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## NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

**Hello and Welcome!** Please enjoy our latest monthly newsletter, jam packed full of gardening inspiration and news. I am looking forward to the meeting NEXT Tuesday and get excited to see what others will bring to share. Our own garden is filled with cuttings and food, mainly shared from others, which we then share with others. How great is it to be a part of a club with such a generous nature of sharing food and knowledge? Home-grown food has a certain taste of satisfaction to it and may encourage you to try new foods, I know my kids have tried (and loved) home grown White Sweet potato and also Guava this week. (Cathy)

### **BOGI Meeting Tuesday 25 August at 7PM & includes the AGM**

Once again, we will be following a Covid designated protocol. You will be greeted with the now familiar squirt of sanitizer before doing your own registration. Please find your name on the list and sign in and drop your \$3 entry fee in the box provided. Important to bring the correct change as none will be provided. Visitors will be greeted separately.

The AGM with election of office bearers will be at the commencement of the meeting. I understand we are still requiring nominations for the President (only 6 months to go) and one committee member. Please put up your hand and assist with these roles.

The AGM will be followed by an interesting speaker on *helminths* – those wriggly things birds like.

In the **FORUM** section we will be discussing **blossom end rot** and **powdery mildew**. What causes these conditions and how can we reduce the effect on our vegetables or flowers.

Unfortunately, we will not be having food at supper time. Only tea and coffee will be served from the kitchen.

Please bring seedlings to share, an item for the lucky door table and something to 'show off' on the brag table as normal. For eager sellers of goods, the selling table and BOGI shop will be open.

Additional assistance will be required before and after the meeting to sanitize and arrange tables etc.

**Annual General Meeting** –25 August. All positions will be vacant and nominations are called for all positions. Please confirm your nomination if you nominated for the postponed March AGM.

**And of course – if you are feeling unwell please stay home, rest up, make some soup with your organically homegrown vegetables and get back to us when you are feeling better.**

**Background** – David joined the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission as a technical officer, serving mainly in central and southern Queensland. While based in Toowoomba he studied part-time to gain a degree in geology. He transferred to Bundaberg in 1988 as Regional Hydrologist, working within the areas from Miriam Vale to Caloundra and west to Kingaroy and Monto.

Within the Bundaberg area, he was involved mainly with the management of the groundwater resources including the installation of additional observation bores.

Retiring in 2009, David spent the next four years as a coal exploration geologist in the Bowen and Surat Basins, also one trip to Thailand.

In recent times, he has been engaged as a part-time hydrologist to oversee work for Bundaberg Sugar, Bundaberg Regional Council and private individuals.

### **Topic – Groundwater in the Bundaberg Area**

Bundaberg is known to be the driest sugar-producing area in Queensland.

The groundwater found locally in 1900s, mainly from wells, was used for domestic use on farms.

Throughout the years of 1960-1969, big developments in drilling techniques for water were made, using smaller diameter bores. New technology efficiently lifted water to the surface, resulting in a large number of bores being sunk - approximately 1 600 bores, pumping from the underground aquafer. As a result, from 1962-1969, the use of groundwater doubled. This was far in excess of a long-term sustainable yield.

In 1970, the Bundaberg Irrigation Area was gazetted with a view to providing surface water from a dam to farmers. At that time, it was planned that about half of the irrigation area was to use the surface water. Licencing was brought in for existing bores.

David showed many maps throughout his presentation, showing the geology and hydrology of the Bundaberg area.

The geology around Bundaberg is quite varying.

- The black basalt rock from the Hummock is around 1.1 million years old, doesn't let water through.
- Elliot Formations are 1-32 million years old and contains sand and gravel zones.
- River Flats are less than 1 million years old.
- Beach sand deposits (Moore Park) were deposited when the sea water level was much higher about 40 000 to 50 000 years ago.

Water is stored in and around gravel and sand and will infiltrate into different soils, at different levels.

Local rainfall refills the local aquafer. This must be above critical rainfall patterns, ideally 8 inches of rain per month for 3 consecutive months. Within the first month, rain starts to wet the topsoil; in the second month the water starts to move down; and in the third month the rain moves through to the aquafer. When the aquafer is full, it holds approximately 1.5 million megalitres. About 1.2 million megalitres of this is stored below sea level. If the aquafer is over-used, the ground level can go below sea level. Salt intrusion would lead to land not being able to be used. Occasionally, fresh water can push the intrusion of salt water back towards the sea.

