



The good dirt

Vol 20 April 2023

Welcome

Welcome to the April edition of The Good Dirt. Another rather oppressive month has just passed, with heat and humidity dominating our thoughts and stirring up issues in our gardens. BUT... there are still wonderful things happening in spite of the weather. This month has highlighted many interactions between different parts of the community, and you'll find stories about these events and relationships in this issue.

For Anzac Day, we have been helping the busy young gardeners at Beachmere State School propagate some rosemary plants to give away at the memorial service on the day. While on the topic of Beachmere School, another lovely partnership has formed, with Jazz and Gaz's Coffee Van saving their coffee grounds from the staff coffees for the children's garden. A welcome addition to the compost!

Member for Pumicestone, Ali King and Cr Mark Booth both visited this month to cast an eye over the Community Garden (both were very impressed with the progress!) and to announce two successful grants. They are both very welcome contributions, thanks Ali and Mark.

The Beachmere Community Market is on again on April 1st, and we have an abundance of Rosella plants needing planting out. A wonderful little shrub is the Rosella. In this issue you'll find tips on growing and harvesting the fruit. It loves this weather (a benefit of these hot conditions is an extended growing season for them), and flowers prettily, so it's an all-round joy in the garden. Speaking of joy, sunflowers have been blooming heartily... is there anything more uplifting than their happy faces following the sun? So many gardens around Beachmere have unexpected displays of these blooms... one lawn I spotted had several coming up through the grass, courtesy of the resident's love of feeding birds!

As we draw closer to opening, it is worth remembering that the Beachmere Community Garden is about teaching and sharing knowledge and forming partnerships to celebrate healthy food and the natural world. Please read our section about what it is to be a member, and the contribution you can make to our vibrant Beachmere Community.

I have to add just one more snippet... Malabar Spinach just LOVES this weather. Loves the heat!! It is climbing all over the place and supplies constant nutrition from a very small area. A planter box gives plenty of scope for virile growth, and doesn't take up too much space. Perfect for any size garden!

We hope to see you at the Beachmere Community Market this month, and look forward to hearing about your experiences in the garden. We learn from each other! Don't forget to check our website. Enjoy the read!

The Committee

Please pass this newsletter on to anyone who may be interested

GRANT SUCCESS

Thank you State Member Ali King for visiting us on site to present a cheque for our successful Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant submission. The funds will be used to purchase recycled hardwood timber benches, an accessible drinking fountain and an aquaponics set up.

It was a great opportunity to show Ali progress of the garden, particularly the recently completed arbour.



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

- 1st April
Beachmere District Community Markets (see flier on last page)
- 7th April
World Health Day
- 23rd April
General Meeting
3pm @ Community Hall, Progress Ave.
- 25th April
Anzac Day

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 STATE SCHOOL GARDEN

The BCGI team recently had a big clean up of the school garden, thanks to all who helped... there's even more room for plants now! The students have been learning how to propagate plants by taking cuttings of the rosemary bushes in the school garden. As part of the upcoming ANZAC Day memorial, they will also prepare traditional sprigs of rosemary to hand out. Finally, at the school, another lovely partnership has formed, with the Jaz and Gaz with Perzaz Coffee van saving their coffee grounds for the children's garden. A welcome addition to the compost! Thanks for your support.



BEING A BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN MEMBER PART 1



With our amazing arbour and accessible pathways completed, the garden is certainly getting a lot of attention in the community. We have had a noticeable increase in people requesting information about the garden and also to become members. It's important though, that people signing up have a clear understanding of what our garden is about and the expectations of being a member.

A lot of thought and effort has gone in to making the community garden as inclusive as possible. . We have enshrined embracing the diversity of our community into our guiding principles, so we expect members to not only follow these principles, but to champion them. Recognizing and respecting our differences and celebrating our shared passion for gardening is a prerequisite of being a BCGI member.

Community gardens mean something different to everyone. People may have past experiences with other gardens or seen them featured on shows like Gardening Australia. With these experiences and perceptions come certain expectations. While growing healthy food is the primary goal of most gardens, they all differ in a variety of ways. It's fair to say, we are doing things a bit differently at Beachmere. Ours is a display and educational garden - a botanical garden for food plants. There will be no allotments available and no large communal growing areas. Members will assist in the upkeep of the garden, with any produce grown on site used in cooking demonstrations, seed saving or donated to local charities.. Please don't expect to be taking produce home from the garden each week, instead we hope members and the Beachmere community will take the knowledge they learn on site (with some locally saved seeds) and grow their produce at home.

Once constructed and the plants are in, there won't be a great deal to do on site, not enough to keep all the members busy. So what else will members do? There are a range of projects we are partnering with in the community and we would like members to assist with these wherever they can. These projects not only help spread the ideas of healthy food and sustainable gardening but also strengthen connections and relationships among the community. We also fully understand how busy people are and are grateful that they would chose to spend their free time helping our group. All we ask is that members help out where they can. Other than these community projects, there is always fundraising and admin to help with. This could mean assisting with peeling onions for a sausage sizzle, taking bottles and cans to containers for change , writing a story for the newsletter or looking after plants at home. Every little bit helps.

