



What's On Mid-April May2020

More Than What's On. About Staying Connected

Hallo All,

Hi Everyone. I know you will be enjoying this gorgeous Autumn weather and watching your gardens thrive. We have some reports from some of our members showcasing what the happenings in their gardens. Mine is not very exciting but is a new beginning for me.

I am about to have my whole garden transported, as we are having the back deck concreted. I am losing 4 sq precious metres of many years of composting which will be transported to wicking boxes and raised beds. This is the first time ever I have been very successful with seedlings and have many little things waiting to get growing in a final resting place. I have dill, coriander, basil, shallots, tomatoes, cauliflower, Stem lettuce, Rabbit Ear spinach, Wasabi, Rocket, Egyptian Spinach, Snow Peas, Kale, loose leaf lettuce, Parsley, and others I'm not sure of.

Here we have some of my broccoli box wicking boxes and my seedlings ready and waiting.

Wish me luck.

Karyn



Dan and Cathy at East Bundaberg have around 200 of each Cos Lettuce and Jap pumpkin seedlings that should be ready to transplant now. If you are interested phone 0403 430 969 to arrange a time to collect.

FOR BOGI NEWSLETTER
FROM ROSS & RAMONA LANE, INNES PARK

Firstly, we would like to say thankyou to this wonderful group for being so welcoming and freely offering of your infinite gardening knowledge. I have been gardening most of my adult life in one way or another, but I realise how little I really do know.

We would also like to thank Trevor and the other members for coming to our home in February and helping construct our first raised wicking bed. It's going great guns and has been replanted with some root veges whilst the basil is in the process of being dried and ground.

Ramona took part in Reisha's recent Permaculture workshop and thoroughly enjoyed it. So during the recent restrictions, we decided to make our first permaculture garden albeit in a small way. The area we chose previously had comfrey, plaintain, dogbane and a few other bits and pieces. However, we all know how much that the girls (aka chooks) just love comfrey and, well, they just couldn't help themselves and the garden was decimated.

We decided to start again and replant with comfrey and other medicinal herbs. We increased the depth of the area by adding another row of rocks then came the cardboard - we have found local retail stores very helpful in allowing us to have some of the cardboard that is wrapped around large appliances. That was watered well and a layer of mulch was placed on top then watered again. The soil mixed with coir came next together with some fertiliser and minerals, water, newspaper, water and finally the last layer of mulch followed by ... you guessed it more water.

Ross has put up a wire fence around the garden and a gate will go in shortly. We planted lots of comfrey, a plaintain plant that had resprouted after the rain was put back in, some alyssum for the bees, coriander and brahmi and we're presently waiting on a medicinal herb order to be delivered. We placed the comfrey close to the fence so the girls can peck it through the wire without devouring it!

It only took a couple of days from start to finish and we are surprised at just how little water it now needs in comparison to other gardens. Some pics follow.



Many thanks to Ross and Romana for this update.

Worm Eggs – a big thanks to **Bruce McKay** who reported that he had worms in his garden where he placed the worm eggs from the BOGI meeting in late January. So it works! I wonder how many other members had worms hatch and forgot to look.

Bruce McKay also has been busy in his garden. Maybe the lock down or just a normal years gardening. Bruce has some self-sown pumpkins that have produced a very large vine and now are just starting to set some fruit.

This year his self-sown tomatoes have not germinated as normal. Consequently, he is short of ripe fruit. Other gardeners have also mentioned this. Why is it so?

In one bed Bruce has planted lentils. What sort of bush/vine? How do they grow? Has anyone ever seen lentils grow?



Bruce has comfrey growing in several places and is complaining it dies in some spots. Where it is drier and full sun it seems to die. One garden bed with a few comfrey is next to the neighbours fence which has a soak-it hose in the bed. Here the comfrey is growing well.



In the April What's On, Joan Smart told us about her experience with mangoes in bags producing compost in quick time. Shown in the photo nearby, Bruce has placed some dragon fruit vines in bags hoping to

achieve the same result. Watch this space for the next report.



Also Bruce has lots of herbs and some citrus growing. Shown in the photo is dandelion.

Another photo from Bruce's garden showing cauliflower, broccoli, marigolds and arrowroot (the tall plants at the back).

A quick visit to **Shirley Pennington's** garden showed lockdown has been well spent. The large garden is looking loved and very well kept. There is not a weed present in the half acre garden.



Shirley has some desert roses which are flowering well.



Photos also show some recently planted peas and carrots.



This week I visited **Mackay** (let's say for business reasons) and I had the opportunity to look at **Lance and Joy's** vegie garden. The first photo shows Joy with her granadilla vine. The large fruit is the size of a butternut pumpkin and has a delicate sweet flavour with seeds like large passionfruit seeds. We can grow them in Bundaberg but they do enjoy the warmer climate further north.



The cucumber vine growing up the trellis had at least 6 fruit nearing maturity. I would be thrilled with such success.

This photo shows potatoes, tomatoes and ginger growing in pots. This shows a good variation which some members practice successfully.



Another photo shows a general view where sweetcorn, zucchini, cabbage, beans and lettuce are growing.

Lance & Joy do not have a major insect problem, but the fruit bats and possums are a handful.

Trevor

Marlene and Katrine Rayner have been very busy in their garden. The big bonus for them is that they are "Pleased to know exactly what we are eating".



Watering a little patch of corn in a raised bed is so easy on mum's back. I call the bed coffin beds. About 8ft by 3ft wide. One day we need to convert them into the water pipe beds. Not looking forward to digging them all out.



Well grown and thanks Marlene and Katrine

Keep well and connected,

Karyn Ennor

Secretary

