

Permaculture Cairns Inc. Established July, 2007

Web site: [www.permaculturecairns.org.au](http://www.permaculturecairns.org.au)

## Permaculture Cairns News

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

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



Care of the Earth, Care of

People. Share the excess

**PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF VENUE FOR OUR MEETINGS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

### MAY meeting and information exchange night

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm for 6.30pm start

**Venue: ARC Disability Centre !!!!!!!**

**92 Little Street, Manunda**

**(opposite the park behind Cominos House)**

Members please bring a plate of finger food to share and a friend!

Members free, Non members \$5

#### AGENDA

Welcome

Workshop and Events Notices

Permaculture Cairns Open Day 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Permaculture Principle Number 5, a practical explanation

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

Guest speakers: Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries – Electric Ants

Movie/video that matters if time allows

Members Book Library

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

#### Venue change

**YES for the remainder of this year we will be meeting at the ARC Disability Centre which is opposite the park behind Cominos House.**

**The street frontage at 92 Little Street is well lit at night and there aren't any steps.**

**The hall will accommodate many more people than our previous venue.**

**And we have the use of a electronic white board, television set which means we have a choice of those or we can setup our projector.**

**The kitchen is well equipped with a dish washer and there is a undercover outside area with tables, chairs and fans.**

**I am sure we will all enjoy the new venue.**

**And for the Permaculture Cairns Expo 6<sup>th</sup> June we will be meeting to celebrate all things permaculture at the ARC Community Hub in McNamara Street, Manunda. 9am to 3pm  
Come join in the fun**

## **PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLE NO. 5**

### **Principle 5: Use and value renewable resources and services Let nature take its course**

#### **Make the best use of nature's abundance to reduce our consumptive behaviour and dependence on non-renewable resources.**

The horse icon represents both a renewable service and renewable resource. It can be used to pull a cart, plough or log and it can even be eaten – a non consuming use is preferred over a consuming one. The proverb “let nature take it's course” reminds us that control over nature through excessive resource use and high technology is not only expensive, but can have a negative effect on our environment.

Play the song about the principle from this album:



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### **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, Cuppa and nibbles and networking time

**Discount on most Workshop Fees organised by Permaculture Cairns**

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

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

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.**



Care of the Earth, Care of

People. Share the excess

## PERMACULTURE CAIRNS WORKSHOPS

**Building Resilient Communities Workshops 2015**

Web site: [www.permaculturecairns.org.au](http://www.permaculturecairns.org.au)

### **Harvest, Prepare and Eat from the Permaculture Garden with Carol Laing**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015 9.30am to 12.30**

*Here is a chance to learn what to do with all those tropical veggies*

Some of the Tropical Plants growing in the garden all year: Greens - Abikia, Okinawa, Sambung, Ceylon, Talium, Kang Kong, Lebanese cress, Tahitian taro leaf, and Sweet Leaf.

Root crops - Taro, Cocoyam, Cassava, Sweet Potato, Arrowroot and Shallots. Herbs - Ginger, Turmeric, Galangal, Garlic Chives, Chives, Sweet Basil, Coriander, Parsley and Lemon grass.

Fruit -Finger lime, Kumquot, Lemons, Bananas, Papaya, Guabana, Pineapple, and Grumichama..

**We will harvest from the garden, prepare salads and stir fries, do some steaming, boiling and roasting of the fresh tropical produce.**

**After all that we will have a feast for lunch.  
So come with an open mind and be prepared to experiment.**

**Places are limited to 9 for this workshop so register early if keen.**

**Registration and payment of the booking & materials fee is essential.  
Permaculture financial members \$40, Non Members \$50**

**Register at: [workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au)**

**Venue: to be advised after registration and payment of fees.**

**Morning tea will be provided**

Payments may be made at Cairns Penny in Grafton Street or online to Permaculture 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 workshops possible.**





*Care of the Earth, Care of*

*People. Share the excess*

## **PERMACULTURE CAIRNS WORKSHOPS**

### **Building Resilient Communities Workshops 2015**

Web site: [www.permaculturecairns.org.au](http://www.permaculturecairns.org.au)

### **Plan your garden from scratch with biodiversity in mind**

**With Jenny McGrath**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am to 12.30 noon**

Jenny will plan the garden using Permaculture Principles and Practices so the very best outcome is achieved from your land.

Building biodiversity into the garden will help with pests management and bring wildlife into your garden.

**Venue: Will be in Brinsmead. Address advised on registration and payment of fees**

**Registration and payment of the booking & materials fee is essential**

**Permaculture financial members \$20, Non Members \$25**

**Register at: [workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au)**

Morning tea will be provided

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 workshops possible.**



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## **EcoFiesta 31<sup>st</sup> May 10am to 6pm**

### **At the Wharf**

Permaculture Cairns will join with Cairns Regional Council and JCU to participate in Ecoweek  
The first event is at The Wharf and Permaculture Cairns will be there. 10am to 6pm

If you can help mind the stall that would be great, so we can all see what else is happening.  
Please contact a committee members to register your time period.

We will have brochures on upcoming workshops, and our big event on the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

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## **Permaculture Cairns Expo Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 9am to 3pm**

**Venue: ARC Community Hub in McNamara Street**

**Food and refreshment:- Sausage Sizzle, Tea, Coffee and Cake, Juice**

### **Guest Speakers to date:**

Yvonne Cunningham who has been growing food in Innisfail for many many years will give us a talk about growing food in the tropics. And Yvonne will be bringing her book on Tropical Vegetables for sale.

Jane Manyleaves also a grower of food in Babinda area for many years will give us a short talk on plants and other topics. Jane will have Tropical food plants for sale.

