

Permaculture Cairns Inc. Established July, 2007

Web site: www.permaculturecairns.org.au



Care of the Earth, Care of

People. Share the excess

Permaculture Cairns News

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Care for the Earth, Care for people, Share the excess

PLEASE NOTE: EARLIER START TIME – 6pm for a 6.30pm START !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

APRIL MEETING AND INFORMATION NIGHT

Tuesday 21st APRIL at 6pm for 6.30pm start

Flexible Learning Centre, 90 Clarke Street, Manunda

Clarke Street comes off Hoare on the Salvos Corner.

Please bring a plate of finger food to share and a friend!

AGENDA

Welcome

Workshop and Events Notices

Proposed Events for the year

Permaculture Principle Number 4, a practical explanation

Plant of the Month, Tool of the Month, Tip of the Month

Guest speaker: ??????????????????

Movie/video that matters

Members Book Library

Break for a Cuppa, Nibbles and a chance to network with like minded people.

PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLE NO. 4

Apply self-regulation & accept feedback

“The sins of the fathers are visited on the children unto the seventh generation”

We need to discourage inappropriate activity to ensure that systems can continue to function well.

The icon of the whole earth is the largest scale example we have of a self regulating ‘organism’ which is subject to feedback controls, like global warming. The proverb “the sins of the fathers are visited unto the children of the seventh generation” reminds us that negative feedback is often slow to emerge.

Play the song about the principle from this album:



PERMACULTURE CAIRNS WORKSHOPS

Building Resilient Communities Workshops 2015



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Empowering communities with sustainable solutions

Permaculture Cairns Inc. Established July, 2007 Inc. No. IA35907

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The Permaculture Garden Workshop

11th April 2015 9.am to 12noon and 12.30 to 4.30pm



Workshop Presenter:- Carol Laing

This full day workshop will include the Permaculture design reasons for the layout of the property. Permaculture practices used to create a sustainable productive garden including pH testing, soil type, importance of organic matter and mineral supplements in creating a nutrient rich balanced soil.

How to boost the microbes in the soil. Importance of green manuring and mulching.
What tropical food plants to grow for all year harvesting, and what to plant during the cooler months.

Venue: The workshop will be held at a well established Permaculture garden in the City of Cairns.

The address will be advised after you register.

Registration and payment of the booking/materials fee is essential, numbers are limited for this workshop.

Permaculture financial members \$40, Non Members \$50

Register at: workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au

Morning and afternoon tea will be provided, bring a plate to share for lunch.

Payments may be made at Cairns Penny in Grafton Street or online to Permacultures

Cairns Penny Account: BSB 704-966 A/c 100009440, use your Surname as reference

A big thank you to our Sponsor, Cairns Regional Council Sustainability Grant Program for making this workshop possible.



May – Permaculture Cairns will join with Cairns Regional Council and JCU to participate in Ecoweeek 29th May to 7th June and

Ecofiesta 31st May. The Wharf will be the venue.

Permaculture Cairns Open Day – Saturday 6th June – Watch this space!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

June – Ferro Cement Construction with Bruce Zell – two half day workshops where you will learn what materials are required and how to build using Ferro Cement construction. The second part of this workshop will be to complete a project in Ferro Cement construction. Date, Venue, Cost and Project to be advised later in the year.

To indicate your interest in any of these workshops, please email – workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR MAKING ALL OF THESE WORKSHOPS POSSIBLE.



THE BENEFITS OF BEING A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF PERMACULTURE CAIRNS

Eleven Monthly meetings, with information, movies/videos and presentations from informative and interesting members and guest speakers. Plant of the month, Tool of the Month, Tip of the Month, Book of the Month

Discount on most Workshop Fees organised by Permaculture Cairns

Monthly Newsletter with local info on workshops and events and Permaculture news from around the world

Learn more skill by attending Workshops, Permibeas, information nights and events

Learn more about Permaculture Practices and Principles by attending Workshops, Permibeas and events

Access to plants and seeds and other resources through sharing

Networking with people of similar interests from other organisations in the area eg. Seed Saver Groups, BioDynamic Group, Local Exchange Trading System aka LETS, Community Garden Groups, Non Government Organisations like Terrain and Northern Gulf Resource Management Group.

Receive email notices of Events and Courses by Permaculture Cairns, other relevant businesses, and organisations - not all of these notices will be in our newsletters if the news was received after the issue date.

Free access to our Library books on a wide range of Permaculture Subjects

Continue learning about Permaculture through shared knowledge and experience

Learn how to live gently on this earth – Care for the Earth, Care for People and Share you excess plants, seeds, produce and skills.

Meet and make new friends.

In the Veggie Patch in April

Time to harvest the Tropical crops, by lifting and replanting – arrowroot, cocoyams, taros, cassava, turmeric, ginger and galangal.

And it's now time to get out into the garden and prepare the beds for the cool season crops. A dressing of blood and bone, maybe some lime if necessary, check the pH first and some chicken manure would be a good start. Remember to mulch after planting.

It is still a little hot to plant hearting lettuce – it won't germinate if temperature is over 25C so get some seedlings and plant them, this will give you a months start. Bunnings veggie seedlings come from the Tablelands so they are local. Carry on planting seeds every couple of weeks after that – lettuce and most seeds can be seeded into position so long as you remember to water.

SOW NOW – asian green, open hearted lettuce, rocket, cabbage, celery, broccoli, cauliflower, beans, parsley, tomatoes, capsicum, chillies, kale, silverbeet, spring onions, leek, okra, florence fennel and all the herbs. And don't forget the marigolds, calendula, dianthus, cosmos, zinnia, petunia, salvia and many more – all make the garden attractive to bees, birds and people.

