



TRANSITION TOWN
HERVEY BAY

Hervey Bay Transition Town Gardeners

"The Cottage", 16 Peters Lane, Pialba, Qld. 4655

September 2010

www.transitionfrasercoast.org.au

Go to the website for details on the Transition Town movement and find all the past Newsletters under the 'Transition Town Gardeners' tab.

September Schedule

Because there are five Thursdays in September, there'll be an extra activity day at the Cottage this month.

Workshops usually start after 8:30 am and finish with morning tea. Feel free to bring something along to share.

Thurs 2nd: Seed Swap

Gardeners are invited to bring their seed collection along to swap seeds with other members. Don't be embarrassed by your collection of envelopes and paper bags! It's the plant potential in them that's of interest to others. Bring extra envelopes and marker pens to swap small quantities of seed and information about what grows well locally with like minded people. The group is particularly interested in edible plants such as herbs, vegetables and exotic Asian plants which grow well in the sub-tropics. The Seed Bank, packs of pigeon peas and a trade table will be available as well.

Sat 11th: Companion Planting and Guild Planning

Most people have heard of companion planting which looks at what does or does not suit an individual plant. When you apply that type of thinking to an area or group of plants, animals, insects and fungi, then you create a guild. Guilds can be found in nature, in healthy ecosystems, or they can be designed and planted to make a garden healthier and more productive. Guilds are traditionally used to combine vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, and native plants in a diverse, mutually beneficial environment. The guild members must either improve the yield of the area or reduce the work needed to manage it thus enhancing the overall self sufficiency and sustainability of the system. If you want to know more about companion planting and how to create a guild in your garden this workshop is for you. It will be presented by Alison Chappell.

Thurs 16th and Sat 25th: General Garden Activities

Thurs 30th: The Recipe Swap Workshop

Do you know the difference between pickles, relish and chutney?

The girls will be bringing along some of their famous recipes for chutneys and preserves. Come along and get new ideas, try some produce and even bring your own recipes to share with the group. This will be a fun and sharing workshop for all.

August Activities

Jen's seedsaving workshop

On August 5, the gardeners left fork and spade at home, using glue and stapler instead.

We transformed old envelopes into seed packets. Then they were filled with seeds -for edible plants, of course, sealed with labels or info-sheets stapled onto them. In Spring they will be dropped into letterboxes in Hervey Bay, to promote self-sustainability by growing food in our own backyards. Maybe one day we can even follow some TV shows and transform the streets into vegetable gardens. Some years ago there was parsley happily growing on traffic-islands in the Roma Street area!

Sara's Introduction to Permaculture

It was great to see a couple of new faces turn up on Aug 28th to experience Sara's obvious passion as she described her philosophy.

Permaculture, (permanent agriculture), she explained, is creating agriculturally productive ecosystems that use the principles of natural biodiversity to work with, rather than against nature. This system puts people, in harmony with the landscape, providing healthy food sustainably, and Sara has the ability to encourage people to want to get involved.

The Transition town counter at the Hervey Bay Library has an excellent range of books on the subject.



The Gardeners would like to acknowledge the contribution by Mell, who takes care of the watering at the Cottage. When we were having difficulties organising a watering roster, he took over. It's easy to forget this is going on most mornings because we're not there to see it, so Thanks Mell, it's much appreciated!

The Second Hervey Bay Letterbox Seed Drop

Why are Transition Town Gardeners and the Hervey Bay Seed Savers Network working together giving out gifts of free edible plant seeds to Hervey Bay residents?

Transition Town Hervey Bay is all about preparing the Fraser Coast for the future, taking into consideration climate change and peak oil by raising awareness of what can be done to address these serious issues at a local level.

Food prices and food supply chains are very dependant on the price of oil and they operate on the just in time principle.

Imagine if there was a major natural disaster that stopped all the main transport systems operating, how long would it take to empty the supermarket shelves after panic buying set in?

That's why we're encouraging local residents to have a go at growing some of their own food.

The letterbox drop will start this month, with some wonderful community minded people already volunteering their help. We'll continue through October, hoping to reach over three thousand households, so if you like to do something for your town and your health, give us a call.

Jen, from Hervey Bay Seedsavers is inviting you to help with preparing these seed packages. We can gather at Seedsavers Central from 9am to 12 noon, on Wed's 1st, 15th and 29th Sept. Bring along any seeds you want to share, any small packets or old envelopes we can use to make into seed packets and enjoy the fun. Contact Jen at lionelnjen@bigpond.com or call her on 0414 514 812 for details.

Another one of Linda's Fabulous Recipes

Pawpaw Scones with Banana Jam

SCONES

1 tsp butter or marg
2 tsp castor sugar
1 egg
1 cup ripe pawpaw, mashed
2 cups SR flour, sifted

Mix cream butter and sugar, add egg and mix well
Stir in pawpaw
Finally, add flour, mix through and turn onto a flours board
Roll out thick. Using a scone cutter, cut into rounds and bake in oven for 12-15 mts

JAM

500gm peeled ripe bananas
350gm sugar
juice 3 sweet oranges
juice 1 lemon

Cut bananas into slices about 5mm thick.
Add sugar and juices and boil slowly in a heavy saucepan until thick (this takes about 45 mts, depending on fruit)
This jam can be stored in the fridge for up to a month

Maggie John Gave a Presentation on Transition Town's Sustainable Technology Park to a Meeting organised by Councillor Gerard O'Connell for the Economical Development committee at the Hervey Bay Library on 23 Aug. Called 'Entering The Green Gold Rush', guests heard how the region could secure a bright economic future by embracing new emerging technologies, like manufacturing plastics from algae and producing biochar on a commercial scale to provide the cane industry with an organic alternative as fertilisers became more expensive with oil prices increases.

Our small group of talented gardeners have been invited by Gavin, a teacher at the Urangan High School, to help develop a sustainable organic edible garden with one of the classes. This is the sort of thing we love doing, helping to educate young people on the benefits of growing and eating healthy food!

HELP! We're putting out a call for anyone who has small plastic pots they no longer need, that can be used to transplant seedlings into, so we can establish a bank of young plants for some of our projects.



TRANSITION TOWN
HERVEY BAY

T.T.H.B. Key Contacts:

President

John Williams

john.williams17@bigpond.com
Mb: 0428 980 019

Secretary

Les Idiens

les.lin.idiens@bigpond.com

Treasurer

Linda Idiens

les.lin.idiens@bigpond.com
Mb: 0418 793 344

Web Co-ordinator

Brenton Doyle

brentondoyle@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary

Sara Ashdown

permagaia@hotmail.com
Mb: 0400 721 949

EDAP Project Co-ordinator

Maggie John

tt_hb@hotmail.com
Mb: 0434 144 394

TTHB web site:

<http://www.transitionfrasercoast.org.au/>

<http://www.transitionnetwork.org/initiatives/hervey-bay>

TTGardeners web page:

<http://www.transitionfrasercoast.org.au/transition-town-gardeners/>

Hervey Bay Seedsavers

Jennifer Ridge-Cooke

lionelnjen@bigpond.com
Mob. 0414 514 812

<http://www.seedsavers.net/Isn/hervey-bay-seedsavers-network>

Meeting!

The next Meeting of Transition Town Hervey Bay will be held on Thursday 16th September at 6:30pm in the TAFE Training Restaurant, (D Block), Urraween Rd, Pialba. New members are invited to come along and learn all about this movement that's growing across the thinking world.