

# Welcome

# The good dirt

Vol 17 Dec 2022

Hello and thanks for reading our latest newsletter. There is a buzz around town at the moment, word is spreading that things are finally starting to happen on the community garden site. Yes, work has begun turning our vision for an inclusive, welcoming garden, promoting healthy food into a reality. It has been a long process to get to this point, and as we celebrate International Volunteers day on the 5th, the committee would like to thank all the garden members, friends, family, community groups, government officers, elected representatives and businesses that have volunteered their time to help get us to this stage. Check out the photos later in the newsletter to see the latest progress.

As we have learned through our discussions with Carers QLD, there is more to inclusion than providing the physical garden space, even if it has been designed with accessibility in mind. Our final article on the seven pillars of inclusion, explains why it is important to provide a range of opportunities to all members of the community to encourage participation.

Darla has been out and about once again, visiting a local family whose abundant garden is a central part of their lives... another great read. While the Bribie Community Nursery is proud to announce a major upgrade to make the site more accessible. We also visit the Bribie Island Library community garden, which had its official opening recently.

With the year winding down, it is a great time to reflect on the successful year it has been. We can't slow down too much though, there is another Bunnings sausage sizzle just around the corner! And has it really almost been a year since the last BANG Beachmere Bazaar?! Time flies when your having fun.

Hope you all have a safe and happy holidays .

Enjoy the read.

*The Committee*

Please pass this newsletter on to anyone who may be interested

We can proudly unveil the new logo design for the Beachmere Community Garden. The yellow tail black cockatoo is an iconic bird in the area. So much so, it was chosen as a main feature of the water tower mural in the centre of town. As we are located just behind the water tower, the cockatoo will be a great marker to find the garden. There was competition for the winning design though, with a cheeky little soldier crab not quite getting the votes! Thank you to members who provided input into the design and the team at Sign Blast who went above and beyond in editing the final design.



**BCGI acknowledges and pays our respects to the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and to elders past, present and emerging.**



## Things we need

Feature pots

Indigenous food plants

Fruit trees

Wicker baskets

Sealed glass jars

## People

New members

## Your help with

Raising plants

Fundraising

Spreading the word!

## Important dates

1st Dec

First day of Summer

3rd Dec

Beachmere Community Markets (see flier)

3rd Dec

Beachmere Bazaar (see flier)

3rd Dec

Int. Day of people with disability

5th Dec

Int. Volunteer Day

8th Dec

Bunnings Christmas markets

18th Dec

Bunnings Sausage sizzle 8-3pm Morayfield

There will be no general meeting in December.



## FEEDING THE FAMILY BY DARLA

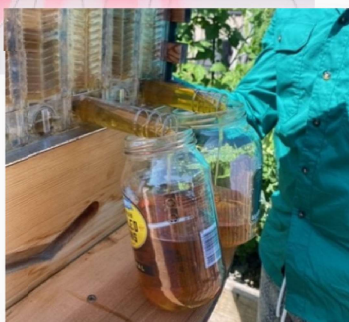
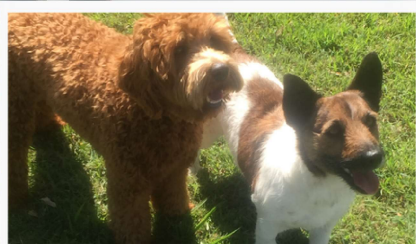
A bright Spring Sunday morning. Savannah and her friend Matilda are out the front selling jars of honey - "Fresh Today!" Ted and Keith greet me at the gate, tails wagging. Ari is off on boy's chores and Rick is at the hive, drawing off the last of the honey. Bianca is busy in the kitchen filling jars.

Down the back, past the orchard, some fine-looking chooks are enjoying their luxurious grassy pen. A clever little laying house awaits in a discreet corner. Worms are busy producing their goodies in a covered bath under a shady tree, ready to contribute their castings to the lushness and health of this vibrant garden. Rick's green fingers are evident in the plantings...every sort of tree imaginable... lemon, lime, orange, macadamia, white and red mulberries, grape vines, exotic fruits... planted over the last five years and ensuring an avenue of bounty as they thrive under Rick's expert eye (a gift from his Dad Gaz who is well known for his ability to grow just about anything.)

