

BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

Welcome

The good dirt

Vol 9 April 2022

Can we call it? Has the weather begun to cool down enough to say it is finally Autumn? It seemed the hot, humid days were never going to end but finally we can say goodbye to Summer. The cooling temperatures are a sign to start planting out our winter veggies. It's also a great time to take cuttings of many types of plants. Check out the Gardening Australia website and magazines for more information.

We would love to announce some news regarding the cultural heritage assessments; unfortunately, we are still waiting for the final report that will determine if we can go ahead with our plans for an inclusive garden where the whole community can come to learn about growing healthy food. Hopefully we have some news on this very soon.

Speaking of inclusion, we were invited to a forum hosted by Carers Qld to discuss inclusion in community gardens as part of this year's MBRC Neighbour Day celebrations. It was a great event and you can read more about it later in the newsletter. We also have our first article explaining the seven pillars of inclusion - the basis for all our decision making at the garden.

We realise it is frustrating that we can't start gardening yet, but we would like to announce that due to the outstanding efforts of our members, we have secured almost \$90 000 in funding and in kind, for the construction of the community garden. Well done to everyone who has helped raise these funds. It is proof that the community shares our vision for the community garden. We also have some exciting news relating to funding to announce in the section below.

Finally, keep letting us know what you think of the format of the newsletter. We appreciate the feedback that some colours are difficult to read when the newsletter is printed and that in some sections the font is too small. Keep the comments rolling in, with your help, the best is yet to come.

Cheers,



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



Beachmere Community Garden Inc. can announce its successful Stronger Communities Programme grant application!

The Federal Government Stronger Communities Programme grant supports projects that have a positive impact on their local community. Our project was the funding of shade sails to make the site a safer and more enjoyable place to garden. The grant will provide \$9570 towards the construction of these shade sails.

We would like to sincerely thank Federal Member Mr Terry Young for his support in nominating our project and recognising its value to the Longman community.



Things we need

Feature pots

Indigenous food plants

Fruit trees

People

New members

Building Certifier

Recycling Coordinator

Your help with

Raising plants

Fundraising

Spreading the word

Important dates

7th April

World Health Day

22nd April

Int. Mother Earth Day

24th April General Meeting

3 pm @ Community Hall
Progress Rd, Beachmere

25th April

ANZAC Day

28th April

Pay it forward Day

**THERE WILL BE NO GARDEN
STALL ON SITE IN APRIL.
WE HOPE TO HAVE THIS
BEGIN AGAIN IN
MAY.**



INCLUSION FORUM 27TH MARCH

BCGI was invited to the Inclusion Forum hosted by Carers Qld. Their amazing team has been researching inclusion in SEQ community gardens over the last year and finding ways this can be improved. It was a privilege that Yvonne and David were asked to talk about the Beachmere Garden's progress and how inclusion is central to all aspects of the garden's planning.

A big focus of the day was thinking beyond accessibility. There are so many other factors involved to improve inclusion. The need for knowledge and information to be more available was a common theme expressed by participants.

It was wonderful to meet other groups who are going through the same process as we are. We were inspired by Karana Downs and Surrounds Community Garden Hub who are up and gardening in only a year! Well done. Other attendees included Nathan and Rachell from Swallowtail nursery - set up for people with disabilities to have opportunities for employment in the horticultural industry. Deb from MBRC who is starting a community garden at Bribie Island library. And it was nice to catch up with Candy from Redcliffe Uniting church garden again to hear how they are progressing with their community hub project. A big thank you to Carlos, Jasmin, Liz and Angela from Carers Qld and Micah from MBRC for organising the event. Thanks to everyone who attended and made it such a great day. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of the forum and how they can be used to improve inclusion in all of our community gardens.



PLANTING UPDATE

Check out some of the plants propagated by members that were donated to participants of the Inclusion forum hosted by Carers Qld. The event was part of MBRC's Neighbour Day celebrations. Everyone was very impressed and thanked BCGI for the plants.



Just a reminder for members to keep propagating plants for the garden. We will be needing more plants as we get the monthly garden stall running again and for our garden when construction begins. It is important to check that plants meet the BCGI plant selection criteria (let us know if you need a copy of this document).

