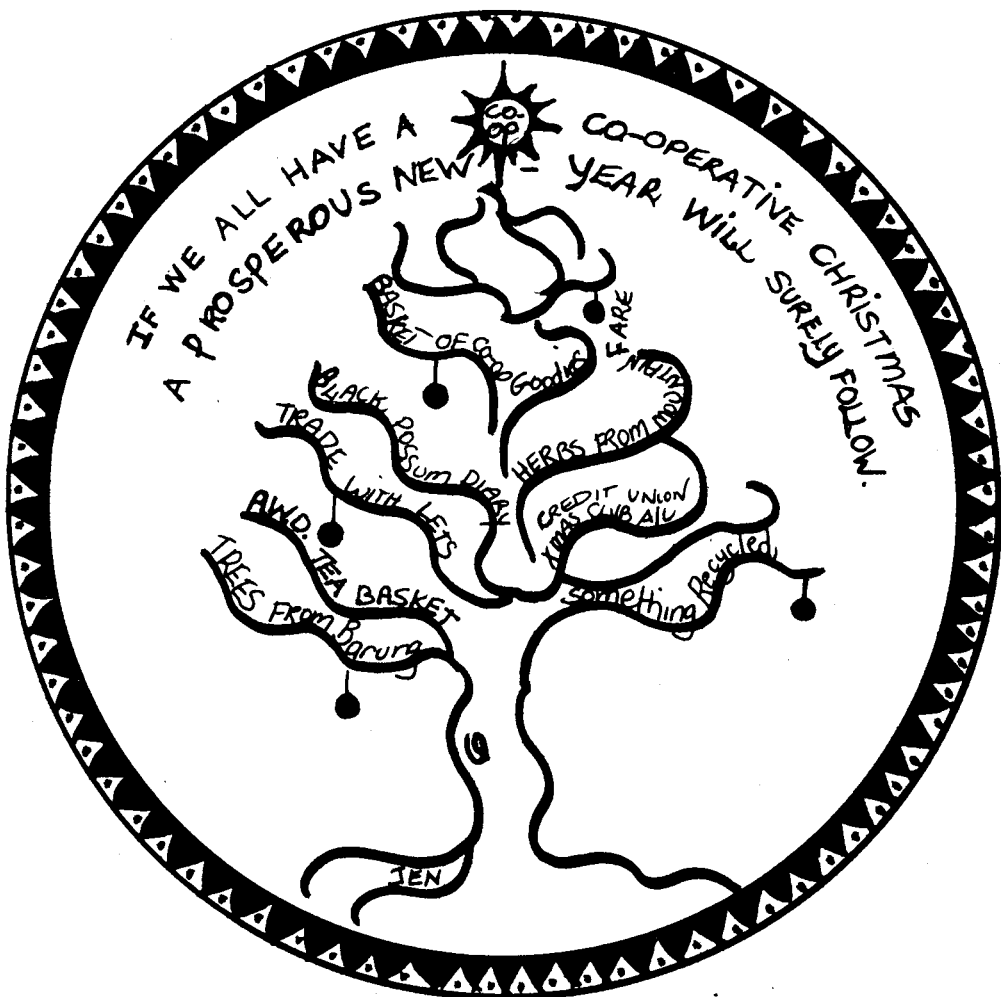


Maleny Co-operatives

A REVIEW

Volume 3, Issue 1

Christmas 1991



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EDITORIAL

First the good news! The editors wish to acknowledge the generous donation (\$316 over three issues) of the Credit Union to the funds of the Co-ops' Review. This will ensure that the smaller co-ops/groups do not have to increase their contributions to meet our rising costs in the immediate future.

Now the bad news! Tardiness in the submission of articles from some of our contributors is a great frustration and routinely delays our publication. In an effort to eliminate this problem, we have set the themes, due dates and publication dates for 1992. The editorial team earnestly seeks your co-operation in complying with the **due dates for articles, letters to the editors and advertisements.**

The issue to be released in April, 1992, is entitled "*The Mad Issue*" (interpret that as you will!) and the **due date** for contributions is the **17th of February**. The *September issue* has the theme of "*Growth in our Organisations*" and copy is due on the **13th of July**. "*Communication*" is the focus for the *final issue for 1992*, with contributions to be submitted by **5th of October**. We, the editors, look forward to a hassle-free new year, as masses of contributions roll in - **ON TIME!**

The Maleny Co-operatives Review is published by a committee comprised of representatives of the involved groups.

Committee members are:

Meg Barrett, Jan Tilden, Peter Pamment, Janel Skrandies, Denise Soya, Bob Sample, Jenny Law.

Thanks to:

Jenny Law for cover illustration.

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Co-ordinator:

Janel Skrandies Ph 074-944374, or
c/o - Lets Maleny, Bunya House, 28 Maple St.,
Maleny Q 4552.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

Being a member of four different co-ops, I always read the Co-op Review with interest. One of the most entertaining articles was Gayle Butson's Maple St. Co-op article. However, I feel that her references to Wastebusters could be misleading.

After being a staff member of Wastebusters for a couple of years, I can tell you that we really appreciate clean recyclable materials, too. Unwashed rancid dog food cans would be high on my list of disagreeable items!

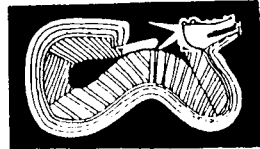
On the subject of plastic bags, Wastebusters can only recycle clean shopping bags, too. We seem to have a very specific market. We would also like you to turn them inside out and check for holes. Unfortunately the list of unrecyclable plastic bags is long: bread bags, those thin plastic bags you get in fruit and vege shops, frozen pea bags...all of which go on the tip face or in your horrible Wheelie-bin.

We can only encourage "consumer resistance" - try not to buy these items. (The cost of the plastic bag is added on to the price of whatever you buy.) Re-use plastic bags wherever possible, and as Gayle suggested, wash them. When plastic bags were more scarce in days gone by, it was not uncommon to see plastic bags drying on people's clotheslines! (A little hint from me: I wash soiled unrecyclable bags and other items before putting them in my unrecyclable bin, so it doesn't smell or attract the ants and their friends.)

We would appreciate it, too, if you could sort and clean your recyclable items. This saves us time and makes our job so much more pleasant. You can see that we have much the same problems as our fellow Maple St. Co-op workers. Wastebusters are more interested in recyclables than rubbish, and are striving to reduce the amount of unrecyclable items.

Refuse
Reuse
Recycle

Beth Bloom.



Dear Editors,

I would like to thank the Maple Street Co-op Staff for again deferring personal needs in the interests of our Co-op's expansion. The time given freely by staff over the past twelve years is truly appreciated.

I believe the high incidence of volunteer work done by staff in our Co-ops is not ideal. I'll rejoice when all staff are fully recompensed for their work and serious consideration given to the introduction of fees for directors. There will always be a warm welcome for volunteers from the membership.

Whilst I'm aware that all the Co-ops have a story of generous volunteers, right now I'd like to say thankyou to all the past and present staff of Maple Street, Maleny's second oldest Co-op.

