

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

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

Welcome to a new year

The 2022 Committee: President, Justin Brennan, Craig Phillipson will continue as Secretary, Carol Laing will be Treasurer and Newsletter editor, Robyn Ford will be our Librarian

A message from Justin Brennan, President

As I follow the news cycle, I find it a sad irony that it took a war, floods and supermarket shortages to dislodge the pandemic dialogue from the news headlines! Indeed, the media often paints the world we live in as a bleak existence in which we are helpless passengers. However, this does not have to be what defines us.

Permaculture provides us all with a framework to reimagine the dominant narrative and redefine what 'normal' is. One only has to go to a local market or see the work the many clubs in our area do to know that we live in a vibrant, abundant and resilient part of the world. We vote for this reality every time we connect with our local community and to work with the 12 permaculture principles. The old adage of 'think global, act local' could not be more true in the current climate. So vote with your feet, your hands and your heart. Choose resilience; choose regeneration and together let's all choose the new normal!

There is so much happening this month with Permaculture Cairns and beyond. We will be supporting Biodynamics FNQ at Mutchilba on the 20th March. Closer to home we will have the first edition of Permies at the Pub for 2022, as well as our next workshop on the first weekend of April. There is something for everyone, let's all get involved!

Member survey

So we continue to be relevant, we need YOU to let us know what things you want more of. We also want to know what skills you could offer the club, as well as if you would consider hosting a future workshop or meeting. If we can call on you to help the club with small tasks, there is the opportunity to add that into your response too. Keep your eyes on your emails for a Google survey and provide as much feedback as you can - we don't know what we don't know!

Permies at the Pub is kicking off again this year. For those who aren't in the know, Permies at the Pub is a chance for like-minded people to have a drink and share a meal together and talk all things Permaculture. This year we will patron a different pub each time. The first instalment for this year will be on March 25 at Balaclava Hotel, from 6pm. To make sure we have enough seats, please make sure you **RSVP to info@permaculturecairns.org.au by Sunday March 20.**

Upcoming workshop

Our next club gathering will be on Sunday April 3 at Justin's farm at Bellenden Ker. 9am sharp. This is an emerging permaculture farm that is very much in its early stages. So come for a tour to see the 'before' stage! We will have a tour and discuss the design considerations that have been factored in to planning the property to date. There are numerous mature and juvenile tropical fruit trees, an emerging native shelter/habitat boarder and a banana pit + perennial edible system for us to look at too! This will be outside, and at Bellenden Ker - so be prepared for all weather conditions! Sturdy footwear, sun protection and a water bottle **is** a must. **Please RSVP to info@permaculturecairns.org.au by March 27. Event address will be emailed privately to all those who RSVP.**

The Tropical Veggie Patch

Gardening in the hot, wet, humid Tropics

That should read very hot and very humid. It has been a really trying time to venture into the garden, controlling the weeds and endeavouring to grow lettuce and rocket, but it can be done with shade and keeping the roots cool. Had to buy lettuce seedlings as they don't germinate in this heat.

Thank goodness for our **tropical perennial greens**. I grow my Sambung, Brazilian, Okanawan and Ceylon spinach as ground cover plants under trees, this leave the garden beds for other plants. Kang Kong will grow very happily in a large well-watered pot with a tray to hold water, but fill the tray with pebbles/sand to stop the mozzies from breeding. There is also Lebanese cress, and Water cress, Amaranth and Timor Lettuce both self-seed and grow really well all year. Lots of greens for salads, to steam and stir fry. And don't forget to use the leaves of the Miracle tree Moringa for salads and baking.

When cooking greens I use Coconut oil for flavour, my never-ending bunching shallots and garlic, just delicious. Sometime with a dash of sauce, so many to choose from.

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 Gardenmate (a large corkscrew tool) or a garden fork. Insert into compost and lift and shake the contents to incorporate air for the microbes. Worm farms are great for small households with small amounts of kitchen waste.

Grow a green manure crop during the wet season. Cut back Banana plants chop and drop to improve the soil. Make new beds by chop and drop and including sticks and small tree trunks when cleaning up. The trunks will break down over the hot wet months and feed the microbes in the soil. It is always advisable to never leave soil bare, either plant a cover crop or mulch.

What to plant now: I am trying Popcorn this year for the first time, I will harvest when the cobs are small as mini corn for stir fries. And I will be trying a Japanese Turnip which is sweet and crunchy for eating raw with edible leaves. Need to plant in cooler weather.

