

**Permaculture Cairns Inc.** Established July, 2007 Incorporation Number IA35907  
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Care of the Earth, Care of  
People, Share the excess

# Permaculture Cairns News



Empowering communities with sustainable solutions

Volume 2 No 3 ~ May 2008

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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
- Shared meal & refreshments

Visitors welcome

\$5 suggested minimum donation

## Next meeting - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008 @ 6pm

It was very encouraging to see such a fantastic turnout at our last meeting, thanks to everyone who came. The shared meal at the end of the meeting was superb. This will be a regular part of our monthly meetings from now on so don't forget to bring a plate of your signature dish! Friends that eat and garden together stay together. Remember also that the wonderful club room facilities of our new meeting place includes a gas BBQ, a licensed bar and a kids playground. So bring the little ones, a healthy snag to fry and a couple of dollars for a drink of your choice. A little support for the footy club that allows us to use the venue free of charge would be most appreciated. There's lots happening at the moment so don't miss the opportunity to be involved and share your unique skills.

## President's Report

*Kym Kruse*

Wow! What a month May was. It was by far the groups' most active period to date, with a number of successful festivals attended, many new members joining and a design workshop to boot! Our display at this years Tropical Garden Fair, held at Cannon Park Racecourse on Mother's Day, was an amazing success and a credit to all those involved. Our 81sqm display was the largest by far, very informative and a massive achievement for a new non-profit organization such as ourselves. A HUGE thanks for the efforts from all those involved in planning, contributing towards the display, setting up on the day, talking to the public during the event and cleaning up afterwards. That is Sara-Jane, Vic, Bruce, Georgie, Murray, Alessia, Joanne, Margaret, Carol, Clare, Robert, Miyuki, Larry, Andre, Bec, Amber & Lenore - without you, our vitally important presence at events such as these just wouldn't happen. Well Done! Big thanks must also go out to Limberlost Nursery, Yuruga Nursery and Enviromart for their contributions to our display and continuing support of our group. Next, we had the Green Expo day at TAFE on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May. It was the first time an event such as this had been held at TAFE and with the support of local ABC Radio, a turnout of 500-1000 people meant the day was a great success. We held an information stall along with a chicken tractor display, a compost demo, a compost tea brewer demo and we ran a 1hr workshop introducing Permaculture! Needless to say, we pulled it off thanks to Georgie, Bruce & Jack!

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> June

**Time:** 3pm

**Where:** 10 Phillips St, Machans Beach

**What:** Energy Efficient Planning

This will be a hand-on workshop on a real site, with group design tasks and collaboration. Zone & Sector Analysis of the site and an understanding of the principle so you can use it at your place will be our focus. Come on!

## What's coming up?

### Vision Meeting

**What:** The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss our vision for an Education Center on Sustainability & Community Garden for Cairns. Our group needs a permanent home and Cairns desperately needs a centrally located demonstration site that educates the community on sustainable solutions.

**When:** Mon June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

**Who:** All members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important first step.

**Where:** Cairns Saints A.F.C. Club Rooms Griffiths Park, Turn left into Monk St. (off Hoare St.) when coming from town.

## Newsflash!

Please don't forget that you can nominate points for our group with **IGA @ Pease St.** Every little bit counts!

## Welcome Members

Congratulations to the following people who have become members of Permaculture Cairns in the month of May. Make new friends and join in all the fun!

**Dee Brown, Michael Boris, Tanya Glade, Michael Ireland, Renee Lees, Vanilda Cavalcante, Kirsten Pearce, Shayne Thomson & Finn, Missy Seagrove-Collison**

## Thanks to our Supporters



Organic Garden Supplies, Heritage Seeds, Books on Permaculture, Bio-dynamics & organic gardening Compost worms... & much more!  
Shop 3, 164 Aumuller St Bungalow (next to the P.O.) Ph: 40 412233

Being involved with the groups' events such as these is a great way to learn more about Permaculture but also greatly assists the group in attracting new members and developing more of a public presence. Many hands make light work as they say, and we'll need more people to share the load, give of their time and help out in the future. Thanks in advance!

The report back from the well attended workshop held at Alessia & Steve's new house, was that it was very informative and only increased the appetite amongst the group, to have more workshops on design scheduled. Thanks to Bruce for sharing his many years of experience and knowledge with us all. As functional design is the basis of Permaculture, the better we understand the principles and the more practice we get at putting them into practice, the better designers we'll all become. Responding to the needs of the group, our next workshop involves exactly that! See previous page of this Newsletter for more details.

Congratulations to member Robert Virginie on being elected as our new Secretary! Robert recently completed his PDC with Geoff & Nadia Lawton at the Permaculture Research Institute in NSW and has been actively involved with the group since the beginning. Robert is the brains behind our fantastic new website which will be the one stop shop for all the groups' activities from now on. Here's the link for you to check it out: [www.permaculturecairns.org.au](http://www.permaculturecairns.org.au)

Good on you Robert for putting your hand up for such an important role within the group. I'm sure you'll do a mighty fine job!

A reminder to everyone, that there are still a variety of exciting positions just waiting to be filled within the group. No matter what your area of interest, there is a valuable role for you to play. From communications to craft and from fundraising to policy, there are many ways for you to be involved, take a leadership role and help the group continue it's growing capacity to do good stuff!

## Plant of the Month - Vetiver zizanioides

**VETIVER GRASS** - Khus-khus, Khas Khas, Botha Grass, Aga Wangi  
**Description:** A dense, clumping, non-running, perennial grass to 1.5 metres tall, native to Asia; growing from a deep, thick, matting root system that can delve deep into the earth 1-3 metres. Leaves of the plant are odourless, however the roots have an exquisite and long lasting scent, similar to the aroma of sandalwood.

**Propagation:** By division of roots. These slips, with leaf tops cut off to 15cm and the root base trimmed to 10cm can be established in pots or planted directly into position.

Vetiver grass is extremely harder and can serve many **functions:** Erosion control, Moisture conservation, Permanent contours, Stabilize steep slopes, Windbreaks for young trees, Fire break  
It is a very useful plant indeed! Happy Gardening....

## Permaculture Cairns Contact Details

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