

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*

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## **FEBRUARY Public Info Meeting**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm for 7pm start.**

**Flexible Learning Centre, 90 Clarke Street, Manunda**

**Clarke Street comes off Hoare on the Salvos Corner.**

**Members please bring a plate of salad to share, and a friend.**

## **The 12 Principles of Permaculture** **as written by David Holmgren.**

### **Principle 1 Observe and interact**

**“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”**

**By taking the time to engage with nature we can design solutions that suit our particular situation.**

### **Principle 2 Catch and store energy**

**“Make hay while the sun shines”**

**By developing systems that collect resources when they are abundant, we can use them in times of need.**

**if you would like to know more about David Holmgren's Principles and Practices of Permaculture see them at <http://permacultureprinciples.com>**

## **Community Engagement**

With the start of 2014 we have the opportunity to plan our activities for the year around members needs and interests.

The last few years we have run a similar exercise to find out which guest speakers you would like to hear from, what workshops you would like to attend, what you enjoy about Permaculture Cairns and what we could improve upon. Please take a moment to consider these questions before you come on Tuesday night so we can put together a program that will knock your socks off and encourage more people to join us in 2014.

## **The 2014 Management Committee**

### **Executive Members:**

**President:** Carol Laing, **Secretary:** Tegan Mc Bride, **Treasurer:** Jenny Mc Grath,

**Committee members:** Cate Blanchard and Conrad Gouge

**We also have SubCommittees for:-**

**Events:** Jude Perry, Sam Kidston, Conrad Gouge, Jaide Burkett, Niki Biro, David O'Loughlin, Peter Spooner, Cate Blanchard.

**Web Site:** Bruce Zell, Tegan McBride and Paul Robins.

**But we could do with more help in the area of setting up the computer, screen and projector at the monthly meeting nights. And also someone to take photos at our events and create a portfolio of our activities. A kitchen organiser/overseer or two would be great and people to volunteer to bring food for the meetings so we know what to expect. You will meet some great people and enjoy yourself in the process.**

Permaculture Cairns members have the opportunity to access the Permaculture yahoo group when they join. Robert, the Administrator will email you to determine if you are agreeable to receive emails from the permaculture cairns yahoo group. The group has a forum for questions and info. Late news items not received in time for the Newsletter will also be sent through the yahoo group email. These news update are only available to members.

**Please renew your membership for 2014 as soon as possible.**

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### **The Hon Greg Hunt MP Minister for the Environment MEDIA RELEASE - Media contact: John O'Doherty 0402 047 852**

#### **Independent Review into the Port of Gladstone**

It is clear that there has been a failure in the bund wall at the Port of Gladstone. As Federal Environment Minister, it is my responsibility to ensure that the ecological health of our oceans and harbours is protected.

I have therefore decided to commission an independent review into the leaking bund wall at the Port of Gladstone. Today I am announcing the Terms of Reference.

An Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone was commissioned by the Australian Government in February 2013, but since then new information has come to light. I consider it necessary that an independent panel also examine this latest information.

We need to find out if this was a failure of design or construction.

The independent panel will:

1. examine and report on information relevant to the design and construction and functioning of the outer bund wall of the western basin reclamation area that has become available since the Independent Review reported on its findings;
2. provide advice as required to assist with the department's current review of the outer bund wall leak incidents in 2011 and 2012;
3. consider the adequacy of monitoring requirements and operations; and
4. seek submissions from relevant stakeholders on the design, construction and other matters relating to the subsequent leaking of the bund wall.

I have appointed Dr Andrew Johnson and Ms Anthea Tinney to co-chair the review. I have also appointed Dr Ian Cresswell as a member of the panel.

Dr Andrew Johnson is a leader in environment and sustainability-related research at CSIRO and is a member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Ms Anthea Tinney has previous experience and considerable knowledge regarding the management of the Port of Gladstone

I anticipate that the review findings will be finalised and made available to me by the end of **March 2014**.

The Port of Gladstone Western Basin Dredging Project was approved under national environment law on 22 October 2010 by the previous government. It is the responsibility of a new government to investigate what went wrong and why, and to make sure it does not happen again.

