

Welcome

The good dirt

Vol 18 Feb 2023

Hello and thanks for reading our first newsletter of the year. We hope you all had a great holiday. The Beachmere Community Garden has hit the ground running since the start of the New Year. We are fast approaching the culmination of a vision, a great team effort, and a lot of dedication and hard work from members, community groups, government officers, elected representatives and businesses.

Things are taking shape at the site. Fence posts are in, concrete laid, arbour soon to be completed, sails soon ready to provide shade, and our amazing plants are waiting to be transferred! Wonderful varieties of native shrubs, fruit trees, and all manner of edibles are patiently sitting in members' backyards all over Beachmere, ready for the move. We're starting to think about the Grand Opening, not far away now.

Community Gardens are fast gaining a lot of attention across the country as we look for a better connection to our environment and to each other. They encourage a degree of self-sufficiency, a respect for our world, and friendships which cut across all members of a community. Everyone can contribute, and learn, and enjoy. Think about joining if you are not a member already. It is an activity the entire family can participate in. And the kids love it! As we start this new year, it is a good opportunity to reiterate what the Beachmere Community Garden represents and hopes to achieve. That's why our objectives and guiding principles have been included in this newsletter.

So, to all our readers, we wish you a happy, productive, safe, healthy year ahead. It is a fast-changing world, and we need more than ever to keep an eye on each other, and improve life where we can, to the best of our individual abilities. See you next Saturday at the Men's Shed Market, and soon, at the Beachmere Community Garden!

Enjoy the read.

The Committee

Our final Bunnings Sausage Sizzle for 2022 saw friends from Fulton Hogan, Beachmere U3A, and the Beachmere community joining us in a successful fundraiser (over \$2500 raised, our best yet!). Check out some of the team who were flat out cooking and serving, but enjoying the challenge and camaraderie. Happy smiles all round! Thanks to everyone that helped make the day a success. Also a big thank you to Leigh, Sue and the Bunnings team for all the help over the last year, we really appreciate it.



Please pass this newsletter on to anyone who may be interested



Objectives of Beachmere Community Garden Inc.

A place for all people to learn and be inspired about local, healthy, ethical food production in an urban environment

Educate and inspire children and people of all ages

A community gathering place

An addition and improvement to local green space

Be guided by organic principles

Promote local, indigenous food plants

Promote methods to improve growing food in the local environment



Things we need

Feature pots

Indigenous food plants

Fruit trees

Wicker baskets

People

New members

Your help with

Raising plants

Fundraising

Spreading the word!

Important dates

2nd Feb

World Wetland Day

4th Feb

Beachmere Community Markets
(see flier on last page)

26th Feb

Arvo in the garden
Onsite from 3pm
(see last page for more info)

28th Feb

Last day of Summer

The next general meeting is
23rd April 2023.



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

BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Beachmere Community Garden Inc. has formally adopted the Model Rules as the Constitution. Members must abide by the Model Rules. BCGI is a non-religious, non-political organisation.

Food production is the main form of gardening undertaken by BCGI.

BCGI is not an ornamental garden club. Plant lists will be developed favouring the best food plants for the local area as well as companion plants and host plants for beneficial insects.

Gardening to be based on organic principles

Any fertiliser, sprays to other applications must be either certified organic, or home-made recipes must be made from organic ingredients.

Aggressive, abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

Members are entitled to volunteer in a friendly, respectful environment. Conflict must be resolved through the proper channels.

Decision making is based on consensus.

Members are encouraged to express opinions in the decision-making process but are to abide by all decided outcomes.

Members will at all times work towards the best interests of BCGI.

Members must not put personal interests above those of BCGI.

Diversity is to be encouraged

People from different cultures and backgrounds bring knowledge that can be used by all.

BCGI will support and work together with local businesses, not compete against them.

BCGI is not a financial venture and as such will ensure it does not directly compete with local businesses.

Knowledge to be freely shared. Gardening norms are to be challenged.

Experimentation is to be encouraged.

No member has a right to harvest produce or anything grown in the garden.

Use of all Garden produce will be determined by the committee. Seed saving, using produce onsite for cooking demonstrations, group meal preparation and donating produce will take precedence over harvesting for individual member use.

The garden will be run on a volunteer basis.

Financial gain is not an outcome for the BCGI or its members.

The garden will be made inclusive for the whole community by incorporating the 7 Pillars of Inclusion.

Wherever possible, services provided are free of charge.

BCGI supports the 4 Rs – Reduce, re-use, re-cycle, re-purpose.

It is a condition of membership to Beachmere Community Garden Inc. that members adhere to these guiding principles and the Model Rules and agree to abide by our Policies and Procedures.



BEACHMERE STATE SCHOOL GARDEN

We will be continuing our partnership with the school, this year, helping to provide an amazing area for the students to immerse themselves in all things gardening. Nick would like to pass on a thank you to BCGI members for looking after the garden over the school holidays. The team's efforts allow the students to dive straight into planting their first crop, not needing to worry about a week of weeding. Can you spot Yvonne, working hard down the back?!