Direct seed amaranth, rocket, popcorn and sweetcorn, snake beans, bok choy, pak choy, mustard greens gai choy, Green Gem cucumbers, radish, Timor lettuce and tropical lettuce. Herbs to plant, all the basil, Mexican tarragon, mints, garlic chives, chives, shallots, lemon thyme, thyme, oregano and spices turmeric, ginger, galangal, cardamom, vanilla, Pandan and Five in one herb, Sweet potatoes. Most plants will need some shade in the hot weather

Time to get your seedling mix right for planting seeds. Tomatoes, Capsicum, Egg Plant Tomatillo, Kale, Broccoli, Calabrese will germinate now but need to be protected from heavy rain & really hot days (it has been over 30C for what seems weeks).

Soil Blocker I have recently purchased a Soil Blocker which makes square compacted growing media which doesn't need any plastic. Still working on the soil mix to get the combination right with local accessible materials.

A shade cover for protecting seedlings can be made from a stiff fencing mesh curved over to make a tunnel, covered with shade cloth. Helps seedlings to adjust in day or two.

Flowers for the birds and bees: 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. I tried Queens Anne Lace it was beautiful and the bees loved it. Flowers and Pollination. Carol Laing Editor

I am seeking interest in creating a Permi Gardeners/Seed Saving Group if interested, contact me on fb messenger or info@permaculture Cairns.org.au. Cheers, Carol Laing

Our Permaculture Cairns Patch - Manoora Community Garden

I have made enquiries regarding what happened at the gardens. It was a shame we were not notified of the big clean up but there was a communication break down.

The Incorporated Indigenous Group, Ngai-Kungo-i-Peoples whose land the gardens are on were given a Caretaker roll by Council to clean up the garden and creek and are presently cleaning up all the creeks in the Cairns area. They did a great job in the gardens. Included with this renovation was to be a toilet and kitchen facility installed by Council.

When I spoke with Kim, who is the spoke person for the group. She informed me that these facilities had not been installed and were overdue and she was going to follow up on that. I have not checked lately but when these amenities have been installed we will be able to use the site for meetings, and events.

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY- 4 Events - more pages to go.

**Mareeba Seed Savers and Gardening Group
Meeting Notice**

Our meetings are friendly and informal. It is a time when we meet to share / exchange seeds and plant materials, to swap ideas and gather knowledge from other gardeners.

**Our meeting will be held on
Sunday 13th MARCH 2022**

Come along from 10am and 3pm
We will pack and register seeds into the Seed Bank until midday, then we'll share lunch.
At 1:00pm we will listen to our guest speakers and afterward, we will be guided through the garden.

**Venue ~ Anthony Czygan
63 Shaban Close, MAREEBA**

** PLEASE bring a chair, and if staying for lunch, bring your own cutlery, mug and plate and lunch / afternoon tea to share, any seeds or plant material you have to share and a gold coin donation. Also, remember your hat, drinking water and sensible shoes for the garden walk **

**~ Combined Presentation at 1:00pm ~
Topic: Set up of different types of
Gardens from scratch**

for further information contact Maria Gillies on 0421 210 136

Hi There Wonderful Seed Savers and Gardeners!!

This is a reminder that Sunday, 13th March, is our next Mareeba Seed Savers event....the address details are below. The day begins at 10am and will wind up around 3pm. We will be packing and registering new seeds for the seed bank between 10 and 12 noon. We would love you to come and join in with the seed processing, particularly those that want to learn more about how new seeds are prepared for the seed bank.

The list of seeds that we currently have available, in the Mareeba seed bank, can be accessed via this link. <https://wirepegs.net/ms21/> **Simply copy and past into your browser and you will get there no worries.**

We encourage you to check out what is available **before** the weekend and bring the list of seeds you are after, with you on the day. That will make it much easier for our 'Seed Librarians' to help you find what you are after.

The Seed Bank will be packed up at 12 and a shared Lunch will follow. If you are joining us, please bring your chair, plate, cutlery, mug and something for the share table (or your own personal meal if you would prefer). At 1:00pm we will have a combined presentation given by a few of our members, for around an hour, that will cover **The Set Up Of Different Types of Gardens From Scratch.**

Following that, our host, Anthony will take us on a garden walk so we can see how he has established his amazing property. Don't forget your sensible shoes and hat for the walk and you might want to bring an umbrella with you as well, just in case of a rain shower.