I am trying some Dutch Cream Potatoes this year, hope it doesn't rain too much.

I have heard from an Agronomist that Potatoes are sprayed with Roundup just before harvesting to get rid of the tops and to mature the crop. Makes me want to grow more potatoes and cocoyams so I know what I am eating.

Check out the ABC Organic Gardener web site – lots of info there.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – Garlic Chives

Garlic Chives is an incredibly tough plant, it will survive not being watered for long periods, it will look terrible though. But will revive when given water, and that is the time to divide it into small clumps and spread them around the garden. They deter pests from attacking your veggies, plant them as a boarder, along fence lines and edges of beds and pathways. Food wise they are great in salads, stir fries, quiches and just about anywhere you would use garlic, it a little more subtle in tastes so is good in salads and potato salads. It does like good soil and to be kept moist, it will grow taller and the stems will blanch so you can use the whole stem of the plant. There are white flowering and pink flowering plants. The white flowering one sets seed which will germinate if kept moist. The pink one doesn't seem to get any seeds and is propagated by division. Every garden should have some Garlic Chives.

Can you believe this innovation for harvesting honey. This article is from the Warm Earth newsletter (they do have a good magazine also) and thought it fantastic, as I once kept bees and it was a lot of work to harvest plus the equipment required.

Sweet success



It sounds too good to be true - honey direct from the hive with just the twist of a tap. An Australian father-and-son team have invented an ingenious design they hope will spark a backyard beekeeping revolution. Sick of smoking their bees and dismantling hives to retrieve honey, Cedar Anderson and his father, Stuart, began working on a more efficient beehive design a decade ago from their home. After years of building and testing prototypes they are about launch a **crowdfunding** campaign on Kickstarter to bring the system into full production.

The flow frames at the heart of the design fit inside a standard bee box, but unlike traditional frames contain partially formed honeycomb cells that slope down at an angle. In the hive the bees fill the cells and seal the top with wax. Once filled, the turn of a handle on the unit splits the cells in half, allowing the honey to flow down the middle and out through a pipe at the bottom. Cutaway sections on the outer box allow beekeepers to see when the transparent cells are full.

Books new and old

Crowdfunding request from myself and Bruce Zell, our Vice President please support the republishing of the Tropical Permaculture Guide Book 2nd Edition

To make this happen we need your support. Please contribute to our [crowd funding campaign](#) so that we can grow the change in tropical countries that is desperately needed.

The original guidebook has been widely used in Timor Leste and Indonesia, and is successful because of the easy to follow style explaining tropical permaculture in essence and practice.

The guidebook provides knowledge, techniques and skills that will reduce the severity of global climate change and provide adaptation and resilience knowledge and skills to those impacted the most by climate change and who are the least able to afford expensive solutions.

Since publication, the guidebook has been copied and used in many different countries including Sri Lanka, Samoa, Nepal, Australia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Uganda and Haiti.

Users include indigenous and non indigenous, urban and remote communities, farmers and field workers, development agency workers, schools and training institutions, government agencies, and international NGOs in Timor Leste, Australia and across the world.

The following article is from <http://permacultureprinciples.com>

This web site has lots and lots of information about living on this planet without harm please give yourself some time to investigate - you can subscribe to their newsletter too.

From Permaculture in Timor to the tropical world

This is a story about how permaculture has taken root in Timor Leste, with unexpected results, and has become blended with Timorese culture and the push for sustainable food productions and development. It's a story that started 15 years ago, and by telling it we can hopefully provide some knowledge and inspiration for others wanting to integrate permaculture techniques into developing countries.

We go back to the year 2000, one year after Timor Leste's incredible and tragically brutal passage to gain independence from Indonesia. The Timorese population had finally achieved what they craved and fought for over many long years, but it came at an awful cost, not just to the people but with buildings, crops, trees and animals also being destroyed.

In that year permaculture was introduced to Timor Leste by some dedicated Australians hoping to help rebuild and renew the country in a sustainable, culturally appropriate way. Fortuitously, or perhaps fatefully, they teamed up with some of Timor Leste's student activists from the occupation, led by Eugenio "Ego" Lemos, who had already started an organic farming movement pre-independence.

Permaculture grew and slowly spread through trainings and demonstration sites and it was already clear that permaculture went hand in hand with community based development work and could help guide growth, livelihood and agriculture development. It was also clear that permaculture was eagerly accepted by Timorese people, not just because of the techniques, design ideas and common sense approach, but because the focus on community and fair share resonated strongly with Timorese culture and identity.

From this initial work a Timorese NGO *Permatil* (Permaculture Timor Leste) was born and still thrives today.

Permatil and it's impact

After initially running courses and workshops including setting up demonstrations, sometimes with expat guidance and sometimes not until 2005, the Timorese staff made a strategic decision to grow its base and form long-term partnerships and working relationships. It is important to note that while there has been many expat permaculturists providing advise and helping to improve capacity and resources, all of the decisions and the running of the NGO has been driven by the Timorese staff that are passionate about permaculture and creating sustainable, community driven outcomes for their nation's future. This has created longevity and ownership in the NGO and its projects, and has made Permatil one of Timor Leste's most respected local NGOs.



Permatil workshop demonstrating using a bamboo watering pipe for fruit trees

Notable steps include forming a national farmers network called Hasatil as well as the Perma-scouts movement combining Scouts with permaculture and sustainability. Many educational materials have been developed including a teachers flip-chart series, posters, films and children's books in partnership with other local groups Bibi Bulak theatre group and Arte Moris art school. Permatil has also run several sustainability and food sovereignty events, and promote local, healthy foods at every opportunity they get.