Date: 30 January 2014

## **Teen innovators head to head for top science awards** - 30 January 2014

From a glove which controls computers to bikes made from bamboo, the finalists in this years' BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards cover a diverse range of science and engineering that can teach us all a little something about innovation.

The winners of the awards will be announced in Melbourne next week by the Chief Executive Officer of BHP Billiton, Andrew Mackenzie, and CSIRO Chief Executive, Megan Clark.

Ben Beagley from Victoria's St Kevin's College has been selected as a finalist in the awards for developing an organic light-weight bamboo bike.

Using the bamboo in his garage, Ben designed and constructed a cheaper alternative to the traditional bike that uses the strength and flexibility of bamboo to replace heavy, industrial metal components

Jake Coppinger from Canberra has come up with The Swirlesque, a wearable glove which allows the user to make natural gestures for human-computer interaction and perform actions.

Swirlesque detects hand gestures and acts upon them in intelligent ways such as controlling a music player on a smartphone, control a computer, a TV, a home media centre, or a light bulb. The winners of the awards will be announced at a presentation held in Melbourne at Zinc in Federation Square on Tuesday, February 4th from 11am to 2pm. The finished product -----



## **CSIRO - NEWS RELEASE**

### ***Bee sensors take flight to help farmers***

Thousands of honey bees in Australia are being fitted with tiny sensors as part of a world-first research program to monitor the insects and their environment using a technique known as 'swarm sensing'.

The research is being led by CSIRO and aims to improve honey bee pollination and productivity on farms as well as help understand the drivers of bee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a condition decimating honey bee populations worldwide.

Up to 5,000 sensors, measuring 2.5mm x2.5mm are being fitted to the backs of the bees in Hobart, Tasmania, before being released into the wild. It's the first time such large numbers of insects have been used for environmental monitoring.

"Honey bees play a vital role in the landscape through a free pollination service for agriculture, which various crops rely on to increase yields. A recent CSIRO study showed bee pollination in Faba beans can lead to a productivity increase of 17%," CSIRO science leader Dr Paulo de Souza, who leads the swarm sensing project, said.

"Around one third of the food we eat relies on pollination, but honey bee populations around the world are crashing because of the dreaded Varroa mite and Colony Collapse Disorder. Thankfully, Australia is currently free from both of those threats."

The research will also look at the impacts of agricultural pesticides on honey bees by monitoring insects that feed at sites with trace amounts of commonly used chemicals.

"Using this technology, we aim to understand the bee's relationship with its environment. This should help us understand optimal productivity conditions as well as further our knowledge of the cause of colony collapse disorder," Dr de Souza said.

The sensors are tiny Radio Frequency Identification sensors that work in a similar way to a vehicle's e-tag, recording when the insect passes a particular checkpoint. The information is then sent remotely to a central location where researchers can use the signals from the 5,000 sensors to build a comprehensive three dimensional model and visualise how these insects move through the landscape.

"Bees are social insects that return to the same point and operate on a very predictable schedule. Any change in their behaviour indicates a change in their environment. If we can model their movements, we'll be able to recognise very quickly when their activity shows variation and identify the cause. This will help us understand how to maximise their productivity as well as monitor for any biosecurity risks," Dr de Souza said.

Understanding bee behaviour will give farmers and fruit growers improved management knowledge enabling them to increase the benefit received from this free pollination service. It will also help them to gain and maintain access to markets through improving the way we monitor for pests.

"We're working with the University of Tasmania, Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, local

beekeepers in Hobart and fruit growers around the state to trial the technology. Many growers rely on wild bees or the beekeepers to provide them with pollinators so they can improve their crops each year. Understanding optimal conditions for these insects will improve this process," Dr de Souza said.

To attach the sensors, the bees are refrigerated for a short period, which puts them into a rest state long enough for the tiny sensors to be secured to their backs with an adhesive. After a few minutes, the bees awaken and are ready to return to their hive and start gathering valuable information.

