



*Care of the Earth, Care of  
People, Share the excess*

# Permaculture Cairns

Empowering communities with sustainable solutions

Permaculture Cairns Inc. Established July, 2007 Inc. No. IA35907

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August 27, 2010

## Media Release

### **Viable farming – viable communities workshop**

Easing the transition for farmers to become profitable, viable and truly sustainable is the theme of a day long series of workshops at a major conference on the Tablelands in September.

A series of guests including a former Governor General of Australia will be presenting a series of presentations ranging from livestock and dairy, pasture and cropping, food distribution supply chains, biological fertilisers and water management at the event.

The workshop is supported by NRM group Terrain and Northern Gulf Resource Management Group is another major sponsor of the conference.

“It’s about how to reduce your costs and make a profit, without it costing your soil and long term viability,” said Mr Kym Kruse, co-organiser of the event.

“In this day long workshop farmers can meet other farmers from around Australia and the world. They are making farming profitable using organic strategies.

“We want to equip farmers with information and ideas that they can implement now.

“Strategies that will be better for the environment, reduce nutrient run-off and maintain production.

“We’ll also discuss carbon sequestration, cheaper bio fertiliser inputs and food supply chains that help farmers get a better price at the farm gate.”

Speakers include:

Major General Michael Jeffery, former Governor General of Australia and Chairman of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, FDI and Outcomes Australia. General Jeffery believes farmers are leading the way providing multi faceted solutions to creating sustainable landscapes. Healthy food and healthy people can only come from healthy soils via properly managed water flowing correctly through the landscape. (Friday 24 September)

Eugenio Gras from Mexico, cattle and diary farmer, will discuss his achievements in bringing profitable organic farming to even the poorest farmers in the world, with success. (Saturday 25 September)

Robert Pekin is a farming hero. Director of Food Connect, now operating in four Australian capital cities, Robert will present an evaluation of doing food, fibre and fisheries in Australia

Come meet the Permaculture Cairns gardeners who meet on the **3rd Tuesday of the month** from 6pm at the Flexible Learning Centre, opposite The Trinity Bay SHS, Clark St, Manunda. Everyone is welcome.

examining the best ideas from around the world to fix some of the obvious flaws in the value and supply chain, and how some of these solutions can humanize the system. (Saturday 25 September)

Colin Seis runs a 2000-acre property “Winona” on the central slopes of NSW and has been pioneering “pasture cropping” for nearly 20 years.

Pasture cropping is the combining of cropping and grazing into one land management method where each one benefits the other.

The year-round groundcover results in reduced wind and water erosion, improved soil structure, reduced weed numbers, increased nutrient availability and increased levels of soil organic carbon.

There are now over 2000 farmers “pasture cropping” cereal crops into summer and winter perennial native grass in NSW, South Australia, Victoria Queensland, West Australia and Tasmania. (Saturday 25 September)

Trust Nature FNQ will present information on the *Vital Soils Project* a local community initiative to turn local organic waste into a quality biological soil amendment. This will give North Queensland farmers an alternative fertiliser, to help reduce petro-chemical fertilisers and biocides, thus improving soil health, crop productivity, food nutrition and farmer profit. (Saturday 25 September)

Date: Saturday 25th September, Candlenut Steiner School, Boyles Road, Kuranda.  
Time: 10am – 4pm.

END.

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