

BEACHMERE

Community Garden Inc.



WELCOME

A lot has been going on behind the scenes in setting up the garden over the last month. Thanks to everyone for their hard work. I know we would all rather be gardening but getting the administrative side of the garden right from the start through policy and procedures, strategic plans and guiding principles we will hopefully see the garden progress smoothly into the future. But before we go into details I would like to first welcome some new members, Yvonne, Niki and Michael. Thanks for joining and we look forward to your contribution in the future.

The committee can announce that our incorporation certificate has arrived and we now have public liability insurance and our common seal. We have also joined with the Garden Clubs of Australia. This umbrella organization will provide plenty of helpful information in regard to running a community garden as well as promoting our garden through their extensive network.

Talks have been continuing with Council in regard to a location to

start the garden. From all reports things are progressing well and it is encouraging to see such positive action from our Council. Also, Councilor Booth has passed on his congratulations as to the progress so far and has again confirmed his support for the garden.

In regard to the important task of networking with other local groups we started this with our first field trip on the 6th of March. A review of this field trip to other gardens is presented later in the newsletter. Planning has also started for the next field trip, any ideas are welcomed.

We also have some great prizes (donated by our wonderful members) for the first BCGI raffle. Check out the flier later in the newsletter.

So once again, Thanks again for all the help so far and we look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Cheers,

The committee

Vol 2 March 2021

THINGS WE NEED

PLANTS

Comfrey
Pidgeon Pea
Vetiver grass
Indigenous food plants
Bird and bee attractors
(Banksias, grevilleas etc.)
Fruit trees

LANDSCAPING

Large pots
Hardwood Sleepers
Irrigation
Rain water tanks
Pavers

PEOPLE

Media manager
Treasurer
Grant application writers
Local food experts
New members!

YOUR INPUT ON:

Garden design
What will we grow?
Policies and procedures
Garden logo

beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com

Information gathering field trip 6/3/21

On Saturday, 6th March, members of the BCG Inc. embarked on a fact finding excursion, visiting some of the other community gardens in the Moreton region. The aim was to look at how other organisations have undertaken the establishment and management of a community garden.

First stop was the Bribie Island Native Plant Nursery (Wallum Action Group). While not a community garden, the nursery is a volunteer run organisation that still provided valuable information we can take back to our own garden. As a not for profit organisation, all proceeds are donated to assist local organisations and charities. The nursery is well



Raised garden beds at Bribie Island Native Plant Nursery

maintained and has excellent infrastructure, especially the shade cloth covering the entire nursery and a great set of compost bays that provide all the nursery's potting mix. They also have a small section of raised beds that are used by members of the nursery to grow their own veges. It was mentioned that weeding and maintenance had been reduced by perhaps three quarters since building the raised beds. Gardening was also much more comfortable, with less bending over.

Committee members David and Julie provided an informative talk on the formation of the nursery from

its origins as the "Wallum Action Group" to the current set up. It was interesting to see how an organisation can evolve from its original vision, in this case over a period of 30 years. We were also provided a terrific snapshot of the behind the scenes administrative side of the nursery. With car boots loaded with a great selection of plants, we headed to the next destination.

Our next stop was to the Caboolture Baptist Church, who operate a market style garden where members can rent a



"No, Loofas do not come from the sea!" Bruce shows BCGI members the intriguing Loofa vine.

plot (10m x 1m) for a small annual fee. Here, gardeners make use of a small tractor to prepare beds and transport materials - a handy and time saving addition to the garden! We were shown around by Bruce and Helen who explained the guiding principles of the garden which is accessible to all members of the local community. An interesting feature of its management was that no set rules governing garden methods were enforced, different gardening methods and philosophies were encouraged which was visible in the different plots managed side by side. The garden also had an extensive border of fruit trees and some native bee hives. After a quick chat to some of the members tending their plots it was off to Redcliffe to visit the permaculture inspired Encircle garden.