### **Demonstrations, Tips and Info:**

Making and starting off a worm farm, Composting kitchen waste, Sheet composting.  
Using the Bokashi method for recycling kitchen scraps

### **Movies that matter – to be advised**

### **Stalls to date:**

Permaculture Cairns Members - Food and Decorative plants and handicraft stall. You can leave your plants and handicrafts at the stall for sale and the stall will be managed on a roster basis. Please register with Carol if you intend to take advantage of selling your items at this stall and being part of the manning of the stall.

This saves us all from having a stall each. There will be stickers to put on your produce so as to keep a record of sales. Contact Carol:- [workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au)

Cairns Seeds Savers will be there to give advice on the benefits of saving seeds.

Enviromart Australia will have a brochure table

Len Specht will be there with his wicking beds and soldier fly pods

**Early days yet so info on this event will be issued as it come to hand**

## In the Veggie Patch in May

Time to plant all the cool season plants – after preparing your garden bed, try direct seeding lettuce, bok choy, wom bok, celery, kale, florence fennel and all the cool season herbs. Try so garlic, potatoes and onions

There is still time to harvest the Tropical crops, by lifting and replanting – arrowroot, cocoyams, taros, cassava, turmeric, ginger and galangal. Remember to replant them in a different place, this stops the bad pathogens from building up in the soil..

**SOW NOW** – asian green, lettuce, rocket, cabbage, celery, coriander, broccoli, cauliflower, beans, parsley, tomatoes, capsicum, chilly, 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.

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

## NEWS FROM HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

### **National Organic Standard - Zero Tolerance for GM contamination to go?**

#### **Excerpt from an email by Genethics:-**

### **National Organic Standard - Zero Tolerance for GM contamination to go?**

Please submit your comments to: [info@oiscc.org](mailto:info@oiscc.org) by May 7, 2015

Hello All,

Public comment is open till May 7th (or maybe 14th) on application 5 (c) to amend Section 3.3 of the National Organic Standards - Genetic Modification: <http://www.oiscc.org/current-submissions-under-review.html>

Australian Certified Organic (ACO) has applied on the Organic Industry Standards and Certification Council (OISCC) which sets organic standards) to amend the standard. They propose to allow GM contamination without decertification of the place, to avoid future cases like Marsh vs Baxter. But ACO asks the organic industry to bear all responsibility for the impacts of inevitable GM contamination, gutting the GM-free standard and betraying its customers.

Please submit your comments to: [info@oiscc.org](mailto:info@oiscc.org) by May 7, 2015

All the best for good eating to continue,

Bob Phelps

Executive Director

Gene Ethics

Email: [info@geneethics.org](mailto:info@geneethics.org)

THINK, CARE, ACT!

Visit our Facebook at: <http://tinyurl.com/czgdz6c>

The above article was received in Eden Seeds Newsletter recd. 5<sup>th</sup> May  
check out their website: <https://www.edenseeds.com.au>

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This article is from The Conversation  
<https://theconversation.com>

4 May 2015, 4.40pm AEST

## **The Tesla battery heralds the beginning of the end for fossil fuels**

### **The winners and losers in Tesla's battery plan for the home**

Tesla's plans to use its new battery storage system to power homes will provide households with more opportunities to reduce bills. But it will also cause headaches for the electricity distribution companies.

The company's founder, Elon Musk, [announced last week](#) that it had developed the [Powerwall](#) batteries that could store electricity generated from solar panels.

The idea is to store the energy generated during the day, when demand is relatively low, that can then be used to power a home during the evening when the demand is higher. It can also act as a backup supply during any power cuts.

The Powerwall battery packs come in 7kWh or 10kWh units and cost US\$3,000 or US\$3,500 respectively. Up to nine units can be stacked together to give a maximum 90kWh.

Musk made the announcement at a press conference that was powered entirely by batteries. Musk told the audience that it was possible to place orders now for the units with delivery expected in the next three months.

### ***Battery breakthrough***

This will be a major development for the renewable energy sector – primarily [solar photovoltaic](#) (PV) – and provide the possible opportunity for consumers to move off-grid.

While it will be interesting to see how the distribution companies will react to that possibility, the ability to have three days of storage for a normal household will sound attractive to many.

The price of the Powerwall unit in the US is about a quarter of what is currently being charged for similar sized systems here in Australia. As such, they should become a standard accessory with most solar systems, with the price being similar to just the solar panel system five years ago.

Based on a recent Origin Energy invoice, an average four-person household uses between 20.9kWh and 21.6kWh of electricity per day.

Currently any excess electricity generated is sold back into the grid at a price negotiated between the retailer and customer (for those without feed-in tariff agreements), usually at around A\$0.12kWh.

While providing some income, customers still have to buy electricity back in the evening at around A\$0.27kWh, being the period of peak usage when everybody is at home.

### ***Not all will benefit***

For those without solar systems on their roof the story will only get worse when it comes to rising electricity prices.

In simplistic terms, the distribution companies charge a price for supplying electricity to your home based on the cost of their infrastructure divided by the number of kWh of electricity supplied.

If the number of hours supplied decreases – as more people adopt a solar solution – then the price must go up. People who don't have solar on their roofs will be penalised.

These pricing policies are based on Federal Government rules. These need to be closely reviewed, given the changing landscape of electricity generation, with a much larger portfolio of renewable energy, particularly on-site generation.

Further, rules should be relaxed to allow rebates for solar to be allowed for rental properties – not just owner-occupiers. Another example of making those who can least afford the escalating electricity prices paying the most.

At a more local level, the distribution companies still need to invest more to allow customers who want to install their own systems to do so.

