

Hello everyone and thanks for reading our latest newsletter. Goodbye Winter, hello Spring. But does it feel like the seasons have changed because the calendar says they have? Not really. That's why we are asking our members to look to nature to give us indications of when the seasons are changing. We also look forward to working with the Pumicestone Indigenous Education and Employment Council and Beachmere History and Research to gain a greater understanding of the seasons. I know I can't wait to start planting some of the veggies that need the warmer weather and using this information to be more in tune will surely lead to greater success in the patch.

Construction of the garden is getting closer each day. The concrete tender has closed, with the successful bid to be announced in the next few weeks. Meetings will follow soon after to go over plans, then it can all begin! The timber for the arbour has been ordered and will be ready to install with the shade house, shipping container, water features and rainwater tank, which are all ready to go. And then the plants...

Our connections within the local community seem to be growing by the week, with the latest project helping at the Beachmere State School. It's been great learning from these enthusiastic gardeners. BCGI recently participated in the wreath laying service for Vietnam Veterans Day and the poppies for Remembrance day are growing strong. There's so much going on at the Beachmere Community Garden in the near future, it really is exciting. And we want to share it with you. Everyone is welcome.

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.

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

1st Sept
1st day of Spring

1st Sept
Wattle Day

1-30 Sept
National Biodiversity Month

3rd Sept
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
Morayfield 8-3pm

22nd Sept
World Car Free Day

25th Sept General Meeting
3 pm @ Community Hall
Progress Rd, Beachmere

NOTE: There is no plant stall on site this Month. See the Flier on the last page for info on the new Beachmere Markets that we will be attending in October.

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.



BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE 13TH AUGUST



The team is starting to really get the hang of these BBQs. This was our busiest to date, with just over \$2150 profit made to go towards establishing Beachmere's inspiring, inclusive, welcoming community garden. Thanks again Leigh from Bunnings Morayfield and to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success.

And we get to do it all again on the 3rd of September!



"PAT'S POTS" BY DARLA

It must be nearly Spring! The little orange rose at my front door is about to produce another exquisite flower, and it reminds me once again of Pat. Strange how flowers can bring back memories of friends.

Pat gave me this little potted treasure. She had moved from acreage and her beloved orchard to a waterfront unit with no garden. A spot of ill health necessitated her being closer to medical services, and at first, she ruefully joked that she wouldn't know what to do with herself, being used to active work in the veggie patch, and looking after her citrus trees. But the front patio somehow turned into a jolly collection of pots of all shapes and sizes, and Pat's interest in annuals, shrubs and hanging baskets blossomed. Some thrived. Some succumbed to the fierce salted winds and summer's blazing heat. In desperation she constructed a barrier of beach umbrellas and shade cloth... effective, until it all ended up across the road in a sudden gale. We rallied around with books, advice, and lots of discussion about how to get the best out of her new garden, and many a cup of tea accompanied mornings of laughter with this sunny natured lass who somehow brought together a group of neighbours, and turned us into a group of friends.

I recall her determination to grow hydrangeas. The very best potting mix went into two imposing pots which were placed in the optimal position, and watered carefully. A soil meter appeared (new to most of us) to measure the moisture, sunlight and pH. The plants were coddled, nurtured and we all had high expectations of lush blooms. But... the eventual flowers in one pot were quite dismal, and the other pot just turned up its toes. Too hot, too blustery.. we could see that they were just aching for a sweet spot against a brick wall, preferably further south. But the first little white clusters gave Pat great joy, and that made us all happy. The fuchsias in hanging baskets were another challenge, but somehow, she managed to keep them alive and vibrant, along with a beautiful lavender, mandevilla vines in red and white growing on a frame, and kitchen supplies... chives, parsley, rosemary, lemon grass. The patio became an obstacle course. So did the living room with houseplants everywhere.

Pat eventually left our little circle of friends, quietly and peacefully. She had made a list of each plant, and the person who was to take it and look after it. She matched the plants to our characters. Helen, a dramatic lady with a love of bright colours, inherited the fuchsias and red and white vines. Carol, a quiet lady who wore mostly greys and soft colours, was the recipient of the lavender pots and ferns. Margaret, a whizz in the kitchen was now in charge of the edibles, the indoor plants went to a nursing home, and Bob and Kevin were on the list for a thriving umbrella tree and a kumquat with great potential. The roses are now in my care. And a happy plant in an elegant tall glass vase. And that high maintenance, struggling and occasionally rewarding white hydrangea. What better way to remember the good times and good people we are privileged to have in our lives. Take great care of them all!



GARDENING AUSTRALIA

The crew at Gardening Australia are back! Check out the segment by Clarence, showcasing the beautiful native plants that thrive in a pot (Episode 21, 2022). This is useful information for our community garden as the majority of our plants will be presented this way.



Image from Gardening Australia website

Watch this and other great episodes on the Gardening Australia website, ABC iView or 7:30pm Fridays on ABC.

PLANTING UPDATE

Look at this little beauty! Here's one of the spring bulbs that Yvonne potted up while also finding a great way to repurpose old cups. Nice one.



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.

