

NEWSLETTER

February 2023



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What has been Happening in January 2023

Hoping you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and you were lucky enough to get in a holiday.

Life is great at the Gardens, many members are back in full swing and picked up where we left off. So much happening. I think 2023 will be an exciting year : as they say-watch this space.

Emma, our co-ordinator for the Bush Food Area, commandeered us all to help tidy up that overgrown eye sore . We moved a lot of mulch and surprise, surprise we found a path under all the weeds. We used the left-over decomposed granite to reinstate it. Looking so much better.

I think that area will be our focus for the next few Gatherings. Many hands etc. If you are a plot holder coming to the gatherings then you have well and truly covers you two hours of volunteer work a month. And why stop at two hours as we have the most marvellous lunches after we finish. Come and join in.

There is another exciting project to put the spotlight in the Gardens :we have entered a section at the Toowoomba Show. Some of our more creative members will make sculptures from the veggies grown at the Garden. We are still looking for more veggies to show case our amazing skills are gardeners.

Date Claimers

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle- Sunday 23 rd April, 2023

Working Bee Gathering- 2 nd Sunday of each month.

Open Days- 5 th ,8 th and 12 th March. Looking for donations of plants and seedlings

please. Also help on the days to act as tour guides.

Workshops-18 th February. Introduction to Permaculture.

-11 th March. Retrosuburia Gardens.

For more information on these workshops, just look at Facebook for the information or contact us in person or via email.

Asking everyone to get out and do a rain dance please. Our tanks are very low or empty. We are currently on town water. Please make sure your gardens are mulched to conserve water.

Due to many factors, Carrie is unable to continue in her role as plot co-ordinator. Emma who has been assisting, will take up the role and I will help out until the AGM.

There is now a dedicated email address:



TCOGA.plotcoord@gmail.com

Happy rain dancing and happy gardening. Stay safe and well.

Joanne.



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>*Multiple Workshop sessions at Mount Coot-tha this month(kitchen in the gardens) https://www.mutdobrisbane.com/parks-botanical-gardens/kitchen-garden-mt-coot-tha-botanic-gardens</p> 	<p>PYO strawberries and apples this month at Applethorpe</p> 		1st	2nd	3rd	<p>4th <u>WORLD WETLANDS DAY</u> Weaving the garden workshop:Loom Weaving. Foragers nest art space,47 Enoggera Terrace,Red Hill,til 14th feb 9.30am-1pm -Cobb and co farmers Markets under the Windmills, Lindsay st</p>
<p>5th PCYC Markets:Near the TCOGA gardens</p>	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	<p>11th Aspley Orchid Society Summer Show The auditorium,Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt-Coot-ha, Toowoong-Sat 8am-3.30pm.sun 9am-3pm -Cobb and co farmers Markets</p>
<p>12th PCYC Markets:Near the TCOGA gardens</p>	13th	<p>14th Valentines day Saying 'I love you'with flowers 10-11.30am, Kitchen in the gardens,Mount Coot-tha botanical gardens</p>	15 th	16th	17th	<p>18th St Anne's Market and Car Boot Sale 8am-12pm highfields road,highfields Weaving the garden workshop:Basket Coiling.Foragers nest art space,47 Enoggera trc,Red hill,til 28th feb 9.30am- 1pm -Cobb and co farmers Markets</p>
<p>19th PCYC Markets:Near the TCOGA gardens & Queens park markets, Toowoomba</p>	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	<p>25th -Cobb and co farmers Markets -Cooyar Show</p>
<p>26th PCYC Markets:Near the TCOGA gardens Cabarlah Markets, Carbarlah hall,New England highway</p>	<p>27th Connect and Learn-Permaculture for different Stages of your life.Toowoomba City Library,level 3 6.30pm-8.30pm</p>	28th				

Unwanted Critters part 3

Part 3 of 3

ANTS

Ants can be beneficial to your garden but can also turn into a problem, they can eat other insects that are problematic to your garden but then also protect invasive insects such as aphids. They can build nests around roots of plants, which can hinder plant growth. Ants can also eat your crops such as berries.