Computers and computer modelling commenced in the 1970s. The Woongarra modelling for water management can run 237 sections to record use of water allocation. 168 drill sites around the Bundaberg region were made over 14 years to monitor the salt water in the aquifer.

In the past, Bundaberg town water supply consisted of 20% surface water and 80% ground water. Now, as Bundaberg has expanded, 35% surface water and 65% of ground water is used. According to government regulations, groundwater must be treated and chlorinated before public use.

## WORKSHOPS AND GARDEN VISITS

Attending workshops has been a great way to share enthusiasm with other club members while our meetings have been on hold. Please always check booking numbers and notify if you can't attend on the day. Have you got a secret garden or skill to share with others?

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**What:** A Visit to Maryborough Community Garden and also Linda Cameron's garden just south of Childers  
**When:** Sunday 13 September  
**Where:** Meet in car park behind Bob Jane T-mart on Enterprise Street at 8.15am

We will car pool and travel to Linda's place on the Isis River south of Childers for morning tea. After surveying the tomatoes and landscaping with palms, broms and geraniums, we will continue to Maryborough for a picnic lunch at the Community Gardens, returning home later afternoon. Please bring morning tea and a picnic lunch and a chair. Hot water will be provided. We will arrange car-pooling at the August meeting

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Our club members also have an open invitation to the **Maryborough Open Gardens** to be held on the last weekend of August.

This two-day event has six town gardens open on Saturday the **29th** of August and five country gardens open Sunday the **30th**.

Our 3 1/2 acre garden, **Yengarie Gallery & Garden**, is featured, supported by our **Maryborough Garden Club**. I would love to catch up with you and your members and hope you pop over to Maryborough for a look see. Below is the link to the Open Garden.

<https://maryboroughopengardens.net/2020-open-gardens/>

Contact for more information **Suzanne Bushell** (BEd), 64 Loudon Close, Yengarie QLD 4650.  
**0439 882 684**



# GROW YOUR OWN BUTTERFLIES — JO HAMMOND

Taken from the Brisbane BOGI Newsletter..

Since starting my business, Butterfly Host Plants, I have been completely engrossed in everything plant and butterfly related much to the detriment of my housework, 'dust what dust? I see no dust.' I have become engaged in one of the most wondrous and amazing things I have ever done, I have started to raise butterflies.

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From the tiniest speck that is a butterfly egg, right on through to letting a beautiful butterfly specimen fly free before my very eyes. And I must say at this point, I feel truly blessed.

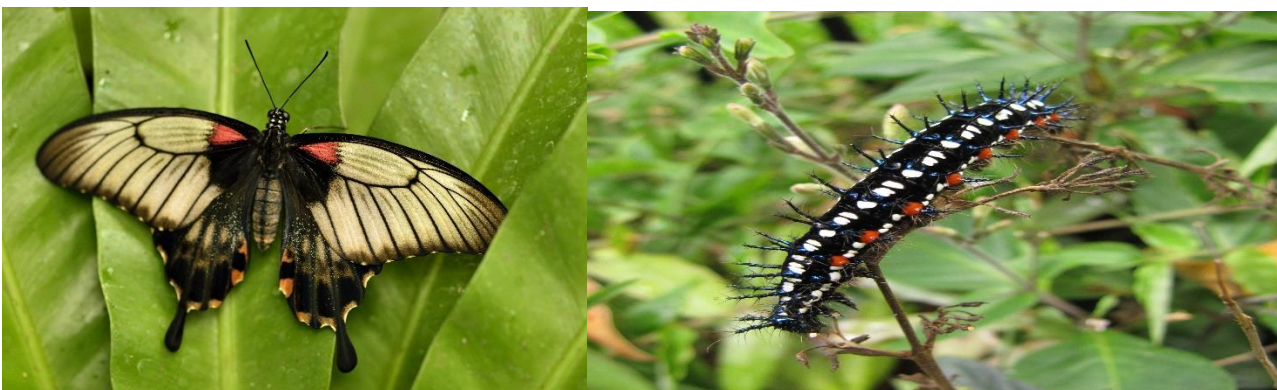
Like most of us I have always had a passing fascination with butterflies on a superficial level. Now I could go on about bio-diversity and beneficial insects but lets face it they are just amazingly beautiful and float on past as if on an invisible string then disappear over the fence, then I get on with whatever I was doing not giving them a second thought. But since starting my business I realised I actually needed more content than just plants for sale, as interesting as my plants are.

