

# BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

# Welcome

# The good dirt

Vol 12 July 2022

Hello everyone and thanks for reading our latest newsletter. We are actually having a Winter this year! Hope your cold weather crops are doing well. We won't rabbit on too much here as there is so much to pack into this issue. Basically, the garden's progress is in the hands of Council as we still wait for concrete to go to tender. We have been busy in many other ways as you will see in the following pages.

This issue focuses on the fourth Pillar of Inclusion - Partnerships. Inside we hear from one of our fantastic sponsors on the actions they are taking to reduce food waste. We review the Neighbour Day event hosted by BCGI and the Caboolture Baptist Church Community Garden Neighbour Day event that we attended. Darla has been busy visiting another amazing local gardener, BCGI's own Yvonne.

Later this month is World Mangrove Day. We still have some precious mangroves around Beachmere - but for how long? Let's take some time to appreciate these sometimes maligned plants and think about how we can preserve this vital marine ecosystem.

Enjoy the read.

The Committee

## YVONNE'S GARDEN BY DARLA

**Three formal Lilly Pillies stand to attention out the front**, perfectly pruned and matched. Just to the right is the "Aussie Bed" with a tall *Banksia*, a *Banksia* ground cover, an almost iridescent Fire Stick, an evergreen miniature white frangipani, lemon myrtle and a crown of thorns in flower. All plants are placed at varying heights to complement adjacent plants. Against a bright blue sky, this is a stunning arrangement - even in winter there is colour and life here, with the promise of things to come in the Spring.

But it's out the back where Yvonne has created a garden which is astonishing in its variety of plants, and the quite "wacky" ways to present them. In her quest to learn about and understand Australian plants and conditions, she has collected an enviable variety of plants from various sources - nurseries, markets, garden clubs, the Basilea herb farm, and of course, other gardeners, who love to share. In the herb section, a lush bush of purple African basil presides over watercress, winter tarragon, pineapple sage, dill, bronze fennel, lemon balm, rosemary, parsley, chives, lavender. Then there are the veggies: a hanging basket trailing tiny tomatoes, aubergines on the fence, bok choy, Japanese spinach, capsicum, opposite a wicking bed where she propagates cuttings for the community garden.

But for me the most charming corner is where she has an extraordinary collection of succulents. Microcosms of tiny and large cacti huddle together in hanging bird cages, brim over old silver plated serving trays, cascade over tiered cake stands, and peep out of all sorts of hiding places. If you look deeper into these fascinating displays, you could almost believe there are fairies living at the bottom of this garden.

Yvonne's garden is a place of year-round interest. If anyone ever devised a way of profiling personalities by studying their gardens, I would say this person has insatiable curiosity, infinite patience, a spirit of adventure, attention to detail, the soul of an artist, and a generous spirit. She is constantly learning, sharing her observations, and planning ahead for changes of season. There is the promise of amazing blooms in Spring - the bat plant and the swamp orchid just two of the exciting treats ahead. And all of this achieved in just three years... and from scratch! So, like the rest of us, Yvonne's quest is ongoing as conditions change, and we learn from each other. But, the basic rule seems to be: put a plant in a suitable spot with companionable neighbours, give it the care and nourishment it needs, and it will thrive. A bit like people!

## Things we need

Feature pots  
Indigenous food plants  
Fruit trees  
People

New members

## Your help with

Raising plants  
Fundraising  
Spreading the word!

## Important dates

2nd July

BCGI garden stall on site  
8-11 am (see flier)

3-10 July

NAIDOC Week

24th July General Meeting  
3 pm @ Community Hall  
Progress Rd, Beachmere

26th July

World Mangrove Day

29th July

School tree day





## IN PARTNERSHIP - FULTON HOGAN

We are extremely fortunate that construction company Fulton Hogan has partnered with us to help bring the Beachmere Community Garden to life. Their offer to fund the arbour build is very generous. They have also provided technical engineering advice that has helped us save a lot of time and money. Like us, they are committed to recycling and reducing waste on their site. Here is an extract from an article they provided titled "Unlocking the power of waste"

With food waste such a big problem in Australia, the Fulton Hogan project team working on the Bruce Highway upgrade in Elimbah have taken REAL action to reduce their contribution to the issue by establishing a kitchen compost process that's now feeding a flourishing onsite herb garden.

When food scraps are sent to landfill they decompose to produce methane, a greenhouse gas with more than 20 times the global warming capacity of carbon dioxide. Decomposing food scraps in landfill are also a potential source of organic leachates (liquid that drains from landfills) that can contaminate surface and ground water.

Doing their part to help break this cycle and make more sustainable choices with their food waste, the Fulton Hogan team estimates they've collected and turned over about 340L of food waste into compost over the last year, ensuring all of those food scraps that were once bound for landfill now serve a much higher purpose by providing essential nutrients to a growing range of chives, rosemary, tarragon, oregano, basil and thyme.