Organic Control Measures for Ants

Sprinkle ground cinnamon or cayenne pepper around your plants to repel them.

Place food-grade diatomaceous earth by trails and nests, Made from fossilized hard shelled algae called diatoms, this fine powder dehydrates ants.

Companion Plant with Rosemary, Chamomile, Chives, Catnip and Peppermint.

Pour boiling water into the ant holes.

Dishwashing liquid and oil - 1/2 teaspoons of dishwashing liquid with 1 1/2 teaspoons of cooking oil and some water. Spray on ants.

White Vinegar to evict them from their home

Nematodes - which are microscopic worms that naturally occur in soil and are used to control soil pests. If you're buying nematodes always make sure to follow package instructions.



BRUSH TURKEYS

Whilst they play an important role in natural pest management they just love your fresh mulch you've just worked hard to put down and any fruit trees you have on offer. Freshly planted crops are most vulnerable as they will scratch and dig it up. And if you happen to live next door to turkeys nesting on council property like myself you will just have to manage as best as possible.

Organic Control Measures for Brush Turkeys

Don't feed them, they become quite tame very quick.

Clean up food scraps or rubbish around your property.

Cover compost heaps.

Remove unnecessary sources of water from your backyard.

Bird netting on your fruit trees.

Use heavy coverings to prevent raking (river rocks, coarse gravel and logs over standard mulch) or chicken wire.

Use tree guards or fencing to protect young plants and trees.

Add a large mirror to your garden. It will be too busy fighting its own reflection.

Cover empty mounds (heavy duty tarpaulin, black plastic or shade cloth).



SNAKES

Whilst not a problem for your crops, if you find a dramatic increase in snakes in your yard like red-bellies during the summer it could be problematic as you want a safe space for you and your family to enjoy gardening.

Organic Control Measures for Snakes

Keep lawns short.

Companion planting such as Indian lemongrass, garlic, Onions, Snake plant or Mother-in-laws tongue, Lobster bush, Marigold.

Spray Clove and cinnamon oil.

Remove shelters like piles of rubble, building materials and rock walls.

Get rid of rodents.

Remove unnecessary water sources like ponds and bromeliads if you can.

Plant native trees to attract snake eating birds like kookaburras.



RODENTS

Attracted to food sources such as corn cobs, insects and scraps, which in turn can attract snakes

Organic Control Measures for Rodents

Drive wooden posts into the ground around crops. Set a realistic looking owl on the top,

One or two times a week move the owl to another post.

Companion plant with mint.

Spread peppermint oil, cayenne pepper, black pepper or cloves

Sprinkle crushed pepper.

Keep lawns trimmed, clean and clutter free.

Close and lock all garden and storage sheds.

Dry ice at rat burrows in extreme cases.



The Benefits of Mulching

Gardens take on many shapes, sizes, and characteristics.

Flower gardens add aesthetic appeal to any property and range from simple to elaborate.

Vegetable gardens, which can be very attractive in their own right, are regaining popularity with increasing food prices.

All gardens, whether they are flower or vegetable, benefit from the use of mulch.

Organic mulches, include such things as hardwood chips, pine straw, grass clippings, and crushed leaves.

There are many advantages of adding mulch to a garden area, besides making the garden more attractive and finished looking. These include:

- One of the best benefits of any mulch is its ability to retain moisture in the soil.
- Organic mulches break down over time and contribute to soil health. This can be very helpful, especially if your soil fertility is poor.
- Mulch reduces winter injury and helps with weed control. Other garden mulch benefits include protection from erosion and protection from mechanical injury from weed eaters and lawnmowers.
- Some mulch types, such as cypress, cedar, or pinewood chips do an excellent job of repelling ticks, gnats, and fleas.
- It can reduce your need to water by 70%
- It reduces weeds that can compete for water, light and

space

- It reduces weed-seed germination and makes it easier

to pull out weeds

- It slows down rain run-off
- It insulates your soil and adds nutrients

Gardeners wishing to keep their gardens completely organic should be careful when choosing natural mulch that contains dyes.



