



Transition Town Hervey Bay and Transition Town Gardeners

"The Cottage", Peters Lane, Pialba

October 2010

TRANSITION TOWN
HERVEY BAY

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

Garden Schedule - October:

Workshops usually start at 8.30 am and finish 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.

Thursday 7 October

General garden activities – everyone welcome!

Saturday 16 October

Maggie John will give a talk about implementing Hervey Bay's EDAP (Energy Descent Action Plan) and the Sustainable Technology Park concept.

Thursday 21 October

Permaculture design principles for urban gardens with Alison.

Saturday 30 October

General garden activities – everyone welcome!



Building the Herb Spiral at The Cottage in May this year.
Check out how it's grown since then....

Jottings from The Cottage Garden:

With the warmer weather fast approaching we may need more helpers to water (to give Mel some assistance), so please consider volunteering – even a little lessens the load.

Because actual garden soil space is a minimum we will endeavour to throw our talents in to propagating and seed raising as we have a great shade house to do this in (providing we can prevent the continual loss of resources such as tap fittings, equipment, fertilizer, etc.). This is another fundraiser opportunity for our group.

Most of the garden soil and compost has a very high pH – up to 8.5 (pH of 6.5 is optimal) and it has taken a couple of doses of sulphur to bring it down. If you would like to have your soil tested, bring in a small sample and we can test it for you free of charge.

The raised beds need constant applications of water crystals as they dry out very quickly – we are considering constructing shade for these very shallow beds for the hotter months. If you would like to help do this in any way, contact Linda.

Alison's interesting workshop on Companion Planting covered a 6 bed crop rotation taking into account heavy feeders (eg cucurbits, tomatoes, corn), moderate feeders (eg lettuce, Asian greens), and light feeders (eg onions, root vegetables) and soil builders (eg green manure, legumes), planning summer and winter plantings incorporating beneficial plants such as camouflage plants (eg nasturtium, garlic), insect attractants (eg coriander, dill, calendula, sunflowers), insect repellants (eg basil, dill, garlic), growth stimulators (eg borage, parley, garlic).

The pigeon peas are now ready to be harvested at The Cottage if anyone would like to make a start on this.

Membership to Transition Town Hervey Bay is free; membership to Transition Town Gardeners is \$5 for singles, couples and families which entitles you to entry to the garden workshops and provides public liability insurance coverage through the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre.
2010 – 2011 membership and renewals are now due!

From little things big things grow - 2010 letterbox seed drop

As this newsletter goes to print, we have nearly finished packaging 4,000 seed packets for distribution around Hervey Bay. The Transition Town Gardeners have dutifully turned up at Jennifer's place to help with this huge task (encouraged by generous morning teas!).

Our aim is to basically get the word out there to plant the seed of thought in using less oil by growing your own food and saving your own seed. Food that's transported in from other areas obviously needs fuel and the packaging required needs oil as well. Home grown produce is fresh and usually cram packed with nutrients as well.

But now the fun begins getting these seed packets into the letterboxes of 4,000 homes.

Chris Vakas, a member of the Fraser Coast Sub-Tropical Fruit Club and fantastic seed saver has volunteered to organise over 20 youth group members from the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints to deliver over 2000 packets around the Wondunna area.

The River Heads Progress Association and the Booral Community Association have offered to drop seeds off with their community newsletters (1,000 households).

We still need more help to deliver over 1,000 more to other areas. If you go walking anywhere or know of a group that may be able to do this, please get in touch with us as it would be of fantastic assistance.

It is our second year of doing this and hopefully the second of many more to come if we can enlist your assistance.

Wayne Shearman from the local ABC radio is calling it "Seedtober". And just a general reminder, think of the seed bank before purchasing seeds from local hardware stores or the shopping centre. The majority of seeds are locally saved and are only a 50c donation per packet. If you have seeds to swap or donate then there's no cash exchange at all. There is a great selection now. You can't top that deal!

Sow today, eat tomorrow!

Garden resources:

- Bulk/loose potting mix for sale \$3/25 L bag at The Cottage – see Linda
- Unusual herbs or vegetable cuttings, seedling or division to propagate for sale (fund raiser) or to plant at The Cottage are welcome
- Free shredded paper available at The Cottage
- Free sawdust is available from the wood turners on Bideford Street
- Horse manure is available at two sites on Boundary Road for \$2 a bag
- Sugar cane straw is available at the end of Main Street on Fridays and Saturdays for \$3.50/bale

Date claimer: last meeting of Transition Town Hervey Bay for 2010 – **Thursday 9 December;** will include dinner or BBQ and drinks – everyone invited to come along. Details to follow.



TRANSITION TOWN
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Key Contacts:

President

John. Williams
john.williams17@bigpond.com
Mb 0428 980 019

Secretary

Les. Idiens
les.lin.idiens@bigpond.com
Ph 07 41242913

Treasurer

Linda. Idiens
les.lin.idiens@bigpond.com
Mb 0418 793 344

Assistant-Secretary/Media

Sara.Ashdown
permagaia@hotmail.com
Ph 0400 721 949

EDAP Project Coordinator

Maggie. Johns
tt_hb@hotmail.com
Mb 0434 144 394

Hervey Bay Seed Savers

Jennifer Ridge-Cooke
lioneInjen@bigpond.com
Mb 0414 514 812

Transition Town Resource Shelf

For books, newsletters and seeds
Fraser Coast Regional Library, Old Maryborough Road, Pialba