Here we were met by Candy and Jade to discuss the formation and running of the garden. (Unfortunately another founding member and Moreton Bay Regional Council Community Garden officer, Micah Lean could not attend as

planned). As mentioned, permaculture principles have been used to design and manage the garden, examples being companion planting, fruit forests, on-site composting, worm farms and no dig gardening. The garden also had some great areas with seating under the large canopy of fruit and native trees.

A great feature of this community hub was the "Repair Café", where community can bring broken appliances and equipment to be fixed for free. A great initiative to combat the throw away mentality of today.



Candy from Encircle explaining the running of the permaculture inspired garden

From Encircle it was a short trip to the Redcliffe Uniting Church and their Community Garden. This was run by Candy whom we met at Encircle. Here we were shown around their communal garden which included some very peaceful areas to sit and contemplate as well as raised gardens and fruit trees. Next stop on the tour we were introduced to

some very healthy and friendly chooks! While discussing the garden, Candy honestly explained the difficulties in recruiting volunteers which has led to some unorthodox volunteering methods, most notably the mysterious night time gardening adventures of "Chippy Dave", who because of work commitments could only attend to the garden after dark.

Candy went on to detail the planned development of a community hub for the site. This sounds like an exciting project and we look forward to seeing this develop in the near future.

That was the last of the official gardens on the itinerary, so it was decided that a cup of coffee was in order



Peaceful nooks for quite contemplation are a feature of this garden.

however we had not taken into consideration the popularity of Redcliffe on a Saturday afternoon and subsequently all got separated in the traffic! Not the best end to the day and something to discuss for the next field trip.



On the way home, David and Jude made a quick stop to the Redcliffe Botanical Garden. Here we saw a well maintained herb garden with design aspects that could be incorporated by our own garden, particularly the well-formed garden beds and pathways accessible to wheelchairs.

The well designed and maintained herb garden at Redcliffe Botanical Garden

Getting Community into the Garden

From visiting these gardens it became obvious that recruiting and maintaining volunteers is such a vital part to running a successful community garden, and it was sobering to hear from each of these gardens how hard this can sometimes be - Just because you build it, doesn't mean they will come. This I believe is a vital lesson to take out of this field trip. We need to look at ways to encourage all members of the community to become volunteers but just as importantly implement procedures that allow for the continued running of the garden when individual volunteers can no longer help.

The field trip also showed that Community Gardens can take many different shapes and forms and what works for one may not work for another. It is therefore important that we work hard at this planning stage to formulate a common vision for what our garden will be like and how it will operate in light of our own sets of challenges and opportunities in Beachmere.

It is a daunting task to start something like a community garden, but I think with our committed band of members, a supportive Council and budding friendships with local organizations like those we visited on this field trip, we can definitely make the Beachmere Community Garden a success.

Once again thank you to all those members who attended and also a big thank you to the following people who took time out on the weekend to discuss their gardens with us:

David and Julie – Bribie Island Native Plant Nursery.

Bruce and Helen – Caboolture Baptist Church Community Garden.

Candy and Jade – Encircle Redcliffe.

Candy – Redcliffe Uniting Church Community Garden

BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC. RAFFLE



PRIZES GENEROUSLY DONATED BY MEMBERS OF BCG INC.

COST OF TICKETS: \$2 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5.

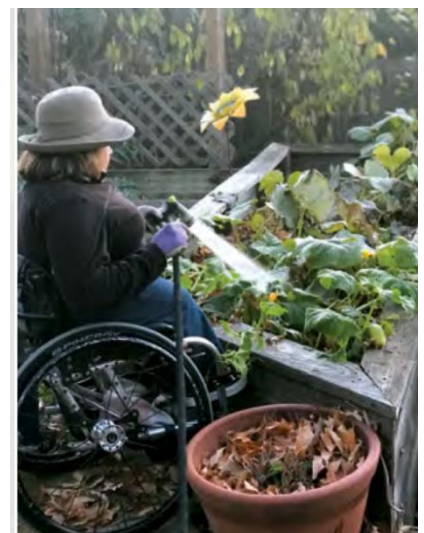
- HANDMADE RESIN ARTWORK BY LOCAL BEACHMERE ARTIST VALUED AT \$400.00
- BESPOKE TOPAZ EARING SET VALUED AT \$150.00
- MORNING TEA AT “THE BEACH SHAK CAFE”, BEACHMERE VALUED AT \$50.00