A Permaculture Guidebook from East Timor

In late 2002 Permatil decided that a permaculture handbook was needed, in Timorese language, to back up the trainings and provide ongoing guidance. Initially it was thought that this text would be around 50 to 80 pages and take 6 months to produce. As can occasionally happen, the result proved slightly different than the initial plan...



A clay stove oven made during a Permatil workshop in Turiscai

6 months became 1 year, 1 year became 2 years... And then it took a solid 5 months working with artists to produce the detailed illustrations. 3 years later a 400 page comprehensive guidebook with over 1500 illustrations came off the press! The very patient and understandably exasperated donors were relieved to say the least but very happy with the result. The decision that it was most important to do it properly rather than just to get it done, was thankfully well vindicated. [See the resources available in the contents.](#)

Permatil has a long term approach to its projects. After a community consultation process has been undertaken, the results are turned into a multi year program of trainings, demonstrations and monitoring. All work is based around a permaculture approach and the end goals are broken up into bite size trainings that can easily be absorbed, tested and duplicated. The guidebook has provided a continual reference guide for community members between training and monitoring.

The guidebook is also being very well used by the Agriculture and Education departments of the Timorese government, as a university text, and by other NGOs and community members. Since the first edition there has been 3 Tetum language reprints. An unforeseen bonus is that the illustrations have also been used to create training flip charts and posters that many organisations use for training and education. The guidebook has also been adapted, translated and republished in Indonesia by IDEP Foundation. And there's been a lot of interest and use in other countries too.

To quote an testimony from the renowned permaculture author, trainer and practitioner Rosemary Morrow



"It's strength lies in the number of strategies and techniques it offer practitioners. The book is easy to handle and well indexed. The drawings are clear and represent a reality for readers.

The book's potential is beyond the islands of SE Asia. For example I had some chapters of the book translated into Luganda in Uganda and it was immediately swallowed up by keen students and we could have printed many many copies.

Having taught in so many tropical countries with their range of ecosystems, it is evident that the guidebook needs wider dissemination around the equatorial regions. All equatorial east and west Africa, and then there is South America. One of the problems in disseminating permaculture information is lack of suitable and relevant resources particularly for the tropic regions. I hope the present book will be revised, updated and made available to students and farmers to meet a need for their will and right to know, and render their lives more sustainable and productive."

A guidebook for the tropics



A organic gardening training on making and using natural pesticides with Permatil near Behedan

Which leads us to present day and a new and exciting project. Permatil have joined up with Xpand Foundation, Disruptive Media and permaculture advisers including Rosemary Morrow to start the process of updating and rewriting the guidebook.

Why? The aim is to not only upgrade and improve the guidebook but also to generalise it for use in all tropical regions. In essence we are hoping to produce a practical educational resource that will provide the same benefits in Africa, SE Asia, Polynesia, Melanesia, the Caribbean and the tropical Americas that we have seen in Timor Leste. Most importantly, to provide knowledge, techniques and skills that will reduce the severity of global climate change and provide adaptation and resilience to climate change impacts.

A success of the first guidebook was that Permatil wanted to provide simple but complete knowledge with a focus on practical techniques backed up by detailed illustrations, which enabled everyone, including semi-literate and illiterate users, to glean information from it. The information is aimed at

strengthening and building communities from the ground up and almost all of the techniques are able to be duplicated by anyone no matter their economic and social circumstance.

The new guidebook will follow this approach and take it another step: it will be available in hard copy and online for free download, chapter by chapter, so that it can easily reach the target audience, because only when information is available to everyone will true equality be available to everyone. Permatil and its partners strongly believe in free share as a means to enable independence, community strength and resilience.

In time the aim is to work with partner organisations in different countries to translate the guidebook into various languages and post them online as well. A gift from Permatil and Timor Leste to the tropical world.

You can find out more about what we are up to or get involved in this exciting project [visit our website](#). You can help with our crowdfunding campaign by contributing or sharing and [feed the seed](#).

Check out what Joel Salatin is saying about his new book – called

“Folks, this ain’t normal” Video: (4:36) <http://www.nextworldtv.com/page/20911.html>

Tablelands Local Exchange Trading System aka LETS is holding a Conference on the Tablelands from 15 to 17th May.

Permaculture Cairns is a member and has sponsored this event with a \$100 donation, we support them fully in this endeavour. Please contribute to their crowdfunding and attend the event



Dear Permaculture Cairns,

Are you coming to **the National LETS Conference** when we are the hosts - at Quinola Lakes near Malanda 15-17 May?

Think about it – it's a one-off opportunity to join in with this bunch of LETS enthusiasts from around the world gathering in our neighbourhood. For sure it will be very interesting and will include some great trading plus celebration of our local abundance.

If you're interested, now is the time to take advantage of the early bird ticket prices - Before 1st April – *One week left!*

LOTS of Early Bird Registrations are coming in... Please note that our numbers are limited, so book soon!
All details are on our web site conference page

<http://www.tablelandlets.org/events-page/2015-conference/> including **A REGISTRATION FORM FOR LOCALS** – scroll to the second set of orange registration links on the above page.

You MUST register for any part of the conference you wish to attend, including the trade afternoon - all for insurance, catering and planning purposes.

And here is a crowdfunding appeal to bring Tim Jenkin to the Conference, please donate if you can, and you will get similar amounts of Bartles in exchange, a “no brainer” really

Will we have the chance to meet Tim?

If you come to the National Conference in Malanda you'll meet Tim for sure We'll be in touch via email and Facebook as plans come together.

Tim Jenkin is an incredible guy!

