

# Permaculture Cairns January 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)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Tuesday 21<sup>ST</sup> February 6.30pm*

*Venue: Endeavour Foundation Learning and Lifestyle building  
38 Hoare Street, Manunda*

*All Welcome    Only Financial Members may vote*

## PERMIES AT THE PUB

*27<sup>TH</sup> January 6pm at Balaclava Hotel, Earlville*

*Come along a have a conversation about Permaculture 2023.*

*RSVP 24<sup>th</sup> January @ [info@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:info@permaculturecairns.org.au)*

## *News from the Committee*

*Permaculture Cairns was successful in the Cairns Regional Council Sustainability Grant Round for 2023.*

*We have been granted \$3000 for organising 6 workshops in 2023*

*Below is a draft of the workshops proposed - dates to be advised*

*March*

*Propagation to plantout- Seedlings, Cutting, Soil prep for planting out, Ph, fertilisers explained*

*April*

*Growing food in pots, Patio-garden, Self-watering pots, bed design*

*July*

*Microscopic view of microbes in soil/compost on a big screen. Soil/Compost testing available on the day. How to brew microbes*

*August*

*Design a backyard using Permaculture Principles and Practices*

*September*

*Tropical Perennial Vegetables for the tropics, how to grow and cook.*

*October*

*Recycling kitchen and garden waste, making compost, keeping worms and improving the soil.*

*Ecofiesta - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, so we will be hoping for volunteers to man the display and to grow some plants and seedlings. Just to keep you in mind.*

# David Holmgrens' Permaculture Principles thinking tools for an era of change

## PRINCIPLE 1 *observe and interact*

By taking the time to engage with nature we can design solutions that suit our particular situation. In observing nature it is important to take different perspectives to help understand what is going on with the various elements in the system. The proverb "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" reminds us that we place our own values on what we observe, yet in nature, there is no right or wrong, only different.

---

### *The Tropical Veggie Patch Gardening in the hot, wet, humid Tropics*

So much rain this year and there is February and March to go, but if you have a sunny spot undercover try some annuals like lettuce, rocket, wild rocket, bok choy. Herbs in pots are going ok and thankful of a day or two without rain to dry out.. Cucumbers, Zucchini tromboncino producing madly and snake beans. Have plants Darwin lettuce seeds which may not germinate because of the heat but what's a few seeds, also wild rocket, bok choy, rocket.

I am doing a trial this year to see if we can grow some of the plants that do not survive the wet. So far I have parsley and comfrey in pots in the new rain proof shade house and will add others when I get a minute.

**Tropical Perennial Food Plants.** Now is when the perennials come into full use. There are plenty of greens -Sambung, Brazillian, Okinawa, Kang kong, Tree and Timor lettuce. Lebanese cress and three variety of Aibika.

**Root crops,** Casava, taro, cocoyam and sweet potatoes. **Fruit trees** Soursop, bananas, pineapple, Jackfruit, mangoes and citrus.

**Composting** -So much organic matter at present, have been doing lots of chop and drop as well as filling all 7 compost bins and started another heap with materials too numerous for the bins.

**Wet season soil improvements.** - For areas of the garden not growing food, do some soil improving by planting a green manure crop, arrowroot, mustard, sorghum, daikon radish and any green leafy plants (try some bird seed) - then when in full leaf, chop and drop the growth and let it regrow before digging into the soil at the end of the wet, or cover with cardboard and mulch. Pinto peanuts is great for orchids and is best planted during the wet season. Having roots in the soil keep the microbes happy as they need root to survive.

*What to plant now* -Fruit trees, tropical perennial greens, taro, sweet potato, snake beans, rocket, bok choy, rocket, basil, garlic chives, mint, cress. cucumber, melons, turmeric, ginger, galangal, daikon radish, pandan,.  
*Grow some flowers for the birds and bees*, salvia, marigold, coleus, allysum, sunflowers, basil all sorts,

*Medicinal tea crops.* Another trial is with different varieties of Tulsi Holy Basil for tea making, and maybe blending to make a medicinal and refreshing tea. Have five varieties so far and I also grow Lemon Myrtle which makes a great tea. To experiment with.

Grow & eat fresh pesticide free, nutrient rich food all year to keep healthy.  
Best wishes and good gardening for 2023      Cheers Carol

## **Permaculture Cairns AGM Information**

You can become a Member or Renew Memberships and pay fees into our bank account as detailed on our website

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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME WHEN PAYING ONLINE or we will not know who you are!!!!!!!

Nomination Form and Proxy Form for AGM following

If you wish to nominate a person for a position on the management committee please complete and lodge (email to [info@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:info@permaculturecairns.org.au)) or with a committee member ASAP.

The proxy form is to allow you to vote, if you are a financial member and would like to vote but cannot be at the meeting. The proxy form must be lodged with the Secretary before the beginning of the meeting. You must be a financial member to vote at the meeting.

## PERMACULTURE CAIRNS Inc. 2023 AGM NOMINATION FORM

I hereby nominate Permaculture Cairns member \_\_\_\_\_ for the position of \_\_\_\_\_ (President / Secretary / Treasurer / Ordinary) in the election of office bearers at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on 21st February 2023 ( or at any adjournment of that meeting). Name of nominee:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by nominee:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2023

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2023

I hereby agree to accept nomination for the abovementioned position. Signed:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2023

-----

## PERMACULTURE CAIRNS INC. 2023 AGM APPOINTMENT OF PROXY FORM

I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to vote on my behalf as my proxy at Permaculture Cairns Annual General Meeting (or any adjournment thereof) to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

Should the first proxy referred to above be unable to attend the meeting, I appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as an alternate proxy.

I confirm that I am a financial member of Permaculture Cairns Inc. entitled as such to vote at the meeting. I also acknowledge that should I attend the meeting and vote in my own right, my proxy is automatically revoked.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated / / 2023

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: / / 2023

Please note Memberships fees for 2023 are due and payable on the 1st January 2023 and you need to be a financial member to vote at the AGM.