



Noosa Community Gardens

Newsletter



February 2025



President's Message

Just like all good Footy Players, I am sure all NCG Gardeners have been doing your Pre-Season Training over the festive season and are at peak fitness levels for this, the start of the 2025 Gardening Year.

I am looking forward to it, as I am sure you are. In 2024 we achieved a lot and in 2025, we will both consolidate and achieve more.

We have had good rain through the mid summer heat peak. Watering rosters for the hot days have been minimal but done well when needed, and now the planning and planting starts for what will soon be our late Summer/early Autumn growing season.

Summer still produced a lot of produce, especially bananas, rockmelon, watermelon, rosellas, as well as a variety of other interesting produce. While these Summer crops have done well, we did learn some lessons for the rest of Summer this year and those beyond.

There are plenty of infrastructure projects to plan and construct, so that will keep those construction minded amongst us amused for the year (or should it be bemused ?)

To all Members & Friends of our Garden, I hope you all have a really good year ahead, both in the Garden, at our Garden Social events and in your life in general.



Make sure you make a worthy contribution to the Garden in 2025 and Have Fun at our NCG.

Cheers Doug



Bird's Eye View

Some very lucky birds in the Wallace Park neighbourhood get to view our garden from the air, something we as ground dwellers do not get to do, well not until this month when Justine paid us a visit with her drone and cameras and spent time taking some amazing aerial shots of the garden.

It is stunning to see how lovely the gardens look from the air, very well laid out, neat, green and certainly an area to be proud of. With the recent rainfall everything was looking at its best and it was a hive of activity on the Friday morning when the shots were taken. Take a look at the images below to see the difference between August 2022 (Google Maps) and 10 January 2025.



18 August 2022



10 January 2025



We can be deservedly proud of our little patch. Well done everyone!!

Infrastructure - What's Next in 2025?

With so much wonderful development and improvement in the gardens in 2024, we are now starting to look at what's next in 2025.

As a recipient of a Noosa Council Community Grant in late 2024, plans are being made for the installation of further garden beds to replace some of the older, less serviceable ones in the north western area of the garden. So keep a look out for that in the coming months.

The Bulk Storage area will be further enhanced with the addition of more partitions within this area and possible coverings for the bays.

As part of the bulk storage facility development, a small lockable shed is about to be installed and this will be used to store supplies for the composting operations. No doubt those who attend the garden have noticed the hive of activity developing the site for this shed.



It is also intended to further develop our composting facilities by building additional bays at right angles to the current group and this development will most likely include collection bays for lawn clippings and other green waste awaiting composting.

There will be continued development of the dragonfruit bed with the completion of the growing frames for the plants that have started making their way towards the top of the posts that were installed late last year.

These plans along with regular garden activities, general tidying and maintenance are sure to keep us busy for this year. Members can watch out for some working bees that will be held throughout the year to tackle some of these tasks.

Social Calendar for 2025

The committee have put on their collective thinking caps to draft up a calendar of social activities for the coming year. While the exact date of some of the activities is still yet to be determined we hope that this will give members some idea of what activities to expect and of course further details of each activity will be forthcoming in the newsletter as they draw near.



Social Activities Calendar

Hang up your hat and gloves and join other members for social activities in 2025

Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of each month, members are welcome to sit in, please RSVP to Kaylene if attending • Tunes by the River will continue to be held on the last Friday evening of the month, from around 4 pm on the grassed area near The Boathouse
February	
March	Doonan Sip and Stroll - Date to be Confirmed
April	Quiz Night at Noosa Lawns Club - Tuesday Evening - Date to be Confirmed
May	Rosella Festival Saturday 3 May &/or Sunday 4 May 2025 at Petersens Farm
June	Annual Fundraising Bunnings Sausage Sizzle - Saturday 14 June 2025 Winter Solstice, An Evening in the Garden - Saturday 21 June 2025
July	Queensland Garden Expo 10-13 July at Nambour Showgrounds
August	Cooloola Farm Trail - August 2025 Dates to be Confirmed Getaway to Rainbow Beach - in conjunction with Cooloola Farm Trail
September	Sausage Sizzle in the Garden Sunday 7 Sept (Father's Day/Blood Moon Eclipse)
October	
November	
December	Member's Christmas Party - Date to be advised