In some areas system constraints are resulting in applications to install solar PV systems being rejected by the distribution company as there area already too many systems installed and the grid cannot manage stability issues.

So not everyone who wants to install a new solar system – including Musk's new Powerwall system – will be able to. That means those customers must continue to pay high retail electricity costs and miss out on savings enjoyed by others.

History has shown in recent years that with the reduction in the cost of solar PV systems there has been an exponential increase in the number of domestic residences adding systems.

The [animation](#) below, from the Australian PV Institute, shows the growth across the states and territories.

The continuing speculation of spiralling electricity costs will continue to add to the demand. It is an issue that needs to be addressed by both state and federal governments and with Musk's latest announcement of affordable storage options we can only expect greater demand for on-site generation.

We are now approaching the next phase for domestic electricity generation and it has arrived at a time that has provided regulators little time to prepare. But prepare they must.

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## **4 Proven Strategies For Gaining Land Access**

by [William Horvath](#), originally published by [Permaculture Apprentice](#) | TODAY

Did you know that the price of land has quadrupled in last 10 years, while the household income has the same?

Current low interest rates are only making the problem worse. With escalating land prices is it even possible to buy a piece of land to call your own?

Land access is the modern world's single biggest challenge for the new generation of farmers. This obstacle is, I believe, a fundamental barrier to the success of the next farming generation.



I can understand that you would like to become an independent, self-employed and profitable farmer but the land is so expensive, making your venture so much harder.

Unless you inherited or somehow been given a piece of land, the biggest question of them all is how to get that desired land and use it as leverage to live the life you deserve.

I won't claim I have all the answers; it all depends on your personal circumstances. I'll just outline the possible solutions and how to go about them.

Here are your options:

1. Buying with mortgage
2. Going down the mortgage free route
3. Leasing the land
4. Cooperative finance option

Sounds boring I know, but it's crucial to have an understanding of these things if you want to farm. Let's take a closer look.

### **Buying a farm with a loan**

This is what [Mark Shepard](#) recommends. When he was asked about how a young person could gain land access, he answered: *"This can be done anywhere in the country in less than one year. The systems are in place. Anyone who doesn't believe so is either unaware of the systems in place or is unwilling to 'play the game' as it is currently rigged. If people really want land and really want to get into agriculture especially Permaculture designed agriculture, financing is available. It is how the current economic system works."*

Doing it the Mark Shepard way involves getting into debt. Although people will say that farming and debt simply don't mix, Mark has proved that it can be done even with a burden of debt. I am sure there are a number of people now reading who will want to try a venture like this, but to do this you will need to build your credit rating, learn how to 'exercise' your credit, then borrow the money and buy a farm. It's going to be impossible if you have a bad credit rating and no savings. Then the loans are almost impossible to obtain.

So, first you have to prove to the bank that you are worthy of being loaned money by paying your existing debt, building your credit rating slowly over time and piling up savings for a bigger down payment to secure a better deal on a loan. It seems that the problem is not whether you can borrow money, the real problem kicks in once you start your farming business and, on top of that, you have the burden of repayment. This makes everything much harder and there is not much room for mistakes. The startup phase is critical.

If you do decide to go down the loan route there are certain measures you can take to help your farm survive and thrive.

**Reduce start up and operational costs.** Look no further than the example of [Jean-Martin Fortier](#) the market gardener. He got a loan with a 10% interest rate but still managed to pull it off because of low startup costs. Keeping capital and operational costs down reduces financial pressure. Excessive costs can kill any business quickly - the smaller the costs, the greater the ability to withstand the additional financial burden of the mortgage.

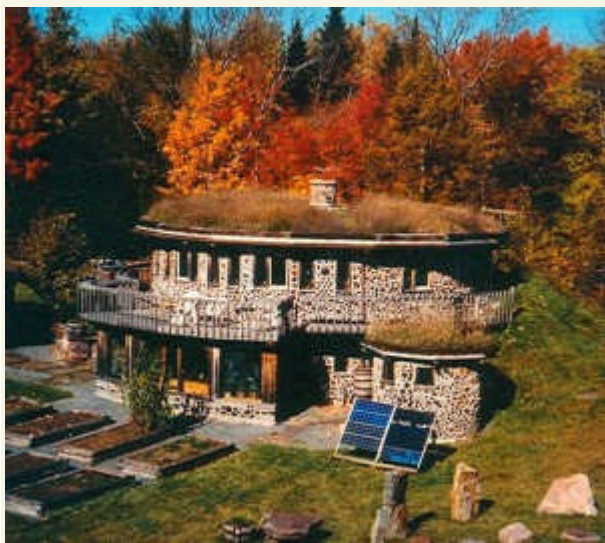
**Get additional funding** For certain of projects there will be government grants available. These grants can bring you additional capital for your business operation. The best example of getting the government funding is Grant Schutz from [Versaland](#), he managed to get about \$200000 for his setting up his agroforestry operation. However to get any of the grants in the first place you'll need a good business plan, one that clearly shows how you plan to spend the money. Here is an [example of a business plan](#) that Jean-Martin Fortier used to secure government funding.

**Focus on investing in income generating assets** If you are investing into a farm, the trick is to choose assets with the highest return on investment. Meaning, you always want to invest into something that can get you 10 times more value than the money invested. A real life example would be building a small cabin or granny flat and then renting it. Eventually that investment pays for itself and starts providing income that you reinvest into the farm.

**Pay off your mortgage aggressively** If you want to buy your freedom then you need to pay off your mortgage aggressively. Here is why: with a \$50,000 loan and 10% interest rate, the total amount paid back in 30 years is \$157,964.40, in 25 years, it's \$136,308, and, in 20 years, it's \$115,804.80. Remember that the loan was only for \$50,000 in the first place. This is why making the largest payments you can afford and prepaying principal are the best strategies you can employ if, indeed, a loan is absolutely necessary.