Sue Smith.

Maleny Co-operative Review Spring 1991

Letter to the Editors,

Over the last five years (if you count living in Crystal Waters Community - since 1980) I have been involved in most groups/co-ops and had contact with other groups developing in Maleny. There are a couple of mental notes I made over that time, like - I seem to *meet pretty much the same faces* being active and involved in several groups at once (in spite of the membership in all groups having grown constantly over the last years; around one thousand all round) and - that the main part of the membership of various groupings seem to oscillate around an *age group of 30-ish to 40-ish*.

So, some questions are creeping up in my mind:- "Where are all those new membership faces? Are they waiting for the old crew to burn out?" - "Where is everybody else younger than 30?". There seems to be enormous food for thought.

Are we doing enough for our dormant members to excite them into action? Are we so busy working for the younger generations' future that we lost them on the way?

Maybe one step would help to get us on the way with both observations
- *involve me and I'll understand!*


Janel Skandies.



- IS IT REALLY ALL IN THE FUTURE? -

Does a population have informed consent when that population is not taught the inner workings of its monetary system, and then is drawn, all unknowing, into economic adventures?


- from
The Dosadi Experiment,
Frank Herbert 1977, SciFi



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6th MALENY FOLK FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 28th, 1991
to JANUARY 1st, 1992

rather BIZZ

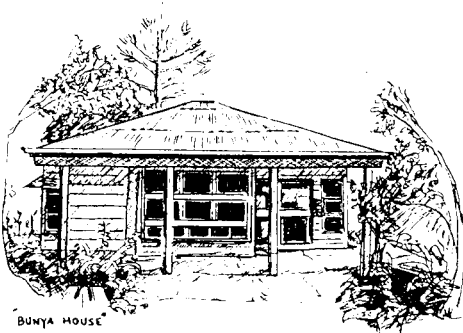


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LIMITED

A Year of Growth for the Credit Union.

• MCU Management.

This year has been one of substantial growth for your Credit Union. This growth has resulted in many changes being effected to ensure long term benefits for members. As reported at our Annual General Meeting, our membership has increased by 170. Our term and saving deposits have increased by 60% from \$2.1m to \$3.4m during the last financial year. With such rapid growth we need to be constantly upgrading the computer system and establishing a more efficient work space. This won't result however in the "cattle queue" concept for faster member "processing"; and the friendly sit down teller area ensures that members receive the personal attention that is not always evident in customer orientated organisation.

Many new members may not be fully aware of the special funds administered by the Credit Union. The Community Development Fund and The Community Assistance Fund. An outline of the uses of the funds is as follows:

► *The Community Development Fund*

The money accumulated in this fund is donated to a community organisation decided by the members at the AGM. So far money has been donated to the Community Centre, Physiotherapy Dept. of the Maleny Hospital, the Learning Assistance Programs of Maleny High school and Primary School, of Conondale Primary School, and to Barung Land Care.

► *The Community Assistance Fund*

The money accumulated in this fund is used in times of hardship for members of the community. Donations have been made to four fire victims and two accident cases in the past. The Directors allocate the funds as the need arises and these are reported to the members at the AGM. The recipients need not be a member of the Credit Union.

Donations to these funds can be made at the Credit Union. Please inquire at the tellers desk.

► *The Co-op Education Fund*

This fund was established by the members at the 1989 AGM and so far has been used for a start up loan for the Maleny Co-op's Review newsletter group and to assist a Co-op Education Day at Mudjimba in April 1990 organised by the Council of Community Cooperatives. This year the balance of the account was used to cover the Credit Union's costs to the Maleny Co-operatives Review and to assist smaller groups' and co-operatives' contribution levies to this publication. This works out to be a \$105 per issue subsidy for three issues of one year.

► *The Community Environment Fund*

This fund was established (formally) at this year's A.G.M. to distribute funds to local environmental projects and organisations. This year \$800 went to F.A.B.S. (Find Another Batching Site) and \$244 went to Barung Landcare to help them in the establishment of their nursery.



News from the A.G.M.

• Peter Pamment

The MCU Annual General Meeting was held in October. Of interest to members was the announcement of new loan interest rates for housing/land purposes and the new rates for ethical projects. Members were informed that if their loan fell into one of the new categories that it may be possible to renegotiate their existing loan to the new rates. Members were urged to come in and talk to the Credit Union if they felt that the new rates and special types of loans applied to them.

Since the AGM some loan rates have dropped yet again - call into the CU and ask for further details about loan types and current rates that may apply to your requirements.

Directors: Peter Pamment, Meg Barrett, Graham Nott, Bill McDonald, Noel Law, Pauline Shewchenko, Ray Passmore.

Co-Managers: Bob Smalley, Julie Parks, Judy Williams.

Secretaries: Jan Maskall, Vernetta Love.

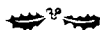


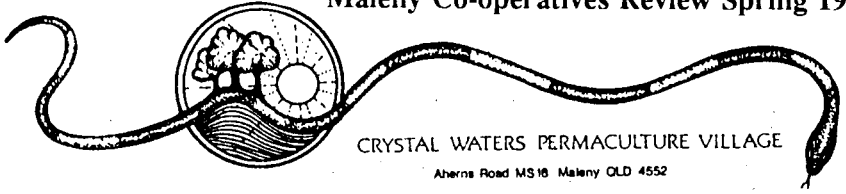
The Credit Union staff and directors
would like to wish

all its members

and other co-operative groups

A VERY HAPPY and SAFE XMAS.





A Year at Crystal Waters

• Eric Kiernan

With three days to go to the deadline, I was due to go off to the Gold Coast; not one word written and very little idea of what to write. It was then that I became a convert to the power of oral history; or, get as many opinions as possible and write them up.

When it comes to documenting achievements, people will always differ in what they regard as especially noteworthy, of course. However, if there's one thing we all agree on, it's that we are multi-dimensional beings, at least all my friends are. - Here, then is a summary of last year's noteworthy happenings in physical, emotional, mental and spiritual domains. It is also the case, as Bruce pointed out, that the phrase 'permaculture community' is bound to attract some people more interested in permaculture and some more interested in community, so it's natural that there will be a diversity of views on what is important, as well as a dynamic tension to energise change.

As I couldn't get round to everyone, I conducted a random sample by driving around for an hour and talking to anybody who would talk to me. Randomness also comes in because what I report as people's views possibly has little connection to what they said.

In the physical domain that we tend to call reality, the building programme continues apace. Stewart, Frances and Michelle put the bunkhouse in the Visitors' Area high on their list. It is a

major contribution to our ability to accommodate course participants and casual visitors, sleeping up to 24 people in four rooms. The community house retrofit got special mention from Regine and Geoff who also nominated the bush eating area at the VA (Visitors Area), as did Michelle. The new bridge links the community house and the VA by a pleasant path, keeping more of us off the roads and out of cars.

Curtis nominated the play equipment at the carousel as a major improvement and was particularly keen to point out that playing Ninja Turtles with new friends was occupying him a lot these days.