What's happening around the Gardens for the future

- We are fortunate to have the beautiful space that we can call the Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens (TCOGA), which has been provided by Toowoomba Regional Council (Council), together the Committee and the Council work together to enable the progression and development of this area as well as input from you, our members of TCOGA.
- Over the last few months there has been a lot happening behind the scenes with the Committee.
- We finalised and sent the TCOGA/Council Action Plan to Council just prior to Christmas. Council is currently reviewing and will liaise with the Committee regarding these projects.
- The top four projects identified by the Committee for the next six to twelve months will be:
 1. Extension of fencing joining the members garden to the founders garden as well as a security fence along the back wall of the founders garden up near the worm farm.
 2. Building of green waste bays into 2 large bays, concrete pad.
 3. Restoration of the 6 gardens plots on the eastern fence in the members garden.
 4. Additional garden plots in between the toilet and the shed once the fence is installed.
- As we are not-for-profit most of our projects will be supported through gaining grants, this obviously is a very lengthy process in identifying particular grants, putting together the application and then waiting to see if we are successful.
- The Council will be providing TCOGA with a green waste skip bin for the gardens free of cost – again we thank the Council for their support. You will hopefully see this in place in the coming months.
- Thank you to Queensland Rail, Toowoomba office for the donation of the sleepers for the gardens, these will be used for various projects, the first being the compost bays and replacing the framing of the bays – thank you to Tim and George for completing this work.
- From the open meeting in October – a number of coordinators were identified for particular areas within the gardens. You would have noticed some progress in these areas with some of the working bee days being allocated to assist in general maintenance and tidying up of these areas. If you have any ideas or suggestions for these areas, please speak with the Coordinator allocated to this area. There is a list of them on the Noticeboard/Whiteboard in the Shed.
- Also from the open meeting a number of different workshop ideas were identified, the Committee is currently working through these and further information will be provided once they are confirmed. The first one for this year will be the Permaculture Workshop on Sunday 19 February.
- Another major undertaking with a subcommittee established has been the review of the governance documentation for TCOGA. This will be presented at the February Committee meeting and hopefully be approved within the next few months. Once this has been approved a General Meeting will be called for members to identify the changes.
- The Committee would love to hear your suggestions and ideas for the gardens. The Noticeboard/Whiteboard in the Shed will be utilised more to put information to inform the members. If you have any ideas/suggestions please have a chat with one of the Committee or email through to the executive of the Committee. Jo – tcoga.president@gmail.com, Kylie – tcoga.secretary@gmail.com or Lyndell – tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com.
- Thank you and happy gardening. -Kylie



What to Plant in February

Amaranth	Mint	What to look for Harvesting: Apples Banana Beans Beetroot Cherries Cucumbers Capsicum Carrots Chilli Corn Cotton Eggplant Figs Grapes Lettuce Melons Onions Pomegranates Pumpkins Radish Raspberries Squash Sorghum Stone fruits Strawberries Sunflowers Tomatoes Zucchini
Avocado	Mustard Greens	
Basil	Nasturtium	
Beans-Climbing, Dwarf & Snake	Onions	
Beetroot	Oregano	
Brussels Sprouts	Okra	
Cabbage	Parsley	
Carrots	Petunias	
Cauliflower	Potato	
Celery	Radish	
Chives	Salsify	
Collard Greens	Silverbeet	
Coriander	Spring onion	
Cucumber	Swedes	
Endive	Sweet potato	
Florence Fennel	Tarragon	
Kohl Rabi	Tomato	
Leeks	Turnip	
Lemon Balm	Verbena	
Lemongrass		
Lettuce		
Marigold		

Recipe of the Month *-Cheats Eton Mess Ice cream*

INGREDIENTS

- 1x 2L Vanilla ice cream
- 1 cup cream thickened or cream for whipping-whipped
- 3-6 meringue nests crushed
- ½ cup fresh or frozen berries roughly chopped (if using large berries)
- 3 Tablespoons berry coulis or homemade jam
- 1 Teaspoon vanilla seeds
- Waffle cones for serving
- * 1 extra tub for freezing

Eton mess is a traditional English dessert consisting of a mixture of strawberries or other berries, meringue, and whipped cream. For this recipe however we are turning it into a nice summer treat cold rock style.



