); **Calendula**, *Calendula officinalis*, low bushy plant, plant autumn or spring, sunny position, frost tolerant, variety of medicinal uses; 2 x 45c stamps plus SASE; **Climbing Butter Bean**, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, "Wondergold" type, Erica Vale Seeds, climber, thick fleshy yellow pods with delicious flavour and heavy yield (picking every 5 days for 4-5 months), sow after last frosts (or late winter in frost-free areas) until early summer, young beans delicious, end-of-season beans dried are very tasty in soups, 2 x 45c stamps plus SASE for sample envelope; **Bush Basil**, *Ocimum basilicum*, cv *minimum*, bushy plant up to 1 m high, smaller, more aromatic leaves than sweet basil, very pretty flowers, plant looks good in flower and vegie garden, companion plant of beans and tomatoes, long harvesting period, keeps its flavour well when dried, makes exquisite basil oil, 2 x 45c stamps plus SASE; **Sesame**, *Sesamum indicum*, very attractive annual, 2-4 feet with beautiful foxglove-type white flowers, tinged with colour which are self-fertilising, plant after last frosts (or in spring/autumn in frost-free Qld), 2 x 45c stamps plus SASE.

**DAVID WATT**, Lot 61 Moorabinda Dr, Nikenbah, 4655. **Rhubarb Chard**, Phoenix Seeds '91, hardy and prolific, good flavour, red stemmed, curly-leaved, cook as silver beet, a.y.r.; **German Pickling Cucumber**, SSN430, excellent in salads or pickled; **Orange Ecuadorian Tamarillo**, *Cyphomandra betacea*, Phoenix Seeds '92,

sweeter than red tamarillos; **Emerald Giant Capsicum**, from Neil Padbury SSN2262, bell capsicum turning red at maturity; **Long Strain Cocozelle Squash**, SSN1901, long green squash with yellow stripes, vigorous plants; **Tongan Bean**, (AKA Poorman's Bean or Hyacinth Bean), from Mrs A.L. Dunning, through Seed Savers, brown seeds, pods similar to snow peas but larger and firmer, use when young and tender; **Eggplant**, Short Tom Vista, from Rose Marie Lacherez, fruit 18 x 6 cm, dark coloured, productive and tasty.

**MICHAEL PASCALL**, 4 Rankin Rd, Childers, 4660. Kumi-Kumi, Maori pumpkin, from NZ gardener in town, good keeper, rare in Australia, prone to powdery mildew, grown in subtropical climate, sm amt, a.y.r. free to any "Kiwi"; **Sweet Leaf Bush**, *Sauropus androgynus*, as cutting, from Shipard's Herb Farm Nambour, shrub 2-3 m, high-yielding, very nutritious rainforest plant (can grow in sun), harvest Sept-April, very hardy, young leaves eaten raw, older leaves steamed, avail. by the piece, a.y.r. \$4.00; **Yam Bean**, (Jicama), *Pachyrhizus tuberosum*, from Shipard's Nambour, climber, plant spring (needs long hot growing season), harvest winter, use raw in salads, remains crisp when cooked, sm amt, a.y.r., \$1.00; **Galangal**, (greater), *Alpinia galanga*, (Thai name 'Kha', Indonesian name 'Laos'), offered as rhizome, from Maryborough Commission House, fragrant foliage, beautiful flowers, clumping, used in Thai curries, can be dried but best fresh coastal-subtropical climate, avail. by the piece, a.y.r., \$3.00; **Rollinia**, *Rollinia deliciosa*, from Fitzroy Nursery Rockhampton, seedling tree, grown 5 metres in 4 years, harvest May-Sept, pick when turns from green to yellow, eat when black and soft, sm amt, a.y.r., many cultivars available, 20c per seed, 6 for \$1.00; **Thai Slender Eggplant**, *Solanum Melongena serpentinum*, from a local Thai gardener, short shrub, very rare seed, med amt, a.y.r. \$1.00; **White Eggplant**, wild - came up in garden, large shrub, has born fruit for three years, very tough, pick fruit when egg size, sm amt, a.y.r. \$1.00.

**MICHAEL H. ROONEY**, PO Box 5631, Rockhampton Mail Centre, 4702. **Moon & Stars Watermelon**, SSN645, grown in

spring, though I did not get too many to mature, size of a basket ball, very nice to eat; **Iccream Butter Water Melon**, SSN204, grown in late spring/early summer, basketball size, everyone given a taste asked for more, I had a lot more mature than I expected as I have limited water supply.

**PETER B. MORRIS**, 121 Emu St, Longreach, 4730. Tel (076) 582244. **Native Passionfruit** seeds, Mitchell River, Cape York Peninsula, rampant perennial climbing vine, small fruit passionfruit flavour, Longreach, Western Qld, sm amt, a.y.r., SASE.

**WALLY BERGMAN**, 60 Investigator Street, Andergrove, Mackay, 4740. **Small Sweet Red Pepper**, 20mm long, bush to 1 metre; **POLE (CLIMBING) BEANS: Krassner**, from David Murray; **Scotia (Zebra)**, SSN117, **Lohrey's**, SSN077; **Coysh**, SSN089 (a form of Kentucky Wonder); **Epicure**; **BUSH BEANS: Redland Winter; Preston; Goodwins Purple**. **ANNE BRUYERES**, 25 Sycamore St, Pimlico, Townsville, 4812. Tel (077) 752332 a/h. **Pigeon Pea**, pure yellow-flowered form - no other colour or tint on flower, from an old Townsville grower, shrub to tree, flowers twice a year, eat peas raw - they are nicer than the red/yellow-flowered form, med amt, a.y.r.; **Winged Bean**, green, from neighbour in Townsville - I've discovered this was grown in Townsville by old timers since the war, climber, see p. 160 of Handbook for planting/harvesting/usage advice, resistant to bean fly, few pests, grown in dry tropical/coastal climate, med amt, avail from May, postage + 2 x 45c stamps for each sample; **Horseradish Tree**, (AKA Drumstick), *Moringa oleifera*, from a friend, large shrub but can be pruned, plant any time, harvest leaves all year, beans from Mar-July, young beans used cooked (stir fry, curries, steamed), edible flowers and leaves, grated tuber is substitute for horseradish, sm amt, avail Sept-March, large seeds - postage + 2 x 45c stamps for each sample.

**BEN O'SULLIVAN**, 38 Rylie St, El Arish, 4855. **Coconuts**, by the piece, large beach growing variety, 100 now avail; **Chilli**, 1 metre high shrub, never stops bearing one inch long chillis, 200 seeds

now avail; **Lemongrass**, 1 metre high, use in teas, cooking, 100 pieces avail; **Rosella**, 2 m high x 1 m wide shrub, member of Hibiscus family, jam-making, 400+ seeds avail; **Canna**, dwarf, light red, 1 m high, seed sprouts in 2 weeks, 50+ seeds avail; **Thai Guava**, 5 m high, fruit & juice making, fruits in 2 yrs from Xmas to June in tropics, prolific bearer of large yellow pear-like fruit, 100+ seeds avail, please contact me for price.