I wrote an extensive [blog post](#) on starting out on a profitable permaculture farm venture, check it out for more tips.

### Going down the mortgage free route



#### *Rob Roy's Low-Cost Mortgage Free Home*

Housing costs, whether by way of rent or mortgage, are the single largest after-tax expenditure for most people. When utilities and maintenance are added in, shelter cost is often around 50% of income for “home owners”. If you are repaying a mortgage the reality is that over 30 years you'll pay almost three times the original loan.

So the question is how to get mortgage free and avoid paying so much interest?

Mortgage freedom can come in three different ways. First, you can slog through the 20 or 30 years of the death pledge (from the Old French mort gage, literally “death pledge”), tied to your salary and your monthly payments, until the long-awaited day of the mortgage-burning party.

Second, you can live frugally until you can afford to buy a home without a mortgage. While difficult, this is not impossible, and it will require the adoption of a conserver lifestyle (as opposed to consumer).

Or, third, you can become owner builder and build your own house. The advantages of doing this are huge; owner-built homes are often constructed on a pay-as-you-go basis. There is also a substantial saving due to the elimination of labor costs and proportional amount of bank interest.

In his book *Mortgage Free* Rob Roy lays out the steps he feels will get anyone mortgage free:

**1. Accumulate significant savings** You can boost your ability to build savings by keeping your day job, putting money aside, reducing expenditure and letting go of a consumer lifestyle. Saving money is a big task and this phase will be different for everyone because what some people find a necessity, others can do without. For a better understanding of how you could save a large portion of your income read “Early Retirement Extreme”.

**2. Find land** The cost of the land may be the single greatest expense you’ll incur in your mortgage-free home. It’s important to have a list of priorities, a well-planned budget, and know how much work you are willing to do to "reclaim" marginal land. Rob recommends obtaining the land at the earliest possible date. It’s the best hedge against escalating real estate prices and land values rise at least as fast as inflation.

**3. Build a temporary shelter** This involves building a small, low-cost structure on the land and living there while you build your permanent house. Later on this structure can be converted for an alternative use like a shed, smoke house etc. When this has been constructed, you can move to the land and get to know it, even if you’re not yet actually living there. Temporary shelters are not limited to built structures. You can live for several months in tents, tepees, vans, yurts, and small house trailers while building your permanent dwelling.

**4. Build your low cost home** The key is to build what you can afford without debt and expand as your needs and budget allow. You need some DIY knowledge to conserve costs. The Add-on House Strategy is one of the most popular and successful strategies open to you - to build a small, affordable core and then to build affordable additions as required. If you took PDC you know how house design is important, so you are better off building it yourself and making it fit your lifestyle and your needs.

In summary, his strategy is to save the money for the land (or at least a substantial down payment), to move onto the land and build a temporary shelter, and then to build the permanent house on a pay-as-you-go basis. Rob claims that the total cycle from starting with zero savings to owning your own land and home can range from three to six years, depending on your personal situation and goals.



Leasing

## *Aerial of Polyface Pastured Broiler System*

Buying land is not always the best option. A lease, either short or long-term can give you access to land without the cost and potential liability involved in actually owning it. Having access to land and being able to draw profit from that land does not necessarily imply land ownership.

Land is tremendously over-priced. As long as people keep paying for over-priced land it will continue to stay that way. Meanwhile, renting land is under-priced because all these land owners need to pay interest and taxes and can't afford to leave the land unused.

In the early stages it's probably better if you are not the landowner. You will have enough to learn without also having to think about making the mortgage payments. If you start with this insight, you won't waste valuable time and get headaches over the fact that you don't own land.

Let's look at the models that don't require land ownership:

**Joel Salatin portable farm model** Joel's *model of farming* is portable and can be replicated anywhere on rented land. Even Joel rents and makes good money doing it. These portable systems (portable electric fencing, chicken tractors, hoop structures...) are low cost, low capital infrastructure.

Here the real value lies in the knowledge you have and that is something that you can take onto any land you may go to.

The "portable farming model" is a good way to get started without taking on debt when a young farming enterprise is at its most fragile.

**Greg Judy 'no risk ranching' model** After being forced to liquidate his herd to pay off debts, grazier Greg Judy tried a different approach — custom grazing on leased land.

In the US at least, many land owners get a tax concession for agricultural production, so they lease land cheaply to someone to create a product thus reducing their taxes significantly. This is exactly what Greg is doing, and, by leasing land and cattle, he went from 40 stockers to over 1100 head and was able to pay off his farm and home loans within three years. Today he has 12 farms totaling more than 1560 acres.

In his book *No Risk Ranching: Custom Grazing on Leased Land*, he describes how he used leased land to graze other people's cattle. The book also has examples of the numbers and lease contracts. Based on his personal experience, Greg Judy shows how to make a living from the land without owning it. He describes his successes as well as his mistakes to in order to help others on the road to profit.

**High intensity market garden model** Market gardening involves growing high yielding vegetable crops for restaurants, farmer markets and CSA. The best examples are Jean Martin-Fourtier (*that I already wrote about*) and *Curtis Stone's SPIN* gardening model.

In both models you can grow on rented land. Startup costs for such a venture can be very low, and there is no debt or land capitalization needed.

It can be a great way to get business cash flow and you don't have to leave your day to start farming.

**Co-operative financing option** Most people want to go it alone because a loan allows them to do so. However, this leads to a 'lone ranger in rural area' type of situation with isolated pockets of permaculture farms nestling amongst conventional farms with huge fields of monoculture crops.

