

Welcome

The good dirt

Vol 13 Aug 2022

Hello everyone and thanks for reading our latest newsletter. Wind, rain, sunshine - we've had it all this last month! I'm sure the plants in my garden don't know what's going on, how about yours? Luckily, Darla has been busy once more, uncovering another garden for us to explore that thrives in these conditions - it's another great read.

We can announce that the concrete has officially gone to tender. It's exciting that the construction process is officially underway. All of the hard work and dedication from the BCGI members will finally be coming to fruition. Once again, thank you to every one who has assisted. There will be a lot of activity in the months ahead, so we appreciate any help you provide (ahem...upcoming Bunnings sausage sizzle!).

It's almost Ekka time, so you know what that means - the Westerly winds will soon be here. Have you prepared your garden yet? Check out our article later in the newsletter to see what you can do to help your garden through this difficult time. We present part two of the Seven Pillars of Inclusion discussion on Partnerships. We highlight some great examples of the partners who are helping bring the community garden to life including the Fulton Hogan team and Bribie Island State School. We can't do this on our own and appreciate the local community taking ownership of the garden. Just how a community garden should be.

Enjoy the read.

The Committee

Please pass this newsletter on to anyone who may be interested

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



As the garden edges closer to construction, we need to think about how we will fill it up! The following are all required - Wicker baskets for workshops and the garden stall. Sealed jars for saving seeds, preserves, chutneys and honey. And of course lots of terracotta/feature pots for the plants. Any donations are greatly appreciated.



The BCGI garden stall is back!

Spread the word!

Aug 6th
8 - 11am

Plants Seedlings Bric a brac
Books Clothing Kitchenware

Garden located next to the Beachmere water tower
Dogs welcome - Humans must be supervised at all times



un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day

#WeAreIndigenous

Things we need

Feature/terracotta pots

Indigenous food plants

Fruit trees

Wicker baskets

sealed glass jars

small glass jars

People

New members

Helpers for Bunnings

Sausage sizzle

Your help with

Raising plants

Fundraising

Spreading the word!

Important dates

6th August

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

8th August

EKKA holiday

9 August

World Indigenous People's Day

13-21st August

National Science Week

14th August

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

15-23rd August

Keep Australia Beautiful Week

28th Aug General Meeting

3 pm @ Community Hall
Progress Rd, Beachmere

31st August

Last day of Winter

MARY'S BACKYARD - BY DARLA

If you ask Mary how her garden grows, she will cheerfully tell you – it thrives on neglect. And thrive it does. While some of us are coping with bizarre and unpredictable conditions of excessive heat, lashings of rain, bitter cold, watching our carefully nurtured plants fry, freeze or drown, in Mary's garden, plants of all types are happily adjusting to whatever Nature hurls at them. Why is this?

Many years ago, this area was mostly sand. There were a few native shrubs and trees and not much else. Mary set out, in a practical way, laying a foundation starting with asking people for their old newspapers to spread over the sand, followed by a layer of small pebbles and topped up with soil and mulch. A spear pump completed the groundwork. Then cuttings from her previous garden were introduced here and there. Mary knew from observation which plants would probably survive the tough times, and from then on it was "sink or swim" for the growing shrubs. Resilience was the key, as well as ensuring that the native plants were allowed plenty of space to flourish alongside fruit trees and old favourites. Somehow a place grew that takes one back to storybook gardens of childhood. It has paths winding through tall trees, rustic seats placed here and there for quiet reflection, and it seems to have no boundaries... no sense of being fenced in... more like a small park than a suburban backyard. And it is also a source of food - fruit trees, a banana palm, hanging baskets of tomatoes, every kind of herb, a passion fruit vine growing from a window box.

This "plant and forget" garden is a lesson in drought tolerant plants, something we should all be contemplating. There are many and varied shrubs and trees here that benefit from "benign neglect" such as lavender, geraniums, rosemary, verbena, buddleia, to name a few, and of course the essential and beautiful natives. Helpful insects and birds are attracted to this garden bursting with diversity. And a bonus! Not a patch of lawn to be seen anywhere, just lush ground cover fed by tall trees providing the bounty of falling leaves. At the moment the garden is a palette of greens, highlighted by filtered sunlight. It is alive with birdsong. Nasturtiums are starting to appear, and pale pink geraniums are flowering. A dragon fruit vine looks close to blooming one night soon. You don't look AT this garden... you look into it. Far from "neglected", it has grown through thoughtful preparation and observation of conditions and now requires minimal maintenance... the hard work is done.

