

Welcome to the May edition of The Good Dirt. It was worth waiting for... this wonderful Autumn weather, with sunny days and cool nights, and plants happily basking in the kinder conditions. Amazing things seem to be happening; some more appropriate to Spring weather, like early blooms appearing on some plants, previously listless shrubs now bursting with new growth. Whatever is afoot, it is most welcome. It has been a busy month as we head towards the Grand Opening in a few weeks, and in this issue you'll find photos and articles about Anzac Day, Bribie Island Community Nursery, the wonderful mural now completed and causing quite a stir in the community and the highly enjoyable and informative wicking garden workshop.

Anzac Day once again saw the Beachmere Community marching along Moreton Terrace. It is always so moving to see veterans, young families, school children of all ages, older residents, smartly dressed cadets and band members coming together in a heart-warming tribute to this special day. A special thank you to the Beachmere RSL Sub Branch and Beachmere State School pupils for their thoughtfully prepared sprigs of rosemary which were handed out at the service, and to everyone for keeping the spirit of community and remembrance alive in Beachmere.

Bribie Island Community Nursery must be breaking records with their crop of pumpkins this month. Check out the photos... simply amazing! And if you are looking to grow Malabar spinach, you can bypass the seeds and grow it from a small piece of the stem straight into soil. It takes off in a matter of days.... so easy.

And what about that mural! Hard to believe that grey container is now alive with colour and interest. It's a bright and appropriate focus for what the Community Garden is achieving, and as the sails are in place and the last of the foundation work is completed, what an asset for us all... a place to gather, to learn, to share, and to relax.

We have more in this issue on the guiding principles of the Beachmere Community Garden, which is an important foundation for the way forward, and how the garden is managed. It is not about individuals, but about a shared vision, consultation and above all, inclusion. Please give some thought to this article, if you are not a member already... it might just be what you are looking for to enrich your spare time. We have various activities planned, such as the Wicking Garden workshop held recently. Something for everyone!

Don't forget Beachmere Community Markets this weekend ... May 6th.

And a huge thank you to all the hard working members who have given their time and effort this month. We are closing in on that Grand Opening! Stay tuned!

Enjoy the read.

Please pass this newsletter on to
anyone who may be interested

What do you think?! Our shipping **SHIPPING CONTAINER MURAL**

container has been converted into an amazing piece of art featuring local plants and animals. The centre piece is a wonderfully cheeky yellow tail black cockatoo snacking on a banksia seedpod.

We were fortunate to have the team who painted the Beachmere water tower undertake this project. Jordan and Steve from Brightsiders have been a pleasure to work with, providing valuable input into the preparation and design as well as showcasing their amazing talent.

The mural is really sparking a lot of interest in the community and will be a great addition to the local amenity of Beachmere.



Things we need

Feature pots

Indigenous food plants

Fruit trees

Interesting vegetable varieties

Wicker baskets

People

New members

Your help with

Raising plants

Fundraising

Spreading the word!

Important dates

6th May

Beachmere District

Community Markets

(see flier on last page)

7-13th May

Compost week

14th May

Mothers Day

28th May

Arvo in the garden

3pm Onsite

31st May

Last day of Autumn

The next general meeting is 23rd July 2023.

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

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WICKING GARDEN WORKSHOP

As we head into a projected El Nino this year, water conservation is more important than ever. Wicking gardens conserve up to 80% water use compared to traditional gardening - a major reason members of BCGI have embraced the wicking garden concept. Paul from Aqualess recently popped in to help BCGI members construct our mobile wicking gardens.

The workshop started with the team assembling the mobile garden frames (funded by a Moreton Bay Regional Council grant and fabricated by the Beachmere Men's Shed). Paul then explained the theory behind wicking gardens before the installation of the wicking system began.



The wicking component is made by an Australian company, Water Ups and are made from recycled plastic. They are much lighter than scoria or traditional wicking garden materials. This was an important consideration as the gardens are mobile and will be pushed around site. Overall it was a great morning with members learning a lot and everyone happy to see the mobile gardens finally up and running. Thanks to Paul from Aqualess and all the members who helped out on the day, we can't wait to get the wicking gardens up and growing!

BEACHMERE STATE SCHOOL GARDEN

After surviving another hot summer, the school garden is really starting to take off in these cooler Autumn days. The students have been busy as usual, preparing rosemary for the ANZAC day service as well as planting out some new additions to the garden, a dwarf orange and pomegranate tree. The Sunflowers have been in full bloom, looking stunning but unfortunately attracting some of the local wildlife for a free feed. Luckily a few have been spared to save seeds for next season. BCGI members recently shared some Rosella jam with garden coordinator Nick, made from Rosellas grown in the garden.



GARDENING AUSTRALIA

Citrus are hungry and thirsty plants. A problem when you have sandy soil like we do in Beachmere. Josh has to deal with similar conditions in his garden with the coastal sandy soils of Perth (He has to deal with alkalinity compared to our acid soil). See how he overcomes this issue to ensure healthy plants and a bumper crop.



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 6th May and check them out? This month we have dwarf sunflowers, herbs, many types of salvias and some chrysanthemums just in time for Mothers Day. 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.



