



GROWING NATURALLY



Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association Incorporated

July 2020

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SOCIAL GARDENING

Sadly, due to the Corona Virus...

Wednesdays—Cancelled until further notice

Sundays—Cancelled until further notice

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What has been Happening in The Gardens?

It has been a busy time in the gardens over the last month. More members have been returning to the gardens as the government begins to ease restrictions. Currently up to 20 members can gather together whilst complying with the 1.5m social distancing rule. This has meant that we have our regular members working hard, weeding and planting in the communal plot areas and the permaculture area.

Jeanette has done an amazing job in the communal plots area turning it into a productive cropping area. We have some beautiful beetroot, cos lettuce, broad beans, parsnips and sweet potatoes growing.

Jo and Lachlan have been hard at work producing amazing compost for the communal garden areas. Creating great compost takes time, patience and a lot of know-how. The knowledge Jo has in this area is of great benefit to the gardens. Once the COVID-19 restrictions allow us to, we will be starting to run some workshops again. With a bit of luck, we may be able to 'twist' Jo's arm to run one on creating good compost.

Whilst we were in the more severe restrictions during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic a small skeleton crew worked hard to keep the weeds at bay and water the communal gardens as well as the plots of members who were unable to come into the gardens. Many thanks must go to Jo, Jeanette, Kate, Margaret and Emilio for their work during the last three months.

This has allowed us to be in 'good shape' as we prepare to get ready for our open day on Sunday September 13. (At this stage we are very hopeful that this will go ahead as planned.) Our first stage in this preparation was to plant some native plants in the plot outside the Members Garden adjacent to the toilet block. Over the next couple of months, we have a lot of weeding, planting and mulching to do to make sure that our gardens look spectacular for our visitors.

We will let you know when our morning teas resume again.

Hope to see you in the gardens soon.

Wendy Snigg

President

Quick Notes for Your Calendar

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

Sunday 13 September—TCOGA Open Day

Rescheduled to 19-21 September - **Qld Garden Expo**— Nambour Showgrounds
<https://qldgardenexpo.com.au/>

NOTICE OF AGM for Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association Inc

When: Saturday 1 August

Where: At The Gardens in The Gazebo area (weather permitting)

Time: 10.00am

All members are encouraged and welcome to nominate for a committee position.

Nomination Forms must be completed and submitted to the Secretary on or before 18 July 2020.

Nomination forms will be available in the shed at the gardens. Members can also request that a form be emailed through to them by contacting:

tcoga.secretary@gmail.com

Feel free to chat to one of the committee members to find out more about what being a committee member involves and the various roles available.

All members have a vote in the election of the new committee. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can nominate someone to be your proxy vote. Proxy Vote forms will be available in the shed at the gardens. Members can also request that one be emailed to them by contacting:

tcoga.secreatry@gmail.com

Please feel free to chat to one of the committee members if you would like any further information.


Plot Holders Jobs for this Month

- Weeding my Plot and surrounding paths / walkway
- Mulching
- Add compost to enrich soil ready for summer planting
- Planning my next crop
- Check for pests
- 2 hours volunteering in the Community areas of the garden.



What to Plant in July

Herbs

Angelica	Evening Primrose	Nasturtium
Anise Hyssop	Fennel	Parsley
Borage	Fenugreek	Salad Burnett
Calendula	Feverfew	Salad Rocket
Catnip	Linseed	Sage
Camomile	Lupin	Thyme
Chervil	Marjoram	Vetch
Chickpea	Mustard	Watercress
Chickory		
Coriander		
Dandelion		
Dill		
Endive		

Camomile

Vegetables

Artichoke	Leek	Rhubarb
Beetroot	Lettuce	Rye Corn
Bok Choy	Mizuna	Salsify
Broad Beans	Mustard Greens	Shallots
Broccoli	Onions	Silverbeet
Brussels Sprouts	Parsnip	Spinach
Cabbage	Peas—Climbing,	Spring Onion
Cape Gooseberry	Snow & Dwarf	Strawberries
Carrots	Potatoes	Swede
Cauliflower	Radish	Turnip
Celeriac		
Celery		
Kale		
Kohl Rabi		

Brussels Sprouts

Jobs for July

There are lots of jobs to do in the kitchen garden right now. It's time to start preparing the garden for spring planting by digging in lots of manure and some compost.

There are several long-lived crops to plant in winter. Try planting asparagus crowns and raspberries.