And at the centre is a hardy perennial... Mary herself. Her vitality and joy of living are an integral part of this ecology. And the plants reflect her indomitable spirit as they harmoniously co-exist and flourish in this peaceful place.

What a great story! And so many lessons for the community garden and our own gardens. Thank you Mary for sharing them with us.



GARDEN STALL 2ND JULY

It was a wet and chilly morning, but that didn't stop the crew from braving the elements and hosting the latest BGCI garden stall. The decision was made to just set up the plants and not risk getting the bric a brac wet - a wise decision.

Even though the conditions weren't ideal, we were surprised by the number of people who still came out for a look and chat. Garden lovers are definitely made of tough stuff! Although we didn't make as many sales as usual, we did meet some potential new members which is way more important. Well done all.

The garden stall is held 1st Saturday of the Month, 8-11am.



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

GARDENING AUSTRALIA

The crew at Gardening Australia are having a well earned rest at the moment, but that doesn't mean we can't get our weekly fix of Costa and the team. Why not check out this story from last year where Costa visits a house, restaurant and farm all in one!



Image from Gardening Australia website

www.youtube.com/watch?v=j335BTu_vFU

Watch this and other great episodes on the Gardening Australia website or ABC iView. We will put this link on our Facebook page as well.

PLANTING UPDATE

The plants and seeds from the Fulton Hogan workshop are doing well. Have a look at the seedlings Yvonne potted up using the ice cream tubs from the day!



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 and Bribie Community Nursery for donating pots to the garden.



ACCESS ATTITUDE CHOICE PARTNERSHIPS COMMUNICATION POLICY OPPORTUNITY

We continue 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. Today's pillar is Partnerships (part 2).

What makes a community more than just the sum of its parts? There are many factors, but a major reason is the partnerships developed between individuals and groups. The strength of a community depends on the strengths of these partnerships.

"Partnership - An arrangement where parties agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests".

In starting our community garden, the initial partnerships began within a small sphere of influence - family and friends with a shared interest in growing food. These expanded out into the wider community to include other groups, businesses and government representatives and agencies. It was actually the input from these other groups that raised the group's awareness to the importance of inclusion. These different points of view have been incredibly important.

There are many types of partnerships that are made along the journey, short and long term, informal and formal. It's important to let these partnerships grow organically - don't force things! As the definition above explains, partnerships should benefit both parties; we should take time to reconsider initiating a partnership until we can be confident this will be the result.

We live in a busy society - any individual, group or business that decides to partner with your group is being very generous, so make sure their efforts are appreciated.

Some observations from our experience:

- Get your elected representatives involved.
- Look at establishing business partnerships - Many businesses are aware of their social responsibilities and want to help (see article opposite for an example). In our case, an engineering and construction company invested in the project, resulting in many positive and beneficial opportunities for both parties.
- Partner with local groups - Men's shed, schools, community network groups can all help but not only in practical ways. They can also provide advice and mentoring. The Bribie Island Community Nursery has provided that aspect for our group.

We have been extremely fortunate with the partnerships that have been forged so far. They give the community garden a solid foundation to grow. With everyone's help we can succeed in providing that which we all have a mutual interest in providing: A welcoming and inclusive space where the whole community can come together and learn about healthy food.

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 "partnerships", check out the link below:

www.theinclusionclub.com/the-7-pillars-of-inclusion

Thanks to Jasmin and Farran from Carers Qld for assisting with writing this article



FULTON HOGAN WORKSHOP

It has been great to have Fulton Hogan partner with BCGI to help bring the community garden to life. As we have mentioned previously, they have not only donated funding for the harbour's construction, they have also provided engineering feedback.

On Saturday, the 16th July, the Fulton Hogan team were invited to participate in a gardening workshop. The day started with a quick history of the community garden and where we are with construction. Mitch then provided a very informative talk about composting and worm farms - This proved to be very popular, so much so that the rest of the morning could have easily been taken up with questions to Mitch, but we had plants to pot up, seeds to plant and garden tools to refurbish.

