

## Jerry Coleby-Williams

### *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 helped establish Mt Annan Native Botanic Garden (NSW). 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 since 1995 and ABC Television's 'Gardening Australia' programme since 1999.



A pioneer of sustainability and organic best practice, in 2003, Jerry created 'Bellis', a unique, affordable, 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 and recycles all wastewater 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.

The food garden grows 500 kinds of plants and feeds the household, while the ornamental front garden features plants that are well-suited to our emerging new climate.

The seed bank combines with the nursery to provide a community gene bank, supplying community nurseries, farmers and collectors with a range of seeds 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.

Retrofitting Bellis costs less than buying an average family four-wheel drive car and its ongoing benefits include reduced household bills, healthy food, a leafy garden, and peace of mind in an increasingly uncertain world. These heartening results led 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website and social media page are followed in 133 countries, he answers 15,000 questions a year, and his website has been archived by the Australian National Library.

## Testimonials

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“ 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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