If you don't believe us, check out Tim's truly amazing story on our [crowdfunding page](#): Warning - it's a gripping epic thriller!

If it wasn't for Tim we might still be using paper cheques, spreadsheets, and mailing out printed newsletters to members. Thanks to Tim we have the Community Exchange System (CES), our online trading system that allows us to trade locally, nationally and (with a bit of extra effort) internationally.

Tim has been supporting Australian trading groups since 2005. He's been working on the CES over the last decade, adding and refining the system in response to our requests. When Australia outgrew the global server Tim helped us set up our very own Australian Community Exchange. And on top of the never-ending tech support, Tim has been helping with the Drupal redevelopment of the CES (in people-speak that means he's helping to create a fancy new versions of CES for us). Does he ever sleep?

Tim has done an insane amount of work for us! Aside from a token payment in local currency Tim has never asked to be paid for the insane amount of work he does. We are so grateful to Tim for all he's done for us over the years. So with the CES redevelopment requiring more of Tim's help lately, and a National Conference coming up in May I thought:

Let's fly Tim out to Australia so we can say "Thank You" in person! Admins and traders around Australia are often asking me to pass on their thanks to Tim. If we all pitch in a bit we should be able to raise enough to fly him over so we can meet him and thank him for everything.

Please join us in saying “Thanks Tim!” by making a donation to our [Crowdfunding campaign](#) to fly him to Australia.

Thanking you... If you are able to donate we'd like to thank you and give a little something back. We've decided to keep the rewards very simple.

For any donation amount you donate we will reward you with an equivalent amount in Bartles. If you donate \$20, we credit you 20 Bartles. So it's more of a swap than a donation.

We also have a very special premium reward, check out the [Crowdfunding page](#) for more details

<https://chuffed.org/project/thanks-tim> **So please donate if you can.**

NEWS FROM HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

Monsanto Demands World Health Organization Retract Report That Says Roundup Is Linked to Cancer – from <https://ecowatch.com> on 26 March 2015

Last week, the UN's World Health Organization (WHO) [released a report](#), compiled by a team of scientists, that said [glyphosate](#)—sold by [Monsanto](#) in the herbicide Roundup—was [probably linked to cancer](#).

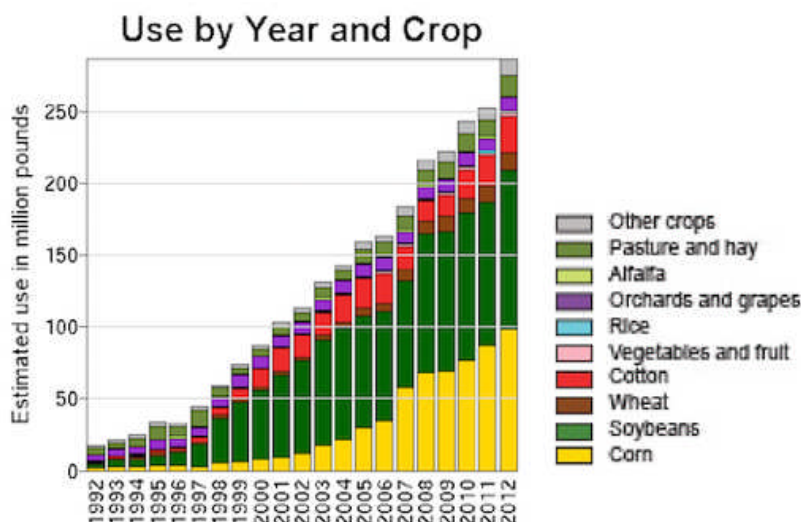
Monsanto is demanding the WHO retract the report, essentially repudiating years of research by multiple scientists. [Photo credit: Shutterstock](#)

This week, Monsanto is [demanding the WHO retract the report](#), essentially repudiating years of research by multiple scientists. Monsanto is claiming the report was biased and that glyphosate products like Roundup are safe when the directions are followed. The company says that the WHO report contradicts regulatory findings, which can, of course, be influenced by politics and lobbying. So far, WHO has not responded.

“We question the quality of the assessment,” Philip Miller, Monsanto vice president of global regulatory affairs, [told Reuters](#). “The WHO has something to explain.”

Miller claimed that the WHO's [International Agency for Research on Cancer](#) (IARC) was provided by Monsanto with information on glyphosate's safety, and that it ignored Monsanto's input.

That response indicates a level of panic on Monsanto's part because the report could hit it where it hurts—its profits. Its Roundup, formulated to be used on GMO or “Roundup Ready” crops engineered to be resistant to it, is the most widely used herbicide in the world. Originally introduced in the early '70s to control weeds, it took off when the planting of GMO crops skyrocketed in the last 15 years.



The use of glyphosate weed killers has exploded since the introduction of MOs engineered to be resistant to it. Image credit USGS

The US Geological Survey (USGS) [estimated that glyphosate use in the U.S. increased](#) from about 20 million pounds in 1992 to 110 million pounds in 2002 to more than 280 million pounds in 2012.

What Monsanto is demanding is the equivalent of declaring a person innocent because there is insufficient evidence to prove his guilt. The WHO report did not claim definitely the glyphosate causes cancer, but rather that multiple scientific studies have suggested a link.

“For the herbicide glyphosate, there was limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans for non-Hodgkin lymphoma,” the study said. “The evidence in humans is from studies of exposures, mostly agricultural, in the U.S., Canada and Sweden published since 2001. In addition, there is convincing evidence that glyphosate also can cause cancer in laboratory animals. Glyphosate also caused DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells. One study in community residents reported increases in blood markers of chromosomal damage after glyphosate formulations were sprayed nearby.”

