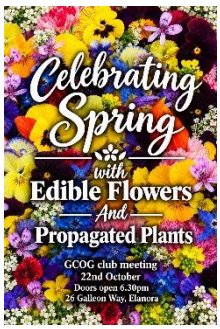
Gold Coast Organic Growers
October 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:



Our October meeting: The theme for the evening is **"Celebrating Spring"** and we'll be doing that by learning about which flowers in our gardens are edible. The meeting is on the 22nd of October and it starts at 6.30pm.

Continuing the celebration of Spring, we will be holding our **"Propagated Plant Sale"** that night. Our members have been taking cuttings and dividing bulbs and growing them up into pot plants. They'll be bringing these along on the 22nd so that we can share a piece of each other's gardens, learn about new and different plants, and raise some funds for the Club. So come along and enjoy the night!

Our NEW Website: To keep up to date with our Club's latest news, events and newsletters, log in to our new website at **https://goldcoastorganicgrowers.org.au/** The website has been developed by Javier Hack of Southswell Studio, and he has done a wonderful job – the site is clear, easy to navigate and gives us all the current information we need. If you would like some help with a website, Javier can be contacted at **javier.h@southswellstudio.com.au**

Our October Open Garden Day:

The change in our climate has made water conservation all the more relevant, and one of the ways to manage our gardens and keep them green is to use a garden wicking bed. This past Saturday a group of Club members and other guests went to the U3A property in Tugun, and Club member Terry Lewins showed us how he has built a number of wicking beds there.

Here is a summary of the steps for making your own wicking bed:

- IBC tank and frame are cut in half horizontally (these can be bought commercially, or found on Market Place for around $50.00).
- A horizontal overflow pipe is installed 150mm from the bottom of the tank so excess water can drain.
- Plastic pallet (or wire mesh) is used to create a water reservoir.
- A PVC pipe is installed reaching from the base of the tank to above it so water can be added.
- Geofabric lines the top of the mesh and then soil is added.
- Wooden cladding (or paint) on the IBC tank stops light from causing algae.
- Plants are planted!

To learn more, have a look at these Gardening Australia episodes:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63Fn3Hg6bJU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_wohsAkqRA&t=87s

The Process, the Finished Product …. and the End Result !!

What to Plant in November: ***Vegetables:*** Artichoke, Asian greens, beans (French & snake), capsicum, chilli, choko, cucumber, eggplant, gourd, kale, lettuce, luffa, marrows, melons, mustard greens, okra, peanut, pumpkin, radish, rhubarb, rosella, shallots, squash, sunflower, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato, zucchini.
Herbs: **Annuals:** Amaranth, basil, borage, calendula, dill, herb Robert, Italian parsley, misome, mizuna, giant red mustard, nasturtium, rocket, salad mallow. **Perennials & Bi-Annuals:** Catnip, Ceylon spinach, chicory, chilli, chives, comfrey, perennial coriander, echinacea, fennel, hyssop, lavender, lemon balm, licorice, lovage, marjoram, mint, mushroom plant, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage, salad burnet, stevia, French tarragon, thyme, upland cress, watercress, winter savoury, winter tarragon.
For more help with planting, see the copy of Jill's "Moon Planting Guide" on the noticeboard at the hall entry.

Kitchen Corner: A batch of savoury scones was very much enjoyed at one of our Club meetings, and Geraldine's recipe is very simple. ***Ingredients:*** 1 cup self-raising flour, 1 qtr tspn cayenne pepper, 1 cup grated cheese, pinch of salt, 1 chopped onion, a grated carrot. Add an egg and half a cup of milk. ***Method:*** Mix all the ingredients together and bake at 200 degrees for 24 minutes.

Hints: * Instead of baking the scones on a flat tray, try spooning them into a pattie pan tray. * You can vary the vegetables and use capsicums or zucchinis. * Maybe add some grated cheese on top of each scone.
Summary: Make a cup of tea, sit down, relax …. and enjoy!

Welcome to Hana's Garden: It is said that a garden should be interesting, colourful and productive, and Hana Smith's garden is all of those. Here are some photos to give you an idea of what she has achieved.

- The yellow flowers are wild flowers that were collected out west – they are very pretty but are vigorous growers that need to be kept in check.

- Hana is a potter and this beautiful piece was inspired by the Hmong tribe, an indigenous ethnic group from the mountains of South East Asia. The bird bath was added and blends well.
- Hana's bromeliad garden – a mass of colour and variety.
- As well as a gardener and potter, Hana is a musician. At our last meeting she brought along a cutting of the tree she is sitting under in the photo. For those who may not have been there, this beautiful tree is called an *Ochna Serrulata* (or the Mickey Mouse plant because of the red flowers and the plant's ripe black fruit which resembles ears). It comes from South Africa and is an invasive species in Australia and New Zealand.
- Hana will be singing at the GC & Hinterland Artisan Market at the Mudgeeraba Showgrounds on the 25th of October from 12.00pm to 1.00pm. So if you are there on the day, call by.

Gardening is all fun and games – until you try to stand up after weeding!