Then out of the blue I was given a plastic take away container with three tiny caterpillars inside. Being the polite woman I am I said thank you and wandered off home wondering what the hell I was going to do with them. Well it's quite easy really you feed them the host plant they like, either leaf by leaf or put them on their host plant and let them chop away and watch them get fatter and fatter. They cast off their skin four or five times and often eat the old skin as it's a good source of protein. Suddenly they loose interest in eating and wander off to pupate. This change alone is amazing. After 7 – 14 days depending on the type of butterfly the chrysalis starts to change colour, you can actually see the wings of the butterfly inside the chrysalis. At this point I made sure the chrysalis was in a bigger space, I used an old fish tank and stuck the take away container lid where the caterpillar had pupated and was hanging to the roof of the tank. I then waited for the grand finale of the whole metamorphosis, the butterfly emerged from the chrysalis.

I must say I'm completely hooked. I would recommend this to anyone and especially as a way to introduce children to the delights of butterflies. It's low tech, cheap and needs little space.

My facebook page 'Butterfly Host Plants' has become more of a butterfly blog and a chance to show everyone how wonderful my latest arrivals are. Now I am off on the hunt in my new butterfly garden for any caterpillars I can find to do it all over again and again. May butterflies bring you as much happiness as they have me.

The leafwing Butterflies host plant is the *Pseuderanthemum variabile* (ACANTHACEAE) - Love flower, Pastel flower.



# FIELD TRIP AND GARDEN VISIT REPORTS.

## North Bundy Community Garden visit 1 August

A small number of our members joined Hinkler Lions for a clean up of the gardens. Many weeds were removed and the garden's sprinklers have now been replaced with a trickle irrigation system. We planted a few seedlings of lettuce, tomato, chicory and capsicum. This garden is to share with all people. You are welcome to visit and contribute or harvest some and leave some for the next person.

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## Sue Jackson & Tom Quinn garden visit

Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> began as a lovely warm day which I was very thankful for, as the rain on Saturday had concerned me. As I drove up to 48 Stevenson Street it was very pleasing to see quite a few cars lined up in front of Sue Jackson's place. I wandered down the drive way and saw all the familiar faces eager to learn from Sue and her husband Fegen.

Another pleasure for that morning was to welcome a very excited friend who had heard about the Organic garden club and was eager to learn about composting and glean all the knowledge that the members would give her.

Sue called her garden a messy garden but to me it was a garden with interesting features at every step. Her use of nasturtiums to roam as they want allowed the bees ample usage. Her silver-beet was a sight for sore eyes and everywhere we walked there was evidence of her gardening knowledge and effort.

Then there were the compost bins that were an art in themselves. Each one was a degree or two more mature so that the last one was ideal to put into the garden. The addition of council grass clippings was a great advantage as there hasn't been a lot of lawn mowing to be done recently. Fegen has a small mulcher that fascinated the men and this is used as compost fodder.

I'm sure everyone came away with some tips to use in their own garden. After Sue's place five of us drove to the Tom Quinn centre. Although the cafe and the nurseries were closed it was very pleasant to sit under the awning for our morning tea then wander around the colourful gardens.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR MEMBERS BACK YARDS?

