

# Permaculture Cairns Newsletter

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR 10 YEARS



**Care for the Earth, Care for people, Fair share the excess**

Permaculture Cairns Incorporated Web Site: [www.permaculturecairns.org.au](http://www.permaculturecairns.org.au)

**Tuesday 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020**

**Meeting will be held online again this month, so check it out at:**

**[Permaculture Cairns Facebook Page](#)**

**[Permaculture Cairns YouTube Channel](#)**

**6:30 PM Start**

## ***AGENDA***

**Welcome to all and Info on upcoming local events.**

***Harvesting Sweet Potatoes***

**The meeting will be live streamed from Carol's backyard so if you have any questions on creating a nursery at your place make sure you put them in the comments of the live stream for Carol to answer.**

## *The Tropical Veggie Patch*

The weather is warming up - now is the time to prepare soil for the warm weather crops. Remove weeds and compost, now cover the soil with 50cm of compost and/or manure. If you havnt Limed in the last year then add one handfull to a square yard and scruffly all this into the top few centimetres of soil, Do not turn the soil over. Digging and turning will distrube the microbes in the soil. Water well, then cover with cardboard and mulch, the mulch will stop weeds from germinating. When planting out make small holes in cardboard for plants or seeds add some worm castings or compost and plant. Water again

### *Tropical Perennial Food Plants.*

Every garden in the far north should have some if not all of the following plants as part of the landscaping. No need for special beds, not even raised beds. Use them as groundcovers under fruit trees or even ornamentals.

Brazilian Spinach makes a great food plant, great groundcover to stop weeds, is tough and looks good. Use it as a substitute for Spinach, to steam in stirfry, pies and fittartas.

**More Groundcovers** you can use in the landscaping and for year round greens for salads, stirfries and steaming. Samburg, Okinawa Spinach, Kang Kong, Lebanese Cress, Watercress, Ceylon Spinach and Rungia the mushroom plant.

**Taller food plants** - Timor and Tropical Lettuce, The shrub Aibika in all its various leaf forms, Katuk or Sweet Leaf, grown as a hedge will provide lots of tasty tips and leaves for salads, stirfries.

These plants will appreciate some shade when the hot weather comes and if you keep them moist, they will be lush, tasty and nutritious.

**Root Crops for the tropics**, cocoyam, taro, cassava and sweet potato, so much to eat and you so easy to grow.

Herb and Spices for the tropics, ginger, turmeric, cardamom, pandan, lemon grass, bunching shallots and galangal all will be starting to flourish in the next few weeks so prepare you patch.

**What to plant now** -Direct seed leaf amaranth, corn, snake beans, bok choy, gai choy, rocket, cucumbers, Darwin and open leaf lettuce, pumpkin, radish, melons, egg plant, cherry tomatoes.

Plant some watercress in a shady moist spot, along with Brahmí the memory herb.

**Herbs** - all the basil, tarragon, mints, garlic chives, saw tooth coriander, parsley, chives, lemon thyme, thyme, oregano and spices turmeric, ginger, galangal, cardamom, Vanilla, and mother of all herbs for pizza and pasta.

And don't forget the flowers - Coleus for the bees, Salvia for the bees, Basils for the Bees. Dianthus, Marigold, Cosmos. Pentas, Ixoras, Callistemon, Golden Candle for the Birds and Butterflies

## AND COLOUR TO MAKE US HAPPY

Tips on keeping Parsley alive through the wet season. Don't plant it in the ground, leave it in the pot and sit the pot on top of the soil, the roots will go into the soil, this stops the crown rot of the plant when it is hot and humid.

This goes for Comfrey too, even in well drained soil it usually dies off in hot wet humid conditions. Alternative is to grow one in a pot to replant when the cool weather comes.

Something eating your seedlings off - try diatomaceous earth, it is silica which has sharp edges and will stop beetles from eating your plants off at ground level. If not beetles try a Mollusca drench.

## Some really interesting YouTube sites

Charles Dowding (on Instagram as well) No-Dig organic gardening in UK but what he does is very interesting. Lots of information. He grows to sell the produce all year and has some good tips for a market gardener." Even though it is in the UK just switch the months around June is their summer whereas June is our growing season.

Geoff Lawton has lots of videos on his "Permaculture Research Institute Website

Green Harvest online seeds - this web site has a massive amount of information on plants, seeds, books, tools.

The area of the seeds includes information on where to grow them, how to start them off and lots of other relevant information on the plants.

Check out the Edible Plants and the information of each of them. These are the plants I grow and sell here in Cairns. So if you have one of these Tropical Perennial Plants it might be worth a look at this web site for more information on how to grow them.

## SEED SAVING & SEED SHARING

In recent months it has been shown how important saving seeds from your garden has become.

There are groups in the north who have joined together to share home grown organic open pollinated seeds.

The Community Seed Exchange Mareeba has been sharing seeds within their group for the past few months in response to seeds becoming unavailable due to overwhelming demand.

