



## What's On Mid April----More Than What's On. About Staying Connected

Hallo All,

Once a month a group of like minded souls meet together. We enjoy, perhaps be inspired by some new ideas from a guest speaker, have a chat over a cup of tea with one or two people and return home to our gardens carefully nurturing some fresh seedlings, ready to become part of our vegetative family.

Ironically, since the advent of the Corona virus, hundreds of people have stripped nurseries bare of seed and seedlings, in order to attempt to do what we already know. However, knowledge is gold, and many may fail in good natured attempt. Our Club's secret can no longer be restrained, the knowledge can be shared. Your neighbours, including their children are ready to listen, and, have the time. As a club we need to, more than ever, we need to keep our Organic Energy together in order to keep ideas flowing. This is about communication. It's about sharing all those wonderful things we are growing. It's about helping others to improve from our experience. It's about being connected for our own health while we are all isolated.

So, how are we going to do this? In a number of ways. First, through this medium of What's On we can share what we are doing, tips, successes, failures, what we are growing this month, and ask questions. We can ideally, provide pictures of what's happening in our gardens. Sort of a Gardener's Dear Dorothy.... If you don't know how to send photos, ask a friend or younger person

Our regular last Tuesday meetings of the month have been cancelled, however, we need to stay connected. What are you doing in the garden? What are you planning to do? Here is an opportunity to share with other members. Please give Karyn, Secretary Ph 0447360882 or Trevor, President, Ph 0417196315, a call or send an email with your plans, ideas or questions and we will include them in What's On or the newsletter.

**Bruce** McKay has been planting seedlings of cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and seed of butternut pumpkin, snake beans, and peas. So by June he will be harvesting.

One of our new members, **Wendy**, has collected seedlings of lettuce, chicory, wasabi mint, mizano and rocket along with snake bean seed, a young loofah to eat and some Ceylonese mint to grow from cuttings.





**Help!** Says **Karyn Ennor**. These seedlings shot up in 2 days before full moon. Will they be strong seedlings if planted on. Their roots are so long. Need advice on how to get robust seedlings. What's the best medium, how much sun to harden off etc.

**Connecting with neighbours--** I have started a seedling/seed swap amongst some elderly neighbours and other members in Bargara. It has formed some great connections during this time of isolation. A way of ongoing socialising at a distance as our gardens progress. I recommend reaching out to your neighbours, if you haven't already. You may be pleasantly surprised. The elderly ladies certainly were.

**WORM EGGS** – At our January meeting 15 members received a bag containing 600 worm eggs with the promise that in 6 – 8 weeks they would be hatched and working your soil. Now we want some feedback. What colour and how big are your worms? Did you succeed? Please even negative feedback is required.

Have you grown **chicory**? It is another green which grows most of the year and flowers in December and then dies. A very prolific green leaf producer which may be eaten fresh or cooked. Seedlings available from Trevor 0417196315



**BOGI Seed Bank** The following seed is available from the BOGI Seed Bank :-  
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. Would you like to grow some of these then contact Trevor for seed.

**Insect of the month** Once our drought broke and the rains arrived, the insect world has been very active. Lots of different grubs or caterpillars eating our lawn, shrubs and seedlings. Then the butterflies and moths (adults of the grubs) have been present. Now lots of **Ichneumonidae**.



These are parasitoid wasps. They do not sting us. They lay eggs in the grubs of moths and butterflies. They can be seen in numbers buzzing about half a metre above the lawn. Can you catch them?

So, if you like the idea of staying in touch and you want to share or ask information on anything in between this forum, you should have a look at our club's Facebook page. How to get in? if you have facebook, click on the Magnifier up on the right hand side and enter Bundaberg Organic gardeners facebook. You will be invited to join. If you haven't facebook then click on the link which was in our last newsletter. You can then join. There is a lot of interesting information. Trevor found a wonderful source of seedlings on there, which is shared below.

**Vegetable seedling available** - lots and locally grown in Bundaberg. See the post on Facebook, on April 1 for photo. Lots of seedlings including herbs, lettuce, spinach, zucchini, corn, broccoli, cabbage, silver beet, capsicum, tomato etc. Wander the nursery and select seedlings for you and your friends or neighbours and pay 50 cents each. Visit 104 Hoods Road, Meadowvale now and any week day. Phone Debbie 0438599520 for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you with all your gardening happenings. See you mid May. The Newsletter will be out at the end of the month.

Keep well and connected,

Karyn Ennor

Secretary