

AUGUST  
2011

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# Beelarong Community Farm



*Time to grow*



The farm had a great stand at the Morningside Fair. Well done - read more on page 2 !

## August events

### Free Compost and Worm Farm Workshop

Sunday [August 7, 2011](#) from 9am to 12pm – The Inspiration Garden, 118 Blackwood Ave, Morningside. Find out how to make rich nutrients for your garden at this free workshop. Homemade morning tea provided. Call BCC on 07 34038698 to book your place.

### EASTBUG Social Bike Ride from Stones Corner to QLD Uni, St Lucia

Sunday August 21, 2011 from 9am to 11am – Stones Corner Library We'll gather at the Stones Corner Library from where we'll ride off-road linking up to the Lady Schonell bridge. We'll stop for a caffeine break at the Uni before riding back to Stones Corner. All ages and abilities welcome (this is also an activity under BCC's G.O.L.D. program, so it would be fantastic for those over 50 to book with BCC on 3403 8470).

### Transition East dinner at Curryville

Wednesday August 24 from 7pm to 9pm – Curryville, 629 Wynnum Rd, Morningside. Join the friendly members of Transition East for an evening of good food and even better conversation. Email [rolfkuelsen@gmail.com](mailto:rolfkuelsen@gmail.com) if you would like to come along.

## Gold Program

All sessions are \$4 and are at the farm from 9:30am - 11:30am. To book call the Brisbane City Council on 3403 8888 and ask for the GOLD (Growing Old and Living Dangerously) booking office.

- **Cob Oven cooking and farm tour** August 15
- **Compost making** August 18

## Farm news

by Rolf Kuelsen

Firstly a huge thanks to the many people who came along and helped out at the working bee on the 23rd July.

With almost 30 metres of trench dug, AGI pipe installed and backfilled with gravel, we hopefully have reduced the water seepage at the lower end of the farm. Only time will tell.

Our next quarterly gathering is on Sunday 11 September with the normal kick-off time of around 2pm.

Everything is bursting forth with new growth so come along and enjoy the beginning of a wonderful season - SPRING - at the farm. We'll stoke up the cob oven and barbecue and prepare some fresh salads from the market garden.

Please also set aside the afternoon of Sunday 16 October; we'll be having the farm AGM that afternoon followed by a social gathering.



## Stand at Morningside Fair a success

Sunday 31st July turned out to be a perfectly glorious sunny winter day and our stall had an excellent site location this year.

Our stall is a PR exercise as well as a money making event with sales from various items. We felt we had about ten genuine enquiries from people interested in visiting the farm or becoming members and several forms were taken by interested parties.

Each year we make some improvement with our stall this is due from the support given by way of volunteers at the stall helping with sales and PR and also the work of our members behind the scenes.

I trust I do not forget anyway with my 'sincere thanks' to all volunteers. Without your help it would not be the success that I believe it was.

Thank you:

- **Doratheia** - for her numerous jars of rosella jams that were for sale.
- **Sara** - for procuring the correct seeding potting mix and delivering it to Pat and her expert growing advice.
- **Pat** - who raise a considerable number of plants to sell and providing TLC over many

months at her home and for then volunteering at the stall.

- **Brian** - who provided us with jams, chutneys and collected heavy gear, and helped with take down and set up.
- **Helene** - who collected display materials from the farm, and her own and Leona's plots, set up, stayed for the day and provided delicious lemon butter and turmeric for sale
- **Rolf** - who at the last minute organised to pick up the sale-able items from my home and then volunteered at the stall
- **Marion** - who potted and gave TLC to coffee tree plants (of great interest on the day) and volunteered at the stall
- **Leona** - for raising passionfruit for sale and supplying the rubber jam jar openers
- **Veronica and family** - for collecting the materials and constructing herb posies, volunteering at the stall and providing the farm fact sheets
- **Robbie and Alunz, Doris and partner and Amity** - for volunteering at the stall and
- **Judy** - for providing me with the lemon grass cuttings which were for sale on the day.



Di Ferguson  
Beelarong Community Farm Morningside Fair  
2011 Coordinator

# Volunteer news by Di Ferguson

## COMPOST TUMBLERS



As there is always enormous interest in our large compost tumblers, I thought those who do not know may be interested in some construction and compost details. As our Farm requires substantial quantities of compost to support our market garden and many other areas around the Farm, about five years ago it was decided to build some large compost tumblers.

Seven, so far, have been constructed by John and assisted by others. After getting some ideas from Northy Street City Farm, John incorporated some new ideas that he felt would be beneficial to us.

The tumblers are approximately 2.1 m x 1.2 m, being cylindrical in shape when the two halves are closed. The construction consists of sheets of reinforced steel mesh formed into a half cylinder and lined internally with shade cloth. Heather, assisted by Helen took on the tedious job of attaching the material with electrical cable ties, which is a very time consuming job.

The construction ends up as two half cylinders and when layers of compost matter fills one half, it is bolted to the other half and tagged with a date.

We use a mixture of grass clippings, a fantastic ingredient for compost as they are a good source of nitrogen, comfrey leaves, if you have some, mulched waste, horse poo, shredded newspaper, egg cartons or used printed matter shredded by Helene, certain weeds, rock dust if available and spent vegies (for the full precise recipe check out below!)

When one half is sufficiently full of the mixture and the other is securely bolted on, the tumbler is turned straight away and then on a regular basis, about every week but preferably daily to promote aeration.

It takes about four to six people to roll the tumblers. After approximately eight weeks we have beautiful fresh earthy smelling compost.

## BEELARONG'S OFFICIAL TUMBLER COMPOST RECIPE

- Two buckets of comfrey leaves,
- any kitchen peelings
- Two bags of shredded paper
- One wheel barrow full of horse manure
- About four tractor scoops of grass clippings and/or one to two barrow full's of mulched vegetation
- One ice-cream container of rock dust (if available).

## DRAINAGE IMPROVED

Drainage problems in the south-east corner have hopefully been improved. An excellent working bee completed the laying of a 30m trench of drainage pipe and gravel in just one day. A big thanks to all the helpers for a great effort.

## EXPERT CHECKS OUT OUR FARM



We recently had a visitor from Griffith University, School of Environment, doing research on Community Farms in South-East Queensland. Marion took the time out to give her details on our history and show her around.

The visitors opinion was that we were one of the top four.

## FIELD TRIP - ANYONE INTERESTED?

I am organizing a visit in the distant future to a Stephanie Alexander school garden. A day will be picked to suit the school but we are hoping for a Wednesday. Please contact Di on open days or phone 0401 168657.