We have a new delivery of Seed Savers Reference books with us so, those members that joined at our last meeting, will be able to pick up their own copy.

Let's not forget, the Give Away Table will be there once again, so come and have a look at what goodies our members are sharing and bring along any seeds or planting materials you may have an abundance of.

Don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions before the day. I look forward to seeing you all.....Follow the signs and look for the purple flag that marks the property entrance on Shaban Close.

Warm Regards, Maria Gillies m: 0421 210 136

Multispecies Cropping and Grazing

Using Biodynamics & Syntropics in creating increased soil health, good cropping without using chemical fertilizer.

Program

- John Gargen: History of the past 2 years development.
- Cheryl Kemp (BDFNQ): Use of the Biodynamic Preparations for soil, animal and crop health, soil fertility and atmospheric balance.
- Adam Collins (BioSyntropics FNQ): Syntropics systems and Biodynamics
- Sally Fields (Terrain): Multispecies Cropping
- Lisa Price (Microbiology Lab): Balancing microbiology



After the geese have been thru.

Structure of the Day

- Meet at the house
- Smoko on arrival
- the above program
- Lunch about 12.30pm (Bring healthy food to share !)
- After lunch drive to demonstration block.
- You are welcome to go back to the house for further informal discussions and cuppa.

To join BDFNQ
www.biodynamicsfnq.org.au

WWW.BIODYNAMICSFNQ.ORG.AU



Regenerative, ethical agriculture in tune with the cosmos

WHEN

Sunday, 20th March 2022
 10am to 3pm

WHERE

John & Grace Gargen
 1045 Springmount Rd,
 Mutchilba

COST

Non Members \$10
 Members Free

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BXSKU>



WHAT TO BRING

Chair + cup + plate +cutlery
 Lunch to share,
 Drinking water
 Curiosity
 Closed in shoes

CONTACT INFO

John 0438 968 430
 The Secretary Monika
 0422 700 904



Come and learn about:
 TropEco Internships and Placements
 Sustainability at JCU
 Cairns Community Garden
 TropEco green bike fleet
 Ecology and Conservation on campus



TropEco Information Session
 Thursday 17/3, 12noon in A1-014

[tropéco@jcu.edu.au](https://www.facebook.com/tropéco)
www.facebook.com/tropéco

late arrival

Terrain workshop 6th April



COMPOST AND COVER CROPPING IN CANE WORKSHOP

Wednesday 6 April - 8:30am to noon with a BBQ lunch
Rossi family farm - Alooomba

PRESENTERS: TONY ROSSI
A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF FORAGE HARVESTING, COMPOST-MAKING AND TURNING
SALLY FIELD, AGRONOMIST, TERRAIN NRM
COVER CROPPING

RSVP Sally Fields on 0421 71 0474



The event is part of Terrain's Digging Deeper soil health project.
This project is supported by Terrain through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Note from Editor

I visited the Rossi Farm last week and John Rossi gave me a tour of the Green Manure Cover Crop, the Compost rows and the machinery used to turn the compost and to distribute the compost. Its all big!. The Cover Crop consists of five varieties of plants, Sun hemp, Sunflower, Sesame, Cow pea and . To reduce the amount of Nitrogen used to grow the cane, and to reduce runoff to the reef.

Please PRINT – SIGN – SCAN and RETURN by email to
info@permaculturecairns.org.au.



Permaculture Cairns

Membership Form 2022

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

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Household membership \$30 | <input type="radio"/> | Renewing Member | <input type="radio"/> | |
| Individual membership | \$20 | <input type="radio"/> | New Member | <input type="radio"/> |

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

.....
.....

Postal Address:

..... Postcode:

Phone(s):

Email:

Signature:

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

If you have a Permaculture Design Certificate could you please complete the following
survey.

YOUR NAME:.....

Who was the Course Presenter:.....

Would you be willing to make a presentation to our Members.....

Are you interested in teaching

Permaculture:.....

Enquiries

President:	Justin Brennan	info@permaculturecairns.org.au
Secretary:	Craig Phillipson	info@permaculturecairns.org.au
Treasurer:	Carol Laing	info@permaculturecairns.org.au
Website:		www.permaculturecairns.org.au

[You can join online and pay into our account or join at our meetings](#)