It points out that “limited” does not mean “nonexistent” as Monsanto wants it to declare. When a substance is categorized as “probably” carcinogenic to humans, it says “there is limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans and sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. Limited evidence means that a positive association has been observed between exposure to the agent and cancer but that other explanations for the observations could not be ruled out. This category is also used when there is limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans and strong data on how the agent causes cancer.”

And, as the Reuters article points out, Monsanto says such studies are invalid, but critics say they merit attention. According to Dave Schubert, head of the cellular neurobiology laboratory at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, “There are a number of independent, published manuscripts that clearly indicate that glyphosate ... can promote cancer and tumor growth. It should be banned.”

Several leading public interest organizations agree with Schubert and today urged the Obama administration to “weigh heavily” the WHO’s recent conclusion that glyphosate is a “probable human carcinogen.” The groups believe that “As a result of WHO’s rigorous and independent review, the link between glyphosate and cancer has now been greatly strengthened.”

In a [letter to Gina McCarthy](#), administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, JLI, Consumers Union, Center for Food Safety, Environmental Working Group and Natural Resources Defense Council, among others, called the WHO announcement “extremely timely, as EPA is preparing to issue its preliminary risk assessment of the widely used herbicide under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.”

“Consumers deserve to know which foods are made with GMOs considering it’s their dollars that are largely driving the use of this dangerous herbicide,” said Gary Hirshberg, the chairman of the board for the Just Label It campaign. “This new evidence that the main pesticide used on GMO crops is a ‘probable human carcinogen’ is even more reason consumers should have the right to know what’s in their food.”

One proponent of the “glyphosate is absolutely safe” narrative is former environmentalist/current environmental contrarian/sometime Monsanto consultant Dr. Patrick Moore, who was interviewed by filmmaker Paul Moreira for a French TV documentary. He not only insisted “[Roundup] is not dangerous to humans, he also said “You can drink a whole quart of it and it won’t hurt you.” But when Moreira said, “You want to drink some? We have some here,” Moore responded “I’d be happy to ... not really, but I know it wouldn’t hurt me,” and walked off the set when Moreira repeated his offer, calling him an “idiot.”

More about Round up and how it works on weeds

This is part of a report, see the rest at <http://www.non-gmoreport.com>

Q. Please tell me about your research with glyphosate

Don Huber (recently retired from Purdue University: I have been doing research on glyphosate for 20 years. I began noticing problems when I saw a consistent increase in 'take-all' (a fungal disease that impacts wheat) where glyphosate had been applied in a previous year for weed control. I tried to understand why there was an increase in disease with glyphosate. I found that glyphosate has an effect on reducing manganese in plants, which is essential to many plant defense reactions that protect plants from disease and environmental stress. Glyphosate can immobilize plant nutrients such as manganese, copper, potassium, iron, magnesium, calcium, and zinc so they are no longer nutritionally functional. Glyphosate kills weeds by tying up essential nutrients needed to keep plant defenses active.

Glyphosate doesn't kill weeds directly but shuts down their defense mechanisms so pathogens in the soil can mobilize and kill the weeds. Glyphosate completely weakens the plant, making it susceptible to soil borne fungal pathogens. That is one reason why we see an increase in plant diseases. Glyphosate causes plants to be more susceptible and greatly stimulates the virulence of pathogens that kill plants.

Q.How many plant diseases are linked to glyphosate?

DH: There has been a general increase in the number of plant diseases in the last 15 to 18 years. There are four primary soil fungi'Fusarium, Phythium, Rhizoctonia, and Phytophthora'that become more active with the use of glyphosate. There has been an increase in take-all, Fusarium diseases, such as head scab, Gibberella (Fusarium) in corn, Pythium, Corynespora or root rot in soybeans, crown rot in sugar beets, and bacterial and fungal diseases. Fusarium head blight (which affects cereal crops) is a disease that produces a mycotoxin that could enter the food chain. There are more than 40 diseases reported with use of glyphosate, and that number keeps growing as people recognize the association (between glyphosate and disease).

Q. Has research confirmed the link between glyphosate and Fusarium?

DH: There is plenty of data to show that, and it raises concerns about toxins in food. Can you give an example of a specific crop that has been negatively impacted by glyphosate?

DH: Last summer I visited farms that had typical glyphosate damage. I received a call from a potato seed farmer in Minnesota who grows 1000 acres of seed potatoes. There was so much glyphosate in the potato tubers from a previous crop of Roundup Ready soybeans that the potatoes can't be used as seed and could not be certified.

NEWS FROM CSIRO – PLASTIC IN OUR OCEANS AND COASTLINE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Each year, around 16 plastic bags full of plastic enters the oceans for every meter of coastline – but where is it coming from?

Chris Wilcox, a researcher at CSIRO, used maths to find out how much plastic countries around the world are throwing into the oceans. It turns out it's a lot.

"In 2010, if you turned all the plastic we threw in the oceans into cling film, it would cover the whole of Australia 1.6 times," he says. "If we keep going the way we are, in 2025 we will put enough plastic in the oceans to cover Australia 6 times over with cling film."

Chris was part of a team that estimated each country's plastic contribution to the oceans by looking at their population, plastic use and waste management. They found that in wealthier countries such as Australia, most of the plastic entering the ocean is from people throwing it on the ground. Chris thinks that 15–40 per cent of all our litter goes into the ocean.

Countries with a middle income such as China and Brazil have waste management systems that could be improved. Many rubbish dumps are not properly contained, and rubbish can blow away in the wind or be washed away by rains. In these countries, more plastic enters the ocean from waste mismanagement than littering. The poorer the country, the more plastic enters the oceans from waste mismanagement.