A quick break for morning tea saw everyone enjoy a Flamingo's ice cream and a chat about the wonderful homemade chutney and Beachmere honey on display. After the break everyone got back into finishing the remaining plants and seeds to pot up. This was achieved in quick time as the word had spread that it was time for the main event - Chicken maintenance 101. The chooks are getting used to the attention, tolerating getting their wings clipped and enjoying plenty of cuddles afterwards.

To top off the morning, the FH team made a fantastic announcement - FH will be donating their containers for change to BCGI. Amazing!

Thank you Kathy and Cobus for organising the FH team. Thank you to Mitch for the informative talk and to the members involved in organising a terrific morning for all. We hope this is the first of many such events.



BRIBIE ISLAND STATE SCHOOL

As a thank you to Bribie Island State School for their support of our community garden, BCGI presented a grass tree for the school's reconciliation garden. Pictured is Rechelle with David and the donated grass tree (Xanthorrhoea spp).

It was also Christine's last day at the school, BCGI would like to thank you for your support and wish you all the best in the future.

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



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.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH
Stunning orange gerbera by
Darla.

Like sunflowers, the gerbera isn't one
flower but hundreds clustered together.

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



Wailum Action Group Inc.



Fulton Hogan

Cr Mark Booth
Div 2



Moreton Bay
Regional Council



Green Door Bowen Therapy

Top2Toe Massage

Aware Lifestyle

Flamingos Ice Creamery

Q Tank

Dracaena Farm Nursery



BEACHMERE
MEN'S SHED



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



Aqualess



ALI KING MP
Member for Pumicestone
Working hard for us



KEV & KEN
THE FLOWER POT MEN

Pelican Business
Services



Waterlilies
Down Under



BANG
Beachmere Area Network Group Inc



The Bribie Islander

BEACHMERE UNITING CHURCH CRAFT GROUP DONATION

BCGI had the welcome surprise of receiving a
\$100 donation from the Beachmere Uniting
Church Craft Group. The group raises funds
through a weekly collection and donate to a
worthy local cause. We are so thankful to the
group for their contribution to the community
garden. We look forward to discussing with
our members how to spend the money.

GARDEN TIPS FOR WINDY WEATHER

MULCH MULCH MULCH

Wait till spring if you have any trees to plant.

Stake trees that haven't established themselves
yet. Check the Gardening Australia fact sheet for
the correct method to stake a tree.

Follow Mary's advice and use resilient plants that
can handle strong, dry winds. Indigenous coastal
plants have adapted to windy conditions.

Remove any overhanging branches from trees that
could break and fall.

Small seedlings can be covered with plastic
bottles with the bottom cut out.

Let us know of any tips you have for
protecting your plants.



national science week

Learn how science is helping to combat some of the
environmental issues facing us such as bushfires and floods.

Moreton Bay Regional Council is hosting the free event
"Moreton Minds: How science can save the world",
Wednesday 17 Aug, 7:00-8:00pm at the Redcliffe
Library. Bookings are required.

For more info, go to

www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/libraries/Events

To see other events for science week, go to

www.scienceweek.net.au

THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

Winter is a time for warm socks
and warmer soup! Soups are a
great way to utilise food that may
be going a bit soft. Send in your
favourite soup recipes.

Speaking of winter, why not get
out and embrace these chilly
mornings with an early morning
walk? It won't be long until it's
spring and we are complaining
about how hot and humid it is!

Keep Australia Beautiful Week

This year's theme is "Contain your Waste".
Reducing waste right at the source is the
most effective and efficient way to make a
genuine impact to keep Australia
Beautiful. Learn more at:

www.kab.org.au/campaigns



CREEC NURSERY PLASTIC LID COLLECTION

Our friends down at the Caboolture
Regional Environmental Education Centre
are collecting plastic bottle caps for a very
worthy cause. The caps are being sent to
a charity group who recycle them into
prosthetic limbs for children. What an
amazing use for something that would
have ended up in landfill.

We are asking the community to collect
the lids and bring them to us at the
monthly garden stall or general meeting.

*"The earth laughs in
flowers"*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Consulting
Engineers

A big thank you to Ian
from Ian Barnes and
Associates for going
above and beyond in
providing engineering for
the gardens design.

We appreciate the extra consultations,
amendments to drawings and
enthusiasm you show towards the
community garden project. Cheers!

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