



GROWING NATURALLY



Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association Incorporated

August 2020

IN THIS EDITION

Page 1

What has been Happening at The Gardens

Page 2

Many Hands Make Light Work

Plot Holders Jobs this Month

What to Plant in August

Page 3

COVID-19 Restrictions and The Gardens

NEW TCOGA Committee Photographic Competition

Quick Notes for Your Calendar

Page 4

Good Bugs, Bad Bugs

Page 5

QLD Garden Expo Online Event

Plot Report

AGM Membership Fees Increase

Seedlings

Page 6

Community Organic Gardens as a Community-led Initiative

Thank you Linda and Chris Recipe of the Month

Pineapple & Coconut Loaf

SOCIAL GARDENING

Sadly, due to the Corona Virus...

Wednesdays and Sundays—Cancelled until further notice

Facebook [Link](#)

Past Newsletters [Link](#)

What has been Happening at The Gardens?

Over the last month, we have continued work in preparing for the upcoming Open Days on September 20 and September 23. The main focus has been on weeding the pathways and trying to sort out the permaculture area of the gardens. The recent rains have been welcomed by all. It is a wonderful feeling to be in the gardens as the rain soaks through to the roots of the plants. It may sound crazy, but it is almost as though the plants are smiling as they soak up the much needed moisture. We still require more rain before the council will lift the current water restrictions.

The focus of our gardens is on sustainable and organic gardening principles. Whilst this can be a labour intensive process it is without question the best method for our earth. The committee has produced a Membership Handbook which outlines the TCOGA beliefs and philosophy which are underpinned by organic sustainable gardening practices. All members will be emailed a copy of this handbook and it is also available on our webpage.

<https://tcogardens.wordpress.com>

These principles are to be followed in all areas of the gardens including the individual plots which are rented by members on an annual basis. The committee has been concerned for some time that some of our plot holders have not been following sustainable/organic processes. Plot holders need to continually tend to their plots. Plots need to be used all year round and soils need to be continually replenished by adding compost and aged manure. Weeds and pests need to be kept under control as failure to do this will directly impact other gardeners.

Renting a plot is time consuming and involves a year round, month to month and week to week commitment. Following sustainable and organic gardening practices is labour intensive and time consuming. Life can get busy and sometimes our circumstances change. If you are unable to get to the gardens for a short period of time, please contact us and we can organise to have your plot tended to in your absence until you can return.

We are increasing the areas of our gardens where we grow vegetables as a community crop. This is a great way to gain knowledge from other gardeners and share ideas as well as produce. The community produce crops also allow for those members who are not able to devote the time and commitment necessary to follow sustainable organic gardening principles. Sometimes the demands of plot ownership just don't fit into one's busy lifestyle. Community vegetable plots can be a great way to have access to freshly grown vegetables without the demands of plot ownership.

We hope to be able to host some social events soon, providing we adhere to the Queensland Government COVID-19 restrictions. Our working bee towards the end of September will be one such event. Although we hope we will get many members to come and help us in the gardens, we also hope that many of them will stay and have lunch with us and enjoy a catch up with fellow members.

This will be a great opportunity for our Plot holders to fulfil their obligation of two hours per month work in the community area of the gardens. The working bee will be a great way for you to fulfil this requirement whilst you get to know other TCOGA members.

Wendy Snigg

President TCOGA



Many Hands Make Light Work

We held our first working bee on July 25 in the gardens. It was such a delight to see 16 of our members turn out in the drizzly conditions to help get the Permaculture area ready for our Open Days on September 20 and September 23.

The old adage of many hands make light work was certainly correct as members 'got stuck in' and weeded, and carted wheelbarrow loads of rubbish away ready for some mulching and planting in the coming weeks. Members also enjoyed the chance to catch up with other members and make new acquaintances.

The committee greatly appreciates those dedicated members who gave up their valuable time to come in and contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the gardens.



