



Please pass this newsletter on to anyone who may be interested

Welcome

So good to welcome Autumn finally. But has anyone really noticed the change in season? The days are still hot and humid, with intermittent bouts of welcome rain, and the community garden continues to flourish. Our intrepid members have been keeping up the maintenance, and are working on a sensory garden area, which is proving very popular with visitors of all ages. Wonderful aromas fill the air as people pass through the plants. It compensates for the host of unwelcome visitors which are making the most of the lush growth and eating to their heart's content. In this issue we will discuss some of the predatory insects that are delighting in their new food source. A major part of organic gardening is to let nature takes its course, as everything has its place in nature's cycle and bounty, but it's quite dispiriting to see one's produce (and favourite Monstera - commiserations Yvonne!) disappear overnight.

We had a good attendance of members at our quarterly meeting in February sharing gardening stories and planning our new ventures for the coming year. And we'd love suggestions as to workshops you might like us to organise. For example, there's increasing interest in growing shrubs and trees native to the Beachmere area, particularly bush tucker varieties. Give us your thoughts!

Our Mayor, Peter Flannery, visited the garden recently and was impressed with the site, which he sees as inspiration for other areas who wish to start their own Community Garden. Mr Flannery was the first person from Council we talked to about the community garden, way back in 2019, when he was still local Councillor. That meeting took place outside the old boat club in Mazlin park. Haven't times (and Beachmere) changed since then! Thank you Mayor Flannery for visiting. Our Council Liaison office, Cindy also was able to attend the Mayors visit. Cindy has been with us from the start, guiding the garden through the planning and fundraising process. Thank you Cindy. Speaking of change, have a look at the photo in this month's issue of where we were at in February 2023 compared to now. The progress has been sensational!

We have some free plants available near the front fence when we are open (see times at bottom of the page), and will be selling plants at the Beachmere Community Market on Saturday 2nd. Feedback has been very positive as to the health and variety of plants available at our stall... always good to hear! March is an exciting month – Moreton Bay Farm Trail, Clean Up Australia Day, World Wildlife Day and Earth Hour are all happening. Watch our Facebook page for updates on these and other events...

And stay cool as we forge ahead into hopefully cooler months.

Enjoy the read. *The begi team*



Please direct all correspondence to our email address beachmerecommunitygarden@outlook.com

MORETON BAY CITY COUNCIL FORECASTS OVER 200 000 NEW RESIDENTS IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS. COMMUNITY GARDENS WILL PLAY A BIG ROLE IN COUNCIL'S VISION TO 'GO GREEN AS WE GROW'

As each phase of construction is completed we are able to open the garden more hours each week. Currently we are open: Every Wednesday from 8am - 4pm, every Saturday from 3-5pm (except the 1st Saturday of the Month) and the 4th Sunday of each Month from 3-5pm. If you cannot make these times, please send us an email and we will try to organise someone to meet you on site.

Things we need

- Volunteers
- Feature pots
- Fruit trees and herbs
- Donations!

Important dates

- 1st March
1st day of Autumn
 - 2nd March
Beachmere District
Community Markets
(see flier on last page)
 - 3rd March
World Wildlife Day
 - 5th March
Clean up Australia Day
 - 24th March
"Arvo in the Garden"
3-5pm on site
 - 25th March
Earth hour
- NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH**

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)



ONE YEAR AGO...



TODAY!

A brave shepherd stands guard over their flock as a hungry predator stalks the defenseless livestock. While we may think of this as a distinctly human scenario, it has been played out in the animal kingdom for millennia. This is captured in the picture on the right; an ant protecting its 'herd' of aphids from a lady beetle larvae. Although dramatic, it is vital that these battles are fought in the garden; natural predation keeps pest species in check and reduces the need for sprays and chemicals.

PEST BID CONTROL.



We have noticed more and more predator insects in the garden, including assassin bugs, dragon flies and lacewings. Frogs, skinks and birds are also calling the garden home. This is a great indicator of the growing web of life and hopefully a sign that the full scale assault on the veggies will soon be ending!



Isn't it amazing what can be achieved by a dedicated group of people working together towards a common goal. The 'concrete jungle' from a year ago has been transformed into a lush, cool, sensory and education garden. As works have been completed, it has been so satisfying to open the garden and see more and more people enjoying this welcoming space.

