

Permaculture Cairns Inc. Established July, 2007 Incorporation Number IA35907
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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 - Monday 21st April 2008 @ 7pm

For the month of April we are back to our regular monthly meeting schedule of the third Monday evening of the month.

This time round, three members who will be in attendance at APC9 (see bottom left), namely Bruce, Kym & Georgie will be our speakers for the evening. The theme of APC9 is water and with climate change upon us, there is an ever increasing concern about our water supply. APC9 will bring together some of the worlds foremost experts in water harvesting design strategies. It is already known that we have the technology and skills to carry out the work so desperately needed; all that remains for us to do is to get on with the job of doing it!

At this meeting we will also finalize plans for our garden display at the Tropical Garden Fair. Very exciting times for our group indeed!

President's Report

Kym Kruse

Although quantity of events held during March wasn't high, the quality of what we achieved certainly was.

A big thank you to all those that attended the workshop held at Lenore's place on March 8th. As many of you may know, Lenore is not currently enjoying full health and when the opportunity presented itself to hold a workshop at her place, we jumped at the chance. After two hours of "work", ten of us had laughed, smiled, shared experiences and helped construct three raised bed gardens, almost without raising a sweat. The success of the day was largely due to the availability of resources Lenore had been stockpiling, namely the dark, rich, sweet smelling mountain of compost! Together with a few bails of hay, edging materials on site and a bit of thought, the beds were ready to plant by sundown. I have since heard that Lenore has been busy planting and we all hope she gets great pleasure, as well as great produce, from her garden beds in the months to come.

The second notable mention for the month is that we now have a logo for our group! A huge thank you to Beth for her time, energy and effort in bringing together the different ideas presented for the design with such artistry. In time for the poster to be printed for APC9, the logo will be displayed to over 400 Permaculture designers, educators and consultants at the five day event that celebrates 30 years of Permaculture in Australia. We can all be proud of our little group, which is making its own

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: TBA

Time: TBA

Where: TBA

What: There are many possibilities but worm farming seems to be leading the pack! Stay tuned for more details to be released in early April.

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 @ 10 am

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 Turrumurra, 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

indomitable mark on our region. With our coconut on the crest of a wave logo, we will now be known to the rest of the Permaculture movement in Australia and the world, such is the network of this global movement. The theme of this years convergence is "Today's Challenge: Positive Solutions to the National Water Crisis", which promises to be an inspirational and informative discussion. Along with Bruce and Georgie, I look forward to letting you know all about it when we get back.

Finally, a big thanks to Sara-Jane for her continued support with administration, the APC9 poster and general infectious enthusiasm. Also to Murray for his practical ideas and assistance with organizing the master plan for our Garden display at this years Tropical Garden Fair on Mother's Day.

Be sure to prepare now for the growing season to come!

In Grave danger of Falling Food - DVD of the Month

This wonderfully informative DVD, delivered in Bill Mollison's own unique style, highlights the desperate need for implementing Permaculture design in addressing the many problems that face us. Made some 17 years ago, it could well have been made yesterday (apart from the classic rap song half way through) and Bill's central message that "modern agricultural practices are destroying our soil and water and produce increasingly poisonous food" remains sadly true.

With food being at the lowest cost for consumers, ever in history over the last three decades, it has been difficult for many in society to heed Bill's message. That is, beginning with a global ethic and with thoughtful design, Permaculture can turn "even the smallest city garden into a fertile eco-system that can provide most of the food for an average family".

From his early days as a wood cutter to his field research with the CSIRO, the DVD follows Bill's path to "Permaculture" a word he coined at a time when there was no word in the English language for sustainable agriculture. Bill suggests that modern industrialized agriculture is really a continuation of the Second World War. This time however, the enemy is nature itself as we attempt to grow monoculture crops constantly under attack from pests and disease. Bill says that the solution to all this is to grow food where we live. In the DVD we visit a well established $\frac{1}{4}$ acre block which Bill designed and witness the abundant food in production. Bill maintains that the only work involved is in firstly designing carefully, then implementing the design. After that "the gardener becomes a recliner' and all that is left to do is to harvest and maintain the system.

With cartoon cutaways and bizarre sound effects to boot, the film tells the story of Permaculture in a most imaginative way. See it!

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