

Permaculture Cairns June 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

Contact is via email at info@permaculturecairns.org.au

July Meeting – 20th July 6pm for a 6.30 start

**Endeavour Living & Lifestyle Building
37 Hoare Street Manunda**

Guest Speaker will be Rod Ingersoll, the Aquaponics Man

Do you need to know more about Aquaponics, or information on Rods upcoming workshops?

Aquaponic Gardener

Unlock your Ability to Harvest an Overabundance of Fresh, Organic, Spray free Food in 30 days or less from your own Backyard.

CLICK HERE

August 17th 6pm Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker will be Alan Louis from Ergon. Alan has been doing trial on Storage for Solar energy in Townsville and Cairns. He will give us an update on these trials. Going to buy a battery soon, come listen to Alan first.

Our Permaculture Cairns Patch Manoora Community Garden

Our first garden was started in December it was a fresh patch with weeds removed, after the first lot of rain the NUT GRASS came through the cardboard and mulch. The garden was started by removing weeds, applying dynamic lifter, watering well and covering the bed with cardboard topped with wood chips. The nutgrass had germinated under the cardboard and come right through in great luxury on the dynamic lifter. All nutgrass was pulled and removed. The decision was to take on the nutgrass challenge and try planting heavily with groundcovers, shrubs small and tall and lots of Pigeon Pea, some pruned to grow straight up and provide shade and some pruned to become bushy and shade out the nutgrass.

At the moment the garden is looking good. The plantings have done a great job of shading out the nut grass and with the cool months it will die down. The plantings need to be trimmed and perhaps thinned so other plants can get to the sun. Two new fruit trees were planted a Jak fruit and a Soursop. Si kindly placed some pavers as stepping stones strategically through the patch, the gaps will be filled with wood chips. The Brazilian spinach is going great guns along with the Sweet leaf and Sambung.

If you are in the patch at any time you are welcome to remove any nutgrass. The garden is open every day until approx. 4pm.

Tropical Veggie Patch

Gardening in the cool, hot, wet, humid Tropics

By Carol Laing

How are the tomatoes going, some have died from the Bacterial Wilt but some just next to them are doing well. I have plants Black Russian, Scorpio, Yellow pear, Tommy Toe and a small Rome Egg tomato so hoping for some to dry and some to blend for the freezer.

I have lots of salad plants including lettuce, rocket, bok choy, wom bok and lots of herbs to add to salads ie Coriander, Chives, Garlic Chives, Shallots, Lebanese cress, Mint, Tarragon, Thyme and Lemon Thyme, Parsley.

Tarragon goes fabulous in cooked rice with slow cook onion. Nice with green salad, love rice cooked with some chicken stock. Capsicum starting to fruit and lots of Cucumbers to pick.

For desert we have lots of beautifully sweet Pawpaws with a little ice cream. Bananas soon.

Starting some more veggies? Improve the soil first by adding a bag of manure and a bag of compost to a one and a half square metre area of garden bed. This adds nutrients and microbes, which feed the worms and the plants. If not using all the bed space right away plant a green manure crop. This is as simple as planting bird seed which has a variety of plants for cut and drop or cutting and incorporating into the soil after about 6 to 8 weeks, or before you are ready to plant. Leave to decompose two weeks before planting out.

What to plant now: Still three more good growing months so try direct seeding or seeding into pots for later planting out. amaranth, bok choy, pak choy, Darwin lettuce, rocket, corn, beans, Asian greens, cucumbers, radish, melons, mustards, Timor lettuce, tropical lettuce, watercress. Herbs to plant, all the basil, Parsley, tarragon, mint, garlic chives, chives, coriander, lemon thyme, thyme, oregano and spices turmeric, ginger, galangal, cardamom, vanilla, Pandan, shallots bunching shallots and Five in one the substitute for Oregano. Seedlings are best started in full sun, but protected from heavy rain.