Since being planted out in January the garden has flourished thanks to all of the rain South East Queensland has received this year and as an added bonus, the garden has attracted more native bees to the area as they love the basil flowers.

The team are now enjoying the fruits of their labour with many often seen out in the garden picking a selection of herbs to take home and incorporate into their regular cooking rituals. There's also been reports of some very imaginative beverage creations benefiting from the garden too, with tasty sounding cocktails like "Rosemary Gin Fizz" and "Tarragon Negroni" topping the list. Recycling your food scraps and other forms of green waste is not only a powerful way to make a positive impact on the environment, but it can be a lot of fun too!



Kirsty and Cobus from Fulton Hogan show the BCGI team their amazing herb garden.

## GARDENING AUSTRALIA

Happy 90th birthday Ferny Creek Horticultural Society. One of Australia's oldest garden clubs, the group is still going strong with over 250 members. Generations of volunteers have tended the 10 acre site, located in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges. The annual Plant Collectors Expo is a highlight of the Society's year. What an inspiration. Makes you wonder what our garden will look like in 90 years?

Watch this and other great segments on the Gardening Australia website, ABC iView (Episode. 07, 2022) or 7:30pm Fridays on ABC.



Image from Gardening Australia website

## PLANTING UPDATE

The following plants are a selection chosen by BCGI for the sensory garden. If you have any that you would like to donate, please let us know. As you can see, we don't want just pretty smelling plants, we want the whole sensory experience!

**Sedum "Autumn Joy"** *Sedum spp* (Visual, touch)

**Smelly Socks** *Grevillia leucopteris* (Guess!)

**Biddy Bush** *Cassinia arcuata* (smells like coffee)

**Lambs Ears** *Stachys byzantina* (touch)

**Stevia, Sweet Leaf** *Stevia rebaudiana* (sweet taste)

**Chocolate Cosmos** *Cosmos atrosanguineus*

**Chocolate Lily** *Dichopogon fimbriatus*

**Lanolin Bush** *Franklandia fucifolia* (smells like lanolin)

**Heliotrope, "Cherry Pie"** *Heliotropium arborescens* (smells like cherry)

**Chefs Cap Correa** *Correa baeuerlenii* (smells like juicy fruit gum!)

**Flindersia Bennettiana** (smells like bread dough)

**Scented Bush Pea** *Pultenaea gravolens* (smells like cream cheese)

**Stinking Hakea** *Hakea denticulate, H. scandens, H. rubiflora* (not so nice!)

Check out our website to see the complete sensory plant list we have compiled. If there are any plants listed that you think shouldn't be, please let us know.



## GARDEN STALL 4TH JUNE

After several months off due to weather and other events clashing, we were able to hold the garden stall on the first Saturday of June. It was so nice not setting up in the heat and humidity!

As part of our commitment to inclusion and making the garden financially accessible to everyone, we have a range of plants for sale without a listed price - just pay what you can. (It's amazing that everyone has been extremely fair with this offer, thanks so much!)

Thanks to everyone who came along and supported the garden. We made just under \$150 for the morning. These stalls will be back on the first Saturday of the month. See you there.



Just a reminder for members to keep propagating plants for the community garden. Let us know if you need seedlings, potting mix or pots. A big thank you to Dracaena Farm Nursery, QLD Succulents and Bribie Community Plant Nursery for donating pots to the garden.

## 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



"To forget how to dig the earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves."

Gandhi

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**This article is part 1 of our discussion of the fourth pillar of Inclusion - "Partnerships". Next issue we will delve into the subject in more detail with help as usual from Carers Qld. This month, we showcase partnerships being forged through the Neighbour Day event held recently by BCGI.**

On a chilly Beachmere morning -Saturday the 18th of June, Beachmere Community Garden Inc hosted the latest Moreton Bay Regional Council Neighbour Day event. Attendees from over ten local groups were warmly welcomed to the Beachmere Community Hall by BCGI members and State Member, Ms Ali King. All were invited to discuss how we can achieve our goal of the Beachmere community garden being inclusive and welcoming to the whole community. As we have said from the outset, this will be a garden for Beachmere and surrounds not just BCGI members, so who better to discuss this with than our neighbours?

BCGI was lucky to have two passionate guest speakers attend to discuss the theme of inclusion. Jasmin from Carers QLD outlined the work their organisation has been undertaking with SEQ Community Gardens to improve inclusion. The results of the recent inclusion forum at North Lakes were discussed with some of the main findings indicating that there is a willingness to be inclusive, however, a lack of information and technical knowledge can be a barrier for many community gardens.