**JANE LAWRENCE**, PO Box 5420, Cairns Mail Centre, 4870. E-mail: andrewl@acslink.net.au. **Winged Bean**, (AKA Tropical Climbing Bean), from Eden Seeds, vigorous climber, plant during humid weather, harvest approx 3 months later, no problems encountered (as yet!), use raw, stirfried, flowers, young leaves and tuberous root (roasted as spud) all edible, chooks love the green leaves too, grown in humid tropical climate, sm amt; **Luffa**, from Eden Seeds, vigorous climber, plant early summer, harvest approx 2 months later, caterpillars take a liking to young fruits, eat immature fruits in stirfries or raw, leaves and tips edible, mature fruits dry on vine, peel skin off, shake out seeds to reveal back scrubber, 1ge amt; **Italian Non-acid Cucumber**, from Eden Seeds, vigorous climber, don't plant during wet season, harvest after 2-3 months, occasionally get orange beetle eating leaves, use raw or in stirfries, med amt; **Black Beauty Eggplant**, from Eden Seeds, small shrub, plant early spring, long growing season, susceptible to wilt, 1ge amt; **Snake Bean**, from Eden Seeds, vigorous climber, plant early spring, summer, harvest 1-2 months later, occasional borer in bean, sm amt; **Clemsons Spineless Okra**, from Eden Seeds, annual bush to 1.2 m, plant spring, early summer, harvest 2 months later, caterpillars like leaves, med amt. Swap all seeds for other edible plants for humid tropics.

**MARIA BASTEN**, Box 342 Cooktown, 4871. **Chinese Mustard Lettuce**, medium-sized vegie plant, plant and harvest all year up here in the moist tropics, great in sandwiches and salads, can be cooked as spinach, 1ge amt, a.y.r.; **Cassava**, (& **Variogated Cassava**), as cuttings, taller than a person, sometimes straggles over surrounding area, the difference in the two

varieties seems to be mainly in the colour of the leaves (the variegated being pretty, yellow and green), maybe the common one is more vigorous, plant and harvest all year round, fence to protect from animals, has to be peeled within the hour of harvesting from soil otherwise black lines start to grow in the whitish tuber which are a sign of poison, never eat any dark bits, green tips eaten as spinach, avail by the piece, a.y.r.; **Mustard Lettuce**, probably the same as mustard spinach), reseeds readily, eat raw, pungent, or cook as spinach; **Luffa**, sm amt; **Hibica**, a spinach tree from Niugini, green and red variety, mucilaginous (that means slimey!), very good for you though, you can also eat them raw. **FRUIT TREE SEEDS: Brazilian Cherry**, summer; **Jaboticaba**, several times through the year; **Black Sapote**, spring; **Coffee**, winter; **Rollinea**, end of summer; **Yellow Sapote**, **White Sapote**, **Mammey Sapote**, **Durian**, occasionally during summer. All tropical fruit seed would need express mail postage and especially for the last five, peatmoss and alfoil to keep them viable.

**RENE VAN RADERS**, Green Piece Permaculture Garden, Box 389, Malanda, 4885. **SEEDS: Camphor Basil**, very large plant excellent bee forage; **Sacred Basil**, use for tea, delightful aroma; **Mustard Cabbage**, serrated leaf, easy to grow; **Katasuma**, easy to grow, open Japanese cabbage; **Japanese Parsley**, self seeds. ALL \$3 inc. postage. **CUTTINGS: Fruity Sage**; sweet sage, does well in wet conditions, large pink edible flower; **Pineapple Sage**; sweet sage, lots of pretty red edible flowers; **Rungia**; attractive edible New Guinea herb; **Lowland Pit Pit**, tropical summer green; **Lemon Balm**. ALL \$5 inc. postage. Send SASE to get on our mailing list for a large range of other plants.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**M. BREW**, Box 81, Cherryville, 5134. **Tamarillo**, *Cyphomandra betacea* yellow, red, orange; **Casana**, *Cyphomandra casana*; **Highland Papaya**: Siglalon, *Carica stipulata*; Mt. Paw Paw, *C. pubescens*; Toronchi, *C. chrysopetala*; these are cool climate papayas which vary

in quality from tree to tree. All are edible when cooked (tasting like stewed apricots), some nice out of hand. **REQUESTS: Carica monoica**; cuttings or seed of named varieties of Toronchi; Yakon, *Polymnia sonchifolia*; Ulluco, *Ullucus tuberosus*; Mauka, *Mirabilis expansa*.

**ROBIN BLESING**, PO Box 331, Victor Harbor, 5211. **Butternut Pumpkin**, from a friend 10 years ago, runner, grown south coast SA (light frosts), med amt, avail autumn, SASE postage \$1.00; **Butter Bean**, grown in my garden 14 years, dwarf, plant spring, avail. autumn, SASE postage \$1.00; **Queen Anne's Lace**, well established on our "new" farm, tall annual, pops up everywhere, lge amt, avail. autumn, SASE postage 45c.

**GRAEME GELLIGEN**, Magrath Flat Cottage, c/- Post Office, Meningie, 5264. Tel (085) 756 045. **Mammoth Russian Sunflower** *Helianthus annuus*, from Murray Bridge, harvested from a cross section of individuals, sm amt, a.y.r.

**MRS P. CLIFTON**, PO Box 36, Williamstown, 5351. **Stinking Roger**, tall marigold, *Tagetes minuta*, good companion plants for tomato and potato, but a weed in Qld; **Hollyhocks**, mostly single, pink; **Zinnia**, mixed form and colour. I have been saving these from year to year and they are getting better all the time.

**D.S. ROCHOW**, c/o Post Office, RSD 23 Black Hill, 5353. **Apple Cucumber**; Yates seeds, 20 yrs ago, sm amt

**MRS NORMA CLAPP**, PO Box 57, Peterborough, 5422. **Californian Poppy**, *Escholzia californica* single yellow, orange, red or pink, origin Mr Fothergill's Seeds; **Paeony-flowered Poppy**, *Papaver paeoniflorum*, double dark red, Mr Fothergill's; **Flanders Field Poppy**, *P. rhoeas*, single red with black centre, Diggers; **Cottage Poppy**, *P. laciniatum*, double white, Diggers; **Shirley Poppy**, *P. rhoeas*, single pastel shades, Diggers; **Iceland Poppy**, *P. nudicaule*, single mixed colours, Phoenix; all seeds avail from Jan '96, price: stamps to cover postage costs. The following seeds should also be available (write and ask me to save seeds as I mostly let them fall for self-sowing): **Dill**; **Coriander**; **Calendula**, yellow, self sows; **Queen Anne's Lace**, Ammi majus,