Composting: Compost all kitchen scraps, but be sure to have some hay, dried leaves, wood chips or sugar cane mulch to cover the wet scraps each time you add to the compost bin. Store shredded paper and torn cardboard for when you have nothing else. Turning is possible inside the bin with a Garden mate or a garden fork. Insert into compost with a screwing motion and lift and shake the contents to incorporate air for the microbes. It is possible to turn the contents if it is no longer than 100mm.

Worm farms are good for small households with small amounts of waste. Keep mix moist but not wet. **Tropical Perennial Food Plants:** Tropical perennials can be plants all year ground in Cairns and district. These will give lots of greens to eat on tap, try growing some ground covers under fruit trees, Sambung, Brazilian, Okinawa, Ceylon spinach, are all good plants to grow all year round. Plants for shaded areas, Rungia, Lebanese cress and Water cress. Taller plants are Sweet leaf grown for the new tips which taste like peas, Tree lettuce, Timor lettuce. The Moringa tree and three variety of Aibika a shrub with edible leaves. Root crops, casava, taro, cocoyam and sweet potatoes.

Grow some flowers for the birds and bees: salvia, portulaca, marigold, coleus, sunflowers, basil all sorts, dianthus, five in one herb, bees also love flowering native plants, flowers on palm, pawpaw especially the males, bananas, shrubs and trees. I have native bees and they love salvia and portulaca and the butterflies love Pentas and Ixoras. Tropical vegetable plants, flowers and beneficial plants.

MAREEBA SEED SAVERS

Good Beautiful Morning Everyone,

This is a short email to let you all know that the contents of our Seed Bank is now available for viewing on line!

Our wonderful member Kurt has been working away to get this information up for all our members to access easily.

This information will give us the chance to check what's available in the seed bank BEFORE we attend one of our events; that way we can come prepared.

It also allows us to be aware of what seeds are getting low in the bank and which seeds we need to focus on each season and RETURN these seeds to the seed bank for the future.

here is the link: <https://kurandaregion.org/plantguide>

Please take some time look at it and click on the different tabs to check it out. **If you have ANY QUESTIONS or FEEDBACK, don't be shy and let me know via email.**

Kurt is looking forward to ALL feedback so we can improve everything overtime. Seeds currently available in the Kuranda seed sank are also included in the database with our Mareeba seeds.

Also, I will remind you of our next event coming up in 3 weeks ~ SUNDAY 18th JULY at 8 Elsie Close, MAREEBA (off Andre Street).

Together we can all assist in maintaining a healthy, viable and well stocked seed bank for our future, in fact it's vitally important.

The combined gardening experience and 'know-how' (however big or small) that we all have, is a fantastic knowledge base that we need to pass on to others.

See you all on the 18th July for yet another wonderful gathering!

Warm Regards,

Maria Gillies

m: 0421 210 136

FNQ biodynamics

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, 31st July and Sunday 1st August

Spiritual Foundations of Biodynamics:

A Human Biography to the Present and Thoughts on an
Unfolding Future and

The Social Question : Humanities, Law and the Economy.

Visiting speaker Hamish Mackay at Malanda Showgrounds Pavilion

You can join online at www.permaculturecairns.org.au.

Permaculture Cairns

Membership Form 2021

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):

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Postal Address:

..... Postcode:

Phone(s):

Email:

Signature:

Payment may be made at Meetings, at Cairns Penny or Online Direct Deposit to Permaculture Cairns A/c at Cairns Penny in Grafton Street. BSB704-966 A/c No. 100009440 please include your Surname as reference.

If you have a Permaculture Design Certificate and would like to help us keep Permaculture Cairns going for another 13 years with interesting meetings, fascinating events and Educational workshops please come and join in the fun, we need you.

IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SUBJECT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PASS ON PLEASE SPEAK UP

Enquiries

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You can join online and pay into our account or join at our meetings, third Tuesday of the month.