Wendy and Jay, working in Jay's vegetable garden, were excited that local employment generation was beginning. When I caught up with Bruce, busy on his 14th structure in CW ('and all Council approved') he emphasised the importance of local economy to ensure the sustainability of communities. Chris is somebody else who is discovering the joys of entrepreneurship. He even asked me to give a free plug to Crystal Cleaners, house cleaners to the gentry and anybody else who will pay in bunyas. But I'm above that.

Away from the built environment, Denise singled out the control of groundsel without the use of chemicals. Andy was moved enough to describe the gaining of official clearance as 'an epic moment in the history of the CW community'. He's right, of course. Phil thought the trees were looking good as did Frances and

Andy who have been planting heaps. Robin mentioned the first commercial crop of water chestnuts along with the Saturday night cafes as novel, successful ventures.

In ironic (or is it just American) mood, Geoff was delighted there had been no killings and few lawsuits. When asked about personal achievements, Frances was given to declare, in the quote of the year, that she 'had survived one year of marital harmony'!

Leaving them to sort out that Freudian slap, laps, lapse, lips (?) in a way which would not falsify Geoff's proud boast, I slipped (that's it, slip) away to ask Dick for his views on noteworthy achievements of the past year. Well, actually that's not the right order, but it reads better this way. His right-brain reply, 'I have never been into achievements - I don't think.', is the one which may prompt me to change the title of this piece from *Achievements In The Last Year to The Process Which Went Under The Name 1991*.



My question to Ian was greeted by stunned silence. Eventually, he nominated our greater understanding of the importance of emotions as a major change. On emotional levels we have certainly had a gigantic year which is unlikely to be repeated, even though it certainly will be. Personal growth experiences have beaten groundsel into second place for tenacity and virulence.

As a result, as Omega noted, there is much excitement around CW these days as well as a greater sense of commitment.

Phil had noticed a general softening up in people. Helen surmised that the men's groups which have been running intermittently were evidence of and partly responsible for the emergence of a more tender side to our natures. An example of commitment, emphasised by Pamela and Helen, is the obvious caring and the development of mutual support, especially for the older hippies. Stewart particularly expressed his gratitude at the support he received after being hospitalised.

The recent Co-op AGM which flowered into a very positive experience is an example of emergent flexibility and increased acceptance, as Pamela was keen to point out. Gillian got a special mention here for her contribution to its success.

Being more in tune with feelings has allowed us to make greater, more effective use of our mental faculties, of course, and there have been recent blossomings in the area of conscious, rational planning without conflict. As mentioned above the AGMs have been characterised by positivity, the way in which the community initiated the kitchen project being a major achievement. This project will feature more prominently as an actualised achievement in next year's report. For now, it is an example of the increased use of group processes in our lives.

And so at last we come to developments on a spiritual level, although actually they've already had a mention. Before we go any further, I know it's hard to say what spiritual means. I've just been talking about it with Djangawu and Omega in 'La Picardie' (and pear flan is a good example of a spiritual experience, especially if you're a Taurus). In my book, anything which leads to greater wholeness, integration and healing is spiritual. Anyway, all correspondence should be sent to Janel. I still have to

write to my mother and the taxman, though not necessarily in that order, so you've got Buckley's chance of getting a reply from me.

Every time we involve ourselves in co-operative projects, sink our differences, solve our problems in win-win ways, we are moving beyond the individual and that means doing spiritual work. So in these terms there is a huge amount to report. But, to be brief...

Through the whole of last year the Body Corporate committee got through its business with only two votes. The rest of the time it was talking, listening, being flexible, accepting, having fun and growing in the process.

After the recent AGMs we have more women on both the Body Corporate committee and the Co-op board than a year ago. The kitchen project is also a growth process and is seen as such, with participatory design being used to chart the way forward.

The Rhythm of Life Workshop moved many people by moving them.

And so it goes on. If you happen to see any inmates looking a bit flustered by the pace and direction of change, don't be shy, or intimidated, just approach them, say 'it's my shout' and we'll get on very well.



Co-op Committee Members: Chris Gwin, Ann Duffy, Patria Cardle, Chris Rew.

Co-op Secretary: Barry O'Connell

Co-op Treasurer: Kathy Trudgian

Chairperson: Robert Tap

"TRADE WINDS"

World Development Tea Co-operative Ltd.

• *Reprint from TEA NOTES, an occasional Information Bulletin prepared by the World Development Tea Co-operative on Development and Trade.(August 1988).*

The Tea Co-op imports a range of quality pure Ceylon teas from Sri Lanka. These teas are sold under the **Trade Winds** label. The Co-op uses tea to raise awareness among Australians about trade and development issues.

By focussing on a product which is in everyday use, we have a practical and useful tool to help bring development issues to the label of dinner table conversation. At the time we are supporting alternative trading structures for goods produced in the Third World.

Why tea?

Tea is one of Australia's most popular drinks. Apart from water, it is also the cheapest. What is cheap for us consumers, however, is not necessarily best for the producer. They end up shouldering the real cost of our tea. This results from the unjust trading structures between the so called 'developed' countries and the Third World.

Among the reasons why these countries are less developed is that they are not paid a reasonable price for the goods they produce. This severely limits their resources and hence their options for development.

Packing their own tea would greatly increase the export income of producing countries. Tea producing countries are

Maleny Co-operative Review Spring 1991

almost totally excluded from the lucrative processing and marketing aspects of the tea trade. These are dominated by a small number of companies who have immense power in international trade.

The tea producing countries find it difficult to compete with these vast companies even though they *do* have the skills to blend, pack, ship and market their own tea. They are hence forced to export tea in bulk to these companies rather than export their teas in packed form.

The Tea Co-op is not just concerned about selling tea. We are trying to demonstrate - or model- an alternative to the present global trading pattern. This unjust trading pattern makes our affluent lifestyles possible at the expense of Third World countries.

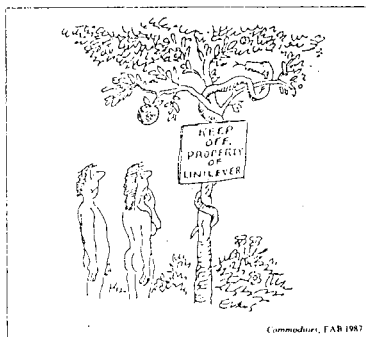
About development issues.

Everyday when we go to our kitchen cupboard we consume goods that link us directly to the Third World. Tea is such a product, but it is a case study only. It could be coffee from Brazil, tin from Bolivia, fresh flowers from Africa, fruit from the Philippines or sugar from Australia.

Our experience is that the tea action is an effective way to introduce people to aid and development issues. It enables people to be part of positive alternatives to existing trading practices.

The tea action encourages people to stop being part of the problem and become part of 'the solution'.

If you are not confused
you are not totally informed.



(Commodities, Feb 1987)

WHO IS BEHIND THE BRAND NAMES?