"This is a non-destructive process and the sensors appear to have no impact on the bee's ability to fly and carry out its normal duties," Dr de Souza said.

The next stage of the project is to reduce the size of the sensors to only 1mm so they can be attached to smaller insects such as mosquitoes and fruit flies.

## **Background**

### **Varroa Mite**

Varroa mites are external parasites of bees. The mites, which are about the size of a pinhead, use specialised mouthparts to attack developing bee larvae or adult bees, resulting in deformed bees, reduced lifespan and ultimately the destruction of the colony or hive. These mites are the most important pest of honeybees around the world.

### **Colony Collapse Disorder**

Colony collapse disorder (CCD) is a phenomenon in which worker bees from a beehive or European honey bee colony abruptly disappear. Colony collapse is significant economically because many agricultural crops worldwide are pollinated by European honey bees.

Further images, audio files and B-Roll are available to download: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/at6uowrknigz17q/fJtucE66lh>

## **WHAT BIG FOOD IS TRYING TO DO IN THE USA**

Big Food is up to its dirty tricks again.

**Only two weeks into the new year, Big Food is already trying to push legislation through Congress that would limit your right to know what you're eating.**

*Politico* published a draft of the bill, which would bar states from requiring labels on food that has genetically engineered ingredients as well as limiting the Food and Drug Administration's ability to compel food companies to use GE labeling.

It would even let companies label GE foods "natural!" (From the Environmental Working Group)

## **Dirty Dozen Endocrine Disruptors**

The Environmental Working Group in the USA has a very informative article on the worst endocrine disruptors in their environment, food and water on their web site. These disruptors are most likely in our country also as we use the



same products here – they are in plastics, the lining of canned foods, atrazine in water, floor coverings and furniture etc. It also gives ways on how to avoid them. The article is too long to include here. So check it out [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org)

### **And some good news from the USA**

Welcome news! Johnson & Johnson, one of the world's leading personal care products companies, has made good on its promise to reformulate its baby products to phase out a toxic formaldehyde-releasing chemical.

**Sold with an "improved formula" label, Johnson & Johnson's popular "No More Tears" baby shampoo no longer contains quaternium-15, which releases small amounts of formaldehyde inside the bottle to serve as a preservative.** The federal government declared formaldehyde to be a known human carcinogen in 2011. The company also says it has reduced levels of a suspected carcinogen, 1,4-dioxane, to traces in both its baby and adult products. By 2015, it has pledged to remove more chemicals from both its baby and adult product lines.

Johnson & Johnson is the first major personal care products manufacturer to take such important actions in favor of its customers' safety. **This is a major victory for Americans' health and safety. The article is from the Environmental Working Group in the USA.**

### **Can earth building scale up to the mainstream?** **Robert Alcock on the power of keeping it small**

I suppose it depends on what we mean by "mainstream." If we're simply talking volume, then I could point out that somewhere between one-third and one-half of the world's population lives in houses made of earth; it's probably the most widely used building material on the planet. So, not much scaling up left to do, then!

But even though earth building is widespread globally, most people reading this wouldn't consider it "mainstream," because like most local building traditions, it almost disappeared in industrialised countries during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in favour of a building industry in which materials were transported long distances and assembled by specialists.

Partly as a reaction against the conventional building industry—its high environmental, social and economic costs, and the buildings it turns out, which are globally homogeneous, ugly, boring and soulless—there has been a resurgence of building with natural materials, especially in the last 25 years. Of all the natural building techniques that are being rediscovered, though, cob is the one that has given rise to an underground self-build movement.

The main reason is that cob is such an amazing material. It's very simple—a mixture of clay, aggregate (sand), fibre (usually straw) and water—widely available and cheap; yet it's structurally strong, extremely durable, adaptable, infinitely recyclable, breathable and non-toxic; and, to work with, sculptural, malleable, sensual and, in a word, just plain fun.

Most cob projects around the world are really small—benches, ovens, sculptures, walls or at most small cabins—built by workshop groups, communities, families or individuals. Because it's such an easy and enjoyable material to use, building with cob is an incredibly empowering experience. It's labour-intensive, sure, but it's a form of labour that involves throwing balls of mud and kneading them into shape with your bare hands and feet, getting in close contact with earth, the mother material, and working in the fresh air with other people.

