

Permaculture Cairns Inc. Established July, 2007 Incorporation Number IA35907
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Forum site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/permaculture-cairns/>



Permaculture Cairns News

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Public Meetings of Permaculture Cairns take place every month except January. We have a great guest speaker every time, Feb- Nov. At the December meeting we have the AGM, and end-of-year Christmas party.

Meeting Format

- Invited Speaker
- Minutes from last meeting are reviewed to check progress on activities
- Plans for the upcoming weeks
- Plant of the month
- Tea and chat afterwards

Visitors welcome

\$5 suggested minimum donation

Next meeting **SPECIAL TIME** - Sunday 9th March @ 4pm

Due to members attending the APC9 conference, our monthly meeting usually held on Monday evenings, has been re-scheduled for this month only. On the request of some of our members, we will be showing an inspiring DVD by Permaculture founder Bill Mollison titled "In Grave Danger of Falling Food". If you are new to Permaculture, this thought provoking video will give you a clearer understanding about the choices that face us. As Bill says "Permaculture systems can be as simple or as complex as you like", you don't need to be an expert on it to begin, the most important thing is that you start. The details for the meeting are as follows:

Place: Bella Vista Community Centre - Lot 14, Loridan Dr, Brinsmead (Near the shopping centre and opposite the child care centre)

Date & Time: Sunday 9th March @ 4pm - 6pm

President's Report

Kym Kruse

It's welcome back to Permaculture Cairns for 2008 in what promises to be a fantastic year for our group with many exciting opportunities ahead. To quote again from Permaculture founder Bill Mollison, "Personal independence depends on co-operative human society.... only what we share gives us access to all necessary possessions."

In line with that thought, there are many opportunities for us to pool our resources and work together, in a number of different projects announced at last Mondays meeting. The Tropical Garden Fair display is a wonderful opportunity to attract more people to the group, with the likely attendance of over 10,000 people. Designing a poster to be displayed at APC9 (see below left), is another chance to share your time & skills. The poster will be displayed at the 3 day conference and should be representative of the work Permaculture Cairns is doing in our unique tropical environment. A logo for the group is also needed and everyone is welcome to submit ideas, sketches and doodles of what they think would be good. A vote to decide the winner will be taken at our next monthly meeting, so enjoy being creative! Finally, a decision has been made to construct a welcome package for new members who join the group. The information package will inform new members of the structure of the group and the many benefits of joining. Help in getting any of the above together would be most welcome! Many hands make light work and every bit of help helps.

Members News

Support the ongoing work of the group and enjoy the many benefits of becoming a member.

Join Today!

\$20.00 Individual per year

\$30.00 Family per year

Next Workshop

When: Saturday 8th March

Time: 4:30pm

Where: 17 Gordon St, Earlville

What: Raised Bed Garden construction. Now you know how to make compost, come and learn how to construct the garden bed you'll want to use it in!

What's coming up?

The Tropical Garden Fair is at Cannon Park Turf Club this year, on Mothers Day, May 11th and we intend to have a big display there! If you'd like to be involved in the process, please come to our Action Team meeting.

Place: 8 Bosanko St, Manunda

When: Saturday 1st March @ 10am

Newsflash!

You can now nominate points for our group with IGA @ Pease St.

Australia Wide

**9th Australian
Permaculture
Convergence
March 20th to
24th, 2008**



As Permaculture celebrates its 30th anniversary, delegates from around Australasia will converge to discuss: **Yesterday's Achievements, Today's Challenges & Tomorrow's Aspirations** at the Glengarry Training Centre, North Turramurra, Sydney.

Thursday, March 20 Registration, opening ceremony and dinner

Friday, March 21 "Celebrating 30 Years of Achievements"

Showcasing successful Permaculture projects from Australia and abroad.

Saturday, March 22 "Solutions to Today's National Water Crisis"

Water specialists present tried and tested solutions to urban and rural water management issues relating to drought, flood, retention and reuse.

Sunday & Monday, March 23 and 24, is for delegates and members only.

Tours begin on **Tuesday March 25.**

The event will be hosted by Permaculture North Inc. and sponsored by local ethical businesses.

www.apc9.org.au

On another note, I'm very pleased to announce that the wonderful Sara-Jane has filled the Administration position. The work that she does is invaluable to the smooth running of the group and of great assistance to me personally. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes out to Sara-Jane for getting us so organized!

Another decision made by the group on Monday night was to invite all members the opportunity to have a PET Day held at their place, regardless of how many they have previously attended. The rule of attending four PET days (now known as People Energy Transfer days) before your own place is eligible, has been temporarily suspended to encourage and help everyone get gardens going in their place of residence. Now is the time to build your bed in readiness for the growing season, so email or call us if you are interested! See you at the Raised Bed Garden workshop.

February guest speaker - Deborah Pergolotti

Frog Decline Reversal Project - Permaculture can help!

Deborah Pergolotti, founder and hard working amphibian expert of the Frog Decline Reversal (FDR) Project, otherwise known as Cairns Frog Hospital, spoke to us at our February meeting about the problems facing the future existence of Australia's amphibian diversity and how Permaculture can help with reversing the current declining trend.

Deborah explained that with new diseases on the increase, some frog populations are only a few months away from extinction. She said that frogs are such biologically sensitive creatures; they are often the first indicators of problems for the whole system.

Deborah informed us that the much loved white lipped green tree frog is extremely susceptible to disease and in the last 10 years vast numbers have died out. A combination of the destruction of Mangroves, intensive housing estates, trees being replaced with urban settlements, domesticated animals, lawn mowing equipment and even Cyclone Larry have had devastating effects. She has seen the affects of the drought amongst frog populations too, with the Rocket frog, at one time the 4th most common frog, now almost wiped out altogether. Herbicides also appear to be having a major impact with frogs showing signs of weak immune systems.

Deborah said that increasing biodiversity is the key to reversing this sad situation. By creating habitat, providing shade trees and water bodies in our yards we create environments for frogs. With a variety of leaf sizes and shapes, insects to eat and no chemical residues we can encourage frogs to come in. By providing habitats (such as sections of bamboo under eaves) and keeping dogs & cats away, we can encourage them to stay. Deborah is an inspiration to all who meet her and could do with a hand. You can contact Deborah on **40330723** or **0428114266** or visit <http://www.fdrproject.org/>

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