

STRONGER COMMUNITIES GRANT

We would like to thank Federal member for Longman, Mr Terry Young for nominating BCGI for the latest round of the Stronger Communities Grants. Funding is allocated to each federal electorate for eligible small capital projects that encourage and support participation in local projects and contribute to vibrant and viable communities. Initial expressions of interest by community groups are assessed by Mr Young with help from a community committee and successful groups can then lodge a grant submission. It is great that Mr Young recognises the benefits this garden will have for the whole community.

Our funding proposal was for the shade sails that will cover the arbour and other parts of the garden. These shade sails are important to make gardening more pleasurable to volunteers and visitors as well as make it safer by reducing exposure to UV rays, especially in summer. Fingers crossed and we will keep you posted regarding the outcome.



BUNNINGS CHRISTMAS MARKETS

BCGI was invited to attend the Bunnings Morayfield Christmas markets last December. The markets were attended by many local groups and were another opportunity to spread the word about our community garden and sell a few raffle tickets as well.

The big man in red even made an appearance and definitely earned his keep on this very hot and humid evening. With a large storm approaching, the evening was called to an early finish, which allowed us all to duck back to Beachmere with only minutes to spare before the storm hit. Thank you to Sue and Leigh at Bunnings for not only inviting us to this evening but also for all the amazing help they have given us throughout the year. Your big smiles and positive energy on sausage sizzle days always help to relax everyone and make a hard day more enjoyable. Hopefully it won't be too long before we have a garden we can invite you to check out.

VISIT TO CAROLINE AND BOB MOSS' SCULPTURE GARDEN



Its funny how one thing leads to another on this community garden journey. While looking at timber for the garden's fence, we ended up in the amazing sculpture garden of Caroline and Bob Ross. The garden showcases the lifelong work of both artists, featuring sculptures and artworks displaying Carol's amazing talents in an array of styles and media with Bob's distinctively styled sculptures interspersed throughout. Carol donates many of her sculptures and has kindly offered BCGI the amazing flower totem shown below. We are extremely grateful for this wonderful act of generosity and look forward to displaying it in the garden. The garden members have been invited back to view the collection, which we will organise after Covid restrictions ease. Thanks again to Carol and Bob for the invite, tour and delicious morning tea.

*"Gardens are not made by singing
'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade."
— Rudyard Kipling*

You can view a tour of the sculpture garden on YouTube. Type in "Caroline Moss sculptures" to watch the video.



The nursery is now open every Saturday and closed Mondays. Check out the Bribie Island Community Nursery's website or Facebook page for further information



BRIBIE ISLAND COMMUNITY NURSERY

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The Bribie Island Community Nursery is one of our biggest supporters. In this issue as part of promoting local community groups we head back to the nursery and check out their veggie patch.

The nursery members' veggie patch has recently been experiencing the highs and lows of producing its own food. A crop of corn has grown beautifully, so well it attracted many hungry locals.

First off were the rats. Netting stopped these but didn't stop the grubs.

Unfortunately about half the crop was affected. At least everyone's chooks got a treat that day!

The photo below shows the crop sorted between human and clucker tucker.

Still not a bad effort. The stalks are being slashed for mulch. The close up photo shows the plants are not pulled out, just cut off at ground level, keeping the soil structure and fungi highways that plants rely on intact.

This is a good lesson to all of us attempting to grow our own food.

Don't get too down if your garden isn't an Instagram worthy success straight away. A new veggie patch is an unbalanced ecosystem and needs time to develop the complex natural relationships (using organic gardening principles) that will help keep it in balance.