

# Remote Indigenous Gardens Network – RIG Network



Above images kindly provided with permission from RIG Network members and participants.

The RIG Network works to connect people & projects with information & opportunities to support people who live and work in remote Indigenous communities to develop sustainable food garden projects and enterprises and better shape their own futures.

Food gardens can help 'close the gap' - they offer diverse social and economic benefits and can help create pathways to better health, wellbeing and economic participation. The RIG Network recognises that many different types of food gardens, enterprise forms, and new market avenues need to be recognised and supported to better enable Aboriginal people to grow their own food and/or to access more affordable fresh food.

The RIG Network is a project initiative of Southern Exchange that got underway in May 2009 with support from the Commonwealth Government's Enterprise Connect program. In 2009 the project undertook stakeholder research and consultation to identify strategic needs and opportunities, and to develop a network of participants from community, industry, research, government and non-government organisations from across the Top End. We developed the RIG website, conducted surveys, connected people with useful information and contacts via our website, email network and newsletters, and ran a small number of community workshops. Drawing on network member input we also made strategic submissions to government inquiries and programs.

In 2010 RIG will work with industry and community partners on key projects that include:

- SCOPE** – a research and outreach project to investigate Indigenous community based nursery and local food production needs and opportunities across the Top End.
- BEST PRACTICE WORKSHOPS** - Enterprise innovation for food production and food security in remote Indigenous communities
- GROW** – bi-lingual visual resources to support small scale food gardens (pilot)
- ENTERPRISE SUPPORT** – to Aboriginal led local food production projects (pilot)

RIG warmly invites your interest and input to our communications activities and to our research, outreach and resource development projects.

To get involved with RIG Network, you can:

- VISIT** our website at [www.remoteindigenousgardens.net](http://www.remoteindigenousgardens.net)
- REGISTER** online to receive RIG communications and newsletters
- JOIN** our email based discussion groups by emailing [rig@remoteindigenousgardens.net](mailto:rig@remoteindigenousgardens.net)

To participate in or support our key projects for 2010, you can:

- EXPRESS INTEREST** to join an expert advisory group or working group
- OFFER IN-KIND** support to the project of your choice
- SPONSOR RIG** Networks communications activities or a project of your choice (eg. GROW will be developed on a pilot basis in partnership with specific communities).

If you would like to offer suggestions or support one of RIG Network's projects please contact:

Anthea Fawcett, Director RIG Network, Southern Exchange  
email: [anthea@remoteindigenousgardens.net](mailto:anthea@remoteindigenousgardens.net), ph: 02 9818 1580 / 0419 478856

*"The NT Horticultural Association and the Nursery and Garden Industry of the NT enthusiastically support the Remote Indigenous Gardens Network and look forward to building on partnership opportunities. We hope that future collaborations between the horticulture community and the Indigenous community see a range of mutually beneficial outcomes, from gardens to corporate enterprise".*

Kate Peake, Executive Officer, Northern Territory Horticultural Association.

Social & economic benefits for people by people from the 'ground' up, food security – affordability & accessibility, sustainable livelihoods, case studies, useful links & information, new conversations & partnerships, 'fusion' gardens – bush foods & fruit & veg, enterprise & employment, health & nutrition, life skills & skills for employment, better practice, advocacy & outreach, Industry & community linkages, caring for culture and country, capacity building, cultural respect & innovation, applied research & outreach, social & economic enterprises, local food production, supporting people for more resilient remote communities

[www.remoteindigenousgardens.net](http://www.remoteindigenousgardens.net)