

Permaculture Cairns Inc.

Permaculture Cairns News

Volume 1 No 1 ~ October 2007

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Public Meetings

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

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

Visitors welcome

Next meeting Monday 19 November

At the time of publication for this month's newsletter, we are yet to secure a Guest Speaker for our November monthly meeting. There are however, a number of possibilities!

Organizations that have been either contacted or considered for the future so far are:

- **Kuranda Butterfly Sanctuary** - the importance of butterflies within the eco-system and what we can do to attract them into our gardens.
- **Enviromart Australia** - Diane to talk about worm farms, water collection and a myriad of other things!
- **Frog Decline Reversal Project** - Debra will explain the threats to our frog populations and what we can do to address this in our own back yards.

If anyone has any suggestions for a Guest Speaker for one of our monthly meetings please contact either Kym, Bruce or Georgie so we can have them come and share their knowledge with us!

Members News

Membership fees are due next Nov meeting. All memberships taken out before Feb 2008 remain valid until Dec 2008!

\$20.00 Individual per year
\$30.00 Family per year

President's Report

Kym Kruse

This month heralds the dawn on a new age for our group and with warm moist weather ahead it promises to be a period of rapid growth for our gardens and for our group! With the go ahead given for our incorporation & a committed elected committee in place, all that remains is activity, activity and more activity to be done by us all!

Permaculture Education Training (P.E.T.) Day

P.E.T. days give members an opportunity to learn about Permaculture & its practical applications by working on each other's gardens. P.E.T. days are always facilitated by a Permaculture Design Course (PDC) certificate holder. After participating in four P.E.T. days, your place then becomes eligible for holding one! It's a fair way to share our energy & time as we help each other move toward a greater level of self-reliance & get to know each other in the process!

Next P.E.T. day

When: Saturday 3rd
November @ 4pm

Where: 8 Bosanko Street,
Manunda

What: Raised bed garden,
compost pile, green cover
crop.

What's coming up?

During the month of November we'll be putting in a banana/papaya/sweet potato circle at Machans Beach Community Garden. Come along and learn how to construct one, so you can put one in at your place. Stay tuned for more details on date & time.

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, are 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

October guest speaker highlights - Bruce Zell

A tropical Permaculture journey of discovery

Bruce Zell, highly experienced & respected Permaculture Elder and Vice President of our group, spoke to us at our October meeting about the successes, failures & lessons learnt from developing his suburban block along Permaculture principles.

Bruce & his wife Denise bought their wedge shaped parcel of paradise, situated on the Barron Delta, over ten years ago. Bruce gave us an informative tour of his property, pointing out the things he's got right, the things he got wrong, the lessons he's learnt & his future plans. House design was essential; with high ceilings to vent out warm air and plenty of ventilation to capture those SE winds and keep things cool inside. To make the most of the properties easterly aspect, Bruce angled the house site to capture the morning suns energy (and get himself out of bed!) and a strategically placed palm tree silhouettes the rising full moon. He planted close to 40 different species of trees, Neem & Jack fruit amongst them, to make up his street frontage, which provides shelter from the street & the western sun. His well designed windbreaks (including the "sink side") shelter the site and at last count there are 70 odd fruit trees, many of which form part of his windbreaks.

Bruce has had excellent success with his raised bed gardens which are long rectangular sheet iron in form and are once again angled to capture the sun as it tracks the northern sky. His future plan is to create more such beds and construct a clear plastic, retractable canopy over the top of them so as to extend his growing season well in to our wet. As with any Permaculture system, animals play an important role in Bruce's overall design. A number of chickens range freely over his property, removing insects, tilling the soil & providing him with plentiful eggs. He is also considering introducing Guinea Pigs into the system in the near future.

As with any system, maintenance of it is important to its overall successful function. Bruce freely admits that he wishes he had more of it, to devote to his property and having it looking even better than it does. I'm sure everyone who saw it that day would agree on one thing; Bruce has established an excellent Permaculture suburban block site which serves as an inspiration to us all, as to what can be achieved with careful & thoughtful design principles. Well-done Bruce!

Permaculture Cairns Contact Details

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