It's a healthy activity in every sense—the polar opposite of the conventional building industry, which is one of the most dangerous and unhealthy to work in. And, because of its sculptural qualities, cob structures tend to be quirky, individual, organic, beautiful. It's almost impossible to build something boring or ugly with cob. Another factor in the resurgence of cob is that it's potentially extremely cheap to build with. It lends itself to small scale construction and the use of recycled, local and natural materials. The first cob house I heard about was Cob Cottage Company's "Heart House," which is supposed to have been built for \$500 in materials. We built our first cob house, Snail Cabin, for around €6000 in materials. In this sense, also, cob self-build is the polar opposite of the conventional housing market. Of course, that doesn't mean all cob houses are cheap.....

The major obstacles to the expansion of self-build with cob and other natural materials are not economic or practical, but cultural and political. Sure, there is a "skills gap"—in working with cob, as with almost every traditional skill—but these skills can be learnt or rediscovered. More fundamentally, I think, there is an "empowerment gap". Most people who dream of building their own house will never be able to, because of the many, almost insurmountable obstacles: finding and buying land, obtaining permission, and having the confidence to begin the process.

You could argue that shelter, which is a vital need for human beings, should also be a human right—within ecological limits, that is, provided you don't make a negative, irreversible impact on the locality or the planet. Building your own ecological house is something that should be open to all, rather than being a status symbol for the wealthy, and the laws need to be changed accordingly.

The housing market, as it currently exists, is the primary engine of poverty and inequality in most "wealthy" countries. Housing, as well as being a vital need, is an artificially limited good, so excess demand leads to rising prices and speculation. What it comes down to is that we are all playing a game of Monopoly, but one in which a few players started with almost all the money and the richest players get to make the rules. (Not many people seem to realise that Monopoly is meant as satire.) So nobody should be surprised to see the gap between rich and poor getting wider and wider. As a board game this would be rather predictable and pointless; in real life it's tragic. And not much can be done about it unless we change the rules and play a different sort of game.

**This is a short extract from Rob Hopkins Blog on the Transition UK website  
<http://www.transitionnetwork.org/blogs/rob-hopkins/2014-01> there are some great  
photos of cob houses and buildings in process - check it out.**

**While there check out the other two articles on "Can earth buildings scale up to the mainstream? Especially the Grand Design video with Kevin McCloud on how Kevin McCabe built 'Cob Citadel' a massive house built from cob.**



# **GMO IN CANADA**

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## **The GMO Mistake**

Canada has become party central for the multi-nationals pushing **GM crops** and there is no surprise that they focused upon this region when you survey the scale of agricultural enterprise in this country. On the flight out we passed over an endless patchwork of wheat, soya beans, corn and alfalfa for at least an hour, and this was just one direction.

There were many stories of the **problems** associated with GM crops, including compromised animal health, the arrival of herbicide resistant super weeds and substandard performance. The only major crop that has yet to be genetically modified is alfalfa (lucerne). It was horrifying to hear that in spite of a large scale farmer survey revealing that the vast majority oppose the introduction of GM canola, the introduction is still going ahead regardless. Democracy appears to be battling in Canada!

One of the growers presented **leaf test data** comparing GM corn with conventional corn and the nutrition differences were staggering. I intend to commission my own studies into this nutritional comparison because, if this data is correct, it represents an abomination in terms of the possible effect upon soil, animal and human health. I will keep you posted.

## **More about farming in Canada - Seeing is Believing**

The **field day** following an NTS, four day course is a hugely important event. This allows course participants to witness biological principles in practice and they can then make their own evaluation of the effectiveness of this approach. In Canada, we travelled two hours from Toronto to the farm of Daniel Konzelmann. He is of Swiss extraction but has farmed in Canada for the past seventeen years. Daniel intensively farms 1500 acres, growing the typical Canadian cash crops, corn, soya bean, wheat and alfalfa. He also grows spelt, the non-hybridised, nutrient dense, ancient grain that is becoming so popular around the globe. He has specialised in the de-hulling of spelt and he has found that the fibre removed during this process represents **30%** of the weight of this grain at harvest. He has invested in a pelletising machine that can concentrate the fibre in a user friendly format for the stock feed industry. This value-adding exercise has proven a real success in that the pellets now equal the profitability of the spelt itself. In fact, Daniel was able to pay off this substantial machinery investment in just 18 months.

