

# Welcome

Please pass this newsletter on to  
anyone who may be interested

**Welcome to the New Year. And what a start it has been to 2024!** For many of us it has been a time of loss and destruction. For most of us there have been hot sticky days and nights, rain gauges overflowing, storm and tempest, floods... and in the garden, caterpillars, flurries of white moths, tiny snails in the greens, assorted flies feasting on anything they can land on, and those jolly little grasshoppers chomping away... not to mention the mozzies. Hopefully, as you visit the Community Garden and share your stories about what's afoot in your garden, we can find remedies and strategies for some of the problems arising with dramatic weather patterns.

The Garden is looking wonderful... lush, colourful, fragrant, restful, and welcoming. Some enormous green caterpillars have disappeared before doing too much damage, probably dispatched by the many birds popping in for lunch.

In this issue, we will be looking at the objectives of the Beachmere Community Garden, welcoming new members, and reminding us of National World Wetland Day on the 2nd February and its importance for the future wellbeing of the planet. Members will be at the Beachmere State School garden from the first week in February, having kept up the maintenance throughout the school holidays. We'll have some pictures in the coming issues. The first fund-raising sausage sizzle of the year was held at Bunnings on Australia Day... another success!

We'll discuss soil, the very foundation of plant health, and look back at one of our grand ladies of the garden, the wonderful Mary, with her instinctive, often quirky practices for getting that foundation just right.

And finally, at the height of the downpour, there appeared on our front lawn at home an Australian Water Dragon, who has been living in the shrubbery out the back for many months now. The photo included in this issue is of Godfrey basking on the towel rack on a contemplative morning in the sun. But, as the rain pounded, this blithe chap sprang into life and danced like a mad thing up and down the driveway, at one with the elements. Perhaps he was singing too? May the coming months be kinder to us all. Stay cool and safe!

Enjoy the read.

*The bcgi team*

Please direct all correspondence to our email account  
[beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com](mailto:beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com)



## The Importance of Soil by Darla

We visited Mary's garden a couple of years ago... that wonderful place of surprise and diversity which was like something out of an old story book. Mary is no longer with us, but I have a little patch of her garden out the back which never fails to mystify and delight me. It is a large pot of what started out as tomatoes and a couple of shallots. As the tomatoes petered out, and the shallots were pulled, before I could think of putting seedlings in for another crop, different plants would appear over time... sorrel, parsley, sweet potato, nasturtiums, climbing spinach, a little turmeric sprout... spontaneous and unpredictable. No additives were needed to this soil... it was alive and healthy. So what was happening to make this soil so special? Mary was a stickler for pouring organic matter back into the garden. In between plants she would drop kitchen scraps straight onto the soil, and cover it with anything handy... clay pots, ice cream containers, bowls weighted down with stones. A polystyrene box from the supermarket which started out as a makeshift compost bin sprouted a paw paw tree that grew to over 10 feet. It made me smile... so Mary! (cont page 2)

EST 2020  
**BEACHMERE  
COMMUNITY  
GARDEN INC.**  
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA



*"Arvo in The Garden"*  
4TH SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH 3-5PM  
ALL WELCOME

MAIN STREET BEACHMERE, BEHIND WATER TOWER  
[www.beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au](http://www.beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au)



## Things we need

Volunteers  
Feature pots  
Fruit trees and herbs  
Donations!

## Important dates

**2nd Feb**  
World Wetlands Day

**3rd Feb**  
Beachmere District  
Community Markets  
(see flier on last page)

**25th Feb**  
'Arvo in the Garden'  
3-5pm Onsite  
All Welcome!

General Meeting  
Onsite 3pm

**29th Feb**  
Last Day of Summer

Garden is now open  
each Wed 8am-4pm

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



**WORKING BEES ON SITE  
EVERY SAT ARVO  
3-5 PM**  
(EXCEPT 1ST SAT OF  
MONTH — BEACHMERE  
COMMUNITY MARKETS)



E: [beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com](mailto:beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com) W: [beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au](http://beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au)

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# WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR AT BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN

**The Importance of Soil by Darla cont...** Leaf litter from large trees fed the ground, and everywhere in between shrubs, you would find some sort of bean or pea, growing happily over a makeshift trellis, fixing nitrogen and providing flowers for the bees. It may not have been a tidy garden, but gosh, there was an aura of vitality and harmony which was irresistible.

We all experiment with the best possible strategies for making our time in the garden productive, and should never forget the importance of soil. Tackling the sandy soil of Beachmere from scratch is a challenge, but over time, with good advice, acute observation, basic recycling of kitchen scraps, encouraging worms, judicious placing of plants, co-operating with the natural world instead of imposing ourselves on it, long term results will be achieved.

As for the pot out the back, I wonder what will appear after all this rain. Something that likes the heat? Looks like a chilli or capsicum coming through. And an old bit of eggshell!



Does your garden look like this after the holiday break? Instead of seeing weeds needing to be removed, think of them as worm food ready to be converted into fertiliser for next season's plants. That's what has recently occurred at the Bribie Community Nursery garden beds. The weeds have been slashed at ground level (roots left in ground to minimise soil disturbance), chopped and dropped, then covered with paper and sugar cane mulch. Classic low effort no dig gardening that you can easily do too.