Nathan from Swallowtail Nursery was the next guest speaker. Having Asperger's hasn't stopped Nathan from leading a busy and successful life, with the creation of Swallowtail Nursery an amazing achievement. The nursery is set up to assist those with a disability to gain experience in the horticultural industry. Not satisfied with that, Nathan discussed how he has recently completed a Cert 3 in Horticulture at TAFE, which included him working together with TAFE to tailor the course for those with a disability.

After a delicious morning tea, provided by MBRC, the attendees participated in a workshop to determine what the local community would like to see at the community garden. A common theme ran through the responses - A welcoming, safe area, sensory gardens, workshops and educational events, local bush tucker plants and lots of seats! With the last of the morning's formal activities completed, everyone moved outside to view the Community Hall garden redevelopments. BCGI has been undertaking this garden transformation in conjunction with the Beachmere Community Association and Beachmere History and Research while waiting for Council approvals at the community garden site. Karen from Beachmere History and Research gave an informative talk about the story behind the dolphin and mullet sculptures that now take pride of place in the redeveloped garden. Finally, we all took a walk over to the Community garden site. Everyone was very impressed with the garden's location and the design we have planned.

Overall, the Neighbour Day was a great success and the outcomes from the workshop reinforce our view that we are on the right track to provide what the local community wants from their community garden - an inclusive and welcoming garden space where everyone can learn about growing healthy, local food.

Thank you to State Member Ali King for not only her attendance but also for donating a garden trolley to BCGI. This will be so useful and is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Nathan and Rachell from Swallowtail Nursery and Jasmin from Carers Qld for your interesting and inspiring words. Thank you Micah from the MBRC Community Development team who coordinates these Neighbour Day events and who organised with Bean Seen Café for the supply of the delicious morning tea. Thanks to all the local groups who attended (see photo below).

Last but not least thank you to all the BCGI members who helped organise and run the event, your efforts resulted in a great example of community inclusion at work.

**If you have any suggestions on making the community garden more inclusive or you have seen great examples elsewhere, please let us know so we can spread the word. For more information on inclusion, check out [www.theinclusionclub.com](http://www.theinclusionclub.com)**







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.

## July 3-10 NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC Week is a celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Check out the MBRC website for a list of events being held in our region. We look forward to being involved and reporting on some of these events in the next issue.

[www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Events/NAIDOC-Week](http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Events/NAIDOC-Week)



## THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

This photo could be any remote location in Australia. It was, however, taken just meters from the dog park at the southern tip of Beachmere. Mangroves are vital to preventing erosion and providing habitat for so many local species. We are lucky to still have places like this so close to where we live. For more info on why they are so important and what we can do to help preserve them, go to [www.wildlife.org.au](http://www.wildlife.org.au) or [unesco.org/en/days](http://unesco.org/en/days)



## GRANT RD GROUNDBREAKERS NEIGHBOUR DAY 11TH JUNE

Saturday, June the 11th saw Caboolture Baptist Church Community Garden (known as the Grant Rd Groundbreakers) host the latest Moreton Bay Regional Council Neighbour Day event. As usual, the volunteers of the garden put on a great morning.

It's amazing the difference a few months can make. The site has dried from the recent floods and the allotments were starting to fill again with a wide range of herbs and vegetables.

The guest speaker, Sarah from Basilea Herb Farm presented a very informative talk about herbs and how best to grow them in our sub tropical environment.

BCGI donated a load of compost to the Groundbreakers which was greatly appreciated. Thanks to BCGI member Mitch for supplying the compost.

Thanks again to the Groundbreakers - we look forward to building on the partnership forged between our groups by events like this. Also, thanks to Micah from MBRC Community Development for providing amazing support to our region's gardens so we can host events like this.

## JULY 29TH SCHOOL TREE DAY

"Schools Tree Day is a great opportunity to inspire and educate future generations on the many benefits of trees and connection with nature"(planet ark website).

For more info go to  
[www.planetark.org](http://www.planetark.org)



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

A beautiful cream nasturtium by Jude. The leaves and flowers are edible on this hardy ground cover. And the bees love them too! (did you notice the tiny spider?)

BCGI has recommenced its garden stall on the first Saturday of each month.

*Spread the word!*  
**July 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
8 - 11am

Plants Seedlings Bric a brac  
Books Clothing Kitchenware

**BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.**  
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

Garden is located next to the water tower



## SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES AND GROUPS SUPPORTING US

It has been amazing to see the generous support from many local (and not so local) governments, businesses 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



Green Door Bowen Therapy

Top2Toe Massage

Aware Lifestyle

Flamingos Ice Creamery

Q Tank

Dracaena Farm Nursery

Pelican Business  
Services



**Collectors  
Corner Nursery**

**KEV & KEN**  
THE FLOWER POT MEN

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