## MEMBER - GRACE ZUNKER

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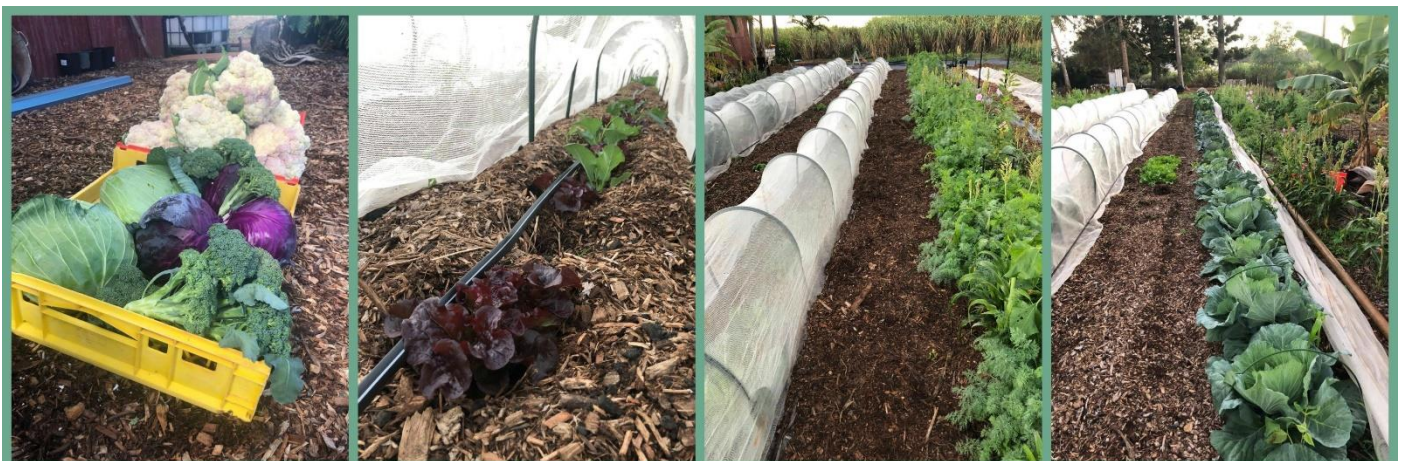
If you attended the July meeting then there is no doubt you would have seen some of Graces fabulous home-grown vegetables that were quite rightly on the 'brag table'. I contacted Grace after the meeting to see if she could share a little bit of her expertise and gardening style with us. Here is what she had to say;

I would recommend these steps for a healthy veggie crop:

- cover cropping with a multi species mix,
- when mature before any plants set seed
- cutting the green material down to ground level
- applying a layer of compost (a little of the good stuff goes a long way!)
- applying a couple of inches of wood chip - time to plant: dig a hole down to soil level and add a sprinkling of blood and bone

I have found these steps worked great for my cruciferous veggies (cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage etc) as these vegetables like a fungal dominated soil which is achieved by the decaying wood chips from my understanding. I covered the cruciferous vegetables with fruit fly netting in caterpillar tunnels to protect from cabbage white butterfly. Worked pretty well as I had minimal casualties

Hope this helps! 😊





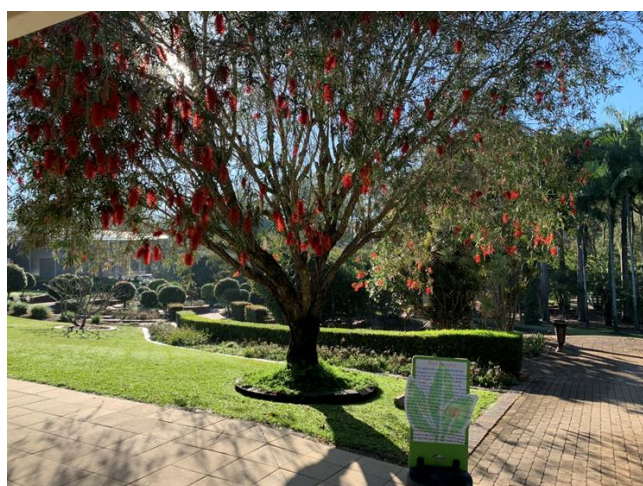
Here's a great photo  
from

Kay De Gunst  
of their Choko vine.

Have you got a  
favourite choko  
recipe to share ?

## BOTANICAL GARDENS REPORT

We have received another fantastic report from Roana (Bundaberg Regional Council) The gardens are looking wonderful as we head in to spring.



**Callistemon's in flower** Or are they  
classified as Melaleuca's now?

At the back of the café, *Callistemon  
viminalis* is a stunning sight with its red  
flowers.

There are still quite a few unopened buds  
so more to come. The noisy miners are  
enjoying the flowers.



Other callistemon's in flower can be  
found if you enter the Gardens from  
Mt Perry Road and turn left, you will  
see these on your left hand side  
next to the carparks.