David Holmgren and Bill Mollison realized that an integrated farm needs a lot of people specializing in different areas, because one person or family can't do all that alone. The integrated farm can be achieved by forming intentional communities. This is where the biggest potential for permaculture lies. Because of their cooperative structure, they are the key to implementing permaculture on larger scale and the most strategic way of gaining access to land.

For example let's look at the **Atamai ecovillage** development, which could be a model for forming intentional communities with alternative land access methods.

Atamai Village is designed to provide an enduring community for at least 200 people. They have been going 8 years now; have about 20 families in residence, with 9 houses built and lived in, and quite a number of budding enterprises. Villagers live in privately owned homes, and enjoy the benefits of a large common area jointly managed to enhance physical and social resilience.

The Atamai model involves both freehold titles (at market rates) and shared commons. The common lands are paid for by what would otherwise be the "developer's profit" – instead of going into a developer's pocket, any profit from the development goes to the community.

To gain access to land at Atamai, there are **several options available**:

**Freehold title** This is the usual option involving either taking on a mortgage or going the mortgage-free route if you have the cash. The blocks are around \$200,000 and buying one can be out of reach for too many people, but that is the reality of market driven prices in NZ. This option is also available as a cooperative buy-in into a freehold title. This allows two families to purchase a title together, and then share the space however they decide.

**Full-time lease** A genuine village needs social and financial diversity, and for that there needs to be people with enough money to buy titles and help make things happen. One of the things they anticipate is that many families that purchase a title will also build a minor unit or granny flat, which can then be made available to other villagers on a long-term lease. I saw this situation happening while visiting Fryers Forest eco-village founded by David Holmgren.

**Cohousing** Cohousing around the world takes many forms, but most consist of small individual dwellings clustered around a common house. Each dwelling is complete except for those amenities that can be shared, such as laundry and storage facilities, office space and workshops, which are usually accommodated in the common house along with a large kitchen and dining room.

In a shared arrangement such as this, costs are greatly reduced, but home ownership is still not necessarily affordable for everyone. To make cohousing truly affordable, they are establishing a cooperative home ownership programme (CoHOP) to build the homes, and residents will be able to buy shares in their home to the extent that they can afford.

**Livelihood opportunities** These opportunities could bring you better terms when seeking land access in an intentional communities like Atamai. Within the Atamai village several jobs have been created, and they

need people willing to take over several roles. The person taking over the role would have some support – this could range from financial support, to free lease of land for a period, to commitments to purchase, etc. Currently, they have a farm operation and need someone to take over the veggie production and distribution. If there is someone out there eager to take on such a project to provide a livelihood for themselves, and get some support to make it happen, contact Jack on [jack@atamavillage.org](mailto:jack@atamavillage.org)

**In Conclusion** No single option will work for everyone, in every situation. Individual situations and local prices will be different depending on whether you live in Europe, the USA or Australia. It also depends on whether you are 20 or 40, your level of risk tolerance and if you're willing to endure some short term 'pain' for long term gain.

If you have no experience and want to try farming, then leasing land enables you to start low financial risk farming operations, where you can learn without the dread of mortgage and gives the opportunity to gain knowledge for your future farm.

If you really want ownership of the land it seems that the best thing to do is to avoid getting into the debt. That means saving enough so you can buy the land debt free. If you really want to own land and make it work, go down mortgage-free route. In some cases, it may very well be that it takes over a decade to buy land debt-free and not everybody can be so self-disciplined and committed.

Intentional communities are the icing on the cake when it comes to gaining access to a land and a community of like-minded people. The only problem I can see is the sheer complexity of the relationships between so many people. This is why people usually opt out for 'lone ranger in a rural area' mentality.

If you've truly exhausted all those other options then maybe it's time to bite the bullet and get a loan. But be realistic about the level of debt you can handle. Debt is not necessarily a bad thing, but it does tie your hands while you have it. And it's even worse if you are overly optimistic about the level you can manage.

The above article by Richard Heinberg on 5<sup>th</sup> May was from <http://www.resilience.org>

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## **Solving Soil Loss is Simple, But Requires a Mindset Change**

by [Patrick M. Lydon](#), originally published by [FinalStraw.org](#) | MAY 4, 2015

*Natural farming, permaculture, regenerative agriculture, agroecology – there are many versions of sustainable agriculture, but the common thread they all tackle is the need to take better care of our soil and the environments in which we grow food. Why is this the least bit important to you?*

By accounts of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, **we have less than 60 years of farming left** if we continue our modern chemical-industrial based farming processes.

"This is what topples civilisations" wrote Geroge Monbiot recently **in an article for The Guardian**. "War and pestilence might kill large numbers of people, but in most cases the population recovers. But lose the soil and everything goes with it. Now, globalisation ensures that this disaster is reproduced everywhere."

Monbiot is referring to the process by which we ignore the health of the soil in order to grow food easily, cheaply, and on large scale. To achieve these things, the modern farming process – which uses deep tilling (digging up) of the soil along with huge amounts of oil and mined minerals to produce crops – is both killing the soil and stripping it from the surface of this earth.

A Japanese natural farmer named Yoshikazu Kawaguchi recently explained to us during the filming of the [Final Straw documentary](#) “When you till the soil, you create a world of death.”

Kawaguchi's statement is a rather intense way of explaining that the delicate world of life in the soil of a farm needs to be well taken care of, because this soil life plays a huge role in ensuring that the soil can produce crops -- without the need for external fertilizers or synthetic chemicals.