MARGARINE

UNILEVER

Miracle, Flora, Becel
Astra, Fairy, Stork

GOODMAN FIELDER WATTIE

Dave Bell, Mrs McGregor,
Meadow Lea, Etc. Praise

CONFECTIONARY AND SNACKS

CADBURY SCHWEPES

Dairy Milk, Picnic, Energy
Crunchie, Milk Tray, Muesli,
Munch, Roses, Freddo, Cherry
Ripe

AMATIL

Smims Crisps, GCs, Nobbys,
Sambory
Bigs, Lites, Twistles
Cheezies, Pizza Munchies

TEA

UNILEVER

Lipton, Lanchoo
Bushells

ALLIED LYONS

Tatley

CADBURY SCHWEPES

Tuckfields

CONVENIENCE AND FROZEN FOOD

UNILEVER

Continental, Vesta
John West, Seakust

ADSTEAM

Birds Eye, Edgell

McCain

McCain, Copper
Kettle

SOFT DRINK

AMATIL

Coca Cola, Diet Coke, Fanta,
Mello Yello, Knix Mixers,
Marchants, Deep Spring Mineral
Water, Taurina Spa, Bisleri,
Mount Franklin

CADBURY SCHWEPES

Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Schweppes,
Tarax, Tarrno, Hepburn Spa
Mineral Water, Zappie
Solo

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

UNILEVER

Drive, Omo, Rinso, Solly, Surf

COLGATE PALMOLIVE

Spree, Apex, Cold Power, Fab II,
Gow, Dytanno Concentrate
(Buckit)

PERSONAL PRODUCTS

UNILEVER

Pearls, Sunsilk, Clinic, Harmony, Rexona, Impulse, Norsca
Aum, Menage

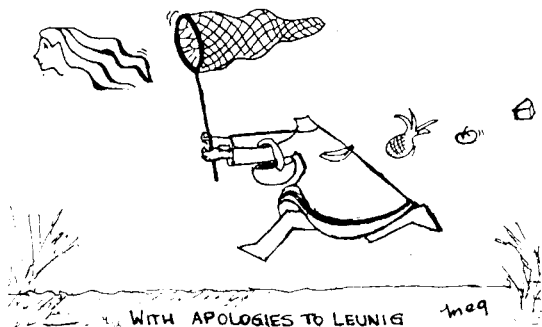
Based on company information

Based on company information

* Since this table was published
Allied Lyons has acquired Cadbury
Schweppes' tea brands.

A new packaging - especially for Christmas as a double "present" - lidded basket containers. 1600 families around the plantations are involved instead of one operator on a packaging machine using swedish cardboard!

Contact: Peter Erdmann, Ph: 074-943171



WITH APOLOGIES TO LEONIE

Fare's Fair

• Meg Barrett

If you judge an organisation by its bank balance, then Mountain Fare would have to be considered an ailing operation but it was confirmed, for me, at the A.G.M. that we are rich in other ways. We are definitely in the black when it comes to member support. Twenty-five of our forty-two members attended the A.G.M. Not too many organisations can boast a 60% member turn out on this traditionally rather dour occasion. Of course, frequent attenders at M.F. meetings were prepared for a relaxed, rather informal atmosphere and no one expected anything too serious with Lisa in the Chair. Yet, as she steered us competently through the A.G.M. hoops, it became apparent that Mountain Fare is more than just a "pretty face". As we listened to the various reports, 1991 was revealed as a year of considerable achievement for Mountain Fare, on both an individual and collective level. The big news on the Catering front was the launch of Karen's and Prabha's vegetarian restaurant. While the restaurant is not itself a M.F. project, we, as members of M.F., have watched the development of these two women in skills and abilities, confidence, self-esteem and business acumen, and we take pleasure in the

contribution the co-op has made to the advancement of our members.

The Maleny Spring Workshops were successful on a number of levels for Mountain Fare as an organisation. They provided paid employment for workshop presenters (many of whom were M.F. members), caterers, childcare workers and others; they allowed both presenters and participants to explore their skills, exchange ideas and develop in confidence and ability; they enhanced Mountain Fare's reputation, both locally and further afield, and generally fulfilled our aims as an community development co-operative.

The participation of Lyn Blunt and Annah Evington in the National Enterprise Workshop was an example of individual outstanding achievement which had its origins in Mountain Fare. This prestigious and intensive six month course, run by the University of Queensland, culminated in the presentation of a thoroughly researched and documented business plan to a panel of expert judges. Lyn and Annah were placed fifth of fifteen teams, a considerable achievement considering they did not have the significant financial and resource backing most of the other teams enjoyed.

On the levels of fund, morale and profile raisers, other activities for 1991 include our Herb Stall at the Maleny Markets, the garage sale, the International Women's Day dance and the November dance, the Folk Festival stall, and workshops to be run by the Women's Education Service in adult literacy, job search skills for women and co-op education.

In terms of member involvement, commitment to solving problems and keeping communication clear and open, maintaining morale, offering support and generating our own effective processes, Mountain Fare is way ahead. This is not to suggest that we don't have problems to

solve. We do. But it's good to focus on our achievements to remind ourselves just how far we've come. And maybe 1992 can be the year of the burgeoning bank balance. After all, economic well-being is also one of our aims.



Mountain Fare Catering is Alive and Cooking Well.

• Sonar English

- » Say goodbye to the meat pie.
- » Say goodbye to roast chook and lamb chops.
- » Say goodbye to meat and three vege.
- » Say hello to fresh, nutritiously delicious, vegetarian food.
- » Say hello to innovative and personalized service.

This could be the delight of your life. Why wreck your body and life on the fast food lane. It's never too late to change your direction to a happier and healthier life style. Mountain Fare Catering is the most established catering business in Maleny. So... the next time you are wanting to celebrate a wedding, party, seminar, picnic or romantic dinner, we can offer you scrumptious foods at reasonable prices, with caring service.

Your Christmas Present! Why slave over a hot stove on Christmas Day? Why scoff all the traditional roast turkey and muck? Why not treat yourself, family and friends to a fantastic, far-out vegetarian meal, which will leave you feeling extremely contented, centred and lite. Free yourself from the hassles and headaches of buying, preparing and cleaning up. The choice is yours! So give us a call on 942825.

A Single Step.

• Lyn Blunt

Through Mountain Fare's active encouragement and support of women, a placement in an Enterprise Workshop was offered to members of the co-operative. Two members came forward, not really knowing what was in store. Officially, the course title was the Queensland Enterprise Workshop run by The Centre for the Development of Entrepreneurs, Graduate School of Management, University of Queensland.

The first phase of the workshop began with an intensive, one week, live-in training and education program including :

- * The Business Plan
- * Marketing
- * Legal Structures
- * Finance and Accounting
- * Production Planning
- * Presentation and Negotiation Skills

And much, much more....

The second phase covered on-going lectures at the university and the presentation and compilation of The Business Plan. The final phase involved the completion of The Business Plan, formal oral presentation to the judging panel, and rest and recuperation (and don't mention business plans)!

