



TRANSITION TOWN
HERVEY BAY

Transition Town Hervey Bay and Transition Town Gardeners
"The Cottage", 16 Peters Lane, Pialba

April 2011

For more information and back issues
visit www.transitiontownfrasercoast.org.au

April Schedule:

The Cottage garden opens at 8.00 am with workshops usually starting at 8.30 am and finishing with morning tea. Feel free to bring something along to share for morning tea and the trade table. Meetings are 1st and 3rd Thursday and 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month and everyone is welcome!

Saturday 9th April

A morning in the garden & market stall

Thursday 14th April

Seed saving morning – all welcome!

Thursday 28th April

Brainstorming workshop on Food Security – considering options available to us all (see page 2 for more information)

Thursday 17th March

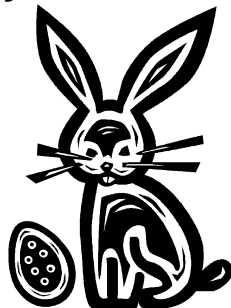
Seed Saver day – see photos

Saturday 30th April

A morning in the garden & market stall

Please note: these changes are because of an extra Thursday in March and extra Saturday in April plus Easter being on one of our original Saturdays. Next month (May) we will be back to the usual 1st and 3rd Thursday and 2nd and 4th Saturday.

Happy and safe Easter!



Torquay Markets

The markets have changed to the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. As we have so many pots of goodies in the shade house and spilling over onto the grass, we will be doing the two markets a month which means spreading the work force, but luckily some members enjoy the market atmosphere so it is no big chore. Please let John know on 0428 980 019 if you can help out



In the Cottage garden with Linda:

Growing well with all the rains are the left over corn we planted as a green manure. They grew so well we decided to keep it to harvest as a crop. The soil needs some friability to it so a green manure crop will have to be put in after the corn is harvested.

Another bed we green manured has come along well. The bananas, of course, are loving all the water and producing lots of bunches. The passion fruit is dropping passion fruit everywhere and of course, the perennial capsicums and chillies just keep fruiting on as ever faithfuls.

Come along to a Transition Town Gardeners' meeting at The Cottage and have a look for yourself!

Membership to Transition Town Hervey Bay is free; membership to Transition Town Gardeners is \$6 for singles, couples and families based on a calendar year, which entitles you to entry to the garden workshops and provides public liability insurance coverage through the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre.

Seed Savers News



Wild harvest: Pea Eggplants

Traditional Pea Eggplants (*Solanum torvum*), which are popular in Thailand, Central America and India, are a different species of eggplant. This thorny shrub grows 3 – 4 m in height and can be found growing in wasteland areas and along the side of the roads in Hervey Bay. The pea-sized, green fruit are very bitter and are often added to food in small quantities to impart a unique flavour.

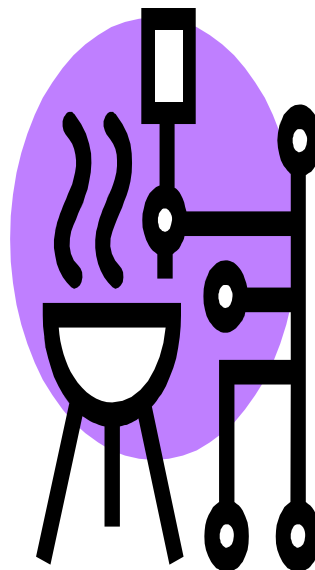
This month at the Cottage we had lots of helpers and managed to package quite a few seeds. Thank you very much to everyone who came for your help. We have now a supply of various types of tomato, but still have a limited supply of root vegetable seeds, bush beans and peas. Just a reminder that if anyone wants seed it can be obtained from the Cottage on the days the Transition Town Gardeners are there and from our stall at the Torquay Markets near Aquaview on Saturday mornings.