Plot Holders Jobs this Month

FOCUS - Enriching the soil

- Weeding my Plot and surrounding paths/walkway
- Composting / mulching
- Planning my spring seedlings
- Check for pests
- 2 hours of volunteering in the Community areas of the gardens



What to Plant in August

Herbs

Alfalfa/Lucerne
 Angelica
 Anise Hyssop
 Borage
 Calendula
 Caraway
 Catnip
 Camomile
 Chervil
 Chickory
 Chives
 Chives Garlic
 Coriander
 Dandelion
 Dill
 Echinacea

Endive
 Evening Primrose
 Fennel
 Fenugreek
 Feverfew
 Hyssop
 Lemon Balm
 Marigold
 Marjoram
 Mustard



Calendula

Nasturtium
 Oregano
 Parsley
 Salad Burnett
 Salad Rocket
 Sage
 Thyme
 Vetch
 Watercress

Artichoke
 Beetroot
 Bok Choy
 Broad Beans
 Broccoli
 Cabbage
 Cape Gooseberry
 Carrots
 Celeriac
 Celery

Vegetables

Jerusalem Artichoke
 Kale
 Kohl Rabi
 Leek
 Lettuce
 Mizuna
 Mustard Greens
 Peas—Climbing,
 Snow & Dwarf
 Potatoes
 Radish
 Rhubarb
 Salsify
 Shallots
 Spinach
 Spring Onion
 Strawberries
 Swede
 Tomato
 Turnip



Jerusalem Artichokes

COVID-19 Restrictions and The Gardens

Australia's great success in flattening the COVID-19 curve was welcomed by all, however, it seems that it also led to some complacency as we enthusiastically returned to life as it was before. The recent events in Victoria have reminded us that we are a long way from beating this wretched virus and we must all remain vigilant in following public health messages.

Whilst restrictions in Queensland have been slowly lifting, we all need to be mindful that the slightest mistake can allow this virus to spread rapidly through our community and state.

The Queensland Government guidelines have now been lifted to such an extent that we can now meet at the gardens and have a cup of tea provided we follow the social distancing messages from our Health Authorities.

TOCGA members have been starting to return to the gardens. We are so pleased to see members return but in order to do this safely we must still follow the government's health warnings and guidelines.

The TCOGA Committee asks that you:

- Do not come to social gardening if you are unwell
- Make sure you sign in when you come to the gardens.
- Follow the 1.5m – 2 metre physical distancing rule at all times
- Please bring your own gardening gloves
- Bring your own cup for morning tea
- There are only to be two people in the shed at one time

Soap and hand sanitizer will be provided at the gardens, but members are also encouraged to bring their own.

As you can appreciate things can change very quickly with the COVID-19 situation, so we all need to keep up to date with the latest government restrictions and health messages.

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au>

The TCOGA committee will be following the advice from government to continue to manage this situation.

TCOGA COMMITTEE FOR 2020 / 2021

PRESIDENT	Wendy Snigg
VICE PRESIDENT	Jeanette Walton
SECRETARY	Margaret Lyness
TREASURER	Kate Eglitis
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Jo McClelland
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Emilio Anteliz

Photographic Competition

Hosted by: Gomeran and Doctors Creek Catchment Landcare Group Inc

Open to:

1. Residents within TRC* region
2. Primary School students within TRC region
3. Landcare Groups in DD / CC**region
4. Individual Landcare members
5. All groups in DD / CC region with an interest in the environment.

**Toowoomba Regional Council

*Darling Downs / Condamine Catchment

More information: <https://gdccclg.wixsite.com/group>

Quick Notes for Your Calendar

Hopefully, a relaxations of restrictions soon may see a return to Social Mornings at The Gardens—
We will keep you informed

18—27 September—Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

www.tcof.com.au

Sunday 20 & Wednesday 23 September—TCOGA Open Days – during Carnival of Flowers

Rescheduled to 19-21 September - Qld Garden Expo— Nambour Showgrounds

<https://qldgardenexpo.com.au/>

GOOD BUGS – BAD BUGS

When we think of 'Bugs' in our gardens we often focus on what we think are the bad bugs, but there is a multitude of good bugs out there that are working hard for us, if we just give them a chance.

I have been guilty of quickly stomping on an ugly bug in the belief that if it is ugly, or bites, it needs stomping on, but this can be totally incorrect.

There are also many bugs that are so tiny that we never even notice them; there are wasps that look just like tiny flies and are only a couple of millimetres in size. These feed on very hard to remove aphids, scale, whitefly, moth eggs and mealybugs.



Mealybug



Thrip

There are more than 10,000 species of wasp in Australia, most of them small.

Lacewings will feed on aphids, mites, mealybug and white fly.

There are predatory mites that eat red spider mite, two spotted mite and thrips.

There are quite a few different Ladybugs and all but one will demolish aphids at an amazing rate, which is great considering the rate at which aphids multiply.



Lacewing

Spiders do an amazing job eating insects, as do the tiny bats at night that we never see (not a bug of course but a wonderful insect eater).

