

BOOK REVIEWS

New organic resources

The BFA is building on resources which may benefit the organic industry. In many cases considerable member discounts are available on resources from the BFA online bookshop. Visit <www.bfa.com.au>.

The Garden Guardians
By Liz Davenport

Brilliant photographs to inspire a brilliant idea, educating people that if they observe nature before taking action and augment it with the knowledge embedded in this book, there can be a win-win outcome for the garden and its constituents, both flora and fauna. Not to mention the joy and appeasement of the soul of the gardener or visitor to the garden in the realisation that it has been achieved by creating ecological niches and environments so that the balance between pest and predator is fostered and maintained.

The benefits to the gardener is that this is achieved without out of pocket expenditure and also without the use of harmful synthetic chemicals which upset the natural balance between predator and pest due to the fact that synthetic chemicals do not discriminate what is killed. If for some reason the natural balance is disturbed then softer options such as products produced by Organic Crop Protectants Pty Ltd can be used. There are also companies listed in the book that supply resources for integrated pest management, control predators, and beneficial insects that can augment what is happening in the garden or on the farm.

The garden guardians are well documented and described, with hints on how to encourage them into your garden by leaving a little mess, water, native plants, shade, protection,

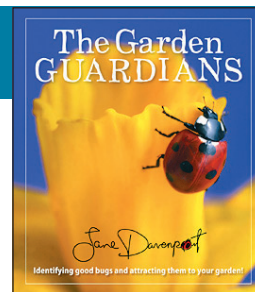
diversity to create more sites for more guardians, in conjunction with having an organic garden so that all the good work is not undone.

The photographs, the quotes and 'pearls of wisdom' enhance the message of how co-operation and compassion with nature's myriad of constituents can lead to more than satisfactory outcomes and the continued health of those in that environment, that is if they are not on the food chain of the garden guardians.

The concept and the collaboration between Jane Davenport and eco-organic garden team from Organic Crop Protectants Pty Ltd is a wonderful example of what can be achieved to protect flora and fauna in a garden environment. With knowledge and applied management this can also apply on a farm scale to provide similar beneficial outcomes.

Available from leading nurseries or available at the BFA online shop for \$29.95, <www.bfa.com.au>. BFA members receive a 20% discount.

– Greg Paynter, Organic Advisory Service, 0424 092064, email <greg.paynter@bigpond.com>.



CleanFood organic, new edition released
McGuire - Organic lifestyle and shopping guide

The eagerly awaited volume four of the *CleanFood organic* series has just been published with the growing number of organic retailers stocking the book, laying testimony to its increasing popularity.

This important book has an extremely loyal following of organic consumers and those adopting an organic lifestyle. Its in-depth special reports examine issues which are rarely published elsewhere and the publication is now firmly established as Australia's definitive consumer guide to organic and biodynamic issues.

Publisher Malcolm McGuire says he is not surprised with how popular the series has become.

"The more *CleanFood organic* delves into conventional farming practices, the more people realise their decision to consume organic products is the right one. We are literally inundated with emails and calls from concerned consumers requesting more information. We could produce a book a foot thick right now with what should be reported about conventional food production and the affect it is having on the health of Australians. We have barely scratched the surface," McGuire said.

"I believe thinking people instinctively know eating products that have been sprayed with pesticides can't be good for

you, let alone all the other issues an individual may have for consuming organic products" he added.

Articles in the new volume four of *CleanFood organic* again cover varied topics including a major report on supermarkets and the influence they have over food production and quality; the consequences of continuing widespread use of antibiotics in conventional livestock; how industrial waste is finding its way into food and how the lack of legislation protecting the words 'organic' and 'natural' is the leaving the door open for unhealthy cosmetic manufacturers. Other features include a focus on cotton production, bird flu, nanotechnology, and there's an exclusive interview with BFA chief executive Doug Haas.

CleanFood organic is on sale in newsagents, organic retailers and bookshops across Australia as well as on the BFA website <www.bfa.com.au>. (BFA members receive a 20% discount.)

For further information and sales call (02) 9664 6670 or email; <info@cleanfood.com.au>.