July is a good time to lift and move plants, especially those that are dormant.

Liquid feed vegetables, annuals and bulbs that are growing.

Lift and divide clumps of perennials, such as rhubarb, for lots of free new plants.

Sow some spring vegetable seedlings and keep them inside on a warm windowsill—Capsicum, Tomato, Watermelon

Cut citrus galls off your citrus trees to stop the spring hatching of Citrus Gall Wasps. Put them in a sealed bag and bin!

Prune raspberries and other berry vines

Spray any scale insects on berry vines and roses with an organic Insecticide

Clean and sharpen your tools and use linseed oil on the wooden parts to help preserve them ready for use in next spring and summer.

The Importance of Maintaining Your Plot

Grey and green aphids are appearing on some plants in the garden. Last year we had very heavy infestations, especially on brassicas in gardens that were untended, they then spread to other gardens. When gardens are unkempt and weeds grow the aphids overwinter on weeds such as milk thistle, then with the arrival of Spring they will multiply exceedingly rapidly. They have an interesting life cycle; one female aphid can produce around 300 young without the assistance of any male aphid! In a few days, those young are then producing their own young.

At the first sign of aphids appearing on your plants a firm blast from the hose can keep them under control without killing their natural predators, such as the lady beetle.

It is important for everyone with a plot that they are kept weed free and plants tended so pests and diseases do not spread throughout the gardens.

A spray of garlic and chilli may be of use. Pyrethrum spray can be used, as it is an organic spray made from a daisy, but this will also kill the "goodies" such as bees, lady beetles and parasitic wasps, so should only be used as a last resort. If the spray is used late in the day it should be possible to avoid harming most bees.



Marmalade

The gardens have produced a range of citrus this Autumn with our large lime tree laden with lovely limes.

Combined with some of my own citrus I have made a range of different Marmalades for sale to members and for the stall we will be having at the gardens for the Spring Carnival of Flowers Open Day. All of the proceeds will be going to TCOGA.

I have run out of small jars and would appreciate any that members would like to donate to me. I have been purchasing small jars but as they cost \$1 each it becomes a bit expensive.



Seedlings



I am almost out of seedlings at present, but I have more coming on and it should only be a week or two before they are ready.

It won't be long before we shall be planting up the gardens with Spring/Summer vegetables so begin preparing your soil now.

I will soon have a lot of the Swan River Daisy seedlings for sale. It is a pretty little native daisy and comes in pink, white and a blue shade and is also fragrant. It's very pretty for the summer garden.

Regards, Jeanette

Community Gardens: Our Contribution to Mitigating Global Warming



Community gardens are well-known around the globe for their positive impacts on individuals, social groups and natural environments. One of these outcomes is helping to reduce global warming, or the rise in average global temperature.

Climate change is the biggest threat that our planet faces, with overarching impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity and human societies. The anthropogenic impact on the environment is the product of such human activities as burning fossil fuels and the destruction of the forests. These activities have increased the concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), which are greenhouse gases that

alter the carbon cycle and that raise global temperatures. As a consequence, in recent years, we have been affected by severe droughts, storms, floods and sea level increases. Furthermore, plants are leafing and blooming weeks earlier than their normal cycle owing to warmer temperatures, etc.

Since their creation, urban gardens have played an important role in our society – for instance, by mitigating poverty by producing food during the industrial revolution, and also through the years until the 21st century as an option to reduce the carbon emissions in cities through sustainable horticultural practices. Nowadays, this is one of the most important contributions of an extensive network of community gardens to easing the global climate change crisis.



We can reduce carbon emissions using manual tools instead of power tools, and deploying electric equipment instead of machines that use fossil fuels. Composting not only reduces our contribution to the landfills but also lowers the use of chemical fertilisers and it is also rich in nutrients with carbon-storing organic matter. Planting trees and shrubs helps to remove heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These long-lived plants store carbon in their tissues for the future. Other sustainable practices that we learn in community

gardens are: soil health and nutrient management; water management and conservation; pollinator protection; and garden design and plant selection.



Gardening practices are our small contribution to solving the big problem of climate change. Want to be part of the solution? Then find your local community garden, meet people, protect the environment and help to fight against global warming by reducing your carbon footprint.