Teams were formed to develop Business Plans for new ideas or inventions with emphasis on real experiential learning, rather than through text books or case studies. Because of our co-operative background and because we wanted to put the effort into something we felt good about, finding an ethically and economically viable project took weeks of deliberation. Eventually an idea was formed and the more research was done,

the larger the "idea" grew and grew. So did the sleepless nights, the worry, excitement, learning, personal development and lots of fun.

To explain 'what' the business plan was all about would take too many pages but, as this issue is about *Achievement*, I feel the greatest achievement came from actually completing the course. (It had its moments.) This was a team effort and our team grew together, learnt with and from one another, and formed great friendships. Thanks Annah Evington and Paula Collins.

"The longest journey starts with a single step" - that was my achievement.

Directors: Lyn Blunt, Annah Evington, Prabha Jewson-Brown, Nora Julien, Ann Jupp, Margi O'Connell, Lisa Turvey.

Treasurer: Nora Julien

Secretaries: Ann Jupp, Tricia O'Neil

Blackall Range Independant School

Achievements of the Year.

- Chris Moore.

Blackall Range Independent School is a small family school located between Nambour and Mapleton. The school maintains a flexible approach and the small size allows close caring contact between teaching staff, pupils and parents. By catering for individual needs, the school forms positive self concepts, confidence, self discipline and a sense of social participation. The school started in 1975 and is funded by State and Federal grants, supplemented by student fees, and

Yes B.R.I.S. continues to operate, an achievement in itself for 1991. The physical framework was gradually deteriorating - the stumps of one building were being consumed by white ants, the plumbing was in need of a complete overhaul, and paths were gradually subsiding. This together with low emotional morale due to increased administrative pressure from bureaucracy, and an uncertain and difficult economic climate, contributing to falling student numbers, led to a questioning of the continuation of the school.

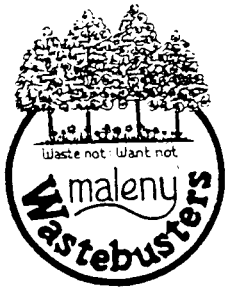
The very thought of a choice, inspired and rejuvenated spirits, and the vision of a "Music in the Mountains" day unfolded. This was to be a day of children's activities, live music from noted local musicians, stalls from local crafts people and lots of homemade food. The overall aim was to acquaint as many people as possible with the wonderful environment and opportunities that B.R.I.S. offers as a family school.

July 21st happened - an event which united teachers, children, parents and friends, in their common quest for a unique educational opportunity.

The school is restumped, the plumbing is repaired, new paths exist and student numbers have increased to keep the school functioning with two teachers. Generally the school has taken on a new lease of life. Some money was needed of course but most of the success is due to a lot of hard work from people who care - people uniting to ensure that B.R.I.S. survives.



Contact: Blackall Range Independent School Inc.,
MS 956, Via Nambour, 4560, Ph: 074-415227



Maleny Wastebusters Co-op.

• Robert Lyndon.

As the day drew to its close, a large, broad-shouldered man narrowed his eyes and reported his achievements of the day. "The shed's got its collar-beams now", he said. The tiredness edged his voice drily. "We had a few helpers - some went home at lunch-time, but a few stayed on and that's a pretty complete shed now."

Yes, that fellow is a Wastebuster!

His day was given freely and I say quite boldly, with such warm gratitude, that many such days are given freely and unselfishly, myself included. And boy, oh boy, isn't this "the real achievement" of our Co-op!

Oh, we're a shoestring operation by many standards, but we (Wastebusters) often 'cop some flak' from the wheelie-bin proponents and yet we are famous throughout Australia!

The Witta Depot has become a "model" to many new-job creating centres of recycling in many major cities now. Brisbane City Council has opened four major recycling centres to replace the earth-fill mentality. Our Witta Depot (our fond name for our workstation) would have long ago been filled and levelled, had we not been recycling the many tons

of waste that we handle.

Also our Witta Depot has recently been complemented by the fledgling activities at Conondale Depot (Open all hours - staffed about 1 hrs each day at present and people are 'learning the ropes' around there). Remember the adage that 'The Polluter will have to Pay'! It seems like standing orders nowadays in our Co-op. (Recycled items are deposited free at our depots).

Of course, there are many hallmarks of achievement to list in a physical sense:

- 1. Our Wastebusters truck has been active continually since its initial purchase although struggling to keep abreast of expenses. We will hopefully upgrade to a better truck soon. Any trucks going cheap? Hire rates are still reasonable - \$25 an hour plus fuel costs and you get a real Wastebuster as well on the job! Even part Bunyas accepted.
- 2. We have, as previously stated, opened Conondale to our recycling and educational activities and it will surely expand (helpers - maybe?).
- 3. Our directors (I'm a new one with two others along) have hung in there with the sometimes lengthy and tedious tasks, meetings, working bees, correspondence, etc. and all are to be commended on their dogged stickability.
- 4. Our fundraise Ball went off really well (hot group that "Look Ma-No Hands") just recently and maybe more such "bashes" will be coming our way.
- 5. We have a new compound, a larger and sounder shed, a chipper for mulch materials (it's a bit noisy though, I feel, and maybe our environment is not incredibly safe with that.)
- 6. Preparations are under way for the Folk Festival again with talk of sharing dishwashing duties for all stallholders, as well as there being a very much stronger push for a completely clean and



**THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE MALENY
ASSOCIATION INC.**

SHARED WORKSPACE SCHEME

• Bob Sample

Introduction.

The Enterprise Centre Maleny is a project initiated by the Caloundra Enterprise Development Agency Ltd (CEDA). The major investor in the Enterprise Centre is the Queensland Government through the Labour Market Division of the Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations.

It has always been intended that the project be a joint venture between the local community and the State Government. Major contributions have been made by individuals and businesses by way of work-time contributions, professional services, and discounts for goods supplied.

The Management Committee.

In its initial stages a sub-committee of CEDA guided the project. As from December 1990 the project has operated as an incorporated non-profit community benefit organisation with its own Management Committee.

The present committee is:

<p>President: Paul Hood Vice President: Annah Evington Secretary: Harry Whitehouse Treasurer: Geoff Kapernick Committee Members: Toni Hyde, Ken Taylor, Giancarlo Molinaro.</p>
--

The Aim.

Our shared workspace enterprise centre has as its most basic aim the reduction of unemployment in our community. This is achieved by creating workshop and office areas available at reasonable commercial rates but with the following features:

- a flexible short-term license for use of the space without a long-term lease commitment
- telephone and electricity available
- use of in-house meeting room
- reception services
- access to in-house photocopying, wordprocessing, facsimile, bookkeeping and other secretarial services.
- support and advice from the Centre Manager
- access to a community mentor business group
- regular in-house meetings with other owner-operators

Such facilities and services should help to give unemployed people wishing to commence a business the maximum chance of success.

The Project To Date.

Since January 1990 the shared workspace has been operating from leased premises in the main street of Maleny. Several start-up businesses and community based groups have made use of the space available. Employment has been generated. For almost two years it has been planned to establish

the Enterprise Centre in the old Maleny Butter Factory building. Although of sound basic construction the building had lapsed into a poor state of repair. The upgrading required substantial work to be done.