good habitat for predator insects; ALL a.y.r.; **Florence Fennel**, good habit for predator insects; **Sunflower**, self sows; **Hollyhock**, single flowers, mixed colours, self sowing.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**LEE HASSAN**, 6 Rodgers Crt, Roleystone, 6111. Tel (09) 3975197. **Snake Bean**, climber; **Tommy Toe Tomato**, Diggers '93, indeterminate, needs staking, sweet red cherry tomato for salads, selected from 5 plants in Feb '94; **Oakleaf Lettuce**, Eden Seeds '93, best planted winter and early spring; pick outer leaves as req. for salads, harvested from 3 plants in Feb. '94; **Cos Verdi Lettuce**, Eden seeds '92, plant in winter & early spring; harvested from 5 plants in Jan '94; **Italian Lettuce**, grows well when planted in spring, less bitter than other lettuces in summer, i.e. more drought resistant, harvested from 4 plants in Mar '94; **Coral Pea Flower**, *Kennedia coccinea*; grown in our garden from wild, sow in spring; ground cover and twiner; drought-resistant, it adds nitrogen to soil in orchard, attractive native plant; harvested from 2 plants in Mar '94; **Paste Tomatoes**, one bell pepper-shaped with orange streaks, the other a pink beefsteak-shaped tomato, Diggers - packet of mixed paste tomatoes, staking type, plant Aug. to Sept., harvest Dec. to Feb., reasonably drought resistant, use as paste tomato, also suitable for drying in dehydrator or eating raw, grown in hills area of Perth - hot, dry summer, cool to mild wet winter, sm amt; ALL a.y.r.

**STU BUSS**, 291 Surrey Rd, Kewdale, 6105. Tel (09) 3617880. **New Guinea Gourd**, SSN029, climber, grows vigorously but produces very few fruit, mediterranean climate (hot, dry summer, cool, wet winter), avail. spring; **Blue Hubbard Squash**, Seed Savers, grows slowly but produces large fruit, avail. spring; **Shahtoot (White) Mulberry**, as cuttings, very prolific and vigorous. 2 x 45c stamps for seed, \$2.00 for cuttings.

**NIRALA HUNT**, 18 Railway Pde, Yarloop, 6218. **Jarrahdale Pumpkin**; **Moonflower**; **Watercress**; **Fordhook Silverbeet**; **Hollow Crown Parsnip**; **Golden Jubilee Tomato**, orange, acid-

free; **Perennial Leek**; **Russian Giant Sunflower**; a variety of **Herbs** and **Tree** seeds.

**C. HAMENCE**, 97 Roe St, Bridgetown, 6255. **Balm of Gilead**, Donnybrook, W.A., herb to 1.5m; **Dwarf Scabiosa**; **Hardenbergia violacea**, 'Alba'; **Wallflower**; **Golden Butter Squash**; **Sweet Pea**; **Tobacco**; **Nigella**; **Tall Pink Hollyhock**; **Curled Parsley**; **Catnip**; **Pandorea pandorana**; **Acacia iteaphylla**; **Bronze Fennel**; **Festuca glauca**. I also have heaps of plants that can be divided up, mainly herbs and cottage type plants, if people would like to ring me if they are in the area.

**LORNA FREEGARD**, RMB 9807, King River, Albany, 6330. Tel (098) 443244. **Chilacayote**, perennial, pumpkin-type vine, a must in any zucchini-using household, SSN827, beware - very rampant grower given adequate water and moderate shelter, plant spring, still harvesting in winter - keeps producing even when mature fruit set, mildew tolerant, use as zucchini replacement, immature squash, grown southern tip of WA, 1ge amt, a.y.r.; **Scotia Climbing Bean**, SSN1144, plant spring, harvest all summer, very high yield, no disease, will out-perform any bean you've probably tried, fat pencil-type pods, good flavour, very decorative seeds, use as lovely fat green beans, 1ge amt, a.y.r.; **Poor Mans Bean**, (Hyacinth Bean), Mark Collinson SSN024, climbing perennial, plant spring, harvest summer, got redmite but still produced lots of pods, green bean, flat, very broad pods, seeds pretty and unusual - black with flashy white strip, 1ge amt, a.y.r.; **Madagascar Bean**, Mark Collinson SSN270, perennial climber, plant spring, harvest summer, did not get disease this year (first year I've grown it), very broad, flat pods, seeds very pretty and unusual - mauve and white flecks, sm amt, a.y.r. as stocks last; **Scarlet Runner Bean**, from a friend, perennial climber, plant spring in warm soil, harvest all summer as long as no pods are allowed to set, very good flavour, red flowers, use as green beans, 1ge amt, a.y.r.; **Giant Russian Sunflower**, Diggers Club, plant spring, harvest end summer/autumn, no disease, very tall with large heads, use for chook food, ornamental (florists love them!) or green manure, 1ge amt, a.y.r.; **Tavagzi Piros Radish**,

SSN592A, grows like a mushroom, reaches cricket ball size in no time! plant any time here, 1ge amt, a.y.r.; **Oakleaf Lettuce**, from friend, non-heating, plant all year here, pick outside leaves as they are required, sm amt, a.y.r.; send stamps for all the above. REQUESTS: Oca, *Oxalis tuberosa*; Large Potato Onions; Armenian Cucumber; Black Russian Tomato; Sherry's Sweet Italian Tomato.

**PENNY COULSON**, PO Box 715, Busselton, 6280. **Giant Stuttgart Pole Bean**; **Western Red Carrot**; **Red Heart Radish**, oriental; **Callan Sweetcorn**; **Green Gem Cucumber**; **Kiwano**, African Horned Cucumber; **Tree Lettuce**; **Chinese Lettuce**; **Bronze Tipped Romaine Lettuce**; **Green Cos Lettuce**; **Hollow Crown Parsnip**; **Butternut Pumpkin**; **Jarrahdale Pumpkin**; **Chinese Pumpkin**, very long vine with very sweet fruit; **Sweet Granite Rockmelon**; **Green Nutmeg Rockmelon**, short season, green-fleshed; **Chilacayote**, winter melon; **Citron Melon**, for jam; **Shungiku**, edible chrysanthemum; **Rainbow Chard**, mixed coloured Silver Beet; **New Zealand Spinach**; **Grosse Lisse Tomato**; **Latvian Tomato**; **Sherry's Sweet Italian Tomato**; **Peach Tomato**; **Golden Jubilee Tomato**, very large, dense flesh, yellow to orange fruit; **Yugoslav Tomato**, very large, pink & pear-shaped; **Black Zucchini**, dark green skin. For seeds listed here send what is recommended in the guidelines with SASE. Penny runs Bay Seed Garden which produces traditional non-hybrid organic seed and will send a 95/96 catalogue to anyone sending a long stamped self-addressed envelope and two 45c stamps as well.

**PATRICIA WILLIAMS**, 29/30 Kooyong Ave, Albany, 6330. **Vi-vegeta**, grows like Silver Beet, grows well, very tasty, use in salads or steamed; **Green Gem Cucumber**, mildew resistant; **Luffa**, vigorously growing vine, eat when young in stir-fries, or allow to mature and when still green, remove skin, flesh and shake out seeds, use as dish or body cloths; all these are summer vegetables, all in 1ge amts.