Boys will be boys when it comes to **farm machinery** and here, the remarkably well maintained array of huge equipment lined a concreted, aircraft hanger the length of a football field. We were treated to a demonstration of one particularly impressive tool. Daniel has created the largest compost turner I have ever seen and it was remarkably effective when turning a large windrow of excellent, fungal based compost. This man is an impressive achiever and he obviously had the admiration of the large crowd. His crops were vibrantly healthy and disease free. His yields were over **30%** higher than the average in his area and his **profitability** was exceptional, with the benefit of enhanced organic premiums. He had clearly mastered mechanical **weed management** and this field day was the perfect showpiece for all that the farmers had learned over the previous four days.

I always argue that food producers are involved in the single most important profession on the planet but those that have truly mastered their trade are those that have **minimised the crutches**. My absolute heroes are the masters who can produce good yields of high quality foods with great weed management and no chemical crutches. Daniel is most definitely one of those heroes. He has my admiration and gratitude.

The two previous articles are from Graeme Sait's Nutritech web site about his trip to Canada

## **Permaculture Gathering in Cuba - Chris Bird's blog**

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The rain is torrential and after just a few minutes roads become small streams and in low-lying streets there are cars with water up to their windows. For some unknown reason a policeman stands resolute at his post, water above his knees and dripping from his cap. Walking just a few steps from hotel entrance to the coach is enough to soak me to the skin and the *Malecon*, Havana's 12 km long road between city and sea, is closed as wind swept waves break over the sea wall. Somewhere in this city two people die when 200mm of rain cause a building to collapse.■

This is day one of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Permaculture Convergence and 425 people from over 40 countries are setting off by coach to Los Cocos, on Cuba's North coast about 80 km from Havana.

Cuba is a great location for a permaculture convergence. Faced with their own version of peak oil in the 1990's when Russian oil suddenly stopped flowing, Cubans had to quickly reorganise an intensive agricultural system based on oil, chemical fertilisers, pesticides and heavy machinery. The story is well told in the 2006 film, *The Power of Community*, but permaculture continues to thrive in Cuba and hundreds of Cubans have completed permaculture design courses and run gardens and farms along permaculture principles.

The Antonio Nunez Jimenez Foundation for Nature and Humanity, represented by the larger than life Roberto Perez, organised a two week permaculture design course at Cuevas de las Portales, a three day conference in Havana, four days of visits to permaculture projects around Cuba and the six day convergence now threatened by a tropical storm.

Arriving wet and bedraggled at the *Los Cocos Campismo* we discover sparse accommodation in concrete cabins – locked until we are processed by ubiquitous Cuban bureaucracy – leaking, wind battered tents and open sided palm roofed buildings. There is a two-hour queue for lunch, a programme of presentations and workshops in tatters before it has even begun, the rain still falling and the wind still blowing. The signs aren't promising.

But this is Cuba, the nation that dared. And these are people who thrive on principles like have a series of presentations arranged and a new schedule for the next 5 days.

‘Creatively use and respond to change’ and ‘Turn problems into solutions’! By the evening we

And of course there was exciting news. The next International Permaculture Convergence will be in the UK in 2015 and there is already talk of including Transition Town Totnes in the post convergence tours. Appropriate really because, as Rob Hopkins put it when speaking at a joint Transition and Permaculture Convergence during his recent visit to the US, “Transition is the baby of Permaculture”.