Yet modern agriculture treats the soil's most critical lifeforms as 'pests' to be destroyed, rendering the soil itself as a nothing more than a non-living material meant to hold roots in place so they can be fed with petroleum-based fertilizers. Such a mentality has seen our society, without question, lay waste to the soil, to the environment in, around, and downstream from that soil, and ultimately to the earth's ability to provide food for humanity in the long term.

The positive note that needs to be made here, and one which is curiously absent from conversations about health, food, and ecology these days -- with [Charles Eisenstein](#) and [Michael Pollan](#) as a few shining exceptions -- is that around the world, small scale farmers have been putting into practice the kinds of regenerative farming that can both reverse ecological destruction, and feed the world. And they have a track record that far pre-dates industrial agriculture, if you know where to look.

My partner Suhee Kang and I looked directly to the source, spending the past four years with natural farmers dotting the globe, but most especially in Japan where the natural farming movement took root in the late 1940's with revolutionary farmers such as [Masanobu Fukuoka](#) and Mokichi Okada. The surprise for us -- and for viewers of our upcoming documentary *Final Straw: Food, Earth, Happiness* -- was in finding an abundance of practical farmers today who are proving that sustainable food production does not require chemicals, does not require heavy machinery, nor plowing, pesticides, inorganic fertilizers, GMO seeds, hormones, antibiotics, cages, or really anything from outside the area where the farm itself is.

Many are indeed surprised to learn that [we don't need industrial agriculture to feed the world](#). Yet what we do need, might also seem like a tall order. What we do need is a fundamental, foundation-level change in how we interact with the world in which we live, and a change in how we achieve that most basic human need for nourishment.

Everything modern science -- and common sense -- tells us points to the fact that what the giant chemical, food, oil, and seed monopolies are fighting for is an impossibility. "Short-term growth at the expense of public protection compromises long-term survival" says Monbiot.

There's little room to improve on such a concise statement of our current state of affairs, a state which extends far beyond agriculture. Most economists, ecologists, farmers, and generally anyone and everyone who has put their mind to our ecological issues -- whether its food or anything else -- has come to some form of agreement that we've become far too obsessed with 'growth' at a rate which is impossible to maintain in any socially or ecologically viable way.

Yet, not only do we have solutions in hand, we've have had them all along, mostly by way of our world's indigenous cultures and their keen awareness of and connection to the environment that goes far beyond even our natural farming heroes from 1940's Japan.

In our modern world we've mostly written off such small-scale practices. In the last few decades however, a slow building renaissance in the public presence of regenerative agriculture -- which builds healthier environments while producing food -- has spread in concept and execution to communities around the world.

This solution will take hard work, it will take a fundamental change in mindset, and it will take determination of individuals and communities, but it is both necessary and possible.

The benefits, too, are overwhelming...

If the world switched to regenerative agriculture tomorrow, we could:

- **greatly increase high-quality, high-value employment** (we would need a sizable increase in the number of small local farms and farmers)
- **have enough food to feed a growing population** (permaculture and natural farming can be [many times more productive than industrial farming](#), especially when taking into account resource usage)
- **be better suited to meet food production needs in a changing climate** (small scale biodiverse farms are [far more resilient systems than large-scale industrial farms](#))
- **lower the world's carbon footprint** to a [level that would ensure our long-term survival](#).

It sounds like a lot to be accomplished with such a simple change, yet it's not just a change in our buying habits, or production habits, it's a fundamental, foundation-level change in how we interact with the world in which we live, and a change in how we achieve that most basic human need for nourishment.

For the sake of our own survival as a species, we can and must shed our most destructive agricultural practices, and we have the alternative already in place. This alternative is centered around **small-scale, local, and human-powered** operations; which, agriculturally speaking, translates to natural farming, permaculture, regenerative agriculture, and agroecology, and these are the places where we can start today, to build truly equitable and resilient communities for the future.

#### References:

- [1] - <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/only-60-years-of-farming-left-if-soil-degradation-continues/>
- [2] - <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/25/treating-soil-like-dirt-fatal-mistake-human-life>
- [3] - <http://www.finalstraw.org/>
- [4] - <http://www.resilience.org/stories/2013-09-03/permaculture-and-the-myth-of-scarcity>
- [5] - <http://rodaleinstitute.org/reversing-climate-change-achievable-by-farming-organically/>
- [6] - [http://www.theecologist.org/blogs\\_and\\_comments/commentators/2247895/low\\_input\\_farming\\_diversity\\_is\\_the\\_key.html](http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/2247895/low_input_farming_diversity_is_the_key.html)
- [7] - [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/events/reith\\_2000/lecture5.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/events/reith_2000/lecture5.stm)

From: [www.resilience.org](http://www.resilience.org)

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **MEGATRENDS THAT COULD THROW WORLD INTO FREEFALL**

What will the future look like? How will technology development change the way we live, work and play? How should we respond to change? These are some of the questions that we need to answer if we're to make wise choices and make a better world.

In a new book from CSIRO Publishing, *Global Megatrends: Seven Patterns of Change Shaping Our Future*, author Stefan Hajkovicz identifies seven patterns to tell a story about how the world will change over the next 20 years.



"Megatrends are gradual yet powerful trajectories of change that have the potential to throw companies, individuals and societies into 'freefall'," Dr Hajkowicz said.

"Moments of freefall will happen to you, your company, your society and the world. That's assured. It's not whether change will happen that matters, but when and how you respond.

"The financial collapse of stock markets, terrorist strikes, technology disruptors, democratic elections in eastern bloc countries and the fall of the Berlin Wall were relatively sudden events - when viewed over history - but they did not occur in isolation.

