



MEDIA RELEASE

02 February 2011

Volunteer BIO:

Margot James – Volunteer Community Gardener

I was originally inspired to begin a community garden project after reading the book, “Spirit Walker - Messages from the Future” by Hank Wesselman, a visionary anthropologist. After the mayhem of the floods and fires of the past few years a true sense of community & tribe is starting to become more prevalent again. Also looking at the health issues within my own extended family and the lack of skills being past down. The Community Garden is more about learning to communicate and educate again by integrating the young with the older generations. Learning from our elders and respecting them. Getting people to reconnect with the earth and each other. And so much more

Within a week of handing out the first batch of flyers around community notice boards, in local shops and letterbox drops, I had over 30 calls from people wanting to be involved. We now have a database of over 110 gardeners from all sorts of backgrounds: novices; unit dwellers; organic and permaculture experts. I had no idea about gardening or anything, I just knew that if I stepped forward and created this opportunity, people with the know how would come to help me – and they have. I am supported by the most wonderful team of people who are so knowledgeable and pro active in getting the garden up & running. The Southern Beaches Community Garden is located at the Tugun Community Centre. At the moment we are waiting for the approval of our garden design and lease application – then it will be all hands on deck.

One of the first calls I received was from the Gold Coast City Council and from there our own local councilor, Chris Robbins become involved and has so far given \$30,000 in support. The Tugun Community Bank has also sponsored us with \$1000, some of which was used to buy our first water tank. The support from the Tugun shopping precinct has also been generous. We are thankful for it all. So far we have planted a border garden consisting of fruit, nut & various bush tucker trees.

For more information contact southernbeachescommunitygarden@gmail.com or turn up on a Thursday afternoon at 4.30pm or Saturday at 9 am and help maintain the garden borders and meet other gardeners.

To learn more about volunteering options on the Gold Coast that may be suitable for your unique interests, head to www.volunteeringgc.com.au

~ ENDS ~

Media Contact

Chantel Charchalis
Marketing and Public Relations Officer

Volunteering Gold Coast
Ph. 5526 2811 or Email chantelc@vgcvs.org.au
www.volunteeringgc.com.au