Without changing the way we manage and use plastic, plastics will keep getting dumped in the ocean at a rapid rate. "Plastic production is increasing and it doesn't look like we are getting any better in waste management," says Chris. "Plastic production is increasing exponentially, doubling every 11 years. Between now and 2025 we will make as much plastic as we did up to today."

You can help marine research find out more about plastics through the [National Marine Debris Project](#). By spotting plastics on the beach and telling researchers about where you found it, we can understand more about plastics on the beach.

With an estimated six pieces of plastic for every meter of coastline, it should be an easy enough task to get some data.

More information

[Teach Wild – find out the curriculum links to the National Marine Debris Project](#)

[CSIRO factsheet marine debris](#)

[AUSMEPA materials on marine stormwater pollution and solutions](#)

Items from our Government

TITLE: Tackling TB and Malaria in the Indo-Pacific, Media release, 23 Mar 2015, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Julie Bishop MP

PORTFOLIO: Foreign Affairs and Trade

URL: http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2015/jb_mr_150323a.aspx?ministerid=4

SNIPPET: On the eve of World TB Day, I am pleased to announce further support toward the eradication of tuberculosis and malaria in the Indo-Pacific region. The TB Alliance will receive \$10 million over three years to support late stage clinical trials of new TB treatments. This new support for TB treatment and diagnosis builds on an additional \$15 million package of assistance to support TB control in Papua New Guinea, announced last month. 24/3/2015

TITLE: - Bureau of Meteorology Newsroom 25/3/2015

PORTFOLIO: Environment

URL: <http://media.bom.gov.au/releases/152/statement-released-on-recent-heat-in-northern-and-central-australia/>

SNIPPET: The event included the highest temperature ever observed in Australia for the second half of March. Other significant climate statistics from this period: . Blog Warnings Water Climate Environment Tropical Cyclones Tsunami Warning Centre Agriculture - Water and the Land Marine & Ocean UV & Sun Protection Rainfall & River Conditions Radar Sat Maps Rainfall Forecasts Seasonal Outlooks Climate Variability & Change Climate Data Online Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts Water Storage MetEye&trade National Weather Services Aviation Weather Services Defence Services Space Weather Services Registered User Services Commercial Weather Services Business Entry Point Facebook Twitter Youtube Blog Google+ RSS Careers Sitemap Feedback Freedom of Information Indigenous Weather Knowledge Glossary. 25/3/2015

TITLE: Call for submissions on proposed extended period of time for dietary fibre claim requirements

PORTFOLIO: Health

URL: <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/media/pages/call-for-submissions-on-proposed-extended-period-of-time-for-dietary-fibre-claim-requirements.aspx>

SNIPPET: Applications to change the Code. Food safety standards information. Food safety standards information.25/3/2015

TITLE: Sunshine State home to largest solar PV research facility in the southern hemisphere

PORTFOLIO: Industry

URL: <http://minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/macfarlane/media-releases/sunshine-state-home-largest-solar-pv-research-facility-southern>

SNIPPET: The University of Queensland today officially opened the largest solar photovoltaic (PV) research facility in the southern hemisphere. Industry and Science Minister Ian Macfarlane said the Gattton research facility was part of a \$400 million project led by AGL Energy and supported by \$166.7 million of Australian Government funding through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. Australia has a reputation as a world leader in solar PV research, and has a broad energy base in which renewables have and will continue to play an important role, Mr Macfarlane said.

From Food Standards Australia and New Zealand - Beware of – Raw Apricots kernel

FSANZ conducted a risk assessment on a number of foods containing cyanogenic glycosides and found only raw apricot kernels (both with and without skin) pose an acute public health and safety risk. Based on this assessment FSANZ has [called for submissions on a proposal to prohibit the sale of raw apricot kernels](#). Submissions close 10 February 2015. _

More information [Proposal P1016 – Hydrocyanic acid in apricot kernels and other foods](#)
[Cancer Council of Australia](#)

Independent report brings together knowledge on dredging and disposal

Published: 25/03/2015

An independent compilation of knowledge about the effects of dredging and sediment disposal on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area has found the impacts will differ, depending on the location, timing, size and type of dredging and disposal activity.

The [Dredge Synthesis Report](#) was produced by a 19-member panel of experts, brought together through a joint initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).

The technical and scientific experts — with a range of skills from oceanographic modelling to coral ecology — were asked to review and synthesise existing studies and data on the biophysical effects of dredging and disposal, while also identifying key knowledge gaps.

The outcome is an overview of the potential impacts of dredging and disposal on habitats such as coral reefs and seagrass meadows, and on fish and species of conservation concern such as dugong or marine turtles.

Among its key findings, the panel concluded:

- In terms of direct effects, dredging and burial of seafloor habitats during disposal can have substantial impacts at a local level, but have only a small impact on the broader Great Barrier Reef and its biodiversity as a whole.
- In terms of indirect effects, sediments released by dredging and disposal have the potential to stay suspended in the water and move. This may be contributing significantly to the long-term chronic increase in fine suspended sediments in inshore areas, however there wasn't consensus among the panelists on the extent to which this happens and its impact on biodiversity.
- Dredging and disposal may be a significant source of fine sediments in the World Heritage Area, in addition to other sources, such as land run-off. A general comparison shows past large dredging projects produced amounts of fine sediment similar in magnitude to natural loads coming from land run-off in the same region.
- The recent policy commitments to ban disposal of capital dredge material in marine environments will mean future disposal, which will be limited to maintenance dredging, will contribute much less fine sediment. This reduced amount will still need to be considered in the context of other cumulative impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.

Project leader Dr Laurence McCook said the report acknowledged the challenges in assessing effects.