Please watch out for confirmed dates and more information on each event in our monthly newsletter

February/March Upcoming Events

🍷 Regular Social Get Together - Last Friday of the Month from 4 pm - **Tunes by the River** - BYO drinks, nibbles to share and your chair. Please remember partners and friends are most welcome to come along and share in our fun. You'll find us in our usual spot on the grassed area between the Boathouse and the boat ramp. **This month it will be Friday 28 February at 4 pm**

👉 Tuesday 11 March 2025 at 2.00 pm - NCG Committee Meeting is being held at 5/28 Lionel Donovan Drive, Noosaville.

All members are welcome, please RSVP via email to noosacommunitygardens@gmail.com if you will be attending, so we can ensure we have enough seating. You are also welcome to submit agenda items by 7 March, 2025 via email please.



'Twas the Season

Once again garden members enjoyed a lovely Christmas celebration in the garden on the afternoon and evening of 4 December. This celebration was well attended and there was no shortage of conversation, lovely food and of course some beverages to allay the summer thirst. Our usual Secret Santa exchanging of gifts is always popular and enjoyed by those who participated. The grounds were looking lovely and certainly make for a enjoyable location for members to meet and socialise.





Tunes by the River

What a lovely way to spend a Friday evening, especially after an exceptionally hot morning working in the community garden. Fifteen members met for our monthly gathering by the river, to listen to the music, chat and of course enjoy something to eat and drink.





Members would recently have seen an email providing a link to an excellent planning tool from Organic Gardener which we have no doubt will be very useful as our weather cools a little and we look towards planting up all of our garden beds to reap a bumper harvest mid year.

While it's not quite autumn yet it certainly is time to start our seedlings ready for planting.

Some things to consider as we swing into action in 2025:

Deciding what to plant – The following sources of information can be used to determine best crops to plant at this time of year in our region.

- Some internet research is always a good place to start
- Planting Guide provided at the garden on the inside door of Eve shed
- Consider crop rotation and companion planting where feasible
- Organic Gardener online tool <https://www.organicgardener.com.au/planting-guide/#step1>
- Look at what other groups are planting to avoid too many double ups

Consider the source of your new plants

- Are you going to start plants from seed, if so look at starting your seedlings in the shade house as soon as possible and talk to Kate and Rhonda as they can assist with this. Before purchasing seeds check with Wendy to see if we have what is needed in the Seed Bank.
- Are you going to purchase seedlings ready to plant, if so discuss this with the committee to ensure the budget allows for this ***or you could*** generously make a donation of seedlings you purchase to the garden
- Finally do you intend to plant seeds directly into the beds, if so talk to Wendy about what seeds are available in the Seed Bank before purchasing. (Note: leftover seeds purchased from garden funds should be handed to Wendy for deposit into the Seed Bank).

Preparing the bed for the new plants

- There is no better time to condition the bed for new plantings than when all the old crops have been removed
- Don't forget to check the pH of the bed
- Things that can be added include compost, mushroom compost, aged grass clippings, coffee grounds, worm castings and eggshells
- It is also a good idea to keep the soil moist before the next planting to give those new babies a head start once they are planted
- Regularly watering and applying of the Comfrey tea can help with this, as can mulching the soil to stop it drying out

Nurturing and Mulching

- Once the hard work of the 3P's, planning, prepping and planting is in the rearview mirror, its important to nurture the new seedlings until they are established by implementing the 3W's, watering, weeding and wonderment (at how much they grow in our beautiful garden)
- Provide regular watering, while this is taken care of in some beds by the irrigation system, the seedlings in the wicking beds need extra watering until the roots develop and can draw water from the reservoir, as do any of the plantings in non-irrigated beds ie no dig beds etc
- Application of suitable mulch to help maintain moisture in the ground and deter weed growth
- Carry out regular weeding of the beds
- Staking and trellising of plants to provide support as they grow
- And of course constant monitoring for pests of all types and the application of nets and shade cloth as required to ensure a productive crop

The Village People Visit Our Garden

Recently our members enjoyed a visit from the Peregrine Veggie Village members and were able to proudly show these keen local gardeners what we have achieved at our Wallace Park location. NCG members conducted a tour of the various operations and facilities that we have to offer and then provided a morning tea for our visitors. This is another example of the camaraderie that community gardens foster within the community and we hope to host more groups from the Sunshine Coast area and also look forward to visiting other Community Gardens as well.