"If I were a bird, I would fly about the Earth seeking the successive Autumns."
George Eliot



BECOME A MEMBER OF BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.

Have you thought about becoming a member of BeachmereCommunity 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 vision is definitely becoming a reality. Our great team of workers has been busy on site this month. The most noticeable change has been the installation of shade sails, making the area much nicer and safer to work under. Thank you again to Federal Member Terry Young for nominating BCGI to apply for the grant to fund the shade sails. Also thanks to James from local business All Shade Services for designing, manufacturing and installing the sails, they look amazing!



BEING A BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN MEMBER PART 2

From the very first community meetings, it was apparent how important inclusion should be for our community garden. I'm sure we all think we are inclusive but how do you make sure it is achievable? By listening and learning! With input from local community members, disability support providers and groups such as Carers QLD we learnt that providing an inclusive space is as important or even more so than the growing part of the garden. So how do members help fulfill this? Since starting this journey we have learned about concepts such as 'The seven pillars of inclusion' and 'Universal design' (Check out previous newsletters or look them up for a refresher). There is so much information out there, and so many people willing to discuss their experiences, it's just a matter of wanting to learn and do better and that's exactly what we want our members to do.

Members are asked to make decisions in the best interest of the community garden, not their own... this can be done by having the objectives and guiding principles at the forefront of all decision making. A quick read of these documents before meetings will help focus members decision making.

Member are also asked to embrace and contribute to the fulfillment of a shared vision. As mentioned in the last article, every person has a view on what a community garden is, but to reach our goals, all members need to be on the same page. For example, from the start, members have used the Guiding Principles and Objectives as a means to develop a plan for the garden site, a vision agreed to by all. There is a saying "Plan your work and work your plan". BCGI members have embraced this and the results clearly show. Other decisions that members have made include BCGI to follow all State Gov health directives and using Gardening Australia as an agreed source for information on organic gardening.

Our Guiding Principles state we are a non-religious, non-political group. All religious and political groups that embrace our values are welcome in the garden. Just keep in mind BCGI members feel there is no need for ideological debates in a veggie garden. Just as there are no reasons to make offensive or inappropriate jokes or comments, even if made lightheartedly or without malice, they can deter people from participating. Members are asked to keep discussions and conversations green, not blue! All of this is designed to make the garden a safe, welcoming space, where growing healthy food is the focus.

Local Partnerships

- BEACHMERE STATE SCHOOL GARDEN
- BEACHMERE COMMUNITY HALL GARDEN
- BEACHMERE MENS SHED GARDEN
- BRIBIE COMMUNITY NURSERY VEGE PATCH
- MORE IN THE PIPELINE



We are partners in several projects in the community and hope to assist with many more in the future. Members are encouraged to help with these projects where they can and spread the values held by Beachmere Community Garden.

Thank you...



Paul from Aqualess for driving up from the Gold Coast to give the wicking demonstration on short notice and also for donating two wicking pot systems to our garden. Paul has been a great supporter of our project from the start. Cheers mate!

Wayne from Shield Building Approvals and Elizabeth from Elizabeth Franklin Town Planning Services for helping to keep the project on track by working hard over the holidays to sort out our building permits and other paperwork. Much appreciated!



BRIBIE ISLAND COMMUNITY NURSERY GARDEN

Pumpkins are beginning to dry off at the stems, a sign they are ready to harvest... and what a bumper crop! These pawpaw pumpkins have been very productive and are highly recommended. The vine growing here originally came from a single seed caught in a kitchen sink drain! Hopefully we will have many more seeds to share from this crop.

Notice the odd one out! We aren't sure if another vine popped up or this is just a variation, what do you think?

Also, the Malabar spinach is going off, loving the continued warm weather. No one has seen leaves so big before, have you?



ANZAC DAY SERVICE

The threat of rain couldn't dampen the spirits of locals who attended the Beachmere ANZAC Day service on the 25th April. A big crowd packed the memorial, with attendees invited to wear sprigs of rosemary prepared by the Beachmere State School and Beachmere RSL Sub Branch. The school gave away rosemary plants they had propagated earlier this year. A big thank you to Beachmere RSL Sub Branch for organising the service.



It won't be long before we will be planting poppies (using seed collected from last year) for Remembrance Day in November. If you would like to assist with this, please let us know.

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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.

ARVO IN THE GARDEN 28TH MAY

Members are encouraged to pop down to site for a relaxing afternoon get together from 3 pm. It's a great opportunity to catch up and bring some of your garden goodies to share, last time it was orange marmalade, dwarf sunflowers, plant pots and a variety of limes. What will it be this month?



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Its a sign! by David. Beautiful double rainbow over the garden.

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.



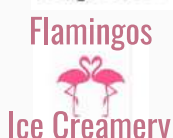
Beachmere



Cr Mark Booth
Div 2



BEACHMERE HISTORY AND RESEARCH



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THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

Does anything brighten a garden (or your mood) more than sunflowers? They exhibit a variety of colours and growth types ranging from the dwarf "Teddy Bear" to the "Russian Giant" - growing to three metres tall and with a flowerhead up to 30cm in diameter! Sunflower seeds are nutritious not only for us, but chickens love them too!