Here are some tips on how to collect seed from those fruits that are eaten mature with the seeds scooped out, such as pumpkin and capsicum. The seeds are best a couple of weeks after full maturity after the seeds have had time to plump up. Simply scoop out the seeds, rub vigorously under running water to remove all little bits of flesh. The clean seeds should then be dried for on a plate or kitchen paper for 10 days or so before storing in a sealed container.

Alison

Food Security Workshop – discussion starter:

If the recent news from around the world had you wondering how you would cope if there was no electricity or petrol and the supermarkets had very limited amounts of food, come along to this workshop. The workshop is designed to make you think about what you eat and where your food comes from. We will discuss what options are available to cook food without electricity or gas, and the traditional methods of preserving food without refrigeration. We don't have all the answers but if we get together to toss about ideas everyone is likely to leave with a better understanding of their position and ability to cope with changing circumstances.



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Transition Town Resource Shelf

For books & newsletters
Hervey Bay Library, Old Maryborough Road,
Pialba

Next Transition Town Hervey Bay Meeting

Social Meeting

Thursday 7 April 6.00pm

At the Beach House

Gold Coin Donation

It's a small world

How does the disaster in Japan affect water quality in Queensland and global climate change?

The broader impacts of the nuclear events in Japan should not be underestimated: there will be long-term impacts on the outlook of the global nuclear energy industry, global energy markets, and by extension the course of emissions reductions plans in Europe and Japan and their impact on climate change negotiations.

Deutsche Bank's energy analysts, Michael Hsueh and Mark Lewis, said the nuclear crisis could be a "game-changer" for the EU energy markets, particularly the gas markets.

Gas will be required to help fill the gap after the German chancellor's decision to immediately suspend operations at seven of its oldest nuclear reactors also gas markets will now likely supply to Japan to make up for lost nuclear capacity. "What seems already clear is that the terrible events in Japan have the potential radically to transform the outlook for EU gas markets over the next 3-4 years," the analysts wrote. It will also have an impact on Australian gas demand, with subsequent flow on effects for local prices.

It is possible that over the next 10 years there will be 370,000,000 more tonnes of CO2 released into the atmosphere from Germany alone by using gas rather than nuclear power.

German leader Angela Merkel faces a crucial regional election in Baden-Württemberg on March 27, which is now expected to become a defacto referendum on nuclear energy.

So events in Japan influence decisions that a German leader makes to address nuclear concerns and to win a regional election which could have the knock on effect of significantly increasing global CO2 emissions and ramping up the gas extraction in Queensland which in turn raises serious questions about extremely toxic chemicals seeping into the Great Artesian Basin and diminishing water supplies!!!! And all so that we can have the air-con on with the windows open and watch American soaps on our flat-screen TVs. Surely we need to appreciate the true value of power and the consequences of using it so freely. Please consider supporting Transition Town Hervey Bay with its Green Tech Energy Solution.

<http://www.transitionfrasercoast.org.au/our-projects/a-sustainable-fraser-coast/>

With the price of carbon going up on the carbon markets Japanese events could also influence Australian politics.

Small world indeed!

Maggie John ^_^

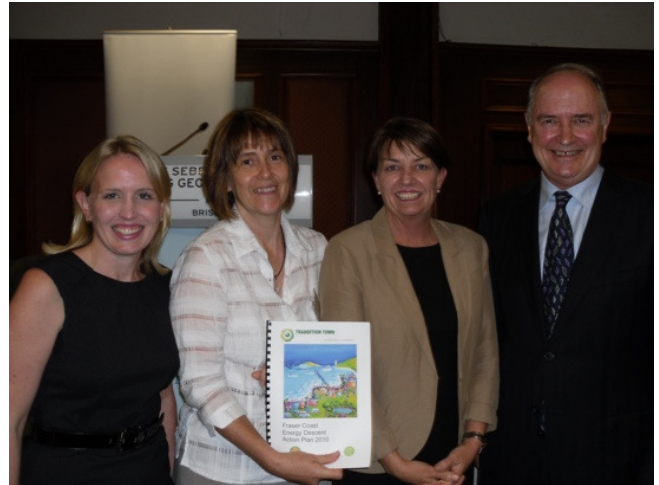
Based on 'Japan's Nuclear Knock-on Effect' by Giles Parkinson in the Climate Spectator.