There are also several near the bottom lake. Take the right hand track then at the intersection take the middle path and its only a short distance to the shelter where these ones are in flower. No native bees in sight today but plenty of exotic bees.

## Native Frangipani

### *Hymenosporum flavum*

This beautiful rainforest specimen can be found if once again you enter the Gardens off Mt Perry Road and take the left turn and you will see it ahead of you on the left hand side of the internal road near the callistemon's mentioned above. Lovely and fragrant but I didn't see any insect activity early this morning it may have been too early or too cool?

You can see that the flowers start out that creamy colour and then turn yellow. It has beautiful large glossy leaves. It is not related to the exotic frangipani species Plumeria.



**Onionwood** *Sygium alliligneum* The onionwood has been in fruit for a few weeks now and looks just like a Christmas tree dotted with red baubles! You can find it to the right of the entrance into the Chinese Gardens. The plant is endemic to North-east Queensland where its fruits are eaten by cassowaries.



**Coastal Rosemary** *Westringia fruticosa*



The reference to rosemary is only because the plant has the 'appearance' of rosemary, the leaves do not smell like rosemary and the plant comes from the mint family.



And Jazie, *Tibouchina heteromale*

The Mexican Cardboard Cycad, *Zamia furfuracea*, gets its name from the cardboard type texture of its leaves. These plants are described as living fossils having been on earth since the dinosaurs. This specimen is a female who's ripe cone has split open exposing the tightly packed red seeds. Please note that these are highly poisonous to people and animals. I love how the specimen on the end is being used by spiders, I'm trying to work out which species they might be, either lattice web building spiders or the tent building ones...



# BLUE BANDED BEES – AMEGILLA CINGULATA

Some interesting facts about Blue Banded Bees.

- The Blue Banded Bee is about 15mm long, has a golden thorax and head and the abdomen is banded with pale blue bands on black.
- Males hang from their night resting place, some sort of weeping foliage, by their mandibles (teeth)
- They can sting but very rarely do
- Females lay eggs in banks of soil, in the mortar of brickwork, mud banks and even sandstone cliffs which are somewhat protected from extremes of weather
- Blue Banded Bees die as winter comes on and will only be found in the garden from September to May
- In their nesting tunnels (burrows) the eggs go through their development stages, staying in the 'prepupa' stage until the weather starts to warm when it changes into a pupa and then hatches into a Blue Banded Bee and the cycle starts all over again.

Studies have been carried out by Melissa Bell showing the success of using the Blue Banded Bees within a greenhouse environment as successful buzz pollinators.

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No Spray Signs are working! Support the work of [Save the bees Australia](#)

Bring awareness to your neighbourhood and your council by making your own sign or purchasing here

[www.beethecure.com](http://www.beethecure.com).

## 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

# HANDY INFORMATION

- ❖ Club Members Matthew & Sally Cathcart are selling their produce at Shalom Markets on Sundays.
- ❖ Buy organic seeds locally at Woodgate, Claudia and Charlie who have a business Simply Organic Farming@gmail.com 0407699283.

## ❖ Local honey suppliers

Bundy Honey, 5 Banks Court, Bargara 0438 882 220 Bundy Honey, 89 Honors Rd, Bundaberg 0409 921 600



## 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 Bruce McKay on 41544405 for collection from his address in Walkervale.

## **CLUB MEETING**

**Time: Doors open 6.30 pm**

**For a 7 pm start**

**Venue: McNaught Hall**

**(Uniting Church hall)**

**Corner Barolin and Electra Street, Bundaberg**

**Attendance \$3-member, \$5 visitor, includes supper**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

**Speaker:**

As always, we will have the BOGI

- |              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| ~Library     | ~Shop                  |
| ~Info sheets | ~Buy & Sell            |
| ~Seeds       | ~Tea of the Month      |
| ~Lucky Draw  | ~Photos from workshops |
| ~Freebies    | ~Workshop registration |

***Enjoy a Cuppa at Supper***

## **Deadline for September Newsletter**

**Please send through information to the editor by the second Friday of each 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](mailto:newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com)

Or ph Cathy 0403 430 969

Please send through articles at any time, if they miss one newsletter, they will make the next.

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