These we believe are the main reasons to be a member of the Beachmere Community Garden - helping in your own way to inspire others in the community to learn all about healthy food. Next issue we will discuss the community projects BCGI is involved in and delve deeper into how we can promote inclusion.

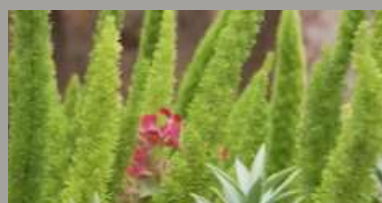
Cr Mark Booth Div 2



A big thank you to Cr Mark Booth for approving discretionary funding for signage and potting mix. As the garden is set back from the road, we are looking at installing a sign on Main Street to improve accessibility. The funding will also pay for interpretive and safety signage within the garden. We will be making use of the potting mix over the following month potting up plants that members have been looking after at home. They will be potted up into the feature pots we have collected, some of which were purchased with a previous discretionary grant from Cr Booth.

GARDENING AUSTRALIA

Isn't it nice to get back into watching Gardening Australia each week. Are environmental weeds lurking in your garden? The Fox tail fern, *Asparagus densiflorus*, is a pretty ornamental but is highly invasive. Clarence suggests a range of native plants such as woolly bush and lomandra as a substitute.



Images from ABC Iview website

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

PLANTING UPDATE

We have a growing range of food plants available at our Beachmere District Community Market stall. Why not drop down on Saturday, the 1st April and check them out? This month we have Rosellas, dwarf sunflowers, herbs and quite a few varieites of salvias, perfect to bring in the bees!. 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.



"To get the best results, you must talk to your vegetables."
Prince King Charles.

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



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We have had a bit of a break with construction the last week or two, as everyone has some well deserved rest and recuperation. We did manage to get most of the fence and gates completed, I'm sure you agree they have come up a treat. Over the next few weeks we expect another surge of activity on site with the shade sails, water tank, shade house and tree grates all being installed, watch this space!



Thank you BCGI

We recently had a request for some flowering plants to brighten up a Sunshine Coast garden. Here's Leonie, from the Chenrezig Institute, planting a mix of salvias, pentas, sunflowers, and geraniums we donated. That will surely bring in the bees! Leonie would like to thank the group for the plants and has kindly invited BCGI to visit the gardens. We will look to organise a trip up there for our members soon.

If you know of a local group that could use some plants, get in contact and we will see what we can do.



ROSELLA JAM



It's hard to believe that a year has passed by since Chrissie was last making delicious, community garden grown Rosella jam. While recently braving the wild rosella patch, Chrissie and Shirley offered a few helpful tips about rosellas.

Be careful while harvesting as Rosella's fruit in succession - there is a new flower emerging as the old one is ready to pick (see photo). Use fine pruning secateurs so not to damage these small buds.

The seed pods have fine hairs on them and may irritate the skin. Wear gloves when handling to prevent this.

The seed pods naturally contain pectin and are used to set the jam.

Use all of the fleshy calyx, even the pointy parts. They add texture to the jam.

There are plenty of recipes to be found online and each plant produces a lot! So even if you're only growing a plant or two, have a go at making some jam yourself.



BRIEBIE ISLAND COMMUNITY NURSERY VEGE PATCH

The prolonged hot weather is a mixed blessing. Tomatoes are struggling, however the paw paw pumpkins continue to power on. They are still setting fruit with this year's harvest to be the biggest haul to date. The vine has been so prolific, it has grown up over the shade structure, resulting in large pumpkins suspended from above...Briebie Islands version of the hanging gardens, just watch your head! The result is a wonderful filtered light to the garden beds below. As you can see, the radishes have certainly enjoyed the conditions. Proof that there is always a solution to the problems that a garden or weather conditions present, most of the time you just have to let nature do its thing.



BEACHMERE (AND BRIEBIE ISLAND) PRODUCE

A SELECTION OF THE WONDERFUL HARVEST FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS' GARDENS, ALL GROWN AND PRODUCED LOCALLY.



DONATED HERBS BY SILVER SPOON CAFE

The Silver Spoon cafe recently asked if we could use the leftover micro herbs from their kitchen. Of course we can! The plants will be divided and grown for the community garden and our market stall. Cheers!





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 MARCH

A big thank you to the members who popped down to site for a relaxing afternoon chat. It was great to see attendees bringing goodies to share, including orange marmalade, dwarf sunflowers, plant pots and a variety of limes. A reminder that next month's get together will be the general meeting on the 23rd April at 3pm.



ANZAC DAY

Left We Forget

25th April

How are you making your life healthier?
The 7th of April celebrates the different ways to make healthy lifestyle choices.

7th APRIL



WORLD HEALTH DAY

www.who.int

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Poinciana in Clayton Park.
by Yvonne



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



BEACHMERE HISTORY AND RESEARCH



THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

Is there a more aromatic presence in the garden than Rosemary? A favourite on all things roasted, they are a simple plant to grow, however don't like wet feet, so use a well drained potting mix/soil. There are many forms available now including prostrate varieties, they even do well in a hanging basket!

Rosemary is also a significant plant at this time of year, with sprigs of the herb worn as a sign of remembrance on Anzac Day.

Lest we forget.



Cr Mark Booth
Div 2