"The change heralded by megatrends lies beyond our direct control but not beyond our influence. By getting a picture of how the world is changing and what these megatrends are, we can alter our destiny."

The seven patterns outlined in the book are:

- More from less - Increasing demand for limited natural resources and a scarcity of these resources
- Going, going... gone? -A window of opportunity to protect biodiversity, habitats and the global climate
- The Silk Highway - Rapid economic growth and urbanisation in Asia and the developing world
- Forever young - An ageing population, changed retirement patterns, chronic illness and rising healthcare expenditure
- Virtually here - Digital technology reshaping retail and office precincts, city design and function and labour markets
- Great expectations - Changing consumer expectations for services, experiences and social interaction, and
- An imperative to innovate - Technological advancement is accelerating and it is creating new markets and extinguishing existing ones.

The book captures the thinking of many dedicated scientists and researchers who have devoted their careers to exploring and understanding change, and draws on hundreds of reports and peer-reviewed references.

It is an easy-to-read tool that can be used by businesses, governments, researchers and students to anticipate and plan for the future.

"The seven megatrends are all about the signals that lead-up to a moment of freefall. They are taking the world into new territory, creating new risks and new opportunities," Dr Hajkowicz said.

*Global Megatrends: Seven Patterns of Change Shaping Our Future*, by Stefan Hajkowicz, now available in book shops and [online](#), \$35.00, paperback, 216pp, ISBN: 9781486301409.

## **Join the Ant Hunt and help us eradicate electric ants**

What are electric ants?

The electric ant, *Wasmannia auropunctata*, is an exotic pest ant that is only found in the Cairns region of Australia. It is one of a group of ants known as tramp ants that tend to move by hitching a ride with humans. The electric ant is considered to be one of the world's top 100 worst invasive species. They are a serious environmental, economic and social pest causing a decline in diversity and abundance of invertebrates, vertebrates and some plants due to predation. Originally from South America, the electric ant has become established in other tropical regions, including the West Indies, south-eastern USA, West Africa, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tahiti, PNG, Hawaii, Australia, and now Guam.

What do they look like?

There are several ways that electric ants can be identified. Workers are:

- \* 1-1.5mm in length, light brown to golden brown in colour
- \* Deliberate but slow moving, usually forming distinctive foraging lines.
- \* They tend to use man-made objects as pathways, e.g. fence lines, concrete edges, coppice logs, sleepers etc.

If you find a suspect ant you can:

- \* Call 132523 and ask for a free yard check or sample pick up. Or,
- \* Bring a sample in to the DAF office at 21-23 Redden Street, Portsmith.

Where are they found?

Electric ant was first confirmed as present in Australia in Smithfield in May 2006, although they were thought to have been there for at least three to four years before detection. Since then electric ants have been found in many of the Cairns northern beach suburbs, as well as Port Douglas, Kuranda, Redlynch, Brinsmead, Kanimbla, Bentley Park and recently Whitfield and Manoora.

Because they do not form distinctive nests they can be very difficult to spot. Electric ants do not dig holes but prefer to nest in or under objects. The most common areas of a property that electric ant can be found are:

- \* In garden beds under the leaf litter, in or under logs, stones, bricks and blocks
- \* In or under pot plants
- \* In or under garden sleepers
- \* In trees, especially fruit trees or those with epiphytes
- \* Around water, such as ponds, pools or outside taps
- \* Along fence lines, concrete edges and other man-made pathways
- \* In or under other things left in a garden for any length of time.

How are they spread?

The most common method of electric ant dispersal is through human assisted movement and in Cairns this means movement of infested pot plants or other high risk materials. A high risk material includes:

- \* Plants or plant related items such as pot plants, cuttings, tree cuttings and garden waste
- \* Soil or anything with soil attached such as turf, fence palings, star pickets etc.
- \* Containers such as bins, bee hives, cartons, pots and garden sleepers
- \* Mulch, baled hay or straw
- \* Waste material other than soil, such as building wastes and other material extracted from the ground
- \* Equipment used for disturbing the soil or in construction, such as earthmoving machinery, gardening tools, formwork and skip bins.

The majority of infestations in the past have been traced to the inadvertent movement of contaminated pot plants or the illegal dumping of green waste.

So, what can you do?

To prevent the unintentional movement of electric ant, if you are buying, selling or swapping plants please either:

\* Ring 13 25 23 and ask for a free plant check prior to your purchase/sale/swap

\* Spray the plants with an insecticide. The electric ant program has permits to use the following active constituents:

\* Cyfluthrin as a liquid pot plant drench – sold as Yates Baythroid Insecticide in 250ml or 500ml (approx. \$37) containers and is available at local hardware stores.

\* Chlorpyrifos as a liquid pot plant drench or dip (to be used by commercial nursery persons only)

Please read product labels first and apply as per label instructions. The product should not be used for any purpose or in any manner contrary to the label specifications unless authorised.

For peace of mind, to make sure that your property is not infested with electric ants please join the ant hunt and book your free yard check by calling us on 13 25 23 or visit our website at [www.anthunt.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.anthunt.daf.qld.gov.au)

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## **Items from our Government**

TITLE: ABARES

Putting agriculture in your region in context

PORTFOLIO: Agriculture

URL: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/media-releases/2015/putting-agriculture-region-context>

SNIPPET: Key information profiling Australia's agriculture sector on a region-by-region basis is available at the click of a button with ABARES' latest About my region profiles. The About my region profiles contain information on&#58. To view the latest collection of About my region profiles visit About my region.