And the veggie garden! From corn to beetroot, tomatoes, spinach, snow peas... too many to list... everyone benefits from healthy home-grown vegetables all year round. Nothing is wasted... no wonder those chooks are so good-looking! And here's a tip from Rick's mum Caroline - plant sweet potatoes in an old wheelbarrow... now why didn't I think of that!

Rick and Bianca are busy with their own successful business pursuits in Real Estate and specialised tree maintenance. One wonders where they find the time and energy for creating this practically self-sufficient atmosphere for their multi-generational family. But ... everyone contributes to the maintenance of the garden. Bianca's father John is especially fond of the chickens, and they in turn love to hear his stories during their regular chats. Neighbours' children are always welcome. And Bianca's generous and warm nature is a tonic... this business lady is essentially a down to earth, talented home keeper, whose positive energy underpins an environment where all living things flourish.

It is a pleasure to meet a couple who are more than the sum of their parts. Perfectly in synch with each other, with a shared vision and a great love of family and nature, they epitomise the ideal family life, and it manifests everywhere in their home and garden, pets and children. With offers to babysit Ted and Keith ANY time, I left with lifted spirits, as the bees got to work on the next batch, dogs bounced happily in farewell, and the girls were still busy at their stall out the front. Our future is in safe hands while we have families like these quietly looking after their own patch. And the honey! Just the bee's knees!!



## GARDENING AUSTRALIA

Josh visits a retirement home that incorporates its landscaped gardens and gardening opportunities for residents as integral parts of the care provided.



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

Summer is upon us, however you wouldn't know with the cold, miserable start to the season. It won't be long however and the temperature will be turning up. This is a dangerous time for your plants, especially those in pots. When coupled with the persistent winds we have here, the heat can stress or even kill a pot plant in a single day. When buying plants in a small pot, try to have your planting strategy sorted out, whether that is planting it into the ground or into a larger pot. Don't leave it till tomorrow, it may be too late!

Speaking of pot plants, we will be having an end of year sale at the Beachmere Community Markets on the 3rd of December, to reduce our stock over the heat of summer. Drop by to grab a bargain. We have plenty of rosella seedlings up and growing, why not plant some of these and have a go at making some delicious rosella jam. We also have trays of pigeon pea available. A permaculture favourite, this legume is a nitrogen fixer, grows fast and tolerates hot summer conditions, it's a great wind break, the bees love the flowers and the peas can be eaten green or dried... the chooks love them too! If you can't make it to the markets, get in touch to organise purchasing some plants.



## BRIBIE ISLAND LIBRARY GARDEN

Congratulations to Bribie Island library on the official opening of your new community garden. We appreciated the invite to the event and hope to assist wherever possible. The raised gardens made by the local Men's Shed are a great example of community groups working together.



## BECOME A MEMBER OF BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.

Have you thought about becoming a member of Beachmere Community Garden? Memberships available are: Adult, Junior and Family. Check out the website for more info.



E: beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com W: beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au  
or FB: facebook.com/BeachmereCommunityGarden



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The day has finally arrived. Yes, construction is underway! After two years of planning and fundraising, work has begun at a rapid rate. Our accessible paths and work areas are close to completion, shade sail footings are poured and the arbour is to begin construction very soon. Thank you once again to Cr Booth, for funding the concrete works. Also, cheers to Dan and the crew for doing such a great job on the concrete. And a big thank you to our builder John and garden member Bill for all the hours of site preparation and fabrication. Well done!



## BRIBIE ISLAND COMMUNITY NURSERY UPDATE

Our friends at Bribie Community Nursery have been busy improving accessibility for people to visit and participate at the nursery. The old gravel paths have been replaced with a more stable and weather proof surface (see photo). This was a massive job, but one that has increased the opportunities for people with mobility issues to enjoy the nursery. The vege garden has had some hits and misses lately. Tomatoes are turning mushy on the vine, anyone know what this may be? But have a look at the tasty cucumbers growing well and producing plenty!