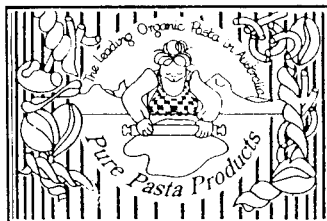
A schedule of development and cost estimates was prepared in April 1990. However the lease was not secured until May 1991. costs have in many cases exceeded the estimates made so long ago. Despite generous community contributions there are insufficient funds to complete the intended work program.

The Present and The Future.

The immediate aim is to settle those clients waiting for space into the new building. At the same time an effort will be made to source the investment funding necessary to complete the planned development.

When completed the Enterprise Centre will be capable of housing twenty small businesses. It should become a well known feature of business on the Blackall Range. In the longer term it will assist its clients to move onto larger premises as they achieve financial success.

Enterprise Centre Tenants



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Barung Landcare Ph:943 922

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Achievements for the Year a Shared Workspace Scheme.

• Toni Hyde

After a year of hard work and rapid learning the Enterprise Centre Maleny is open for business.

The Old Butter Factory in Coral Street has been magically transformed from a broken down, decrepit, unloved building to a functional creative work space poised to offer budding new enterprise a beginning.

The Committee and Management have been continually delighted by the Community Support throughout the year and particularly on the opening day. (Where else in the world would people in the street stop and help 3 of us, sitting in a van outside Maleny Motors, to inflate 300 balloons, two hours before the Official Opening!). Thank you Brett and Stan for the Compressor!

Tenants at present include a desktop publisher, Motor Cycle Repair Shop, Pasta Maker and home to our co-operatives Wastebusters and Barung Landcare.

We now need a Secretarial Service, so if you have the skill and talent please contact Annah Evington on 943061 or Bob Sample on 943922.

We've achieved the creation of a supportive, environment for small businesses to "get off the ground". None of the businesses are tied to a long term lease agreement, they only pay for the spare they require which is a major benefit for any new business starting off.

While the Enterprise Centre Maleny isn't a co-operative it is a fine example of the co-operative principle of sharing and support.



TREVOR ANGEL
DESKTOP PUBLISHING
& COMPUTER CONSULTANCY

Phone 943 955
Fax 943 506

the building himself, offering the co-op a deal which would give us the security of tenure and development potential of owners while he continued to receive a business-like return on his investment. This was a similar deal to the one that we might have struck with the members of the proposed unit trust.

This is the arrangement that the co-op has entered into. We have, in effect, a 99 year lease on the building which we now occupy, the accompanying land and a vacant block of land with a frontage on Bicentennial Lane. Further, we have the option to purchase this property in the 99th year of the lease, at the then unimproved capital value of the land. Our rent is also based on the unimproved capital value of the property. This means that the return on any development of the site that we undertake is ours to offset against the cost of our rent. On the other side of the coin, we have to manage the property, meet a considerably increased monthly rental payment, plus pay all outgoings (eg. Rates, Insurances, Maintenance).

In summary, the advantages to the Co-op are:

- ▶ security of tenure
- ▶ knowing where we stand
- ▶ development potential
- ▶ a saleable asset (the 99 year lease)
- ▶ room to expand
- ▶ exciting new challenges
- ▶ the likelihood of renewed member interest and involvement as the co-op is no longer able to be taken for granted.

Possible disadvantages are:

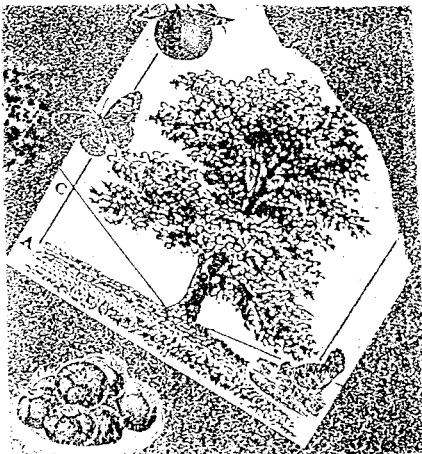
- ▶ a delay in paying our workers award wages for every hour they work.
- ▶ a very tight financial situation for at least one year and possibly longer, depending on our growth in profitability.
- ▶ a small financial risk
- ▶ more unpaid work, at least for the time being.
- ▶ small or no members' rebates until we improve our trading to offset the increased costs.

On balance, the directors believe that the arrangement that we have entered into with lan is a very favourable solution to the problem outlined at the beginning. Nevertheless, the financial squeeze for the first year (at least) is very real. In the worst case scenario (or almost worst case barring unforeseen disasters) we will have used up all of our financial reserves by June 1992 and will be relying on the increased profitability of the shop to see us through. In fact, our profitability has been increasing since we first opened, although the rate of increase varies from year to year and we sometimes have "flat" years when the line on the weekly sales graph doesn't rise very steeply. This being so, the directors would prefer to minimise the drawing of the building management fund on the profits of the shop. For this reason, we are most anxious to optimise our development potential - within our ethical guidelines of course. In particular, we will be looking for ways to develop the back block so that we can get some income from that as soon as possible and so that we make optimum use of it in the coming years. We will be very interested

in members' input on this topic.

There are a number of things members can do right now to tide the co-op over this most difficult initial period. One is to purchase more shares at \$25 each. Another is to donate some specialised service which you may possess. In the near future, for example, we will be needing the services of an electrician. Another is to give some serious thought to ways we can use our back block. We are interested in both short and long term plans, but especially in proposals that integrate the two. Also, members could patronise the shop more. Don't buy your vegetables from shop 'X' just because you happen to be there buying toilet paper. As always, strong member support for fund raising ventures and other co-op activities (eg. our General Store at the Folk Festival) would be most welcome.

We, as directors, wish to express our appreciation to Ian McDonald for his generosity, his vision and his truly "co-operative" spirit. We look forward to the challenge of management and development of *our* building and the accompanying block. Finally, we hope for renewed member involvement in this exciting new phase in the now assuredly long history of the Maple Street Co-op.



GET PACKING

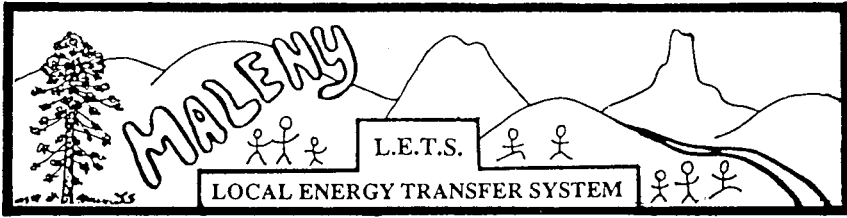
• Jan Tilden

Recently I had occasion to spend two days in the backroom of Maple Street Co-op, packing bulk produce. A couple of hours into the first day, about half way through a sack of Kialla bio-dynamic flour, it suddenly struck me how happy I felt, so happy in fact that I almost burst into song like a character from a Rogers and Hammerstein production. There I was in my blue grocer's apron, scooping organic food into environmentally friendly bags, surrounded by one of the most congenial groups of co-workers I could ever hope to find myself among, doing something quite basic and undeniably useful. Far from being bored with what some might consider a fairly menial occupation, I found it very pleasant and relaxing to pass the day in this way - while at the same time doing my bit for the co-op. Relaxation without guilt. Perhaps even a new form of meditation. It struck me that I might have coped quite well under one of those communist regimes that took all of its academics out of the universities and set them to work in the fields and factories.