**ROD & MARION MACDOUGALL**, RMB 1328, Denmark, 6333. Tel (098) 409293. **Capulin Cherry**; **"Oriental"**

**Chestnut**, avail. April - July; **White Sapote**, *Casimiroa edulis*; **Stone Pine**, *Pinus pinea*.

**JULIE FIRTH**, Lot 12 David Road, Waggrakine, Geraldton. Tel (099) 381 628. Listings from previous years are still available, as well as: SEEDS - Price SASE and 2x45c stamps: **Mexican Oregano**, *Lippia graveolens*, excellent oregano substitute, 2m bush, seed; **Celtuce** *Lactuca sativa* Angustana Group, eat stem when 30 cm long, peel skin to remove bitterness; **Black Russian Tomato**, chocolate-coloured; **Creeping Saltbush**, *Atriplex semi-baccatum*, good ground cover, sweet tiny fruits; **Clove Basil**, *Ocimum gratissimum*, 1.5m high, clove substitute, perennial; **Egyptian Carrot**, *Daucus carota*, pink-skinned, yellow flesh; **Woolly Vetch**, *Coronilla* spp, climbing vetch; **Chinese Celery**, *Apium graveolens* var *dulce*, fast growing, stringless; **Thai Coriander**, *Eryngium foetidum*, unusual slightly prickly leaf; **Laos Tiger Stripe Eggplant**, *Solanum melongena*, use when green, no processing required, 30mm dia. fruit; **Hunter Valley Lucerne**, *Medicago sativa* cv *Hunter Valley*, perennial lucerne, excellent chicken food; CUTTINGS - Price SASE with extra postage and 5 to 7 x 45c stamps: **Bunching Perennial Leek**, *Allium ampeloprasum*, harvest mother leek and divide or leave others to mature, divisions; **Purple-leaved Sweet Potato**, *Ipomea batatas*, white flesh, brown skin, very heat tolerant; **Pepino**, *Solanum muricatum*, soft pear/melon like fruit. I have a seed catalogue available for \$2.50. REQUEST: Scions or buds from special varieties of olive.

**BIOTEKNOMADIC R & D**, PO Box 1, Wittenoom, 6752. Tel (091) 897068. **Native Lemongrass**, (citronella grass), perennial clumping grass to 60 cm (+ flower), *Cymbopogon bombycinus*, from the wild, WA, drought-resistant, use for herb tea, potpourri, to extract citronella oil, grown in arid to wet tropics, 1ge amt avail as seed, a.y.r. 3 x 45c stamps; **Native Celery**, annual herb to 1 m, *Trachymene oleracea*, from the wild, Wittenoom, plant autumn to winter, so far, successful germination in cultivation has only occurred by accident (by neglect), feedback is welcome, harvest 3 months, drought

resistant, leaves and stalks used as for celery, sm amt, avail. August onwards, 7 x 45c stamps, rare seed; **Native Borage**, annual herb to 1 m, *Trichodesma zeylanicum*, from Wittenoom, plant autumn to winter, harvest four months, drought resistant, use flowers in salad as for borage, sm amt, a.y.r., 3 x 45c stamps; **Purple Mulla Mulla**, annual herb to 60 cm, *Ptilotus exaltatus*, from Wittenoom, plant autumn to winter, drought resistant, useful for revegetation, flower arrangements, aroma, lge amt, a.y.r., sample 3 x 45c stamps OR \$80 per kilo; **Velvet Bean**, from Green Harvest, monstrous vine, annual to 6 m, plant year round (tropics), harvest 6 months, young pods eaten cooked, special treatment required for mature beans, cover crop, shade, sm amt, a.y.r., 3 x 45c stamps; **Bush Potato**, *Operculina brownii*, from Pilbara, WA, annual twiner to 3 m, seed needs scarification in boiling water, drought resistant, tubers eaten like potatoes, seeds eaten young like peas, sm amt avail as seed, a.y.r., 3 x 45c stamps; **Wild Passionfruit**, *Passiflora foetida*, from Wittenoom, vine to 6 m, winter deciduous, plant year round, drought and heat resistant, fruit eaten when yellow (don't eat skin), good chook fodder, windbreak/shade, sm amt, a.y.r., 2 x 45c stamps; **Mexican Rose**, from Wittenoom, vine, winter deciduous, plant year round, extremely heat and drought resistant, will happily grow on hot tin roof in temps over 46°C seeds good chook food, shade plant, sm amt, a.y.r., 3 x 45c stamps; **Boab**, tree, *Adansonia gregorii*, from Derby WA, seed needs soaking, plant when soil warm, drought resistant, pithy parts of fruit eaten like sherbet, drink made from the sap, leaves eaten as a vegetable, produces fibre, grown in semi-arid tropics, sm amt, a.y.r., 3 x 45c stamps; **Sesbania cannabina**, annual/biannual tree to 1.5 m, from Wittenoom, plant year round, windbreak, nurse tree, vine trellis, will grow in hard claypan soils, drought resistant, lge amt, a.y.r., 2 x 45c stamps for a sample OR \$100 per kilo; **Pygmy Lima Bean**, white, from Carnarvon WA, perennial climber to 4 m, plant year round, harvest every two months, drought resistant, good windbreak for hot dry winds, sm amt, a.y.r., 3 x 45c stamps.

## TASMANIA

**JAYNE DIFLO**, PO Box 26, Franklin, 7113. **Beetroot**, *cylindrica*, from Yates Seed '85, grown southern Tas, 350 m above sea level, med amt, a.y.r.; **Radish**, round red, been in family for over 30 years, lge amt, a.y.r.; **Rainbow Chard**, Phoenix Seeds '91, mixture of pink, cream, yellow and red stems - all avail. individually, med amt, a.y.r. guideline pricing plus SASE.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

**ANN WELLARD**, PO Box 40001, Casuarina (Darwin), 0811. **Ceylon Spinach**, *Basella alba*, green and red stem vars, SSN2442 (green) *B. rubra* SSN2443 (red), grows as vigorous climber here in Darwin, use raw as salad etc. or stir-fries, needs very little cooking, sm amt; **Peruvian Bush Tomato**, cherry-sized, SSN870A, in Darwin has vine-like growth, sm amt.

### PATENT PROBLEMS

We must be aware of the stranglehold over the ownership of plant genes that the PBR Act gives to holders of plant patents. If you do buy a packet of seed that is PBR protected then technically it is not legal to offer subsequent seeds that you gather for sale. You can tell if a seed is patented in Australia as the packet has a small insignia with PBR protected on it.

### INDIGENOUS SEED BANK

Janet Wild sent us an article about an indigenous seed bank in South Gippsland. The description made us drool and we have been fantasizing ever since about having such facilities for food plants that the public are caretaking: "The seed bank includes an extraction shed and igloo, a walk-in coolroom for storage of cleaned seed and various equipment used for collection, drying and extraction of seed. Anyone can use these facilities. Deposits are recorded on cards; swapping and selling are also possible."