"Understanding the significance of dredging impacts compared to other natural and human pressures remains difficult," Dr McCook said.

"For example, it's difficult to compare sediment from dredging and the amount of sediment that flows off the land and into the ocean because there's limited data and many differences in the physical and chemical make-up of different types of sediments.

"In many locations, the extent to which sediments are resuspended and transported by waves and ocean currents, or are stable in the long-term, is also poorly understood."

Australian Institute of Marine Science research program leader Dr Britta Schaffelke said the panel proposed a number of ways to reduce the knowledge gap.

"A better understanding of how sediment moves, settles or disperses over the long term in the Great Barrier Reef can be achieved through more extensive, long-term monitoring and better integration of current monitoring and data," Dr Schaffelke said.

"Further efforts are also needed to understand how increased turbidity and suspended sediments affect a wide range of marine species. "The report also found the disposal of dredge material on land involves a different set of challenges to be considered, ranging from technical feasibility to the assessment of environmental impacts."

The publication is part of ongoing efforts by GBRMPA and the Australian Institute of Marine Science to improve understanding of the effects of dredging and dredge disposal, enabling better management of the risks associated with these activities. The work of the panel will help in updating best practice guidelines, and in assessing proposed developments that involve dredging and disposal in the World Heritage Area.

The full report of the independent panel of experts is available at www.gbrmpa.gov.au and www.aims.gov.au.

Name: GBRMPA media
Contact: (07) 4750 0846

IMPORTED FISH PRODUCTS

After receiving a very worrying email and youtube clip about the BASA fish from Vietnam I looked up the following web site – <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/food/inspection>

They do test but after 5 good test they reduce the number of test to 25% and then reduced again to 5% if not problems found, so I am still concerned.

This fish is sold in our restaurants and fish shops, so ask where the fish comes from.

TABLELANDS LETS - APRIL CALENDAR

TABLELAND LETS - Relocalising all of Far North Queensland

TARZALI - Wednesday 1st 6.30 till 8.30pm Trade Night and shared meal at Gavin's, 12 Hosie Road, Tarzali. Bring dinner to share - come and enjoy the longest running LETS event on the Tablelands! Event host: Gavin - 40965929

EVERY THURSDAY 8 - 11am Orientation & Malanda Community Garden Gathering. Want to learn more about the proposed plan? Want to have access to a space to grow? Would like to donate some valuable time & be a part of a valuable community enterprise? Bookings currently essential. Contact Maria 0406971567 to arrange a date for orientation & obtain address details. This is a Malanda Community Garden event, everyone is welcome to participate.

THURSDAY 2nd / 23rd / 30th 7:30 to 8:30am Yoga at The Closet Hippy, 5 English St. Malanda. All levels class, by donation. Please bring your own yoga mat. Call event host: Kristina – 0438642498 for more details

THURSDAY 2nd / 23rd / 30th 9 to 10am Meditation at The Closet Hippy, 5 English St. Malanda. Discover the peace within and learn to hold that peace through all of life's challenges. By donation. Call event host: Kristina - 0438642498 for more details.

MALANDA - Saturday 11th 6 - 9pm Dinner, Trade and Social Gathering at Katrin's Place 33 Park Ave in Malanda, opposite the caravan park. Trade starts at 6pm followed by a shared dinner at 7pm. Tea & coffee is provided, just bring a plate to share, and goods to trade. Instruments if you feel like busking for Bartles or simply come for a chat and socialize. This is a family friendly event and kids can make use of the toy room. Event Host: Katrin – 40966755.

MALANDA - Sunday 12th 2 till 4pm Trade Afternoons at Mary & Mathieu's place, 7 Cleminson Close, Malanda. Bring a plate to share for lunch and something to trade. Event host: Mary - 40966651 or mama1428@bigpond.com

CAIRNS NORTH - Friday 17th from 5 pm, Dinner and Trade in Kewarra Beach, 15 Glenelg Close - bring a plate to share and something to trade. Event Host: Ilona Heindl - 40578897

CASSOWARY COAST - Sunday 19th 11am-3pm Trade & Social Gathering - Johnstone River Community Gardens. Bring a plate to share, something to cook on the BBQ if you wish, your own plate and eating utensils. Lunch will be at 12 noon. Tea/Coffee by gold coin donation. A child-friendly venue. Car pooling/collection serviced encouraged from the Tablelands and Cairns! Weather permitting, ring event host: Suari – 0403115261 for confirmation.

JULATTEN - Sunday 19th 9am - 12 noon Trade Morning at Geraghty Park Hall. Bring a plate for morning tea to share and something to trade or \$20 to join. Event Host: Germaine Winspear - 40941331

RAVENSHOE - Saturday 18th 12 till 2pm Trade afternoon -Youth Shed, Ravenshoe Community Centre, 3 Bolton Street. Following Community Gardens gathering - come and check it out. Bring something to trade, a table or blanket to display your wares and lunch to share. Event host: Kathy - 40977864

YUNGABURRA - Saturday 25th 12 till 2pm Trade at that retro cafe, Shop 2/20 Eacham Rd (in between Miss Megs and My Habitat) cafe Drinks from the blackboard are available for 100% Bartles, Bring \$ for lunch, cakes or drinks from the display fridge, a table or blanket to display your wares. Children most welcome. This event is directly after the Yungaburra Markets. Event host: Melitta - 40952340.

CAIRNS CITY - Sunday 26th 12 till 2pm Trade at Lafew Teahouse & Kombucha Bar, 33 Sheridan Street, Cairns. Bring your Trading record sheet and some goodies to trade. ☆This month's focus is on edible plants. Event Host: Lorna Buckley – 0411205903.