So - if you would like to contribute to the Co-op, but feel that you don't really have the energy or time for yet another commitment, I recommend that you consider a couple of hours of packing each week. You may find, as I did, that this particular form of voluntary work yields surprisingly rich returns.

Directors: Meg Barrett, Phil Hatch, Jenny Law, Chris Pollard, Vivienne Prescott, Derek Sheppard, Jan Tilden.

Secretary: Nora Julien



What has LETS achieved for the Year 1991? - in short.

• Janel Skrandies

- ▶ Turnover of approximately 250,000 Bunyas since the beginning of Bunya trading (December 1987).
- ▶ Over 420 members since the beginnings
- ▶ Finally talking with the taxman (see Peter Pamment's article).
- ▶ Businesses joining LETS, some are still waiting for tax mans' decisions.
- ▶ Bunyas a sound and ethical investment in the future.

Interlets:

- ▶ Since last Maleny Folk Festival InterLets taking off.
- ▶ Lots of trading with Letshine
- ▶ *AGM review:*
 - Restriction to festivals, workshops, accommodation, transport, local specialities ...
 - No superlets
 - Restriction on InterLets trading to 10% of the monthly Bunya turnover.
 - Fringe dwellers trading regularly (living in an area where LETSsystems overlap regionally) are advised to join up both systems in question.
 - No transfer of positive or negative accounts to other systems.
- ▶ Other letsystems do have a different approach to InterLETS, working over a pegasus network.

- ▶ Who do we InterLETS with? Hervey Bay Lets, Brisbane Lets, Letshine (Nambour/Sunshine Coast), LetsNest (Crowsnest), Richmond Valley Lets.

LetsNet:

- ▶ Establishing new LETSsystems all over Australia
- ▶ Workshoping the Lets idea
- ▶ Tv & talkshows, radio interviews, newspaper articles, magazine portraits (see Ann's article)

Office:

- ▶ Office with new flair - watch out for the new mural!
- ▶ Staff community consideration upgraded to B 8 per hour.
- ▶ Doubling up of staff to ensure better service.
- ▶ Superstaff handling workload with cool!
- ▶ No more photocopying in Resource Room since MCU needed more space. There weren't enough funds to maintain the idea of the Resource Room
- ▶ Lets photocopying will be done at the Enterprise Centre (one third B)

Members news:

- ▶ Still keeping our \$ funding up and expenses down - again no annual \$

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membership fee.

- ▶ NL still trying to catch up with itself, or has it finally done it with Letsteam?
- ▶ Ads in newsletter very popular
- ▶ The story of the continuous monthend; hundreds of acknowledgements per month!
- ▶ No more cheap photocopying for LETS members at MCU but the EC offers a Bunya component for photocopies and secretarial services.

New Ideas:

- ▶ KiddLets after popular demand by our youngsters. Watch out for KIDDL KORNER in your Noticeboard!
- ▶ The elusive BUNYA PAGES, sorry, still in the mill.
- ▶ Not enough hands and heads to keep up with the demands and our ever sprouting new ideas.



Folk Festival:

- ▶ 3000 bamboo sticks produced at Stick Party for Folk Festival's corn on the cob.
- ▶ Folk Festival Stall, please will you help yourself and LETS?
 - Bunya considerations (B8 per hr) for shifts at stall
 - especially Bunya debtors welcome.

LETS TAX UPDATE

- Peter Pamment.

Over the last few months the Tax Department have been actively involved in coming up with a ruling that would cover barter type transactions. We have been trying to get them to come up with a clear statement for 2 years now and it good to see some action. Their response is mainly

due to the business orientated organisations such as Contra Banc. The LETSsystems have been included in the Tax Ruling as it is very broad so as to encompass all barter transactions. LetsMaleny met with the Tax Official, Geoff Miller, who is co-ordinating the Ruling and how we felt most LETS transactions were not taxable and if they were then a local tax in local units should be payable.

A draft ruling was issued on 4th September and LETS Maleny made a submission by the due date of 16th October. The final ruling should be available soon. A copy of the draft ruling is available in the office, but basically consists of definitions of types of barter organisations and type of transactions. The tax department gave our kind of extended bartering the name "counter trading".

For LETSMaleny members, the only transactions that may have a tax liability are ones involving a person in business receiving credit for their business goods or services. In practice this means you would have to be filing a tax return with business income and/or have a official registered business name etc. and doing trade consistent with your business. The tricky problem of how to value these transactions then arises. As the Tax Dept. wants these transactions to be only in federal dollar terms, each member would have to value each transaction as he/she saw fit.

On the issue of local tax, which is very important to us as we feel that paying federal tax on local income will only make members \$\$ poorer, the Tax Dept. can't help us as they can only work with current legislation and there are no provisions for such things. We need to make submissions to the Prime Minister, Treasurer, Finance Minister, and local MPs for changes in Tax Laws. We feel that the time is right for all LETSsystems to get together and

deal with this and other matters, so we are looking at trying to get some funding for a National Conference of LETSystems to formulate a common policy and set up a lobby group to start working for changes in the Tax Laws.

LetsNET Achievements.

• Ann Jupp.

The past year has seen a huge resurgence of interest in LETS and a burgeoning of LETSystems throughout Australia. This can be attributed in part to the depressed economy - the "Recession we had to have" (so called by the illustrious ex-treasurer) - and in part to the publicity LETSystems have been generating in the wake of the establishment of Barter Directory, Bartercard, Contra Banc and Aussie Trade. Suddenly we became newsworthy again and, for a time, a few months ago, hardly a week went by without requests for Maleny LETS - the 'parent' LETS - to do interviews for newspapers, on Radio and even Television. These requests came from as far away as Melbourne. "A Current Affair" contacted us with a view to talk to us on camera. Unfortunately some of our words were misquoted in print, and telejournalists tended to sensationalise LETS and play up a 'tax evasion' angle - erroneous of course. But we stuck to our guns, and eventually declared a policy that we would only talk to reputable/ethical (ABC and local) reporters. Other LETSystems have been 'media stars', too. Blue Mountains was featured on "The Home Show" and others have been the subject of various programs and current affairs show.

And now for the Birth Notices for the

last twelve months. A year that has seen our list of other LETSystems we know about in Oz grow from a single page plus addendum for W.A. - the most LETS active state - to a page for each state. And it's still growing, to the point that we're flat out keeping up with a printed listing. No sooner is it typed than it's out of date again!