METHOD

1. Soften the Ice cream

Leave a 2L of vanilla ice cream out at room temperature. It needs to soften but not melt.

2. Whip Cream

In the meantime whip the cream with the vanilla bean seeds until stiff.

3. Add Ingredients

In a bowl add your ice cream, whipped cream, berries, coulis or jam and crush some meringues into the mix.

4. Mix

Mix it together using a wooden spoon until well incorporated.

5. Freeze

Pour the mix back into the original ice cream tub and the excess into another spare freezable tub.

Place in freezer and mix again in 30 minutes then again in another 30 minutes to prevent ice crystals forming.

Permaculture Workshop

TOOWOOMBA
ORGANIC COMMUNITY
GARDENS PRESENTS
**INTRODUCTION TO
PERMACULTURE
WORKSHOP**
SATURDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY 2023 1.00PM-4.00PM
TOOWOOMBA COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDENS 22A
GOGGS STREET, TOOWOOMBA

FACILITATOR: SARA HAMMER PRESIDENT OF
PERMACULTURE TOOWOOMBA

WORKSHOP WILL BE OFFERED FREE TO BOTH
MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

FURTHER INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

WORKSHOP APPROACH

The proposed workshop topics introduces participants to the Permaculture essentials and will give them a well-supported opportunity to apply Permaculture thinking to a real site as part of a small group.

PROPOSED TOPICS

1. What permaculture is and why it is important
2. Exploring the three Permaculture ethics
3. Introducing Permaculture design thinking
4. Group activity (single element (e.g. water) site analysis of TCOG permaculture garden)
5. Conclusion, feedback.

Sara Hammer has more than 15 years experience running workshops for adult learners.
Workshop: Free to Members and Non-Members
Bookings: Lyndell tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com

This will be held at the Toowoomba organic gardens, address below, and refreshments will be provided

Notices

KEY RETURN

If anyone has Keys that they no longer need could they return them to the Gardens.
If you have paid a deposit, then this will be refunded by our Treasurer. -Lyndell

Committee and Contact

2023 COMMITTEE

President: Joanne McClelland

Tcoga.president@gmail.com

Secretary: Kylie Higgins

tcoga.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lyndell Chambers

Tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com

Committee Members: Janette Golding, Susan Sheppard, Pauline Cridland, Tim Bretts

Plot Coordinator: Emma

TCOGA.plotcoord@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Adam and Angela

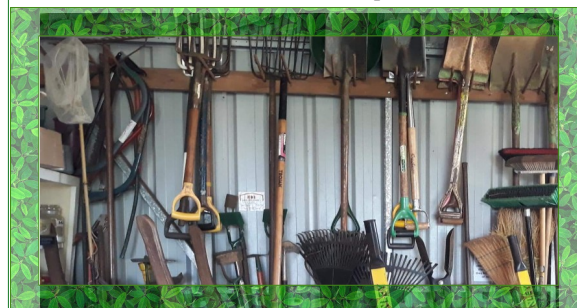
Langdale Tcoga.newsletter@gmail.com

Working Bee



2nd Sunday of every month 9am

Bring along your hat, sunscreen and sturdy footwear-lets team up to some of the bigger jobs around the TCOGA patch!



Each month, we will have a delicious lunch, with everyone free to contribute, BYO plates, cutlery etc.

Other bits and bobs that may come in handy:

- Cardboard for weed smothering
- Seeds or Seedlings
- Extra garden tools
- Your wonderful ideas

Please let the committee know if you have any ideas or feedback for making these days fun for everyone and great for the garden!

Newsletter of Toowoomba Community
Organic Gardens Association Inc. 22A Goggs
Street, TOOWOOMBA CITY, QLD, 4350

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