We conclude 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 Opportunity.

**Opportunity** (noun) : an occasion or situation that makes it possible to do something that you want to do or have to do, or the possibility of doing something

As we move closer to the opening of our community garden, I'm sure we're all starting to think about the types of activities we would like to participate in there. Some may be looking forward to growing different veges or learning to propagate plants. There will be such a wide range of activities to choose from, but will everyone have the opportunity to engage in them? This is an important question that we need to answer if we are to embrace being an inclusive garden.

So what type of opportunities are we talking about at the community garden? Well, all of them! Opportunities to volunteer maintaining the garden, participate in activities, attending events or take on additional responsibilities such as joining the committee. We should be continually looking at ways to improve through feedback and apply this knowledge to improving the opportunities for all.

Sounds great, but how do we go about this? Luckily, there has been a lot of work undertaken recently (mainly in the sporting field) to assist us. These ideas can easily be modified to fit our requirements as a community garden. One such way is the TREE model - a practical tool to help modify activities to improve opportunities. Below are the 4 elements of the TREE model and some examples we are putting in place to provide greater opportunities:

**Transfer information/ teaching** - Understanding participants' requirements (eg school kids v adult workshop) and modifying teaching techniques to suit. Offering multiple meeting formats, from informal chats to formal, agenda driven meetings.

**Rules** - Having inclusion enshrined in policies and principles. Lower costs to remove financial barriers.

**Environment** - providing accessible pathways and work areas. open plan design that can be adapted to suit the participants using it.

**Equipment** - Gardening tools designed to improve handling and functionality, mobile garden beds that can be placed in best location for participants to use.



**"One practical way to open up new opportunities is to look at ways to modify what you currently do to ensure everyone is getting a fair go."** - Play by the Rules website

Modifying opportunities cannot be achieved without feedback from participants and the flexibility of an organisation to embrace change. Also, it's important that these opportunities are shared with the local community. Use of social media to get the word out will make it known that the garden is committed to providing opportunities for the whole community. In summary, offering a range of opportunities so everyone has a fair go makes sense. We want to see as many of you as possible at the garden, this is a way to help make it happen.

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 "Opportunities", check out the links below:

[www.theinclusionclub.com](http://www.theinclusionclub.com)  
[www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

Thank you Jasmin,  
Lynda and Romi from  
Carers QLD for  
helping with this  
article



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**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.

Thank you to everyone who has helped throughout the year. With construction well underway, we hope you can see that all the fundraising and planning has been worth it. Our efforts show what can be possible when the community gets together for a worthy cause. Looking forward to sharing an exciting 2023 with you all.

# DECEMBER 5TH International Volunteer Day

## THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

Summer is here and in Beachmere that means the yellow tail black cockatoos are in town. It's common to see them collecting a banksia cone in the late afternoon and taking it back to their roosting tree for an evening snack. Much like our idea of learning about growing healthy food on site and taking that knowledge to put into practice at home. This was one of the reasons we chose the cockatoo as our logo.



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Poppy flower by Dick. One of our poppy plants that was given away at November's Remembrance day service. Thank you Dick for nurturing it through the recent hot weather.



A big thank you to CREEC nursery at Burpengary, for donating the above trays and labels to BCGI. Yvonne and David are here accepting the items on behalf of BCGI from Warwick and Julie. Julie is also holding the latest plastic bottle caps we have collected, which are dropped off at the nursery and forwarded on to be made in to prosthetic limbs.

**BEACHMERE DISTRICT MEN'S SHED COMMUNITY MARKET**  
DECEMBER 3RD  
7.00 AM - NOON  
53 ROGERS ST BEACHMERE

**GIFTS**  
DRINKS HOT & COLD  
SNACKS  
PLANTS  
CLOTHING  
KNICK KNACKS  
TAROT READINGS  
BASKETS  
CANDLES  
GLASSWARE  
JAMS & CHUTNEYS  
JEWELLERY  
POTS & BASKETS  
CARPET PIECES  
AND LOTS MORE

## 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



Flamingos



Consulting Engineers



*A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.*  
Doug Larson



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