If you need pots or potting mix please contact us. A big thank you to Dracaena Farm Nursery and Bribie Community Nursery for donating pots to the garden.

GARDENING AUSTRALIA

Hannah looks at the benefits of planning before planting a garden. Watch this and other great segments on the Gardening Australia website or ABC iView (Episode. 06, 2022).



Image from Gardening Australia

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need"

Cicero

BEACHMERE COMMUNITY HALL GARDEN UPDATE

The Community Hall gardens are almost complete thanks to the fantastic efforts of our members. Last week saw the tricky move of the very heavy sculptures into position. Thank you John for providing both the brains and the brawn for moving the sculptures safely without damaging them. These sculptures are amazing works that tell a very interesting local story, so it's good that they are on public display once again.

There's been some really great feedback from the community on how the garden now looks. Well done team!

Finally, we have a error to correct from the last newsletter. It was one of our members, Marina who first found the original information regarding the story of the sculptures. Thank you Karen for pointing this out.

Check out this video for an explanation of the local indigenous peoples historical relationship with Moreton Bays dolphins which is represented in the sculptures

<https://youtube/C1prDLRFTus>



BECOME A MEMBER OF BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.

Have you thought about becoming a member of Beachmere Community Garden? We now have a number of categories to offer, there's sure to be one to suit you!

Memberships available are: Adult, Junior and Family

Adult membership options: Voting, Volunteer and Supporter member.

Check out the website for more info on becoming a member

E: beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com W: beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au

or FB: facebook.com/BeachmereCommunityGarden

"Nowra Garden" by BCGI member Darla.

"We had the choice between a nice house overlooking Jervis Bay, or a humble, ageing cottage near the centre of town. A two year transfer to Nowra! We chose the old cottage, overgrown as it was with shrubs, vines, weeds galore... a veritable nightmare, but somewhere beneath all that chaos, we felt there was something rather special lurking, waiting to be liberated. My work schedule was all consuming, but at every chance, we got stuck into clearing the mess. Gradually old paths appeared, winding through what once must have been formal garden beds. Heritage rose bushes gasping for the light of day manifested. An old trellis with a wizened grape vine was freed from an overgrown and unidentifiable vine stretching from the fence. This garden had once had structure, dignity and a lot of loving planting of so many different shrubs. And bulbs! Having lived in the tropics for many years, one can never adequately describe the joy of a jonquil appearing on a winter morning. And snowdrops!"

One day, a disembodied voice boomed out: I've been watching you! It was an elderly lady from the house behind ours. We could only see her head and shoulders, but she had an imposing presence, and a kindly face. It turned out that her family had formerly owned various houses in this street, and this cottage had been shared by her and her sisters. They loved the garden. She said when it was sold, she couldn't bear to look at the decline of their precious place over the years. She had some valuable advice to share about rehabilitating the fruit trees, and as the months went by, under her guidance, treasures appeared: lemons, grapes, lemonade trees. She gave us flower seeds saved over the years so the Spring brought masses of colour. But the best thing, the very best treasure was the Moonflower vine, growing on a trellis out the back. At 5pm every afternoon we watched the large white flowers open, exude perfume, glow briefly in the evening, and then gently close. A benediction of sorts.

There is hope and renewal. We just need the right people to recognise the possibilities. Where better to learn life's lessons than in a garden?"

Thank you to Darla for sending this in. We would love to hear stories of other members gardens. Please email them to us and we will publish them in future newsletters (Keep stories to about 300 words).

LIONS CLUB OF BEACHMERE INC

Helen from the Lions club of Beachmere Inc popped down to the Community Hall to see how the garden makeover was progressing and to present the latest cheque to BCGI, matching our fundraising for the last quarter. The offer of matching fundraising is quickly coming to an end so hopefully you all have one last big effort in you to make the most of this generous offer... Yes that means another Bunnings sausage sizzle soon.