There are beetles that are predators in their larval stages and as adults, eating slug and snail eggs and moth larvae as well as organic matter.

I always thought Earwigs were a pest, but they eat slug and snail eggs as well as codling moth larvae and other insects.



Assassin Bug

There are quite a few predatory flies, a few assassin bugs and dragonflies.

The Leopard slug does not eat plants but does eat other slugs.



Leopard Slug

Mole crickets, centipedes, millipedes, scorpions and cockroaches all help to create a healthy soil environment by either eating pests or organic matter.



Mole Cricket

So, the next time you are tempted to stomp on that bug please don't, you may be about to kill one of the army of goodies out there working hard in your garden.

To make your garden welcome to these workers use compost and mulch in your soil, and have flowering plants especially of the daisy type, as many of these insects are pollen and nectar eaters as adults; and also avoid using pesticides.

- Jeanette



Dragonfly

Queensland Garden Expo Online Event

Emilio found the information about this online event "Talking Gardening" as part of the Queensland Garden Expo Online, which was held on 10, 11 and 12 July 2020.

View the Program <https://www.facebook.com/gldhomegardenexpo/>

Although this event has passed, the same videos are available after the event on the Queensland Garden Expo Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCheLD5Vr0GUnW8hMtg3gWA>



Plot Report for June / July 2020

A very busy few weeks with the restrictions lifting. We are getting an increase in visitors, enquiries and Memberships to the Garden. Great to see.

Our members are returning on a more regular basis and enriching the soil by adding compost and manures they have brought from home. Gardens and pathways are being weeded. The Garden will look productive and tidy for when the Carnival rolls around.

It is with pleasure we welcome:

New plot holders - Trevor, Ruth and Hamish.

New members - Helen, Sacha and Kym.

Wishing everyone happy gardening.

- Joanne

Seedlings

Jeanette has a reasonably wide selection of winter season vegetable seedlings available now for purchase. The cost is only \$2 per punnet. You can catch her at The Gardens most days.

There is also a wide selection of Marmalade on the shelf above the sign-in bench in The Shed. If Jeanette isn't there, please leave your payment on the shelf.



Day	Time	Topic / Speaker
FRIDAY	9:00	WELCOME - KEVIN REDD, NQIG PRESIDENT, SC BRANCH
	9:30	KEVIN REDD - TIME TO DIG THE TURMERIC
	11:00	PETER YOUNG - FRUIT TREES - AIR LAYERING AND OTHER PROPAGATION TIPS
	1:00	PHIL DUDMAN - RAISING VEGGIE SEEDS IN FUNNELS SUCCESSFULLY
SATURDAY	2:00	MATT CARROLL - SMART IRRIGATION FOR ANY BUDGET
	9:00	WELCOME - KEVIN REDD, NQIG PRESIDENT, SC BRANCH
	9:30	COSTA GEORGIADIS - AROUND THE GARDEN WITH COSTA
	11:00	JERRY COLEBY-WILLIAMS - QUESTION & ANSWER TIME
SUNDAY	1:00	ARNO KING - VISIT BRISBANE BOTANIC GARDENS
	1:30	MATT CARROLL - TOPIC TBA
	2:00	CLAIRE BICKLE - NATIVES - FOR URBAN SPACES, BEES / BIRDS AND HABITAT
	9:00	WELCOME - KEVIN REDD, NQIG PRESIDENT, SC BRANCH
SUNDAY	10:00	ANNE GIBSON - GETTING A KITCHEN GARDEN STARTED IN SMALL SPACES
	11:30	COSTA GEORGIADIS - AROUND THE GARDEN WITH COSTA
	1:00	SOPHIE THOMSON - THE BENEFITS OF GARDENING IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES
	2:00	PETER HEATON - TLC FOR YOUR INDOOR PLANTS

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TCOGA AGM FEES

The TCOGA Annual General Meeting was held this morning, 1 August 2020, at the Gardens. The new committee was delighted to see so many people turn up to actively participate in the AGM.

At the AGM it was decided that due to increasing operational costs the membership fees for Social, Ordinary and Associate classes be increased to \$30.00 per year. (A discount will be offered to a couple and / or families, of \$40 per household.)

There will be no increase to the cost of annual plot hire.

These new fees will begin from January / February 2021.

