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NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

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Hello out there!

It's hard to believe we are now half way through 2020, a year where many things are not as they once were, but such a perfect time to put more focus on the need for growing food in every yard, and sharing what you can within your community. Thank you to all who have attended our workshops and field days throughout June, we have had good attendance and a great time. Club Meetings are yet to be rescheduled, however Workshops are in full swing! Read on to know what's different and how to attend.

Please note the July 5 workshop is actually a field trip where we will be visiting a working farm and seeing how they grow great food. Remember Malcolm speaking at our January meeting? Now we can visit his farm and see how it is done.

Volunteering your precious time is what makes a club work and even though we are not full steam ahead at the moment, there is still plenty going on behind the scenes. Please keep contributing in any way you can. Kay DeGunst was a great help in sending through information every month to be included in our monthly newsletter, she never missed a beat. So if you think you could fill the gap and put a page together and email me once a month with what is in season, what to plant when, from seed, in trays etc then please get in touch (Cathy – newsletter.bundyorgard@gmail.com)

We'd love to say thank you to Bruce McKay who has now taken over our BOGI shop. Please support the shop. Phone Bruce on 41544405 and make a time to collect some kelp, fish, Katec Super Grow, organibor or Liquid Lime in May Street, Walkervale.

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

For us in the Wide Bay, we have a great climate for growing many things, which is why we are known as a food bowl. Most areas are frost free although there can be one or two frosts a season, and you only really need one to ruin an entire crop. If you are planting or have smaller seedlings, make sure you can cover them to some extent to prevent damage from extreme low overnight temperatures.

It's a great time now for planting Beans, Peas, Silverbeet, Rainbow Chard, Cabbage, Broccoli, Cucumber, Chillies

And towards the end of July you can look at planting Melons and Corn.

Teaming with Microbes

by Jeff Lowenfels & Wayne Lewis

“Smart gardeners and farmers know that soil is anything but inert substance. Soil is teeming with life – not just earthworms and insects, but a staggering multitude of bacteria, fungi and other organisms. When we use chemical fertilizers, we injure the microbial life that sustains healthy plants, and thus increasingly dependent on an arsenal of artificial substances, many of them toxic to humans as well as other forms of life. But there is an alternative to this vicious cycle: to garden or farm in a way that strengthens, rather than destroys, the soil food web – the complex world of soil-dwelling organisms whose interactions create a nurturing environment for plants.”

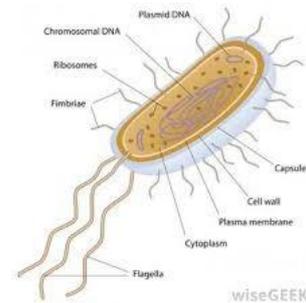
The first part of this book describes the soil food web and its organisms - bacteria, archaea, fungi, algae and slime moulds, protozoa, nematodes, arthropods, earthworms, gastropods and reptiles, mammals and birds.

The second part tells us how to manage a healthy soil. Compost, mulch and compost teas are management tools available to gardeners and farmers.

Will it work for my garden and farm?

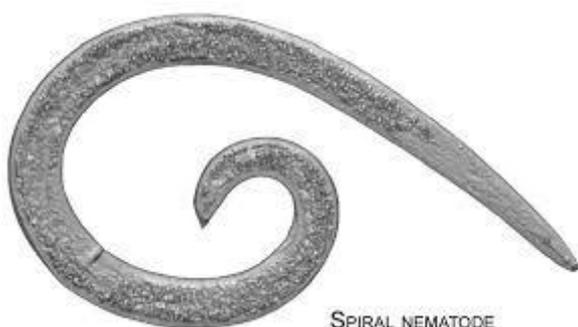
“Remember: no one ever fertilized an old growth forest. They didn’t have to. What are you waiting for? Start teaming with microbes and get that biology back into your soils and working for you.”

A discussion on compost, mulches and compost teas from this book will follow in the next newsletter. The book is available in our BOGI library and also owned by a number of members who may be happy to lend their copy.



Healthy

become



WORKSHOPS AND GARDEN VISITS

If you have been lucky enough to attend any of the workshops run throughout June you would know how great it is to be hosting them again. Hands on learning is my favourite way – when you are right there and you can ask all the questions you need, often learning just as much from other attendees through conversation. We still have to keep numbers to a minimum so please book in nice and early. Thanks for your co-operation.

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The next Field Trip is THIS WEEKEND! Contact Trevor (0417196315) or Karyn (0447360882) to book in, see who else is going and offer a ride or car pool where possible.