There is a lot more so read the rest on <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/blogs>

## **DATE CLAIMERS**

### **Tablelands LETS February Calendar**

#### **Relocalising all of Far North Queensland**

**(Some of these events will be history by the time you get this newsletter, but I thought it might give you an idea of how active the LETS program is in the area - Carol)**

**Saturday 1st -John & Kathy's Working Bee -15B per hour -8am start but come when you can.** Please support our dedicated seedling grower of LETS. Jobs: cutting back trees, gurneying paths, clearing gutters, rubbish removal, general garden tidy-up. Please wear closed in shoes, jeans and long sleeved shirts, hat. Bring garden gloves, saws, secateurs, trailer, old tarps (to put rubbish on). Bring a plate to share for lunch. Drinks (tea/coffee) provided. **Contact Kathy Klye 0439 965 045 or Irene 0439 914 876.**

**Sunday 2nd-10am-12pm Trade Morning at Tree Kangaroo Cafe, Malanda.** We will be meeting at the side of the café, weather permitting. **TKC vouchers are available for 50% Bartles**(see Jocelyn).

**Wednesday 5th -6.30pm 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! **Phone 4096 5929.**

**Friday 7th -10am-1pm Love Lee Cooking Slow Foods Workshop, Holloran's Hill** \$20 plus B20(non LETS folk \$40). Limited number, bookings essential. **Call Leeandra on 0488 611 751.**

**Sunday 9th -11am-2pm Walkamin Trade at Gloria's -29 Wattle St, opposite the tennis courts** turn off at phone box at Walkamin shop turn off, follow that street down to 2nd turn on left, all weather event. **for more info, call Gloria on 0437645892 or email - [gloria123au@hotmail.com](mailto:gloria123au@hotmail.com)**

**Tuesday 11th -6.30pm LETS Trading is encouraged at Permaculture Cairns** meetings at the Flexible Learning Centre, **90 Clarke Street, Manunda**. Cost for non-members to attend is \$5 for info session, supper and film etc. **This is a Permaculture Cairns Event.**

**Friday 14th -11am-2pm Digger Street Cairns LETS Trade day!!! Entrance is 346 Sheridan St Cairns!** Bring your items or services and a plate of food to share. Relax in the beautiful tropical community gardens. **For more info contact Louise on 0414285873.**

**Saturday 15th -12pm -2pm Malanda Trade Afternoons at Mary & Mathieu's place, 7 Cleminson Close, Malanda.** Directly after the Malanda Market. Bring a plate to share for lunch. **Call Mary on 40966651 for more info.**

**Saturday 15th -1pm-4.30pm Fermenting Food Workshop at Brolgas Pass, 254 Picnic Crossing Rd, Yungaburra.** \$20 plus B20 (\$40 non LETS folk). Bookings essential, please call **Wayne on 0427 551 887.**

**Sunday 16th -12pm -3pm Herberton Lunch and Trade Afternoon at Leeandra's place, 28 Perkins Street.** Please bring lunch to share! Children welcome. **Contact [leeandranorman@gmail.com](mailto:leeandranorman@gmail.com) or 0488611751.** Head straight over after the Wondecla markets!

**Sunday 16th 11am-3pm Cassowary Coast Trade & Social Gathering at the Johnstone River community garden, Flying Fish Point Rd, Innisfail.** 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. **Contact Suari on 0403115261.**

**Saturday 22nd -12pm -2pm Yungaburra Trade at *that retro cafe*, Shop 2/20 Eacham Rd (next to Miss Megs and My Habitat).** Drinks available for 100% bartles, bring \$ for sweet treats. Bring any goods you wish to trade, promotional material of any services you are offering. Children most welcome. This event is **directly after the Yungaburra Markets.** **Contact Melitta on 0437216122.**

**Sunday 23rd -11am-1pm Millaa Millaa Trade & Sausage Sizzle at Lion's Park, Main Street** (undercover area, below playground). Bring a shared plate, something to cook on the BBQ and drinks, goods to trade, promotional material of services you are offering if applicable. Children and friends most welcome. **Contact [kate.martignier@gmail.com](mailto:kate.martignier@gmail.com) or 0429 925 246.**

