

EST 2020

BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

The good dirt

Vol 4 October 2021

Welcome

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter. While there is still a bare patch of ground at the garden site, I can assure you that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. Thank you again to all the members assisting with these works. I understand it is frustrating not being able to do some actual gardening on site, however this important preparation will set us up for future success.

As we wait for construction to commence, we have started making use of the garden site. A very informative demonstration on wicking gardens was held in August and our monthly garage sale and plant stall kicked off in September. Our first seed planting morning was also recently held. And we have some great news to announce later in the newsletter.

We have had some great ideas for the garden logo, thanks to all who have provided their designs. We will show them at our upcoming meetings and look to decide on a design by the AGM. Finally, you might have noticed a change of format for this newsletter. Let us know what you think. We are always open to suggestions and improvements.

Cheers,

The Committee

BCGI complies with all current Qld Health directives and requires that members and others attending BCGI meetings or events comply with these directives also.



Where is it?

The question that has been echoing around Beachmere lately louder than the chainsaws and wood chippers (such a shame). Well, the easiest answer is head for the water tower, we are right next door!

Things we need

Large and small Pots
Indigenous plants
Fruit trees

People

New members
Building Certifier
Builder
Recycling Coordinator

Your help with

Raising plants
Policies and Procedures
Garden logo
Fundraising

Important dates

9th Oct Seed planting-
MEMBERS ONLY
(8-11am)

16th Oct Bunnings
sausage sizzle
Morayfield (8am-3pm)

24th Oct General
Meeting (3pm@ Progress
Hall)

30th Oct Twilight
Caboolture market
(4-9pm)

24th Nov AGM (6:30 pm@
Progress Hall)



Update on Mobile Wicking gardens

BCGI successfully applied for a MBRC grant in May for the construction of 6 mobile wicking garden beds. The wicking garden designs take into account the gardens guiding principles of recycling, waterwise gardening and providing an accessible place for the whole community. The idea is that the gardens can be moved around the site for workshops and demonstrations, then stored away in a (hopefully) possum proof enclosure at night.

We have been extremely fortunate that Beachmere Men's Shed agreed to construct the metal frames for the gardens. Their band of willing workers have provided valuable input into the design and construction of the garden beds. We also thank members who gave input on accessibility requirements such as height of gardens suitable for wheelchairs.



This photo shows one of the finished frames with additional bracing of the legs as recommended by the Men's Shed team.

Once the frames are completed they will be clad and then the wicking garden component installed. This will be a future demonstration on site that we hope you are able to attend.

Wicking garden demonstration 31st August

We recently held a very informative event on site, explaining the virtues of a waterwise, wicking garden. With a great turn up of members, locals and other community garden and Council representatives we began with an update from Jeff (Beachmere Men's Shed) explaining the progress of works on the mobile wicking bed frames. Rosemary and Paul (Aqualess/ Water Ups) then took over with a great demonstration of how a wicking bed works and the benefits of this gardening method. It was explained that up to 75% less water is used compared to conventional gardening.

An hour into the demonstration we were confronted by a large group striding purposefully towards the garden! Were they protesters angry at these upstarts and their new gardening methods? Thankfully no, they were the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre (DBNC), arriving to show their support.



Attendees at the wicking garden demo with mobile wicking garden in the centre

We have some *Hippeastrum* plants for sale. There are some great colours available including whites and pinks. Contact the garden via email to place an order. Be quick, they will only be in flower for another couple of weeks.

Pinks and whites \$10
Reds \$5



When we began designing the mobile garden beds, we reached out to Sophie Thomson from Gardening Australia as she uses wicking gardens to conserve water in her amazing garden, located in the harsh Adelaide Hills. Her terrific book "Sophies Patch" provided the design for the wicking gardens.

Sophie also provided valuable info on reducing weight (important for mobile beds) by suggesting that we investigate lighter alternative in place of heavy gravel or scoria in the base. Thanks for your help Sophie.