What: A field trip, a day out in the very peaceful countryside To Malcolm & Marlene Kent's abode
When: Sunday July 5th 9.30am till noon – followed by a BYO lunch
Where: 81 Chapmans Rd, St. Kilda, between Gin Gin & Wallaville, then to the West of Hwy 1
BYO: Your Lunch - plate - cup - utensils - folding chair. etc. Tea & Coffee will be available
Anything to buy: Yes:- Parsley bunches - Egg plant plants - perhaps others

Field Trip to Malcolm & Marlene Kent's property for a unique garden tour of their Automatic, self watering, built in wicking beds, both as house gardens for veggies & also as both above ground & below ground set ups for commercial growing of herbs, veg etc.

I am always impressed when a thinking person, creates what is needed, tinkers with it till it works, then makes the most of that opportunity. This is in a nutshell what Malcolm has done. It is well worth seeing, photographing, talking about, & perhaps some of us even implementing it. Both Malcolm & Marlene will make sure that the process is fully understood. As I said, we were MOST IMPRESSED with his creation when we saw it a month or 2 ago.

Of course it will be a great opportunity to get out in the sunshine away from town & just enjoy the countryside. Hopefully it will be a brilliant blue sky day. This will be a very positive, uplifting day. Enjoy it.

Field Trip Limit: 20 People

What: Visit to Lenzie Duffys Garden
When: Sunday 19 July from 10 – 12.
Where: Avenell Heights
BYO: Lunch, Lenzie will provide hot water & cups

Lenzie has dispensed with grass and now has many exotic fruit trees in the back and vegetables in the front yard. BYO lunch to follow to discuss the mornings information..

Field Trip Limit: 10 People (This will be repeated later in the year)

What: How to Build Pallet Benches with Dave Jacq
When: Saturday 25 July 10 to 2
Where: Avenell Heights
Cost: \$5

Recycled pallets will be used to construct a bench ready for lunch. Dave also makes many other recycled creations from pallets and other materials.

Lunch is a sausage BBQ. Please bring a salad and cover your own specific dietary needs.

Workshop Limit: 6 People

GUIDED TOUR OF THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

On Sunday 14th June, we were lucky enough to have a guided tour of the Rare Fruit Tree Orchard and Bundaberg Botanical Gardens. The weather was perfect, and the turnout was great with 13 members and a total of 22 attendees. Ray Johnson led the way, and if we weren't on a rough time schedule, I think he could have stopped at each and every tree and plant to tell us something interesting about it. We walked around the lake to and through the rainforest where Ray taught us how to collect viable seed of the Rainforest Plum (pictured below) we then walked around to the shelter within the rainforest where members reminisced of it being the very first official meeting place for the Bundaberg Organic Gardeners Club. We made it right around to the Rare Fruit Orchard where Ray showed us some impressive little tools that make life easier for him when pruning. His secateurs were sharp but his favourite was the new 'toy' being a battery powered chainsaw. (Austin was also very impressed and now wants one of his own) Ray and Lenzie got in to giving the poorly shaped Fig tree a very good haircut, shaping it as they went and leaving what looked like not much more than a stump but assuring us that it was done in kindness to the tree and it would be back producing fruit in no time. Most attendees took home cuttings to replant and hopefully share in the future.



We stopped for lunch and the members who stayed on walked to the Permaculture Garden situated in the far back corner of the gardens. It was very impressive to see how much was growing there and a great community initiative. We continued our walk right around the gardens and finished up where we started. A great day out for young and old enjoying the sunshine and learning as we went. The kids are keen to get back there and collect more seed for Ray. (Cathy)



WHAT'S HAPPENING ONLINE!

Trevor has been busy updating our website, there are many links to information shared in the past, as well as newsletters, and photos. Be sure to check it out

<https://www.bundaberg-organic-gardeners.com/>

We have had MANY followers, both BOGI members and those of the wider Bundaberg Community sharing their gardening successes and asking for help on our club Facebook page. It has proven to be a valuable platform for sharing information and keeping the motivation going.

Follow this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/717598841992819/> or search on Facebook for Bundaberg Organic Gardening Inc

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY!



We stopped in for a visit with Lenzie last week & were once again overwhelmed by his growing expertise, especially his HUMUNGOUS BANANA TREES! Wow, wow, wow. This man has got so much growing knowledge to teach us all. Way to go Lenzie. I love his ethic, get rid of the grass, what a waste of space, instead, become self sufficient with regard to growing one's own food. Just love it.

(From Pete and Pam)

PROGRESS REPORT FROM JEFF AND LARA HAWKERS GARDEN

This is progress at Jeff and Lara's garden. Remember Jeff spoke at a meeting earlier this year about Aquaponics.