## requests

*Please write directly to these people if you can help them out.*

**WIKITORIA**, Bangalay, Mafeking Rd, Gooengenerry, 2480. Dryland Rice and Rye from the south island of N.Z.; also feedback on Starbonnet Rice if anyone has grown it. **HELENE MORTREUX**, PO Box 900, Byron Bay, 2481. Green lentils: a vegetable I know from France that is used dry but doesn't need soaking, and cooks very quickly.

**KLAAS BERKELEY**, c/- Seed Savers, Box 975, Byron Bay 2481. *Citrus grandiosa*, a round fruit, larger than a grapefruit with dark lime green-coloured skin and paler lime green deliciously sweet flesh. The segments are deep with only a few pips. I discovered this fruit on my first visit to Vanuatu in 1982. Michel told me recently that it was introduced there by Captain Cook who savoured its delights in Borneo. I have never been able to buy it here. I wonder if someone out there in "Seed Land" would have seeds of this wonderful citrus? **DR A.K. TEBECIS**, 65 Finnis Cres. Narrabundah, 2604. Tel (06) 2576476, Fax (06) 2576143. Perennial Sweet Pea.

**KEN MUFFET**, 16 Gilda Avenue, Penrith, 2750. Burwood Prize Tomato, cauliflower with dark green glazed leaves - both these were good old vegetables that my dad used to grow in Goulburn over 60 years ago.

**ETSUKOIWATA**, PO Box 177, Blaxland, 2774. I am trying to locate Mangosteen seeds or cuttings; they are an incredibly sweet white-fleshed tropical fruit.

**C. BLAYNEY**, Sundarra, Pine Hill Drive, Beni 2830. Poppy seeds *Papaver somniferum*. **MRS A. LANGFIELD**, "Myall Park", New Grenfell Rd, Forbes, 2871. Single Wallflowers, old-fashioned with strong perfume.

**BERTA BUTLER**, Box 23, Bruce Rock, 6418. Seeds or tubers of *Nasturtium tuberosum*, also known as Mashua; my interest in this plant is from an article in New Idea magazine of 3/6/95. Also any information on the Hami Melon and a few spare seeds of the latest varieties of Potkins please.

**STEFANO VECCHI**, 9/72 Plowman Street, Bondi North, 2026. Seeds of Ayurvedic herbs such as *Gymnema silvestris*, *Adathoa vasica*, *Picrorrhiza kurroa*, *Withania somnifera*.

**SOPHIA DONOVAN**, PO Box 1285, Taree, 2430. Different hops varieties.

## GARDEN VISITS

*This scheme focuses on food gardens including home orchards, market gardens, backyard farms and Permaculture systems. These visits should be of benefit to both parties. The hosts are able to show their great works and sell, swap and give away some excess planting material and products. The guest learns more about gardens.*

Even if distance prohibits us from visiting, everyone likes to read about what others are doing in their gardens. If you would like to add your name to the list, fill out the form at the back of this issue.

For the visitors: Gardens attract a lovely type of person. In our experience 99.9 per cent of garden visitors have been very considerate. Nevertheless, we feel a responsibility to our generous gardeners who open their lives to others. So we have a few common sense guidelines.

- Enquire about dos and don'ts
- Refrain from picking cuttings, fruit, etc., as some gardeners supplement their income with sales.
- Keep to the paths and generally it is a good idea to follow your host as there may be areas of the garden that are not to be walked upon.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU PHONE OR WRITE BEFORE YOU VISIT. NO DROPPING IN!**

### NSW

**Salli Ramsden, 57 Cobah Rd, Arcadia, 2159.** Permaculture gardens. Teacher of workshops on how to teach Permaculture to children. From June next year I will be travelling so I will have a glut of plants especially comfrey in autumn.

**Peter Morgan, Lot 4 Bunyah Rd, Firefly, 2429.** Tel (065) 591779. Gardener on a 12 acre farm, special interest in permaculture; visit any time but ring first, lots of stuff avail. for nix for permaculture establishment.

**Holy Goat Ranch, Rosebank, 2480.** Tel (066) 895 344, best 4-7pm. Twenty three acres, established in 1981. Rainforest regeneration, orchards, gardens, energy-efficient housing (mudbrick, sawdust-sand-cement, solar, pedal-powered blender, composting toilets), spring water, rockwalls, goats, horses, chickens, three adults and two children and much more! One of the largest established Permaculture farms. We have more than 200 different types of fruit trees in our orchard (mostly sub-tropical) and have used about 500 species for reforestation. For four years now we have been involved in Ecotourism offering guided tours (duration 1-4 hours, small fee charged, possible barter for seeds, cuttings, etc.)

**David Murray, 7 Acacia Avenue, Gwynneville, 2500.** Tel (042) 292 171. As suburban blocks go, this is a large one: 60 metres long. The yard descends a gentle slope, and backs onto a public reserve that forms a crucial link in the Keira Green

Corridor from Mt Keira to the sea. The birds are appreciative and two tawny frogmouths have recently taken up residence. There were no vegetable gardens here until I dug some sixteen years ago, and more than 20 extra trees have been grown from seed and planted. I mainly grow peas through winter, then beans through summer. Both garden beds and pots are used to maintain up to 20 different varieties per season, mostly for seed saving and distribution. The beds are replenished with compost and wood ash generated on site, and powdered sulfur is the only pesticide employed. I have no difficulty alternating peas and beans in the same beds year after year and producing disease-free plants and seed. Also grown according to season are onions, garlic, potatoes, kitchen herbs, passion fruit, iris (tall bearded) and tomatoes. Please phone or write first.

**Bev Stewart, 88 Tichborne Crescent, Wagga Wagga, 2650.** Tel (069) 225 614. Growing vegies in backyard for 25 years, now also growing herbs; suburban block; redesigning garden to grow a wide variety in small plots/taking over lawn; preferably weekdays; spring/summer; plants, seeds, cuttings for sale or swap.

**Kieran and Julie O'Keefe, Columbine Cottage, 28 Carrathool Street, Griffith, 2680.** Tel (069) 642 337. Agriculture teacher, propagating cottage garden plants, large back yard nursery, range of edible and medicinal herbs and old-fashioned plants; visit weekends or phone for week

days; potted plants from \$1.50, vegie seedlings \$1, fresh cut herbs during spring and summer.

**Ann Bartlett, 42 Charles St, Wellington, 2820.** Three acres; just an ordinary garden with trees, shrubs, flowers, vegies, herbs, fruit, bulbs; any time; plants, cuttings, seeds, vegies for sale.

### VIC

**Stephen Onians, 12 Lindon Strike Crt, Research, 3095.** Tel (03) 94 37 03 32. One acre in town; my interests are in plant biology, heirloom vegetables, waterfowl; vegetables, berries, Chinese Geese, Welsh Harlequin Ducks; visit weekends and weekdays between October and April; vegetable seeds, berry cuttings and livestock for sale.

**Bruce Muir, 52 Liston Street, Burwood, 3125.** Tel (03) 809 1153. Trained in botany, horticulture by doing it; 80 square yds; in town; many things crammed into a small space, organically; weekdays by preference; spring to autumn best; a few items for sale or give away.