**Sunday 23rd -4pm-7pm RealFood's 1st Trade afternoon at PETALS-The Old Rose Farmin Tolga, 7403 Kennedy Highway.** Bring along goods to trade, promotional material of services you are offering and a healthful plate to share. **Contact Sjoerd for further info on 0488 552 671.**

**Thursday 27th -6pm -8pm Trade Evening at The Octupi Garden Sanctuary, 78 Grigg Street, Ravenshoe (the lil blue shop).** LET'S gather to share some food, trade our services, skills and wares. Children welcome! Please bring a plate to share. **Contact Hayley on 0416528177 or [hayleybuchanan8@hotmail.com](mailto:hayleybuchanan8@hotmail.com).**

**Thursday 27th -6pm -8pm Trade Evening at The Octupi Garden Sanctuary, 78 Grigg Street, Ravenshoe (the lil blue shop).** LET'S gather to share some food, trade our services, skills and wares. Children welcome! Please bring a plate to share. **Contact Hayley on 0416528177 or [hayleybuchanan8@hotmail.com](mailto:hayleybuchanan8@hotmail.com).**

**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, goods you wish to trade, table/rug to is often useful, your own chair at some venues, promotional material of any services you are offering, \$20 to join LETS if you are not yet a member.

## **Seminar: Plants And People In Nature And Society: Who And What 'Belongs' In Northern Australia?**

**Monday 24th Feb 1pm-2pm** JCU Cairns Institute Building D3, Room 144

The Cairns Institute invites you to attend this free seminar with presenters: Dr Richard Martin and Professor David Trigger.

To register <https://alumni.jcu.edu.au/TCIEvents>

***For Further Info:***

[http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/public/groups/everyone/documents/event\\_description/jcu\\_133191.pdf](http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/public/groups/everyone/documents/event_description/jcu_133191.pdf)

## **Community Forum: What About Our Islands?**

**Friday 28th Feb 5.30pm** Junior Eisteddfod Hall, 76 Greenslopes Street, Edge Hill

A community forum to share information and stories on climate change concerns in the Torres Strait. The event includes screening of "Dire Straits", a short film on Saibai Island, followed by a panel discussion and sharing of stories. Drinks and light refreshments provided.

**For Info & reservations (by 24 Feb) contact [wendyflannery@foe.org.au](mailto:wendyflannery@foe.org.au) or on 0439 771 692.**

## **Workshops**

### **BIODYNAMICS FNQ BASIC DAY**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Includes: Introduction to biodynamics; hands-on information sessions; including building a biodynamic compost heap; stirring and spraying biodynamic preparations; information booklet.

Venue: Michael & Lindy Alba's 27 Middlemiss St. Mareeba

Coming from Atherton, follow main street to the IGA store, turn right into Atherton St, go 2 blocks, then turn left after the school into Sutherland St. Middlemiss St. is the first on the right. Follow the BDFNQ signs

**10.am start-4.30 finish**

**Cost:** Member\$30 Single, \$45 for a couple, Non-Members \$40 single \$55 for a couple.

Repeats free (If you have done a Basics Day before you can do a repeat at no cost)

Newcomers welcome to join on the day and pay members price.

Please bring a chair, hat and lunch to share. Closed in shoes must be worn for insurance purposes.

For more info Ph: Hilary 4097 6563

### **Expressions of Interest**

Adam Collins from FNQ Biodynamic will be making and demonstrating how to make a commercial compost the Biodynamic way - on a large scale using machinery

**Sometime in June or July**

Anyone interested in learning how to do this is welcome to attend.  
If you would like to participate please contact Adam on 4097 8126



## **EARTHSHIP UPDATE**

### **Phillipines Build Opportunity**

Earthship Bioteecture is designing a wind proof structure to use as a prototype for rebuilding in the Philippines. This recon/build is the first of several phases of rebuilding the affected areas of the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan.

We will first be building the very simple version using primarily local/salvaged materials while we recon the area for the full on Windship Village. We hope to be able to accommodate for all of those interested in participating over the course of a number of builds. This first Earthship will be built and used on a daily basis as a foodbunker and medical unit.