Toowoomba Mower Centre Supplying & Servicing

Toowoomba Mower

Community Organic Gardens as a Community-led Initiative



According to the EcoliseWiki portal, “**Community-led initiatives** (CLIs) are activities that are self-initiated and self-managed by groups of people at the local and regional scale for the sake of actively sustaining, protecting and restoring ecological and social qualities.” In the context of the CLIs, the people self-organise in their communities to take actions on issues that concern them and that may range from local to global in scale and that often bridge these levels of scale.



CLIs are as old as humankind, and exist all over the globe. These initiatives vary in terms of size, duration, thematic focus and objectives, yet they are primarily oriented towards human needs instead of profit and capital accumulation. CLIs, as a



concept, emphasise the role of communities as transformative actors and drivers of societal change. These initiatives play an essential role in a societal move towards a low carbon and sustainable future. It is here that the community gardens play an important role as an element that unites the neighbourhoods around gardening.

Community organic gardens are environmentally friendly alternatives whose concept is not new, but can be seen as an adaptation to climatic, social and political changes that have prompted consideration of new ways to solve problems at a local level. Through social participation, community organic gardens can help people to learn new skills, gain self-confidence and manage their health and wellness.

According to some researchers, the social impact of community organic gardens is high, considering their positive environmental effects and as an alternative means of facilitating an inclusive society.

Community organic gardens are an ideal space to make visible the cycles of urban metabolism of materials, water or energy. In these gardens, organic agriculture is developed, species adapted to the place are sought and crops are cultivated according to the seasons. The gardens' value as an element of environmental education are remarkable.



In these difficult times of obligatory isolation, the community organic gardens as CLIs in your area are the ideal space for you to reconnect with food, nature and community.

Emilio Anteliz, 30 July 2020



Thank You to Linda and Chris



Two of our long standing committee members notified us some time ago that they would not be standing for election at the next AGM. The TCOGA community is fortunate to have had two members who consistently gave up their own valuable time to keep the gardens running for the benefit of all us.

Chris Walpole has been involved with the Community Garden since it began in 1995. She has served on the Committee for much of that time. Her knowledge and expertise of gardening has been a great benefit to the gardens. In recent times Chris has spent many hours tirelessly weeding and tending the patch along the path into the Garden shed. Fortunately for us Chris will continue to be an active member of our community. The TCOGA community sincerely thanks Chris for her willingness to volunteer and contribute to the gardens. We trust that Chris will continue to enjoy her time in the gardens without the responsibility of committee 'administrivia'.

Thank You to Linda and Chris



Linda Mangubhai was Treasurer in our last committee. I think it would be fair to say that Linda has held almost every role on committee over the many years she has been involved with the gardens.

Like Chris; Linda has given countless hours of her time and labour to the gardens over the years. Over the years Linda has also spent many hours writing and applying for grants for the TCOGA. This is a very tedious task and one has to be prepared for more 'knock backs' than successes as that is the nature of grant writing. Luckily for us Linda was successful with some of those applications and this enabled us to improve equipment at the gardens.

Although Linda is stepping down from her committee responsibilities she will still be actively involved in the gardens. The TCOGA community sincerely thanks Linda for her contribution.

Pineapple and Coconut Loaf

This cake was so delicious that I asked a cafe owner for the recipe recently.

Ingredients

1 cup self-raising flour

1 cup caster sugar

50 g butter melted

1 egg lightly beaten

1 tsp vanilla essence

1/4 cup milk

1 425 g tin crushed pineapple in juice, drained

1 cup desiccated coconut

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 C. Spray a 7 cm –deep 10 x 20cm loaf tin with oil. Line base and sides with baking paper extending 3 cm above rim.

2. Sift flour into a large bowl. Stir in sugar. Make a well in the centre and add pineapple and coconut. Stir until just combined. It is a moist mixture.
3. Pour into prepared loaf tin. Bake for 40-50 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
4. Set tin aside to cool for 10 minutes. Serve warm or transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



2020—2021 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Wendy Snigg

VICE PRESIDENT: Jeanette Walton

SECRETARY: Margaret Lyness — tcoga.secretary@gmail.com

TREASURER: Kate Eglitis — tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joanne McClelland and Emilio Anteliz

Coordinating Volunteers

Garden Plot Coordinator: Joanne McClelland

New Member Coordinator: Joanne McClelland

Grants Coordinator:

Communications & Marketing Coordinator: TBC

Newsletter Editor: Carlene Gardiner

Project Coordinator:

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Past Newsletters [Link](#)

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