**Mary Michaux, 8 Allambi St, Ashwood, 3147.** Tel (03) 807 9282. Small town flower garden; visit on weekdays; cuttings and seeds for sale.

**Margaret Panter, 7 Butterworth Street, Castlemaine, 3450.** Tel (054) 705 072. Growing food organically and cheaply; saving seeds; growing herbs for sale; medium-sized vegie garden on 1/4 acre town block (very weedy and untidy); vegie

*Garden Visits (continued)*

and herb seeds and cuttings for sale or swap, potted herbs and native plants for sale.

**Judy Harris & Paul Kennedy, RMB 3064, Eganstown, 3461.** Tel (053) 482354.

20 ac in a bush setting, growing herbs and vegetables organically; visit any time by arrangement; will swap, sell seeds & cuttings.

**Neil Padbury, RMB 6471, Wodonga, 3691.** Tel: (060) 271 824. Ex-primary

teacher; permaculture, organic growing; 100 acres, 1-2 acres of garden; genetic diversity rare and unusual plants, rare and old farm animals: sheep, goats (cashmere and milkers), cattle, free-range pigs used for weed control; carnivorous plants, bonsai, native plants; seed produced for sale to small seed companies; alternative energy (solar and hydroelectricity); hills, scenery, bush, skiing at Mt Hotham and Mt Buffalo; traditional pioneer crafts and skills; visitors welcome any time but more interesting in summer and autumn; produce for sale when in stock: livestock, seeds plants, berries, fruit trees and rootstocks, bonsai and prebonsai.

**Graeme George, "Blackwood", Deering Avenue, Healesville, 3777.** Tel (059) 625 070. Bushland setting; 2 acres of gardens; heritage vegetables and fruit; big on berries and trellises; sells organic vegetables, flowers, fruit and potted plants.

**Betty Singh, Dykes Rd, Dollar, Via Mirboo Nth, 3871.** Tel (056) 646 559.

Permaculture-oriented, rambling; by phone arrangement, no limit on time; plants, cuttings, vegies, seeds sometimes available.

## QLD

**Garry Reed PO Box 817, Indooroopilly, 4068.** Tel (07) 8781573. Quarter acre block

at head of ferny gully in Brisbane. Organic/Permaculture garden with native and exotic fruit and vegetables, plants for flowers, timber, fragrance, some rare and threatened species. Backyard nursery, bees, scrub turkey and frogs amongst others. Plants for exchange, barter, LETS or sale.

**Barry Waters, 16 Geissmann Street, North Tamborine, 4272.** Tel (075) 453 380. One third of an acre in town; shrubs,

flowers, vegetables; visit any day but Sunday; planting material for swap.

**Dawa Lhamo, c/- P.O. Blackbutt, 4306.**

PLEASE send a SASE when you write. 35 acres, totally organic, agroforestry, herb and flower farm; one of the first growers involved in new floriculture group; visits any time during spring and autumn.

**Frances & Lou Gonano, Neill Rd, Peachester, 4519.** Tel (074) 949817. Ex-

townies, been 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years on 20 acres, aiming at a permaculture lifestyle; three acres of orchard with 70 varieties of fruits, some rare, and a range of ground covers, mulch, windbreak and wildlife plants; always on lookout to exchange seeds, plants & ideas; any time by prior arrangement, tel a/h best.

**Derrick & Isabell Shipard, Shipard's Herb Farm, Box 66, Nambour, 4560.**

Tel (074) 411101. Specialises in a large range of plants and seed varieties (over 900); the farm is open Tues, Wed and Fri 1.30-5pm and Thurs 9am-12. Also, free farm walks will be held on Sat Aug 26th, 9.30am sharp; Sat Sep 2nd, 2.30pm sharp; and Sun Sep 3rd, 2.30pm sharp, they will run approx 2 hours and give an opportunity to see a wide range of useful plants and gardening methods etc., if it rains bring a raincoat. Many plants and seeds for sale. Herb and Useful Plant Courses run on some weekends in Sep and Oct.

**Michael Pascall, 4 Rankin Rd, Childers, 4660.** Tel (071) 261151. Quarter acre at

the edge of sugar cane in a small historical town on the Bruce Hwy; my interest is in Mexican/Sth American fruit and vegetables and other plants; visitors welcome any time; plants, seeds etc. available for sale.

**Wally Bergman, 60 Investigator Street, Andergrove, Mackay, 4740.** Tel (079) 552007. Anyone would be welcome to

look at my garden to see my collection of sweet potatoes. I have them planted twelve months of the year so I would always have something to show. Beans are in May, June and July. Please phone for a visit first.

**Leigh Brown, Devereaux Ck Rd, Marian, near Mackay, 4753.** Tel (079) 591 367. Registered Dexter cattle stud;

interests: Permaculture, tropical fruits; 500 sq m; 13 acre small holding; exotic fruit trees, white sapote, guavas, soursop, tamarind, Barbados cherries, paw-paws; a full time mother of four - visitors welcome any day, May - Oct best; plants etc. for sale, give away or swap.

**Anne Bruyeres, 25 Sycamore St, Pimlico, 4812.** Tel (077) 752332 (early am/pm).

Two properties: one town block; one 5 acre block via Paluma; my interest is in permaculture, organics, herbs, tropical fruit trees etc.; visits by appointment, weekends and weekdays OK, any season, plants etc. available for sale or LETS, swap or labour.

**Rene Van Raders, Green Piece Permaculture Garden, Lot 3 Watchman Rd, off Anderson Rd, Malanda, 4885.**

Tel (070) 965138. Rare fruit/vegies, permaculture design, native fruits; 1 ha rural residential; any time with prior notice; plants etc. for sale.

## S.A.

**Kate Flint & family, 99 Mt Osmond Rd, Mt Osmond, Adelaide, 5064.** Tel (08) 3791157. 3/4 acre semi-rural organic food,

flower and herb garden, using steep slopes, still developing; located on the edge of the Adelaide Hills; vegies, natives, bulbs, bird-attracting areas, windy, European, good views; visitors welcome any time during the week, all seasons, always something to see; preserves and cakes also on hand.

**Robin Blessing, PO Box 331, Victor Harbor, 5211.** Tel (085) 588205. After 26 years of hit and miss, I have recently acquired a large dairy farm, wildlife habitat, which I'm still redeveloping, visitors are welcome Sundays and weekdays 10am-3pm, any season, appointments only please! Some plants for sale.

**Graham Mason, 5 Turnbull Tce, Glossop, 5344.** Tel (085) 832 215. Rare, unusual and variegated plants and bulbs, fruits and berries, subtropicals, grafted plants; 1/4 acre block; all seasons; many seeds, bulbs and cuttings.

**David Rochow, RSD 23, Black Hill via Angaston, 5353.** I do most of my watering



2 \*

*Garden Visits (continued)*

using a pumping system operated by the wind, in fact I am caught up in wind energy research and I have devised a new design of power blade which can be used for pumping water and for generating electricity.

