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NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

Hello out there! We hope you are all keeping fit and healthy and making time to get out and do some gardening in this cooler weather. I know we have enjoyed working hard without instantly breaking in to a sweat. So let's enjoy this wintery weather while we can get it.

Club Meetings are yet to be rescheduled, however Workshops are back on! Read on to know what's different and how to attend.

SEED BANK -

Our seed bank currently contains Dill, Loofah, Bok Choy, Black Pumpkin, Cos lettuce, Lucerne or alfalfa, Spinach (tall), Lemon grass, Jicama yam, mini capsicum, large radish, Parsley, Desert Rose, Marigold, Dwarf snake bean, watermelon, Gerbera, Egyptian spinach, Moringa, Desert Rose, pawpaw, rockmelon, jalapeno capsicum.

Would you like to grow some of these or do you have seeds to add? Then contact Trevor 0417196315

WORKSHOPS AND GARDEN VISITS

The time has come to gather in small groups. Numbers will be limited, so a booking system will be implemented. If you wish to attend a workshop or garden visit then please email the secretary (secretary.bundyorgard@gmail.com) with your request and positions will be allocated. If you have difficulty or do not have an email, then phone Trevor (0417196315). Members or visitors accepted for a workshop will be notified. Thanks for your co-operation.

BOGI shop Do you want supplies before the next meeting -- then contact Val Wright 0481 520 721

What: Start a Basic Greens Garden and Grow Seedlings
When: Saturday 6 June 2 PM
Where: North Bundaberg

Would you like to join a small group to discuss **basic growing and greens and how to grow seedlings**? North Bundaberg to share afternoon tea and swap ideas. Ok register with the secretary or phone Trevor 0417196315. If this time is unsuitable, then please register your interest for another time.

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What: Walk and Talk at The Botanical Gardens including Rare Fruit Garden
When: Sunday 14 June
Where: Bundaberg Botanical Gardens, North Bundaberg.

A short walk and then talk at the Rare Fruit Garden.

Meet adjacent to the Hinkler Aviation Museum at 9.30 for a 10 am start and then have a picnic under the trees for lunch. If lots of members wish to join us, then a second group may arrive at noon, enjoy lunch and then have an afternoon tour. The gardens are large and many people may picnic etc.

What: Build your own small Solar Dehydrator with Peter Burgess
When: Sunday June 21st - 9am till 2pm ish
Where: The Haven - 47 Sheppard Ave. Bucca

Limit of 6 attendees

Peter will lead you through the process of building your own box to use when drying herbs, spices, plants, seeds, fruits etc. for preservation for the kitchen....from garden to pantry.

BYO

1 1/2 " or 1" brush, smaller brushes for decoration,

Artists acrylic paints (tubes from cheap shops etc)

Colours for you to decorate the outside of your dehydrator.

Lunch picnic plates, cutlery etc., & cup - Herb tea provided

What: A Visual and Discussion on Sustainable Living Practices in Challenging Times
When: Sunday June 21st - 9am till 2pm ish
Where: The Haven - 47 Sheppard Ave. Bucca

Limit of 8 attendees

A visual & discussion on sustainable living practices in challenging times

Pam will show & tell what is done there to save money, make, process & preserve different aspects of garden produce for future use with minimal input from shops.

EG: Washing detergent, liquid body soap, Herbal tonics, ACV uses, spices from garden to pantry, chilli, ginger, turmeric, comfrey etc.

Host: Pam Burgess

BYO -- Lunch, picnic plates, cutlery etc., & cup - Herb tea provided

Phone 0403 989 788 to register your interest for either one of these activities & email to BOGI secretary .

What would you like to learn now in 2020? Which workshop are you happy to run?

1. Who wants face to face, hands on workshops?
2. What would you most like to learn?
3. How far are you willing to travel? Eg: Bundy to Gin Gin perhaps?
4. Who is willing to step up & host/teach?

Examples of what we do here at The Haven include;

- Solar dehydrator
- Solar wax melter
- Soldier fly farm to raise protein to feed the chickens
- Raise Indian runner ducks for eggs
- Horizontal Beehives
- Paul Gautchie's Wood chip Back to Eden gardening experiment
- Ruth Stout lazy gardening experiment
- Pit Gardening - banana circle experiment
- No dig gardening - layering
- Wicking Beds & bathtubs.
- Moveable Chickshaw & electric fencing for chicken tractor.

All of which is to do with growing food in an organic & sustainable way.

Feedback highly appreciated.

Please email the secretary with your comments and offers. Anyone can share their garden with several other members!!!

Bee Friendly A planting guide for European honeybees and Australian native pollinators by Mark Leech

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/12-014.pdf>

This 320 page on-line book gives a lot of information on herbs, shrubs and trees to grow for bees in all regions of Australia. It has an awful lot of information!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ONLINE!

More importantly than ever, while we are practicing social distancing, we must keep up our friendships and check in on other members that are prone to (unwanted) isolation. Another way we can 'virtually' keep in touch is via the club Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/717598841992819/> Members are continuing to share what's happening in their veggie patch, lots of questions being asked and answered, seedlings and plants being shared, information being given and lots of good support in general. If you are yet to set up a Facebook account but wanting to know how or why it could be a good idea for you, the general rule is to ask a young person! Now I am not claiming to be a young person, but if I can be of any help please give me a call (Cathy 0403 430 969)

Did you see the report and discussion on the BOGI Facebook page?