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN
IN BEACHMERE

**PRIZES TO BE DRAWN AT THE “FESTIVAL IN THE PARK”, CLAYTON PARK
BEACHMERE 15/05/21**

BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC. ABN 42 682 160 560

At the General Meeting held on the 21st March, those present discussed the vision for the Garden and one of the major points that came up was the garden should be a place to assist those with disabilities. It was agreed that garden design should accommodate those with mobility and intellectual disabilities. Discussed were options such as raised gardens, appropriate access and sensory gardens. We will continue this discussion at the next meeting so in the meantime, I encourage all of you to do some more research on how we can provide these types of facilities. We have already sent a few links of websites to each member's email (and will continue to send others), so please take the time to look at these and bring your recommendations to the next meeting.



Feature Plant

While we wait for a place to start the community garden it would be a great idea to start gathering plants that will be required. These include the plants listed on the first page of the newsletter. If you have any or know someone that has, please start growing and propagating them at your place till the time comes to take them to the garden.

Each newsletter we will showcase a plant that will be useful to the garden. This edition we take a look a favourite of permaculture and organic gardeners; the versatile Pigeon Pea (Courtesy of Green Harvest).

Pigeon Pea Growing Information © Frances Michaels

Common Name: Pigeon Pea, Congo Pea, Red Gram

Botanical Name: *Cajanus cajan* syn. *Cajanus indicus*

Family: Fabaceae

Plant Description: A woody, leguminous shrub, to 3.6 m, with yellow and red flowers.

Ecology: It is hardy, widely adaptable and tolerant of temperatures as high as 35°C. It can be killed by heavy frost. An average annual rainfall between 600 and 1,000 mm is most suitable. However, it can be grown in humid areas, even over 2,500 mm of rainfall and is renowned for its drought tolerance. It gives economic yields of seeds in areas where rainfall averages about 400 mm annually. Although it cannot withstand waterlogging it can be grown in a wide range of soils, as it tolerates low fertility. Some cultivars are tolerant of salinity and aluminium. A pH range of 4.5 - 8.4 is tolerated.

Uses:

- 🌱 Food; seeds are 25% protein, can be eaten fresh or as split dried peas, are used for dhal in India, contain 5 times more Vitamin A and C than green peas. The leaves and young shoots can be eaten cooked, they are fibrous and have a strong spicy odour.
- 🌱 Animal Fodder; an excellent feed for cattle, pigs and poultry.
- 🌱 Green Manure; incorporate the plants as they flower.
- 🌱 Mulch production; can be cut many times in a season.
- 🌱 Alley cropping; provides nitrogen, habitat and soil stabilisation.
- 🌱 Windbreaks; suitable as a shelterbelt around vegetable gardens.



Cultural Requirements

Recommended Planting Time: Spring, or during the wet season, soil temperature should be at least 25°C for germination, a higher soil temperature will give a more even germination.

Planting Depth: It can be direct-seeded, or planted into forestry tubes and later transplanted. Sow the seed 2.5 cm deep.

Details: Soaking seeds overnight will improve germination. Protect young plants from all grazing animals.

Inoculant: A group of bacteria called *Rhizobium* live in a symbiotic relationship with many legumes. This is a big advantage to the plant, as it is able, once inoculated, to produce its own nitrogen, from the soil air. The bacteria are stored in peat, and as this is a living culture, it must be treated with care. It should be stored in the fridge and used within 3 months. Do not separate from the seed packet as the inoculant attached is specific to the individual legume. To use, moisten the seed with a small amount of milk or water and stir in the inoculant until seeds are coated. Do not inoculate the seed until you are ready to sow it and do not leave the inoculated seed in the sun.