**Norma Clapp Box 57, Peterborough, 5422.** Tel (086) 512 072. Home gardener and also enters flowers in the local spring shows; small house yard, approx 14 kms from town; naturally grown herbs, vegetables, flowers so it all changes with the seasons; visit any time though winter is the least interesting; maybe some planting material for sale.

**W.A.**

**Nirala Hunt and Garbha Lette, 18 Railway Parade, Yarloop, 6218.** Tel (097) 335 452. Three and a half acres include over one acre of ponds and islands. Green all year. Permaculture / organic gardeners with experience in coastal rehabilitation. Over two hundred herb species plus bamboos, willows, and other water loving plants. Potted plants seeds and cutting material always available. Visit by arrangement any time.

**Cheryl Hamence, 97 Roe Street, Bridge-town, 6255.** Tel (097) 612 001. Organic gardening, bush regeneration; one quarter acre; any time, I can also take people to areas close by that are being regenerated, and to see the new native seed orchard that the local environment centre has set up; some planting material for sale and give away.

**Penny and Peter Coulson, 81 Dorset Street, Busselton, 6280.** Tel (097) 522 513 evenings best, after 6pm winter and 7.30pm summer. Home gardeners, seed savers for 15 years; permaculture and organics; quarter of a hectare and another suburban garden in a country town; live and work on site; Peter runs Traditional Seeds, a native seed supply, and Penny runs Bay Seed Gardens which has seeds of vegetables, herbs, flowers, some grains and soil conditioners.

**Marion & Rod Macdougall, RMB 1328, Denmark, 6333.** Tel (098) 409 293. Orchard, nursery, cattle, organic - self sufficient; visit any time, phone to confirm; exotic fruit, trees & seeds.

**Julie Firth, Lot 12 David Road, Waggrakine, Geraldton, 6530.** Tel (099) 38 1628. Dryland Permaculture Research Institute. Large collection of useful plants.

**Stephan Guiraud-Bianchini, PO Box 200, Wundowie, 6560.** Tel (09) 573 6251. Companion planting and permaculture. 46 acres. Will share whatever I can.

**Bioteknomadic R & D, 21 First Ave, Wittenoom, 6752.** Tel (091) 897068 qtr ac garden expanding in "ghost town", arid tropics research model, teaching Permaculture, water harvesting, aquaculture. Backpackers Hostel, Karajini National Park (Hammersley Ranges), 2 day Gorge Treks. Visit any time Mar-Oct best. Bush food seeds & some drought hardy veg seeds for sale.

# Subscriptions, Supporters, Orders

**Subscriptions:**

One year	(newsletter offerers \$10)	\$ 20
Two years		\$ 35
Business (your trade name, & address are in the newsletter for 2 years)		\$ 100
Life		\$ 300

**Supporters:**

Foster a Vegie (to upgrade information files on Seed Savers' vegies)	\$3 each
Foundation	\$1000
Patron	\$3000

**Orders:**

The Seed Savers' Handbook (see small box below)	\$ 23
The Seed Savers' Education Kit	\$ 60

PLEASE FILL IN THE BOXES AND LINES

For current subscribers: Subscriber No. S

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Experience/Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT AMOUNT IN DOLLARS**

**Subscription** \_\_\_\_\_ \$

**Supporter** (give details) \_\_\_\_\_ \$

Seed Savers' Handbook  copies @ \$23 ea \$

Education Kit  @ \$60 ea \$

International orders please add 30% TOTAL \$

**TICK METHOD OF PAYMENT**

cash  cheque  money order  card - give details:

No

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please send coupon and payment to:

**The Seed Savers' Network**  
**PO Box 975 Byron Bay NSW 2481 Australia**

**The Seed Savers' Handbook** 180 pages, B&W fine illustrations. How to save seeds for 117 vegetables, culinary herbs and edible flowers. Gives cultivation notes, usage and lists of varieties for each plant. Offer it for Christmas, to Mum, Dad, for birthdays, etc.

**The Seed Savers' Education Kit** Soon to be off the press ... For years 5 to 10. Contains lesson notes, student booklet, packets of seeds, wall map showing the origins of plants, and a copy of the Handbook. \$60. See Order Form above.

## SEED BANK NEWS

*Thank you for such an enthusiastic response to the task of preserving our legacy of cultivated food plants. It is heartening and gratifying that so many care. Many happy returns to you all – Jude and Deirdre.*

### ACCESSION NUMBERS

Since July 1988 we have been assigning an accession number to each variety as it comes in. The Seed Savers numbers therefore indicate the chronological order of a variety's arrival at Seed Savers. Sometimes a volunteer has given a new number to a batch of seeds even if that variety has been given a number previously. This is most likely to happen when seed is sent back with a different name and without its accession number. That is how we ended up with some varieties having more than one number. The most extreme example of this is the Brown Romaine Lettuce, which is very hardy and popular right across Australia and its numbers 189, 239, 318, 436, and 444. For several years now we have assigned a letter to add to the number of a variety that is returned. So we have 239A right up to 239J.

### SYNONYMS

You are always going to get synonyms, or alternative names for the same variety. The Brown Romaine has also been called Brown Lettuce and Brown-tipped Romaine. This is because of different growers' descriptions. Seed companies also sometimes assign different names. We are now refining our database to check on this doubling up, so do let us know if you observe that plants with different names are actually the very same variety. An example is Graeme George in Healesville who has found that Jack Wilkinson Curly, Gold Rush, Mrs Higgins and Sidepick Lettuce are all the same.

### QUARANTINE COSTS

The proprietor of a seed company told us of how difficult it is for importing some planting material and how easy for others. He said it cost \$640 to import one variety of pea from Canada and \$1000 for one Kumara (sweet potato) from New Zealand. \$450 is the minimum amount for a variety to be grown out at a quarantine station. At that same time he found that tomatoes needed no treatment and pumpkin, squash and melons were allowed in fairly easily. However the regulations regarding restrictions do change from time to time.

### ACCLIMATISING COMMERCIAL SEED

As a result of this investment expense, we request that from next year before you offer seeds from commercial varieties they be gathered for at least two years. Acclimatising a variety to your garden conditions for a few generations makes good sense any how as it needs this time to adapt. You too need time to recognise its characteristics. So if you are growing from commercial stock this spring, do regenerate for a couple of years before you offer. JF

### HOW TO ACCESS NETWORK SEED

I have received letters from newer subscribers requesting clarification about accessing seed from the Network. Firstly you should scan the Permaculture Exchange in the Spring Newsletter to see if subscribers are offering your sought-after variety. If unavailable there then you may send a written request of the Seed Bank with a long SASE, with these rates of return postage:

45c postage for small seeds (lettuce, tomatoes, etc)

75c postage for light bulky seeds ( peas, spinach etc )

90c postage for heavy bulky seeds ( beans, corn etc )

If your request is not available from the Seed Bank at the time, you may have your request printed in the following newsletter at no cost, or you could request again of the Bank at a later date as varieties are consistently being "deposited and withdrawn". With requests received by you from the Seed Bank we ask that when you have a successful crop, your surplus be returned to the Network for continued dissemination.