Ever wondered why **Erin Brockovich** is on the back of our 2010/2011 yellow pages? Wasn't she the chick that stood up for the people who were being poisoned by polluted water from the gas companies? Watch a short video here:

<http://www.brockovich.com/index.html>

Professor Ross Garnaut receives a copy of the Transition Town Energy Descent Action Plan.

Brisbane Tuesday 1 March 2010



Left to right, Kate Jones Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Maggie John TTHB, Premier Anna Bligh and Professor Ross Garnaut at the launch of his Rural Land Use Paper as part of the Climate Change Review.

Professor Ross Garnaut, the government's main climate change policy advisor, (lets not forget that he was first asked to work on the economics of climate change by John Howard) manages to present an eloquent and reasoned carbon price policy framework that not only allows Australia to play its part in reducing global emissions, but does so in a manner that he argues has little impact on the economy, on trade-exposed industries, or on consumers – much less, he says, than any of the GST, the surge in global crude oil prices, movements in the value of the Australian dollar, or even of daily weather fluctuations on electricity prices.

According to Ross Garnaut a whole new regional economy is expected. Australia is perfectly positioned to benefit as a global carbon sink because we have the capacity to sequester many tonnes of carbon both through replanting marginal land and through increasing soil carbon, which in-turn improves our poor soils.

One thing that I was pleased to hear was that there will be biodiversity incentives along side the carbon incentives to avoid plantation style carbon forests.

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Mercer releases responsible investment paper. Ignoring climate change risk will cost schemes trillions

GLOBAL - Schemes must factor in climate change risk to their asset allocation strategies over the next two decades or face losing trillions of pounds, Mercer warns.

Research from the consultant - commissioned by a group leading schemes including BT Pension Scheme - anticipated climate change policy will account for 10% of a pension fund's portfolio risk by 2030, with costs hitting about £5trn (\$8trn) by 2030.

Environment Agency head of environmental finance and pension fund management Howard Pearce said: "We think all pension funds will need to adopt a climate change-proofed financial investment strategy in the future to enable them to fulfil their fiduciary duties.

Mercer chief investment officer Andrew Kirton said: "Institutional investors should be factoring long-term considerations, such as climate change, into their strategic planning.

Indigenous plants available for planting now:



Austromyrtus dulcis -Midgin Berry tubestock sized plants for sale at \$2 each or ten for \$15 (pictured above)

Scaevola aemula - groundcover with 'hand' fan like mauve flowers \$2 each



Hibbertia vestita - groundcover with open yellow flowers that appear too big for the plant; tiny leaf, lovely in spot where it can drape over an edge (pictured above)



Goodenia rotundifolia - another groundcover - more vigorous with large yellow flowers (pictured above)



Melastoma malabathricum - small shrub good for swampy areas, very similar to Tibouchina but this is a local native; large purple flowers with mauve and yellow stamens. In 6" pots \$3.50 each (pictured above)

Pultenaea villosa spp *Marybrough* – a lovely little local groundcover

Contact Glenda Pitman on 41232730 or 0401307110 for more information or to order any of these plants.

Ever heard of Asafoetida (*Ferula assafoetida*)?

Also known as devil's dung, stinking gum, asant, food of the gods, giant fennel, hing and ting it is the dried latex (gum oleoresin) exuded from the living underground rhizome or tap root of several species of *Ferula*, which is a perennial herb (1 to 1.5 mtr. high), native to Persia (Iran).

Why is this interesting? Because Asafoetida spice is used as a digestive aid, in food as a condiment and in pickles and reduces the growth of indigenous microflora in the gut, reducing flatulence. This may come in handy when cooking pigeon pea recipes!

Available The Spice Shop, 3/352a The Esplanade, Scares Arcade phone 4124 0162