What to bring to Trade Events where not specified above: food & drinks for yourself or to share, or money and/or Bartles at some venues, friends, Trading Record Sheet and pen, any goods you wish to trade, table/rug to display them upon is often useful, your own chair at some venues, promotional material of any services you are offering if applicable, \$20 to join LETS if you are not yet a member.

tablelandlets@gmail.com - 4096 6972 - tablelandlets.org - www.communityexchange.net.au

Informative, useful and Interesting Websites:

Permaculture:

The Permaculture Research Institute and Geoff Lawson on all things Permaculture - articles, forums, courses, videos and heaps more.

This is the most informative site on Permaculture in Australia and possibly the world. <http://permaculturenews.org/>

David Holgrams web site – <https://permacultureprinciples.com> Lots of information about Permaculture, stories and a newsletter

Native Bees:

<http://www.aussiebee.com.au>

All about Australian Bees – including a recent update in December 2014

Healthy Living:

<http://www.greenliving.com>: An Australian website for supplies for fermenting, cheese and yoghurt making, lids for preserving bottles, book on preserving foods and heaps more.

<http://www.culturesforhealth.com> A USA website with lots of info. recipes, free eBooks on fermenting foods and lots more. You can sign up for their weekly newsletter. “And therein lies the lure of fermentation. As Pollan writes in Cooked, its deliciousness is the by-product of decay, and decay is a fermentor's dream and a food regulator's nightmare. But the times they are a'changing: recent medical research has concluded that one of the problems with the Western diet is the absence from it of live-culture foods, while another study has linked the intake of certain probiotics found in some ferments to improved mental function and mood. We need more decay, it seems, not less. So pass the sauerkraut, please. I've heard it can even cure middle age.”

Gardening:

<http://manybooks.net> A place that offers free downloads of books – check out “Farmers of forty Centuries” by FJ King written 1911 after or during a trip to China, Korea and Japan. This incredible book explains how these peoples have been growing food for centuries. Check to see if Bread from Stones is there, another interesting read.

<http://rfcarchives.org.au/index.htm> - Rare Fruits council of Australia – Fruit/Nut Trees and lots Recipes

<https://www.organicgardener.com.au> Lots of info and a great planting guide for the year.

<http://www.greenharvest.com> - has organic seeds, plants and equipment and the web site has masses of information on growing food crops, microgreens, sprouts and pest and disease control. They have a newsletter and catalogue.

The Seed Collection.com.au – has lots of seeds and a newsletter.

Eden Seeds and Select Seeds – online catalogue

More to come later

PERMIE RESOURCES, & SERVICES

RESOURCES:

PERMACULTURE INFORMATION BOOKLET:

“Notes from the Workshops”

The notes from the 12 Permaculture Cairns Resilient Communities Workshops are now available for purchase at meetings and at **Enviromart Australia on corner of Scott and Aumuller Street, FULL OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE** about growing and living in a environmentally friendly way in the tropics.

TOPICS COVERED:

How to Grow your own Fabulous Organic Food All about Earthworms Growing Microgreens
All about Wicking beds All about Aquaponics Composting Creating a
raised garden bed Tropical plants that grow all year round and recipes for cooking these Drying and
preserving excess fruit & veg Balcony and patio gardening The Bokashi Bucket
Poultry in the city A Sprouting guide Vegetables for the small tropical farm or garden
Waste not want not – recycling organic waste

EAT YOUR LANDSCAPE Plant Easy to Grow Edible Tropical Vegetable in your garden. Grow plants suitable for the tropics and have them in the garden all year round, never be short of a green vegetable again. Tropical Vegetables and useful Plants are available from Enviromart Australia on corner of Scott and Aumuller Street or phone Carol 0414900717 for an appointment.

SERVICES

Garden Advice - Do you need help to plan or build your garden???

Bruce Zell, Director of The Back Yard Revolution is a Permaculture Diploma Graduate, Licensed Structural Landscaper and has extensive experience in landscaping, food garden design and implementation, Project Management and more.

Contact Bruce for more details-

email: brucezell@gmail.com, www.backyardrevolution.com.au or Mob. 0404 9944 528

AND IF YOU HAVE SOME USEFUL INFO YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE, PLEASE EMAIL ME AT:-

newsletters@permaculturecairns.org.au

Please note Memberships fees are due and payable on 1st January 2015

Memberships form may be completed online on our web site and emailed to us from there. Our Bank account details are on the membership form so you can pay online.



Permaculture Cairns

Membership Form 2015

One year's membership fee - 1 Jan - 31 Dec:

☐ Household membership \$30 ☐ Renewing Member ☐

Individual membership \$20 ☐ New Member ☐

Name(s) of all applicant(s) & DOB if under 18yrs:

.....

.....

.....

Postal Address:

..... Postcode:

Phone(s):

Email:

Signature:

Payment may be made at Meetings, at Bank or Online Direct Deposit - Permaculture Cairns Account at Cairns Penny Bank in Grafton Street. BSB 704-966 Account No. 100009440 please include your Surname as reference.

Do you have skills that you would be willing to share that would be of help to Permaculture Cairns? If so please give details below-

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Permaculture Cairns Public Meetings - All Welcome Third Tuesday of month Feb to Nov (Second Tuesday Dec). Doors open 6pm, meeting starts at 6.30pm at: Flexible Learning Centre, 90-92 Clarke St. (off Hoare St), Manunda

Enquiries

President: Carol Laing workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au

Secretary: Lois Hayes info@permaculturecairns.org.au

Treasurer: Jenny McGrath treasurer@permaculturecairns.org.au

Website: www.permaculturecairns.org.au