Jude and Michel steer this good ship Seed Savers with the maxim "Many gardens, many baskets" as a rudder. Your activities, contributions, and newsletter offers ensure in-ground (in situ) conservation of this bio-diversity as well as securing the whole-food chain for ourselves and future generations.

### SEED BANK ACTIVITY IN AUTUMN

Through the Autumn Bulletin we will continue to offer varieties that are in plentiful supply in the seed bank, varieties that need further regeneration and multiplication, as well as to request of you samples of varieties which have passed through the Network but are not in-house at the time.

### INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Any observations, information, and seed stories are always greatly valued in our endeavour to build up a database for reference and research purposes. Information dissemination is equally important to seed dissemination, for the preservation of what remains of our plant heritage. Congratulations to all for the part you are playing. Appreciated also would be information about what sort of area you are in (e.g., coast, mountains, inland plains), the conditions at the time (drought, mild winter, wet times, frosts, etc.) times of planting and harvesting and incidence of pests/diseases. Provision of this information will help us to locate say a tomato that suits a particular climate, altitude and soil. Equally importantly, do let us know about failures.

You can feel justifiably proud of being part of the solution and not of the problem.

DK

## Drought Hardy Vegetables

*Deirdre has collated this information from growers' reports on what species and varieties have performed well in the extended drought that much of Australia is experiencing. Beans and other pulses seem to top the lists for most people:*

**Poorman's** (or **Hyacinth, Tongan, Dolichos**) Beans SSN2685 grow as vigorously as a choko vine and perennialize in all but the coolest climates. They give continuous crops of a bean that can be eaten at the same stage as you do a snow pea, or at shelled green bean stage. **Tepary Beans** *Phaseolus acutifolius* (offered in the exchange) a twining bean that Herklots describes in his "Vegetables in South-East Asia" (Allen & Unwin, 1972) as "the most drought-resistant bean of the genus [*Phaseolus*]" and as a "substitute for other beans in the very hot, more or less arid lands of Sonora and Arizona because of its heat tolerance, partial tolerance of soil alkalinity and minimal demands of water." **Snake Beans** (Bush SSN2752, Climbing SSN030, & 2713: "Katsang Panjang") and **Zebra Beans** (a variety of French bean) SSN114E are also very hardy. **Pigeon Pea** SSN2132 & SSN 2373 is a bush that grows to three metres and can last several years. The beans are eaten green-shelled and dry-shelled and they have high nutritional value. **Cow Peas** are usually known as a green manure crop for the dry times, but there are edible varieties, such as **Black-eyed Susan** SSN 2132, which also gives greens (see below), and **O'Odham** SSN893D – an Arizonan Indian variety.

For small farmers having trouble keeping animals fed, it would be worthwhile considering growing pulses to supplement the diet with vegetable proteins. Middle Eastern crops such as tick beans (a form of broad bean), chick peas, borlotti beans and lima beans are adapted to low rainfall.

Amongst the greens, **Amaranthus** SSN2199, **New Zealand Spinach** SSN 289B, **Orach (Red** SSN1129B & **Green** SSN1213C) and **Malu Khia**, or **Egyptian Spinach** SSN1551E – see article page 4 – seemed to do the best; **Italian Lettuce** SSN1449D and the old Seed Savers favourite, **Brown Romaine** SSN318CA held their own with little water.

Of Seed Savers tomatoes, **Budiar** and **Peruvian Cherry** SSN870B proved drought-resistant.

**Luffa** SSN065B and **Chilacayote** SSN827 survived hot and dry weather really well. One lady wrote saying her grandmother's pale pink climbing rose, Dorothy Perkins, was the last of the survivors in her drought-stricken garden.

### SEED AID OFFER

Of the vegetables above, those that have a SSN number are available in the seed bank to drought-affected growers until we run out. If you are feeling the effects of the drought such as losing seed stock or needing drought-hardy varieties, write to tell us of your situation. Send a long SASE, with extra postage for beans (to 95c), and we will send you the seeds you need.

### GROWERS' REPORTS

Jason Foster wrote from Calliope Qld: The following have proven themselves to be reliably productive under drought and poor (rocky and weathered) soil conditions: Champagne Watermelon SSN655: a yellow-fleshed, medium-sized melon with a crisper texture than the commercial variety; Bob's Cucumber: a yellow-skinned cucumber growing to about 30cm, turning golden-brown when ripe; Bush Snake Bean SSN2752: a bush bean that will climb if given a trellis. Remains highly productive under conditions that would kill most other food plants.

N. Brumpton, Allora, Qld writes, "During the drought the 'Black-eyed Susan' cowpea, with the help of greywater has kept us in greens for the whole summer."

Margaret Panter writes, "In my area [Castlemaine, Vic] one aspect of the dry conditions is more frosts than usual, lower minimum temperatures and more frosty mornings in succession than usual. So frost-resistant vegies are also necessary in a drought." Margaret reports that her most drought-resistant vegies were Tree Onions.

### Rush on Potatoes

Last issue John Hodgkinson, Hodge Podge Farm, Dorrigo, offered thirteen types of potatoes. He reports that he has received many requests for potatoes since the coverage. His seed stocks from last season are now quite depleted and he asks those who want seed of 'production' varieties and/or the more unusual and heritage varieties to remain patient. He will offer a considerable range of varieties from his growing collection in the Autumn Bulletin.

In an early issue we published an article about propagating potatoes from seed and we included how to do that in the Handbook. If you want to have more control in your selection then planting from the seed of the seed balls will give a wide diversity of progeny.

### THIS YEAR'S SUPPORTERS

**Foundation:** K. Berkley

**Life:** These people sent in \$300 in the last year:

Ross McAlpine; Temple and Bill Larkin; Donald Walz; Bev McLoughlin

**Associate:** These people sent in \$100 in the last year:

Gordon MacKenzie, executive chef of Hotel Furama, Sydney  
Vicki Orszacki, G.J. Carrington, Colin Chapman, Dace Freijs

## • SEED SAVERS •

Technical assist. needed: overseas aid, fundraiser, data entry, Pagemaker 4.2, email. Volunteers only for the time being. Please call Jude or Michel 856624

*Ad placed in the local newspaper for volunteers. We have had a response from five talented people so far.*

*The Seed Savers staff in the library: from the left, Michel Fanton (MF), Jude (JF), and Deirdre Kempson (DK).*



### IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION UP-TO-DATE?

The address label has either a date or a word next to your name.

This indicates when your subscription is due.

- If you are due to pay in October, it will read .....10/95
- If you are due to pay in July next year .....7/96
- If we are sending you a complimentary copy .....comp 95
- If you are a life subscriber .....Life

To make sure of a copy of next issue, please renew before subs are due.

Subscription is \$20 for one year, \$35 for two years – see page 25

### CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

If you have changed or will change your address, please let us know both OLD and NEW addresses.

Postage Paid  
SEED SAVERS



BYRON BAY  
AUSTRALIA

The Seed Savers' Network  
PO Box 975 Byron Bay 2481

GLORIA CONSTINE  
NIMBIN NEWS  
PO  
NIMBIN.

2480