

AUGUST  
2010

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# Beelarong Community Farm

*Time to grow*



AUGUST

## Diary

### Events

National Tree day 1st Aug

### Workshops

**BCC GOLD Program** (All 9.30am - 11.30am unless marked otherwise. Call 3403 8888 to book):

Cob Oven Cooking and farm tour 2nd and 23rd Aug

Compost making, 3rd Aug

No dig garden, 5th and 26th Aug

Companion planting and worm farm, 6th Aug

Sensational Vegetarian Cooking, 8th Aug (1045am)

Meditation and healing, 13th Aug

Garden herbs for health and cooking, 19th Aug

Cooking Sensations 30th Aug

**BCC Active Parks** (9.30am to 11.30am call education line to book.):

Garden in a box (3+) 26th Aug\*

Worm Farm (3+) 14th Aug\*

### Meetings

**Committee Meeting** Wed August 11th, 6pm, Di Farmer's Office  
**General Meeting** 18th August

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY DAVID FRASER

Welcome to the new look Beelarong newsletter. Actually, there has been a lot of new looks at the farm recently. The farm logo has been redesigned and new T shirts have arrived. The allotment and market garden redevelopments are almost complete and the fruit forest continues to have new fruit trees added. Thanks for all the hard work, the farm is really looking great!

David

#### Other News.....

August 1st is National Tree Day and there will be a tree planting event at the Morningside Tennis Centre from 10am. The event will also include tours of the farm, free tennis and a BBQ lunch.

A farm trip to Herb Cottage is being arranged. If you are interested, please let us know

Our vegemite/banana baits placed around the growing eggplants in our market garden area are working very successfully. Even stink bugs seem to love vegemite!

We are planning a new column called "Plot Dr" where members can answer your queries - so please send in your questions

## FARM VOLUNTEER UPDATE by Di Ferguson

On open days at Beelalong it's interesting seeing how different members approach their garden design and planting techniques.

Judy uses Lunar Planting. Lunar Planting, or planting by the moon, is a technique using the planetary calendar as a guide to planting out your garden. The full moon can cause water to rise to the earth's surface and this is used to the growers advantage.

Brian uses a technique called Square Foot Gardening. His interest in the idea started when he borrowed a book from the library (Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew). By dividing his plot basically into small squares, with a central square area of pavers used as turn around access, he is easily able to access his plot without a lot of loss of ground to pathways. Each square can grow a different crop so you have a variety of vegetables for the table,. As one crop is pulled out, a different one can be planted in it's place. Every growing season

one can rotate a crop or perhaps leave a square to lie fallow. A chart will be kept to record the crop rotation for future reference.



*Farm volunteers meet on Wednesday mornings from 9am. Everyone is welcome. Produce from the communal garden is shared at the end of the morning.*

## Morningside Fair

The Beelalong stall at the Morningside Fair attracted a lot of visitors keen to buy produce, plants, and raffle tickets. Thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success: the jam and pickle making team, Pat Adams for the seedlings, Helene, Di Ferguson for getting the raffle and seeds together, Sara Breckenridge for the great new farm Tee shirts, and all the volunteers who helped get things ready and manned the stall throughout the day.



## August in the Garden by Sara Breckenridge



The Edible Chrysanthemum or Garland Chrysanthemum from the Asteraceae family has become one of my favourites in the garden. It has relatively small flowers and leaves so can easily fit in the corner of your vegie plot or in a pot. A great companion plant and so far the possums haven't touched it. It is also known as chop suey greens which will give you a hint as to how it is used – the leaves are great to add to a stir fry and the petals add a wonderful colour and flavour to salads & soups. Try and grow some in time for Mothers Day next year.

This temperate season will continue through winter to early spring and is the best season for most cold temperate vegies says Robyn Francis. Try planting; Beans, Beetroot, Broccoli, Carrots, Coriander, Asian greens, Lettuces, Silverbeet, Parsley, Peppers, Squash, English spinach, Bunching onions, Tomatoes, Luffas, Asparagus, Sweet potato, Cassava and Sorrel. Plan where you might plant some Sweet corn next month.

How are your Strawberries growing? Keep up the fish emulsion and keep plants fully watered. Hunt out some pine needles to mulch around the plant. Happy Gardening!

## Tropical Touch by Virginia Balfour



And finally, just a few photos of the beautiful plants, animals and butterflies I saw on my recent trip to the tropics to warm us all up.



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