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY!

From Trevor...



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I visited a friend the other day and took an aerial view of the garden. There are 2 beds 1 metre square and several pots. The beds are not wicking and are on a sandy soil at Woodgate. There are at least 15 different vegetables including carrot, tomato, zucchini, eggplant, beetroot and plenty of greens. The extra foam boxes make a good addition.

Our friend Lenzie has been kept busy during the lockdown building a new fence and preparing his garden for the coming months. The blue fence will keep dogs away from the sunflowers, sweet corn, Jerusalem artichoke, sweet potatoes and sunflowers.



This sunflower crop is grown to improve the soil. Sunflowers have a deep taproot, some 30 cm deep, and this aerates the soil and brings up deep nutrients. Once the crop is finished the leaves and stems will be mulched and returned the minerals to the soil. The sunflowers are also used to increase the flower diversity for bee food and also attract bees for pollination. "I grow corn as it stops nematodes. Most people have no idea about that." The corn is a very heavy feeder of nutrients and water and I rotate corn through my garden. I also have some corn just coming up now. Most people say "you can't grow corn at this time of year. But I sow them in a pot in a warm place and then transplant them."



This amazing passionfruit is the variety Lily Coy. Each vine cannot pollinate itself so hand pollination from another Lily Coy vine is required. The fruit is slightly pointed.

WANTED – OLD CHEST TYPE FREEZER THAT WORKS. IT MAY BE RUSTY. REQUIRED FOR NON FOOD FREEZING OF WATER ONLY. THIS IS A GARDEN APPLICATION SO IF YOU HAVE ONE AVAILABLE CONTACT LENZIE 0428 457 527

Isolation Projects – Did you have any in particular that you'd like to share? Here's what my dad did with an old TV and a few spare hours, getting the kids involved in up-cycling and making an awesome Bee Hotel, there's a telly I'd like to sit and watch – Cathy.



GOING BACKWARDS TO GO FORWARDS

I was driving in the gate and I noticed a big pile of grass clippings on the opposite nature strip.

“I’ll get the wheelbarrow and put that grass in the compost heap.”

So I left the gate open and put the car in the car port.

But the wheelbarrow had bag of manure in it. I took that down to the veggie garden and went to tip it onto a new bed when I realised I would have to find some boards to support the raised bed. That meant a trip to the other side of the house. I stood the boards up and realised I didn’t have any pegs handy. That meant another trip to the other side of the house. Thankfully I remembered to get the hammer too!

The boards were up and supported, so tipped the manure into the new bed. Job done I looked for the rake to collect the roadside grass. Nowhere in sight. Then I saw it leaning against a banana tree.

While I was there I thought I may as well rake the manure out. I did that and turned to walk back to the gate with the wheelbarrow and rake. What did I see but all my hens making a dash for freedom through the opened gate. Dropping the wheelbarrow I raced out the gate and with the aid of my dog we turned them all around and closed the gate.

“Why was the gate open anyway? Oh yes I remember but I’ve had enough backwards work today. I’ll get the grass tomorrow.

From Joan Smart

Joan also submitted these photos of a tomato plant donated at BOGI and a raspberry root that has been hanging in a bucket of water for 6 months.





I LOVE having kids and dogs and chooks in the backyard, but sometimes it can be counter-productive! I was finding one garden bed always having dog bones buried in it, and my little chook lover always letting the girls out to roam freely meant that my seedlings were eaten within seconds, and beds scratched out to be almost bare. This week's project for me has been putting some mesh around the top of my little garden beds which will hopefully keep them out and let something grow in there. The last photo is of my pumpkin vine. Although we live on a small town block I have two pumpkin vines growing, this one is firmly attached to the chook pen fence growing up and over. We did count 10 pumpkins at one stage however some didn't make it and it looks like we are down to 3. What did I do wrong? These two in the picture sit about 1.2m high, the vine is doing well to support them - Cathy

PHOTOS FROM THE HAVEN

David from France, our latest wwoofer.



HANDY INFORMATION

Buy organic seeds locally at Woodgate, Claudia and Charlie who have a business
Simply Organic Farming@gmail.com 0407699283.



BOGI SHOP

Products available are:

- Liquid Lime
- Liquid Kelp
- Liquid Fish
- Mineral Granules
- Microlife
- Organibor and
- Katex Organic Super Growth.

They are available for sale at our meetings, but please contact Val Wright on 0481520721 further instruction on purchasing for now.

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Have you checked out our Facebook page yet? It's a great way to connect and show what's happening in your garden, and see others tips and ideas too.

Search for **Bundaberg Organic Gardening Inc** and request to join the group online.

CLUB MEETING

In response to Covid -19
our club meetings will be
suspended

Deadline for June Newsletter

Our deadlines have been relaxed so please send through all information you would like to share with other club members. If it doesn't go in to the newsletter it will be added to the 'What's On' which comes out mid month.

We would love FEEDBACK from club members on anything and everything.

Tell us about your success and your failures in the garden and help others learn along the way.

Let us know about community events or what's up and coming in the area.

To include notices and details of Club activities

email: newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com

Or ph Cathy 0403 430 969 or

Heidi 0410 561 314

This is the official monthly newsletter published by and distributed to the members of Bundaberg Organic Gardeners Inc. Whilst every effort is made to publish accurate information, the Club accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, or any consequence arising from them. For further information, contact the Secretary.