GARDENING ON THE TV

It's not long till Gardening Australia is back for a new season. In the meantime why not check out the terrific series "Monty Don's Adriatic Gardens". Join Monty this week as he travels the Adriatic coast of Croatia, exploring the impact recent civil war and the Country's culture have had on its people and their gardens. A highlight of the episode is the olive grove with trees up to 2000 years old!



Image from ABC iView website

Watch this and other great episodes on the Monty Don's Adriatic Gardens on ABC iView or 7:30pm Fridays on ABC.

PLANTING UPDATE

The hot, humid weather has been draining not only to us gardeners, but to our water tanks as well. Choosing local species adapted to the local weather condition is a great way to be water wise in the garden.

We have a growing range of food plants available at our Beachmere Community Market stall. Why not drop down on Saturday, the 4th Feb and check them out? We have a range of leafy greens, perfect for a summer salad. If there are any types of plants you are looking for, let us know and we will do our best to grow them for you.



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

There has been steady progress over the holidays on the garden's construction, even though it has been stinking hot! As you can see in the photos, everyone is being sun smart. The next month should see the arbour and fence completed, with the shade house and water tank ready to go in. Thanks to everyone who has helped, it's looking amazing.



Thank you local legends

We continue to receive amazing support from the Bribie Island Community Plant Nursery. They have recently provided funding for the entire fence that will surround the garden (see progress photos opposite). This is yet another example of their generosity to the local community.

Thanks Beachmere local Dave from MicroMix for the generous donation of concrete for the fence post footings (see photo). We really appreciate the support from local businesses like yours.

Big thank you to Caboolture Region Environment Education Centre for donating 5 benches to our garden. They are already coming in handy, holding our plants for the Beachmere community markets. Also, thanks to BCGI member Bill for welding and rust proofing the benches (see photo below).

Cheers to Ian from IBA consulting engineers for providing advice on a range of construction issues that arose over the holidays and required sorting out to keep the project on track.

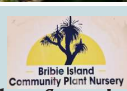


The BCGI team had a very busy end to the year, attending several events in December. However, none were as relaxed as the annual Beachmere Christmas Bazaar. A large crowd turned out for an afternoon of great food, cars, music and a chance to meet the jolly man in red. There was a lot of interest in the progress of the garden among attendees, who were able to walk next door to check out the garden site. Once again, thanks to BANG for hosting another successful event and thanks to all the BCGI members who helped on the day.



BRIBIE ISLAND COMMUNITY NURSERY UPDATE

The team at Bribie Community Nursery are back after the holiday break and have the nursery looking amazing, even in this heat. There have also been many positive comments on the new accessible flooring that was installed throughout the nursery late last year, a great result for the many hours of hard work the members put in after recognising an opportunity to make the nursery more inclusive to the community. The veggie patch is producing well, despite the heat and humidity. Beans have recently been planted, check out this strong seedling that was planted only a week earlier! These seeds were collected from last season's best producers, surely a great example of the benefits of seed saving from plants suited to the local conditions.



"When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden."
Minnie Aumonier





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.

ARVO IN THE GARDEN 26TH FEB

At our recent general meeting, the members agreed that due to the hard work over the last two years, we do not need a formal meeting each month any more. Instead, starting in February, the 4th Sunday of each month from 3pm will be a chilled afternoon session where members can drop down to site and help out with any tasks or just relax in the garden. The next general meeting will now be April 23rd.

World Wetlands Day
2 February 2023



It's time for wetland restoration

Beachmere is located adjacent to some globally important wetlands, which is where garden runoff will eventually end up. Our decisions in the garden can have a major impact on these areas. Reducing pesticide and chemical use is a positive way to help preserve and restore these vital habitats.

For more info go to : www.wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au

Last December, the garden was invited to attend the Bunnings Morayfield Christmas market. it was a great chance to meet people and chat about the garden. Yvonne and David are joined here by Leigh and Sue from the Bunnings activity team in front of the amazing garden display.



THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

Nothing adds flavour to meals more than freshly picked herbs, straight from the garden. They are generally small, hardy plants... a great choice if you are just getting into gardening or do not have much space. A window sill will do! Let us know what your favourites are and how you use them. We will share your tips in future newsletters.



BEACHMERE DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

FEBRUARY MARKET

53 ROGERS STREET

BEACHMERE

7.00am - MIDDAY

SATURDAY 4th

**CRAFTS
PLANTS
BOOKS**

**COFFEE
JEWELLERY
EATS**

**GIFTS
GLASSWARE
CURIOS**



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Baby assassin bug on basil flower by David. Encouraging beneficial predators like this assassin bug by reducing the use of sprays is an important part of organic gardening.

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



BEACHMERE HISTORY AND RESEARCH

Consulting Engineers



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