## BRIBIE ISLAND COMMUNITY NURSERY UPDATE



Beachmere is surrounded by an array of significant wetlands, home to a myriad of plants and animals. Our actions in our gardens have a direct impact on these special places. Reducing chemical use and correctly disposing of plastic waste are practical ways to help maintain these important ecosystems.



**Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the solar GoFundMe page. If you would like to make a donation towards the solar project, no matter how big or small, please go to the GoFundMe website and search "Beachmere Community Garden".**



## VOLUNTEERING AT BEACHMERE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.

Have you thought about helping out at Beachmere Community Garden? There are many ways to help. Send us an email for more information.

E: [beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com](mailto:beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com) W: [beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au](http://beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au)

or FB: [facebook.com/BeachmereCommunityGarden](https://facebook.com/BeachmereCommunityGarden)





## ACCESSIBLE DRINKING FOUNTAIN

It was great to see James from UrbanFF visit site recently to deliver the garden's new drinking fountain. James proudly explained that the fountain has many accessible design features, including touch activation, wheelchair accessibility and a side tap to fill water bottles. We all agree it looks great too in the bright yellow! Thanks UrbanFF and thank you Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Our successful grant application allowed us to purchase this worthwhile addition to the community garden.





**Now Open!**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**8AM - 4PM**  
**ALL WELCOME**  
*\*Children to be accompanied by an adult\**  
Access via Main St, Beachmere (Next to water tower)



One of the unexpected joys on site is discovering the array of micro climates within the garden now that construction of the arbour, shade sails, container and shade house are completed.

Each of the structures mentioned above interacts with the weather conditions in ways both large and small. The 50% shade cloth sails definitely take the edge off the harsh summer sun. Plants are also loving new nooks and protected corners. The fish mint had been struggling until moved to a protected spot behind a garden seat. Now it is thriving!

It is also amazing to see the local wildlife beginning to call the garden home. Unfortunately, there is a bit of an imbalance between pest and beneficial species at the moment. This will in time balance itself out. We have already seen many spider varieties and baby assassin bugs in the garden. Could the cockatoos please leave some sun flower seeds though!

Check out below some of the amazing plants and animals now calling Beachmere Community Garden home.



Please remember, first thing to do when attending any event at the garden is to sign on. This is extremely important in case of an emergency and is a requirement of our public liability insurance. Cheers!

## PLANTING UPDATE

We have a growing range of plants available at our Beachmere District Community Market stall. Why not drop down on Saturday, the 3rd of Feb and check them out? This month we have herbs, hoyas, salvias, native lemon sherbet coleus, native grasses and bush tucker plants including pigface, midyim berry and blue tongue.



If there are any plants you would like us to sell at the markets, please send us an email and we will do our best to grow them for you. We are always looking for food varieties that grow well in Beachmere's conditions. If you have some proven winners in your garden, we would love some seeds.



## PHOTOS FROM THE GARDEN – JANUARY 2024







**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.

January saw a quiet Arvo in the Garden with many members still away and many of us recovering from the Bunnings sausage sizzle two days earlier. If you have any questions about the garden and are in the area, why not drop in and say hi.

**NEXT ARVO IN THE GARDEN  
25TH FEBRUARY 3-5PM**



COMMUNITY  
GARDENS  
AUSTRALIA

The BCGI team recently donned the aprons for the first Bunnings sausage sizzle of the year. A hot, humid, rainy day couldn't dampen our enthusiasm as just over \$1400 was raised for the garden.

Thanks to all the members who assisted and thank you Bunnings Morayfield for giving us the opportunity to host this valuable fundraising event, we really appreciate it.

**BUNNINGS**



**Donations**  
If you would like to support the community garden through a donation, we would love to talk to you! Please send an email to us outlining your proposal.

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

**"So busy" by David**

A bee visiting the lacy flower of *Melaleuca thymifolia*.

## 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.



Consulting  
Engineers



Beachmere



WAMURAN TIMBERS

BEACHMERE HISTORY  
AND RESEARCH



## THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

Remember when we were worried about the impending dry spell due to El Nino. What happened? The recent historic rain events show just how unpredictable the weather is. This is even more reason to build resilient gardens that can cope with extremes. Local plants have adapted to local conditions and are your best bet to use in your garden. Also, why not be adventurous and try some food plants that love the heat and humidity like Ceylon Spinach, Sweet Leaf and Kang Kong.



**MORETON BAY LIBRARIES HOST A RANGE OF INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE WORKSHOPS AND TALKS, MANY RELATED TO GARDENING. CHECK OUT THE CITY OF MORETON BAY WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE.**

**BARGAINS**  
**YOU SHOULDN'T MISS AT THE BEACHMERE DISTRICT COMMUNITY MARKET**  
**53 ROGERS STREET BEACHMERE**  
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3RD**  
**700am - Midday**



**Cr Mark Booth**  
**Div 2**



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