TITLE: Privacy Awareness Week: practical tips to protect your privacy| Office of the Australian Information Commissioner - OAIC

PORTFOLIO: Attorney-General's

URL: <http://www.oaic.gov.au/news-and-events/media-releases/privacy-media-releases/privacy-awareness-week-practical-tips-to-protect-your-privacy>

SNIPPET: As part of Privacy Awareness Week activities, the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has released a series of resources to raise awareness of privacy rights for individuals. Privacy fact sheet 8: Ten tips to protect your privacy provides practical tips that individuals can use to protect their personal information in everyday situations. The OAIC has a wide range of resources and fact sheets on their Privacy Awareness Week page, and in the privacy resources section of their website.

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## **WHATS ON IN MAY**

### **Bungalow Community Garden AGM Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at the Gardens**

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### **TABLELANDS LETS - MAY CALENDAR**

#### **TABLELAND LETS - Relocalising all of Far North Queensland**

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.

RAVENSHOE - Saturday 16th 12 - 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 23rd 12 - 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.

JULATTEN - Sunday 24th 9 - 12pm 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

CAIRNS CITY - Sunday 24th 12 - 2pm Trade at Lafew Teahouse & Kombucha Bar, 33 Sheridan Street, Cairns. Bring your Trading record sheet and some goods to trade. Event Host: Lorna-0411205903.

MAREEBA - Saturday 30th 11-1pm 7 Kenneally Road, Mareeba. Bring something to trade and a plate to share over lunch Event Host: Tash Hogan 0432984977

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

**The May calendar is shorter than usual because... it's now only 1 week until the National LETS Conference in Malanda. Local Abundance: LETS Share 15 – 17 May**

**Our program includes speakers from South Africa, New Zealand, Tasmania, Sydney, Brisbane and the Tablelands. It's certain to inspire you with ideas to make the most of your LETS experience and strengthen your local community. We are particularly excited to have Tim Jenkin, community and monetary activist from Capetown who founded the Community Exchange System which is now used by LETS groups globally. Thanks to all who have contributed to the National crowdfunding campaign to help cover Tim's travel expenses.**

We are very proud that, thanks to LETS members offering billets and catering, we are able to offer part payment of Conference Registration in Bartles and keep the \$ costs to an absolute minimum Usually all these event expenses have to be sourced from the \$\$economy.

So far we have 25 visitors and 50 locals who have taken advantage of the Earlybird Registration before April. Our organisers and presenters have also generously paid their own Registration fees so that we can be confident of covering all our costs.

We gratefully acknowledge all the businesses that have donated prizes to our Fundraising Raffle, our wonderful members who have been organising the prizes and selling tickets and all who have contributed by buying tickets. This has given us a welcome \$\$ buffer.

We also thank RegenAg, Cairns Permaculture, that Retro Café, the Gallery Coffee Shoppe and Love-Lee Cooking for sponsoring our global permaculture troubadour, Charlie McGee of Formidable Vegetable Sound System who is performing on Saturday night.

Thanks also to Shane Knuth MP, Carrington Ranges and Rainforest Bounty who have made donations towards the substantial cost of insurance for our event.

Because of the generosity of our many members who have offered accommodation and car-pooling, most of our visitors have taken the opportunity to stay for up to 2 weeks extra to enjoy the delights of Far North Queensland. We are so proud to promote our beautiful part of the country and the wonderful people who form our LETS community.

It's going to be an inspiring and fun weekend, sharing ideas and experience from LETS groups all over the country and beyond. Registration information and the Draft Programme is available to peruse on the webpage. <http://www.tablelandlets.org/events-page/2015-conference/>

Local Conference registration Friday to Sunday is only \$110 + 50B

Booking conference days separate is possible: Saturday conference - \$45 + 35B, includes meals and night entertainment Sunday Conference - \$30 + 20B, includes meals up to 4pm

Or join us from 4pm on Saturday for trade afternoon, dinner and entertainment – performed by Charlie McGee of Formidable Vegetable Sound System

Do we need any more help? Perhaps you have an abundance of produce. Maybe you know a business who would be willing to chip in \$50-\$100 towards our insurance and we'll include their logo in our program. Or buy some raffle tickets. <http://www.tablelandlets.org/conference-raffle-tickets-2/>

Please contact Jenni 0428 953832 or Katrin 40966755 or email [tablelandlets@gmail.com](mailto:tablelandlets@gmail.com) for more info.

### **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 an 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](mailto:brucezell@gmail.com), [www.backyardrevolution.com.au](http://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](mailto:newsletters@permaculturecairns.org.au)

Cheers

Carol Laing

Editor, Workshop Coordinator, President, Permaculture Cairns

## **EVENTS FOR MAY**

- 16<sup>TH</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> Lets Conference
- 17<sup>th</sup> Bungalow Community Garden AGM
- 17<sup>th</sup> FNQ Biodynamic Horn Burial day
- 19<sup>TH</sup> Permaculture Cairns monthly meeting 6.30 - 9
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Permaculture workshop -Harvest and prepare food 9.30
- 24<sup>th</sup> Seed Savers Biboorha
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mareeba Markets
- 31<sup>st</sup> Eco Fiesta 10 -6

## **EVENTS FOR JUNE**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Permaculture Cairns Expo 9 - 3
- 16<sup>th</sup> Permaculture monthly meeting 6.30 – 9.00
- 27<sup>th</sup> Permaculture workshop – planning with biodiversity in mind

**Please note Memberships fees are due and payable on 1<sup>st</sup> 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-**

.....

**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](mailto:workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au)

Secretary: Lois Hayes    [info@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:info@permaculturecairns.org.au)

Treasurer: Jenny McGrath    [treasurer@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:treasurer@permaculturecairns.org.au)

**Website:**    [www.permaculturecairns.org.au](http://www.permaculturecairns.org.au)