We are currently looking for 30 student soldiers to join us for this project. The fee for this project is \$1,000. All contributions go toward the project itself and the materials needed. Participants will work and learn alongside veteran Earthship crew.

Construction will take place on February 23rd - March 4th, 2014.

<http://earthship.com> [Earthship Bioteecture \(kbase@earthship.com\)](mailto:kbase@earthship.com)

### **PERMIE RESOURCES, & SERVICES**

#### **RESOURCES:**

**"Notes from the Workshops"** All notes from the Permaculture Cairns Resilient Communities Workshops are now available for purchase at the SPECIAL PRICE of only \$10. **For sale at the meeting** TOPICS COVERED: Growing your own Fabulous Organic Food, Earthworms, Microgreens, Wicking beds, Aquaponics, Composting, Creating a raised garden bed, Tropical plants that grow all year round and recipes for cooking these, Drying and preserving excess fruit and vegetables, Balcony and patio gardening, The Bokashi Bucket, Waste not want not – recycling organic waste, Poultry in the city, Vegetables for the small tropical farm or garden, and a Sprouting guide. **This is a MUST HAVE - full of local knowledge. Would make a great present.**

**MORINGA TREES:** - phone Carol 0414900717

#### **SERVICES:**

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



Garden of Tegan – Planted up readymade moveable gardens, suitable for patio or balcony. A wicking bed of herbs and vegetables that will be enjoyed all year.

**Contact Tegan 0402 853 903**

**PS**

Hi it Carol and I want to share with you some of the information I have been reading about the lack of nutrients in our food that comes from the supermarkets.

When farmers started to use the chemical fertilizers back in 1935 we stopped using manures and rock dusts to replace the nutrients taken by the crop, this also lead to the demise of the essential microorganisms in the soil. So for approx 80 years we have been mining our agricultural lands of essential nutrients which has left the soils deficient in the 100 or so essential elements required to keep us healthy.

Therefore we now have Cancer as the most prevalent disease in the world when back in the 30's, 40's 50's it was very rare. And cancer is only one of the many ailments the human race now has that were not so prevalent in the past.

Instead of making sure our food is nutrient rich we are now feed drugs to alleviate the symptoms cause by the lack of minerals, vitamins and trace elements in our food.

Just have a look at the pharmacy shelves and see what is happening there, they are making all sorts of concoctions for all sorts of deficiencies when all we need is nutrient dense food, and maybe the occasional supplement.

And when supplements are mentioned – are they able to be absorbed by the body, are we spending money just to makes us feel we are doing something but receiving only little benefit. If our minerals etc are supposed to be coming from the food we eat, then are these supplements the same, no they are not, we should be having plant derived nutrients. There is a lot of questions that need to be asked about supplements.

It is time for us the public/bunnies to tell our government, our farmers and our medical people that we want our food nutrient dense. And we want the government to help the farmers to restore the depleted soils before it is too late.

Which bring us to another subject, the price farmers get for their crops. If we don't pay the farmer for the crop and that payment doesn't include enough for the farmer to replace the depleted minerals then we are cutting our own throats.

Of course we have an alternative, we can grow our own nutrient rich food by mineralising our soils, introducing microorganisms and adding organic matter, or get to know someone who does and get them to grow for you, join a community garden and grow your own, or buy organic nutrient rich produce, not all organic food is nutrient rich so the best bet is to grow your own then you know what you are eating.

And another thing - why are we wasting our human waste, this should be recycled and put back into the food chain. Our country has the oldest soil in the world so let's stop the waste and use our sewerage to enrich the soil.

More on this in the next newsletter. Cheers, Carol

**Please pay you membership fees asap.**



# Permaculture Cairns

## Membership Form 2014

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

Household membership	\$30	X	Renewing Member	X
Individual membership	\$20	X	New Member	X

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

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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 6.30pm, meeting starts at 7pm at: Flexible Learning Centre, 90-92 Clarke St. (off Hoare St), Manunda

### Enquiries

President: Carol Laing [president@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:president@permaculturecairns.org.au)

Secretary: Tegan McBride: [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)