This month we welcome the following new member/s to our group. We hope that you find your time spent in the garden productive and that in addition to growing some wonderful produce you also develop many new friendships.

Scott Erickson
Julie Dowling
Vicki (Wiki) Winton

While we happily welcome our new members, sadly we also farewell Michelle Jacks who joined the garden in August 2022 and who has contributed significantly to the establishment of what we now have at Wallace Park. We wish you well Michelle wherever you may roam and hope to see you back when next you are in Noosa.



Thank You to Our Sponsors

A big shout out this month to all our members and friends of the garden who contributed to our Containers for Change collection this month.



We returned a record 877 bottles and cans to Express Recycling in January, following on from our return of 517 in December. These funds are becoming a vital part of how we cover the regular expenses of the garden and the contributions from the community and members are greatly appreciated. It is amazing how a little can help a lot.

A Little Bit Of Fun



"It's getting late. We should set up camp here and start out again in the morning."



Word of the Month

Valentine

Not saying why, but garden members remember this word, all will be revealed in due course

Letter to the Editor

Greetings NCG,

This is Wazza, El Presidento of Numbat Community Gardens.

Had a thought over Chrissie, maybe we could be "Sister Gardens", like they do with "Sister Cities" around the world. I came to Noosa, back in the 50's. Might have even met a few of youse back then. Much changed??

You will all learn lots from *Wazza's World*, and maybe youse can send us some tit bits back. We would love to know how Noosa-ites go about your day in your Subtropical Veggie Garden.

Some Stuff about Us in Numbat Valley. We are a rag tag bunch, mostly wrinkly, mostly sober (optional) but jeez we can plant plants. Summer was a cracker. We had 2 x TVs set up in the Garden, so we could watch the Cricket and garden at the same time. Never knew when someone screamed "HOWZAT ", whether they were cheering at the Cricket or found a new Arti-choke. Crazy days. Youse do have electricity there for TVs right?

One bit of real excitement was when Jonno dug up an unexploded artillery case in the old cucumber patch. His eyesight's not real good. We dropped it off at the local "Container for Change" place at the Scouts, and weirdly, we got 30 cents for it. Bonus !!

Any probs there with Garden Security? We had to put a padlock on the Manure Shed, but ***holy cow***, it's hard to get everyone to use it right. How hard can a 12 x digit code be ?? I even wrote the code on the shed door next to the lock to make it easy. Saga continues

Anyway, let me know if youse want to be "Sisters", and we can take it from there.

(I am a bloke by the way)

See Ya,

Wazza

E: wazzawot@geezmale.com



Recipe of the Month

Sweet Potato, Spinach & Feta Muffins



Ingredients

- 1 cup of plain flour
- 1 cup of wholemeal plain flour
- 1 tbs bicarb soda
- 40g baby spinach leaves (steamed & chopped)
- 2 spring onions (sliced thinly)
- 100g crumbled feta
- 2 eggs (beaten)
- 2/3 cup plain Greek yoghurt
- 125g canned creamed corn
- 1 cup of sweet potato puree
- 50g melted butter
- 1/4 cup parmesan (grated)

Method

- Preheat the oven to 200C (180C fan forced),
- Lightly grease a 12 hole muffin tray,
- Sift the flours and bicarb in a large bowl and stir through the spinach, spring onion and half the feta,
- Combine the remaining ingredients in a separate bowl and whisk well,
- Fold the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients until just combined,
- Spoon into the prepared muffin tray,
- Sprinkle with the remaining crumbled feta,
- Bake for 25 - 30 minutes until cooked, test with a skewer.

Makes 12



Source: Australia's Best Recipes

Links to other Newsletters & Community Information

Organic Gardener

Slow Food

Organic Gardener





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