**We are so grateful for this support.
THANK YOU LIONS CLUB OF
BEACHMERE INC.**



ACCESS ATTITUDE CHOICE PARTNERSHIPS COMMUNICATION POLICY OPPORTUNITY

We begin our series of articles explaining the seven pillars of inclusion and how they are a practical tool to help us with our goal of making Beachmere Community garden inclusive to the whole community. The first pillar we will discuss is Access.

The basic definition of accessibility is being able to physically come and go from the garden. It's probably the first thing to come to mind for most people when discussing inclusion. For example, providing appropriate surfaces for wheel chairs and people with mobility issues. However, there is so much more to this. Some examples include:

Access to information. Having information available online is a very important factor as to how inclusive a garden is. It's important to provide practical information that will determine if someone may or may not be able to participate, such as 'Are there disabled toilets available?' or 'Where is the nearest public transport?' and 'Is that public transport accessible?' The internet provides a great avenue to find information but it's important to ensure the content is accessible. Initiatives such as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) provide recommendations for making web content more accessible. Asking for feedback will help identify any areas that need improvement. You may recall from the last newsletter that we are looking to develop a podcast so vision impaired people have access to this newsletter.

Financial accessibility. Money can be a factor impacting the community's access to a community garden. At BCGI, the members have discussed this in terms of membership fees. We decided it was more important to have people involved than exclude them if membership fees were a barrier to their participation. Therefore the fee can be waived where required.

Access to gardening. Having access to ergonomic tools and assistive devices will allow all members of the community who want to help participate in the garden, the opportunity to do so. We have been able to purchase some of these tools thanks to a discretionary fund grant from local Councillor Mark Booth (see photo).

Providing a welcome environment. At the Community Garden Inclusion forum it was highlighted that it can be daunting for people with disabilities or from different cultural backgrounds to make the first step and visit a community garden. That's why it's so important to clearly advertise the fact that all members of the community are welcome.

If you have any suggestions on making the community garden more accessible or you have seen great examples elsewhere, please let us know so we can spread the word. For more information on accessibility, check out these links:

<http://theinclusionclub.com/the-7-pillars-of-inclusion>

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/got-an-issue/inclusion-and-diversity/inclusion-and-diversity-what-can-you-do/access>





PHOTO OF THE MONTH
Turmeric flower at Caboolture
Baptist Church Community Garden.
By Yvonne

SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES AND GROUPS SUPPORTING US

It has been amazing to see the generous support from many local (and not so local) Governments, business and community groups that are helping to get this project off the ground.

Wherever possible please support them in return



Beachmere



Cr Mark Booth
Div 2



Moreton Bay
Regional Council



TERRY YOUNG MP
Federal Member for Longman
Proud supporter of the Sheds

Collectors Corner Nursery (Ningi)
Green Door Bowen Therapy
Top2Toe Massage
Aware Lifestyle
Flamingos Ice Creamery
Q Tank
Dracaena Farm Nursery



ALI KING MP
Member for Pumicestone
Working hard for us



Collectors Corner Nursery

KEV & KEN
THE FLOWER POT MEN



What better way to make someone's day than with a random act of kindness. See how you can participate at

payitforwardday.com/countries/australia

MOTHER EARTH DAY APRIL 22ND

International Mother Earth Day promotes harmony with nature and the earth. See how you can make positive steps for a more sustainable planet.

www.un.org/en/observances/earth-day



April 7th is World Health Day. This year's theme "Our planet, our health" highlights how the environment directly impacts our health in so many ways. Learn more at:

www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day

THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO
Pumpkins ready to harvest are a sure sign the seasons are changing. Leave them on the vine until the stem dries. When cutting them off, leave about 10cm of stem. This will stop them rotting so you can enjoy pumpkin soup or scones all winter. Oh and don't forget to save some seeds for next season.



CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE

HELPING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR BCGI IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3 !



1

Collect eligible containers



2

Take them to your nearest container refund point



3

Donate the refund to BCGI

PLEASE USE THE ID CODE:

C10510815

if you would like to donate your recycling to our fundraising efforts.



OSCA the composter luckily just got his feet wet during the floods last month. We can't wait to get him on site and turning Beachmere's green waste into beautiful compost.



E: beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com W: beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au