"The best fertiliser is the gardener's shadow"

Unknown

BEACHMERE STATE SCHOOL GARDEN



It's great to finally start gardening with the students at Beachmere State School. They have a fantastic garden set-up of raised garden beds, fruit trees and a shade house. The plants BCGI donated for National Tree Day have been planted and the lettuce seedlings are powering along. We really look forward to this becoming a regular visit to the school and learning from each other.



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

NOTE: Our regular series on the seven pillars of inclusion and how we can use them to make our garden more inclusive will continue next issue.

MELBOURNE COMMUNITY GARDENS

What do you do when visiting Melbourne, the sporting capital of Australia? Visit as many community gardens as possible of course! Even though our community garden will look a lot different to these examples, we can learn so much by visiting other community gardens and talking to their volunteers. It's a great way to see what works and learn what doesn't in their situation. For more info on the gardens featured, check out their websites or Facebook pages.

West Brunswick Community Garden - A productive garden with raised beds and an established food forest. The garden was full of cheerful volunteers, tending plots, turning compost and having a cuppa and chat! This garden is now looking to be more inclusive, with redeveloped pathways making the garden more accessible. (Image 1)

Pentridge Community Garden - Surrounded by the imposing walls of the old Jail, this community garden is a feature of the redeveloped Pentridge site. Many of the volunteers live in the surrounding apartments buildings, enjoying the open, green space. The garden had a terrific collection of fruit trees in large containers, adapted to be wicking beds. This is the same concept as our wicking beds so it was great to see the concept in action. (Image 2, 3)

Dept of Housing gardens - Residents of many of Melbourne's public housing apartments have access to secure gardens to grow fresh fruit and veggies. Run by not for profit, Cultivating Communities, these gardens display a wide variety of plants, befitting the multi cultural make up of the area. (Image 4)

North Melbourne primary school garden - An established garden is used in conjunction with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation to teach students about healthy food. The new section is utilising durable stainless steel raised beds and fruit tree containers. (Image 5)

Street Gardens - Less formal than the other gardens, these pop up along streets and alleyways, providing locals and passers by with fresh herbs, greens and maybe even a compost hub. They prove you don't need a large area to be productive. The plants from these gardens are a good example of what survives constant picking from (Image 6 - **Courtney Street Community Garden**, Image 7 - **Weirs Lane Community Garden**).

Thanks to Libby (West Brunswick CG), Andrew (Pentridge CG), North Melbourne Primary School and Ben (Cultivating Communities) for taking the time to have a chat about their gardens.



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2



IMAGE 5



IMAGE 4



IMAGE 6



IMAGE 7



GARDEN STALL 6TH AUGUST 6TH

Well, we sure can pick the weather. Another monthly garden stall, another wet morning. Not letting it get us down, we met some hardy locals who visited and said g'day. We also had a great display of sensory plants that are an example of what will be in the garden (see photo). Thanks to everyone who helped out on the day.

This was the last garden stall on site as we will be participating in the new monthly Beachmere Men's Shed markets. This is an exciting new event for Beachmere, so please support it! See Flier on the last page.



OSCA THE COMPOSTER UPDATE

We can announce that OSCA has reached his new home! Thank you Warrick from Sign Blast who organised the move on very short notice. It was great to see OSCA finally moved and one step closer to producing amazing compost for the community garden.



IMAGE 3



**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

Huge earth worm by Mitch.

Earthworms can eat over half their
weight each day. This one's helping
make a lot of castings!

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



Q Tank
Aware Lifestyle
Top2Toe Massage
Flamingos Ice Creamery
Dracaena Farm Nursery
Green Door Bowen Therapy



King Marlin
For Details
0497540784

WOW!
NEW

Beachmere Community Markets

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1ST
MEN'S SHED
53 ROGERS STREET
AND EVERY 1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

BOOKS **CLOTHES**

CRAFT **TOOLS** **HOT & COLD DRINKS**

PLANTS **MEN'S SHED MADE GOODS** **HOUSEHOLD GOODS**

National Biodiversity Month

Did you know there are still echidnas in the centre of Beachmere? Nature is resilient but we need to do our part to help. Controlling pets, planting wildlife friendly gardens, minimising chemical use and slowing down on the roads (or better yet, getting out of the car to walk or cycle) are just a few simple steps we can do to preserve local biodiversity. A more diverse web of life helps maintain balance in our vegetable garden, one way that helping nature helps us in return.

For more info, go to www.wildlife.org.au

THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

Spring means a whole new variety of seasonal fruit and vegetables we can enjoy. The photo shows a simple salad using some of these varieties. Just add spinach, coriander, chilli, celery, sprouts, feta and dressing to some buckwheat - Delicious!



Cars are one of the biggest polluters to the environment, killing millions of native animals each year and are making us lazy. Instead of driving down to the shops, take a walk or cycle and enjoy some of the local gardens along the way that you would otherwise miss.

Wattle Day 1st Sept

The Golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is Australia's national floral emblem. There are over 1000 species found in most ecosystems throughout Australia. There is still a great display of local wattle flowers out at the moment, so why not go out and appreciate this Aussie icon.

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.

Big thank you to Steve and Ben at Cartridge World Morayfield for helping out with the garden's printing needs. Steve is a keen gardener like us who by the sounds of it has a pretty impressive garden at home. Cheers!



Cartridge World
Morayfield

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

FB: facebook.com/BeachmereCommunityGarden