



Jerry Coleby-Williams

Internationally Renowned Horticulturist, Pioneer of Sustainability and Organic Best Practice

One of Australia's most well-known, most highly qualified and most respected gardening experts. With a career defined by a deep commitment to conservation, sustainability, and education, Jerry continues to inspire and engage audiences worldwide, making him one of Australia's most sought-after horticultural speakers.

Internationally Renowned Horticulturist, Pioneer of Sustainability and Organic Best Practice. Initially trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK) and the Royal Horticultural Society (UK), Jerry is qualified in horticultural estate management, soft landscape design, arboriculture, conservation, horticultural and botanical sciences.

Jerry has managed plant production nurseries, urban forests, heritage parks, one of London's busiest garden centres, and he helped establish Mt Annan Native Botanic Garden (NSW, 1986).

For twelve years, Jerry managed the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. His design of the Rare & Threatened Plants Garden (1998) launched a career in radio, television, magazine writing and public speaking. Jerry is a familiar voice and face to most gardeners having appeared on ABC Radio Talkback Gardening in NSW and QLD since 1995 and is currently ABC Television's 'Gardening Australia' programme's longest serving presenter (1999 – present).

A pioneer of sustainability and organic best practice, in 2003, Jerry created 'Bellis', a unique, affordable, award-winning sustainable house and garden in subtropical Brisbane by retrofitting a century old Queenslander house. Bellis exports three times more solar electricity than it consumes and the garden sequesters more carbon dioxide than the occupants generate, recycles all waste water for food growing in a water sensitive landscape that both mitigates localised flooding and grows a surplus of food even during ongoing drought. There is zero food waste.

Growing well in excess of 500 kinds of plant, the food garden feeds the household, while the ornamental front garden features plants that are dealing well with our emerging new climate. The agrodiversity at Bellis exceeds the collective agrodiversity of the 27 community gardens studied by Griffith University (360 taxa as of 2025).

The seed bank combines with the nursery to provide a community gene bank, supplying community nurseries, farmers and collectors with a range of seed and plants not found in the trade.

Over 580 species of animal, including twenty six species of bee, and about three new species, as yet undescribed by science, live at or visit Bellis. This biodiversity data set is one of just three in existence in SE Queensland.

Retrofitting Bellis cost less than buying an average family four wheel drive car and its ongoing benefits include reduced household bills (eg no electricity bills since 2004), healthy food, a leafy garden, and peace of mind in an increasingly uncertain world. These heartening results lead to Jerry being invited to speak about sustainable food production at the United Nations, in Geneva (2017).

Jerry's website and social media page are followed in 141 countries, he answers 15,000 questions a year, and his website has been archived by the Queensland State and Australian National Libraries.

Testimonials

" Thank you immensely for coming down to celebrate our 25th Anniversary with us. Your presence made it very special. I have had such wonderful feedback - Entertaining, extremely interesting, very approachable and generous with his time are some of the comments coming in. I have to personally thank you for the amount of time you gave to all of us in the Garden. You certainly made it easy for people to approach you and your easy going nature made it easy for them to ask questions. Thanks for the effort you have given to the Garden it was truly appreciated. Thanks again for coming down and making our day special.

JPCG

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