As we have previously mentioned, the main aim of the community garden is to educate and inspire all people about growing healthy food. Signage throughout the garden explains the plants and any tips to help them grow. Workshops are being booked as we speak.

Once fully open (soon!), everyone is free to visit the garden, you don't have to be a member. We welcome you to come and see our little patch and hope it inspires others to start their own community garden journey.

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

THANK YOU



Big thank you to Garden Clubs of Australia for their support of ours and many other community gardens and clubs. Through our affiliation, we are able to obtain affordable public liability insurance and have access to advice and resources to assist the running of our community garden.



Shout out to Fernland in Yandina for their support of our community garden. All the plant info labels and grow bags are supplied from there at a discount price. Cheers!



BEACHMERE STATE SCHOOL GARDEN

BCGI members have been working hard clearing the garden getting it ready for planting as the cooler weather approaches. Do you think garden supervisor, Mr Lowe is happy about finding the last pumpkin hiding in the patch?! It was nice to hear the pumpkin was made into a delicious soup, shared by many.

Our partnership with the Beachmere State School includes assisting with the redevelopment of the school garden to help make it more accessible. Stage One is the installation of gravel flooring in the shade house and washing up area, using the same product as we have in our community garden. We can't wait start this important project and will provide updates of the installation progress in future issues.



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 W: beachmerecommunitygarden.com.au

or FB: facebook.com/BeachmereCommunityGarden



**Collectors
Corner Nursery**



**BEACHMERE
COMMUNITY
GARDEN INC.**
QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

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



World Wildlife Day 3RD MARCH

How lucky are we to still have amazing wildlife around Beachmere? The Ospreys are an indicator of a healthy environment, just look at the size of the fish caught a stones throw from our garden! As we discussed last issue, there are so many animals now calling the garden home. By following organic principles like biological pest control, we can do our part to stop harmful chemicals making their way into the fish, Ospreys and all other local wildlife.



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 2nd of March and check them out? This month we have herbs, hoyas, salvias, native lemon sherbet coleus, native grasses and bush tucker plants.



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.

MORE POTS!

Tim from Collectors Corner Nursery in Ningi recently dropped by with more pots! These were funded by the QLD Gov Dept of Environment and Science Community Sustainability Action grant. As usual, Tim gave us a great deal on the pots. He even delivered them to site and helped unload as well, champion! With these pots, we aim to show that many fruit trees and bush tucker plants can be grown in containers. There are new dwarf varieties suited to this method becoming available all the time. Even if you have a small courtyard or balcony, there is a method of growing food for you. Thanks Tim and Dept of Environment and Science.

www.earthhour.org.au



Moreton Bay Farm Trail is a two day event celebrating the growers and variety of produce grown in our region. For more info and tickets, go to the website below.



WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN - FEBRUARY 2024



Our sensory garden is beginning to take shape. Members' hard work at the recent working bee combined with Jill's wonderful eye for garden design have resulted in this amazing garden space. Well done all, it is looking, smelling and feeling sensational.

www.moretonbayfarmtrail.com.au

Moreton Bay FARM trail

MARCH 16 + 17 - 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.

February Arvo in the Garden coincided with our latest General Meeting. We had a great turnout with 10 members attending. Thanks to everyone who came along - working together to develop a shared vision of the garden has proven to be a winning formula!

**NEXT ARVO IN THE GARDEN
24TH MARCH 3-5PM**



COMMUNITY GARDENS AUSTRALIA

www.communitygarden.org.au

THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO

If there is a plant that laughs in the face of a long, hot summer, its the passion fruit vine. The lush green leaves and beautiful flowers shout out, 'Is that all you've got?' to the heat and humidity. A tried and tested winner when added to yogurt or a pavlova, just make sure to pick them before the cockatoos, possums and rats do!



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.



BEACHMERE DISTRICT COMMUNITY MARKETS
53 ROGERS ST
BEACHMERE
7AM - 12PM

Cr Mark Booth
Div 2



Clean Up Australia Day 5th March

There are many Clean Up Australia events organised throughout Moreton Bay. Check out the Clean up Australia Day website for more details. Why not help our mates at 'Friends of Lagoon Creek' in Caboolture with their clean up event?
www.friendsoflagooncreek.com

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
'Mystery' solved by Jill
Our mystery citrus has given up its secret identity - It's a Ruby Grapefruit!

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



WAMURAN TIMBERS



BEACHMERE HISTORY AND RESEARCH



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