Emilio Anteliz

29 June 2020

SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION

We were delighted to hear that we had been successful in our Micro Grant Application. The Toowoomba Regional Council allocated some funds for non-profit community groups to apply for a \$499 grant to assist them in getting through the tough COVID-19 times.

The micro grants were sought by many organisations in the Toowoomba area. The council was surprised by the number of applications. TCOGA were lucky enough to be approved and received \$378 which we have used to put towards the purchase of two wheelbarrows, a garden cart, a garden hose and a hose hook for the shed.

These items will come in very handy as we prepare for our Open Day on 13 September. The Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association is very grateful for the ongoing support and encouragement we receive from the Toowoomba Regional Council.

Plot Report for May/June 2020

With the lifting of the restrictions we are starting to see many of our gardening friends return to the garden and I must say it is so wonderful to catch up with everyone.

With luck and people continuing to stay safe and well, the Carnival of Flowers might go ahead, as we are opening the gates to hopefully the many garden enthusiasts visiting Toowoomba over the Carnival week. In saying that, TCOGA would really like to shine so it is up to each member to do their bit in tidying up the place after the neglect of the past few months.

So I know many plot holders are keen to get into their gardens to start planting. Please refer to the plant list in each issue about what to plant this season. Don't forget Jeanette has seedlings for sale, so much more established and cheaper than you can buy elsewhere. All proceeds from the plant sales go to the Garden. When preparing your garden bed soil health is vital. Compost and manures (each plot holder is to provide their own compost and manures—all organic and free from any nasty chemicals). Crop rotation and companion planting are some of the keys to healthy soils for healthy food. We are asking the plot holders in the Founders area, (the fenced garden near the shed), to dig out the grass and weeds around your plot. This will avoid weeds escaping into your garden and the neighbouring gardens. Please note that pathways are not included in your volunteer work.



As plot holders, when you hired your plot, you also agreed to commit to **MULCHING YOUR PLOT, ATTENDING THE GARDEN WEEKLY TO TEND YOUR PLOT AND TO DO TWO HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK IN THE COMMUNITY SECTIONS OF THE GARDEN.** When you sign in, enter the Community work you did and how long it took you. I will look at the book to see what work has been done and direct our other volunteers to other parts of the garden. If you are looking for ideas for something to do, on the whiteboard in the shed there is a very long list, so take your pick, but don't forget to put it in the book. If all the plot holders chip in, the place will be ready for the Carnival.

Since our last Newsletter we welcome five new members—Shiralee, Margaret, Debbie and Steve, Kushla and Andrew and Cindy. Please make them feel welcome.

Happy gardening. See you at the garden.

—Joanne

Parsley Dumplings

There is plenty of parsley growing in the garden at the moment, so why not try these. These dumplings always add a little luxury to a winter casserole or soup and they are healthy too!

Ingredients

- 1 cup self-raising flour**
- 1 tsp butter**
- 1/2 tsp salt**
- 1 tbs finely chopped parsley (or more)**
- 1/2 cup milk**

Method

1. Sift together the flour and salt
2. Rub in the butter
3. Stir in the parsley
4. Add milk all at once stirring quickly to make a soft sticky dough

5. Drop dumpling dough by heaped dessertspoonfuls on top of hot bubbling stew or soup.
6. Cover tightly
7. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes
8. Serve on top of your soup or casserole.



Toowoomba Mower Centre Supplying & Servicing	<p>Ph: 4630 2150 Fax: 4630 2600 3 Sowden Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350 robbie@toowoombamowercentre.com.au www.toowoombamowercentre.com.au</p>	Toowoomba Mower Centre Supplying & Servicing
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2019—2020 COMMITTEE

ACTING PRESIDENT: Wendy Snigg

VICE PRESIDENT: Wendy Snigg

ACTING SECRETARY: Jeanette Walton—tcoga.secretary@gmail.com

TREASURER: Linda Mangubhai —tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joanne McClelland, Chris Walpole, Jeanette Walton

Coordinating Volunteers

Garden Plot Coordinator: Joanne McClelland

New Member Coordinator: Joanne McClelland

Grants Coordinator: Linda Mangubhai

Communications & Marketing Coordinator: TBC

Newsletter Editor: Carlene Gardiner

Project Coordinators: Andrew Hawke & Jeanette Walton

Newsletter of Toowoomba
Community Organic Gardens
Association Inc.

22A Goggs Street
TOOWOOMBA CITY QLD 4350
tcoga.newsletter@gmail.com

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