Jeff cut the sides of the juice bottles away and put in shade cloth to make covers to keep the grasshoppers off our beetroot seedlings.



I think we should have had a competition...We wouldn't have won the biggest melon but we might have grown the smallest!
(note egg comparison)



And more pictures say 1000 words.



PHOTOS FROM THE HAVEN

Hi from The Haven (Peter & Pamela Burgess)

A couple of pics to share with members what we have been up to lately. Business as usual out here, Covid 19 ????. What is that??? Not out here that's for sure.

WE GOT MULCH !!! Lots of Mulch. So it is the perfect weather to be covering the gardens, we also were blessed with 51mm over 2 nights so the ground is moist, damp, & green grass & seeds are starting to peek through. A perfect time to feed the trees & cover the whole lot up with many inches of water retaining mulch. Back to Eden Gardening by Paul Gautchie is a fabulous you tube video to watch, (there are heaps of them out there, but look for the original movie) what an inspiration! I would have liked to share it with all of the members while we had meetings but I am not sure if the overhead deals with streaming from the internet. For years we have mulched, but not with truckloads, this year we have truckloads! Last year's drought messed with my head & the garden, so did not want to go down that road again, by putting 6" plus of woodchips down (read mulch) it has the ability to deal well with drought or flooding rain, so hopefully we have it covered (pun intended) no matter what! This is the front orchard, on the front fence, overhung by one monster Poinciana that has its roots in a water supply!?! Not sure still whether it is an underground stream or our watering system on the other side of the fence.

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NEWS FROM THE BUNDABERG BOTANICAL GARDENS.

An update of what's in fruit and flower in the Bundaberg Botanic Gardens.

What's in seed?

- The bottle tree near the Hinkler memorial at the top of the 'hill' just past the Friendship Grove is in seed.
- The Mexican fern tree *Schizolobium parahyba* is also in seed. If you stand at the whiteboard at the front of the café and look up you will see it. It has a very straight trunk with smooth bark. The green fern like leaves are very long and look quite like a jacaranda. The seed pods are in the shape of tadpoles and have a single seed in them.

What's in fruit?

- The finger lime is covered in black fruit ripe for eating! Just head to the rare fruit tree orchard and it is located at the back of the orchard near the low wall at the Hinkler Hall of Aviation end.
- The Black Sapote or chocolate pudding fruit, *Diospyros digyna* has green fruit that is on its way to ripening to a darker green over the next week or two in the rare fruit tree orchard. The plant is signed and is near the car park end of the orchard near the pathway.
- There are some tiny jackfruits starting to take shape!

What's in flower?

- The beautiful sandpaper vine is in flower in the Hinkler Garden behind the café.
- You'll also get a strong whiff of social garlic which is in flower near the sandpaper vine.
- The grevillea outside the Bundaberg and District Museum is displaying its lovely pink flowers, this one often seems to be in flower when some of our others aren't.
- Don't miss the aloes in flower next to the main car park opposite the café. They are situated just out the front of Figtree Chapel and look a lot like red hot poker.
- There is a stunning display of marigolds at Fairymead House.
- And the magnolia buds are starting to come out.

What else?

- There is a beautiful array of fungi from orange to brown, white, yellow and pale pink, especially in the Friendship Grove, rainforest and in the mulched areas near the lake.
- The magpie geese have taken up temporary residence in the bottom lake and are a wondrous sight to see. There are also plenty of pelicans, whistling ducks and dusky moorhens. We hope visitors are reading our new signs about not feeding the waterbirds, or have at least switched to a healthier alternative.
- We will be launching our new kids activity trail this coming Saturday 27 June just in time for the school holidays. Kids can grab a free booklet (made from recycled paper) from the café, museum or Hinkler Hall of Aviation and make their way through 20 stops around the top lake. The activities can be done in any order and don't need to be completed on the same day. The answers are in the booklet and there will be numbered sign posts showing where to stop and do each activity. All feedback around the new booklet is welcome so please encourage your kids and grandkids to have a go. I am currently working on a second booklet for a younger audience as well.
- We will be launching the plantings of the endangered *Macadamia jansonii* along a new pathway that runs from behind the Chinese Gardens to the gate at Thornhill Street as part of a joint project with the Macadamia Conservation Trust. The project is about preserving the species genetic material and involved Queensland Parks and Wildlife, Tondoon Botanic Gardens, Port Curtis Coral Coast and Gidarjil Corporation. 10 plants are in the ground with more to follow.



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

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

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

Deadline for July 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

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