They are onto their 6<sup>th</sup> mailout list. I enquired if the list could be posted in the Permaculture Cairns Newsletter, and I expected a complete knock back because of privacy issues, but this is their reply.

They have generously advised

“If you like to share seeds with the Community Seed Exchange Mareeba please contact Ulla via email [pederulla@hotmail.com](mailto:pederulla@hotmail.com) and we will add you to our mail out list. Please let us know what seeds you have to share and what seeds you are looking for.

Happy Gardening“

I would strongly encourage you to share your seeds with the Seed Saver Groups of the Far North.

By growing seeds from this area the plants become acclimatised

Carol Laing

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# Biodynamics for Cattle and Arboriculture in the Wet Tropics

with  
Carmen and Trevor Henning-White

Carmen uses radionics in her way of working with Biodynamics on her farm.

- showcasing and discussion of different radionics systems
- uses for farm and animal health.
- Farm walk:
- cacao plantation
- exotic fruit trees.



Syndicate Rd. is first left after Mossman on Mossman-Daintree Rd. Drive 4.3 kms.  
Landmarks are Train sign and BDFNQ sign on your left.  
Turn left over railway line (with care).  
Drive uphill to the shed and park.

Our incredible library will be there.

Order preps by emailing Monika on [theseecretary@biodynamicsfnq.org.au](mailto:theseecretary@biodynamicsfnq.org.au).  
Collect preps at field day.

Please observe Covid Safety Protocols:  
Washing Hands. Sign in AND Sign out.  
Social Distancing.



Please Book to Reserve your Attendance 0425 411 545

[WWW.BIODYNAMICSFNQ.ORG.AU](http://WWW.BIODYNAMICSFNQ.ORG.AU)



*Regenerative, ethical  
agriculture in tune  
with the cosmos*

## WHEN

**Sunday 30th August**  
Arrive 9.45am for  
10am start to 3.30pm

## WHERE

441 Syndicate Road  
Miallo (Mossman)  
Follow BDFNQ signs

## WHAT TO BRING

Lunch to share  
Curiosity  
Prepare for potential  
wet weather.  
Chair  
Hat for a sunny day.

## COST

Non Members \$5  
Members Free

## CONTACT INFO

Satya 0425 411 545  
Tricia 0467 089 458  
(for lifts from Cairns)



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# Walter Jehne: Cooling the Climate

## An Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth

Hint: it's not all about CO<sub>2</sub> !

Global warming is a reality.

Many people feel it's urgent to reach the goal of the 2015 Paris Accord and stop temperatures from rising more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels — so do an increasing number of political and business leaders. This year the cities of Sydney and Melbourne, and the British Parliament, all declared a *Climate Emergency*. The renewables industry is growing fast in spite of the opposition.

We need to start cooling the planet, and soon: within the next ten years.

Yes, we need to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we pump into the atmosphere day after day.

No, the dominant greenhouse gas is *not* carbon dioxide, it's not even methane. CO<sub>2</sub> governs about 20% of the greenhouse effect. That's all.

So what is going on, and what can we do about it?

Australia is systematically being made arid and hot by unwise agricultural and land management practices. Chief among these is tree clearing, which breaks the hydrological link, the link between soil and rain. Rain does *not* follow the plough, that's an old myth — it follows the trees.

To cool the planet we must work with the dominant greenhouse gas, water vapour.

Water governs 95% of the heat dynamics of our planet. We've been ignoring its role in climate control for far too long.

Walter Jehne will explain practical ways to restore the hydrological cooling system AND restore the "soil carbon sponge" AND draw down massive amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere AND regenerate our soils AND enhance agricultural productivity.

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## WHERE

Renewables Innovation Hub, Ground Floor, 19–23 Moore Street, Turner, Canberra

## TICKETS

\$15 full price, \$8 concession

<https://www.slowfoodcanberra.com/coming-events>

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Walter Jehne is a retired scientist with a specialist background in soil micro-biology and plant ecology. He has worked in Australia and overseas, and retired from the [CSIRO](#) some 15 years ago to concentrate on regenerating Australia's landscape and improving its agricultural and pastoral sectors. He is also a member of The Mulloon Institute's [Science Advisory Council](#).

He is passionate about educating farmers, policymakers and others about the “soil carbon sponge” and its crucial role in reversing and mitigating flooding, drought, wildfires, and searing global temperatures. He shows how we can safely cool the climate and restore essential biodiversity by repairing our disrupted hydrological cycles. We thus return excess carbon to the soils, where it can build a sponge that soaks up water and revives the biosphere.

His ideas are gaining international attention. In 2017 he took part in an invitation-only [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization](#) conference in Paris aimed at bringing soil into the next [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) report.

Later this year he has been invited to India to present at a conference on [Zero Budget Natural Farming](#) (ZBNF), a promising method of farming which uses no-till, no-chemical methods and only local materials to regenerate the soils.

**TOO LATE FOR THIS WEBINAR BUT GO TO YOU TUBE AND WATCH HIS VIDEO**

**“COOLING THE CLIMATE MESS” AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAVE OUR HOME.**