From our own state we're happy to announce the birth of Cairns LETS - baby unnamed as yet (they were running a competition to decide a name - something reef-ish). From Atherton, congratulations to Ponne and 'family' - a healthy baby (Bartles). Also to Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Mooloolah and Stanthorpe (baby granites). In N.S.W. we saw the births of Albury/Wodonga, Armidale, Newcastle, Upper Clarence, Bega Valley (Baby called Sapphire), Braidwood, Hawkesbury Valley and Young (baby Pips!!).

Victoria produced lively offspring from Dandenong Ranges, Northcote and District, Bellarine, Violet Town, Numurkah and Mansfield.

Tasmania announced the birth of Burnie and Sheffield LETS and Circular Head (Smithton) is nearly due. While from S.A. we heard of a very active Whyalla birthing.

W.A., still booming in the pregnancy/reproduction stakes, produced Denmark, Donnybrook, Busselton and Nannup.

As you can see, the LETS "midwives" have had a busy, rewarding and achievement filled gear - so has the mailing staff of Maleny LETS!!

Trustees: Janel Skrandies, Andru Martin, Ann Jupp, Peter Pamment.

Advisors: Ian McDonald, Jill Jordan, Robin Clayfield, Clarissa Townsend.

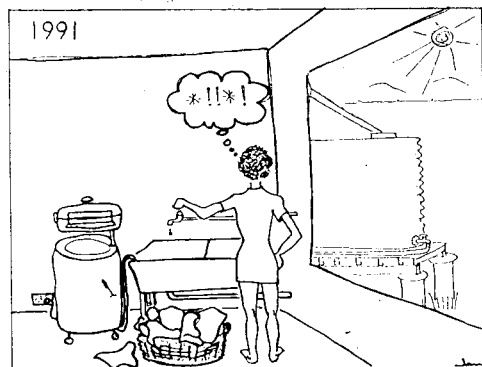
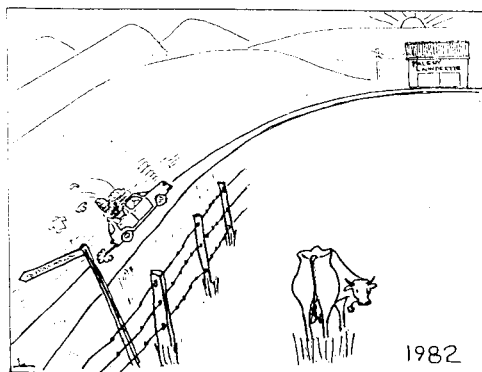
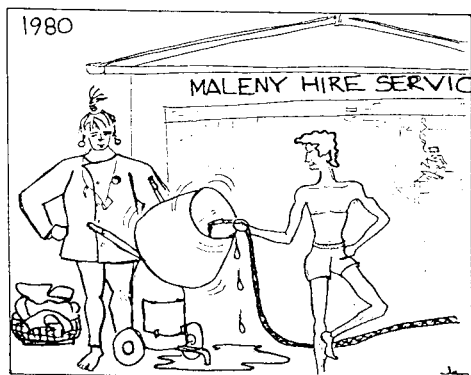
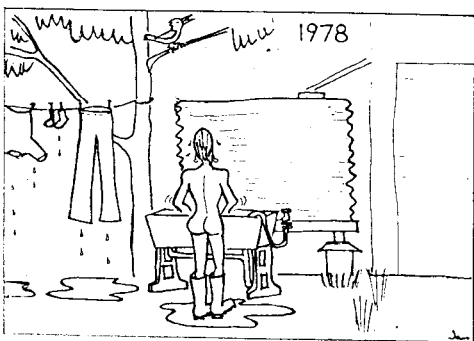
Treasurer: Peter Pamment.

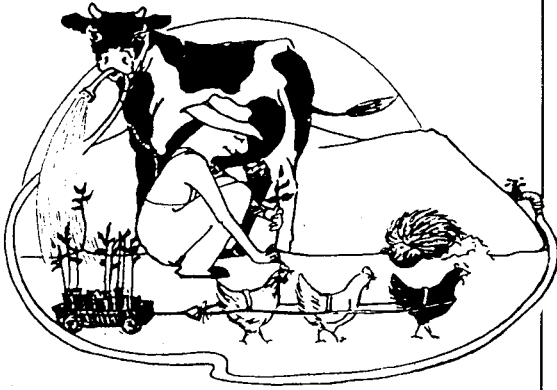


Frogs' Hollow Washing Day.

• Jan Tilden

The theme for this issue of the Co-ops' Review is "Achievements for the Year". One of ours at Frogs' Hollow is the commissioning of a new communal laundry - a great leap forward considering some of our past washing day experiences. Unfortunately your Frogs' Hollow correspondent for this issue finds that her ability to write those lengthy treatises on this, that and the other is heavily dependant on a level of nicotine in the blood stream that no longer exists. To get around the problem I have decided to try my hand at another medium. Any resemblance to people some of us know is purely regrettable.





Barung Landcare in 1991.

- Dean Cameron, Lexy Forbes,
Janel Skrandies.

Enterprise and Self-funding.

Barung Landcare, only in its second year, has this year taken many initiatives and important strides forward towards achieving its long term goals. The feasibility report was completed by November '90 and identified some likely opportunities to reduce our long term reliance on government funding by conducting landcare compatible enterprise/fund raising activities (mainly through seed collection and propagation of rainforest trees). By February '91, after much discussion and input by many of our members, the management committee resolved to incorporate a second management body within Barung to direct the operations of these enterprise activities. It was decided that an appropriate vehicle for this was a pty. ltd. company with directors to be appointed by the Barung management committee. So far we have commenced this enterprise work with a subcommittee acting as interim directors and

without the company structure. The venture was financed by a loan from the general Barung Landcare account of \$1800. This has now been repaid and the Barung Enterprise account looks ok.

It is a humble beginning for what we hope will grow to be our major source of funding in the future.

The Nursery Site.

The nursery has been our main focus so far. An opportunity arose to propagate and sell rainforest seedlings to a commercial nursery. As this fitted in well with our needs of a reliable supply of plants for our regeneration plant sales our initial business plan has centered on this. Our initial cash flow forecasts were not realistic. We are operating with very inadequate facilities based at the Maleny High School and although we have had to contend with winter and slow germination rates, losses from rats, birds, hot sun and irrigation failures, it is still looking good as a business proposition.

The bright spot on the horizon is the longterm lease of a new nursery site in Bicentennial Lane, Maleny. We will have access to about 3000 sq m of land donated to Caloundra City Council for parkland to use for our home base. It was a long time in the negotiation phase but now we have a license to occupy since the previous owner agreed to it being used in this way. BLC will do the work needed to create the parkland planting endangered and rare species on the remaining land. At last we have room to start sowing seeds again!

The school nursery project had a long wait for the Administrative Services Department's (Education Department) approval for the green house design to be used for this Greening Australia project. The funds had been given several month ago. Now we finally can get started.

Tax Free Donations.

We have started saving to establish the nursery facilities but will need financial support to make this dream a reality. Landcare Australia has been very supportive of our self-help efforts and we have just opened a joint Barung Landcare Australia account which gives tax deductibility to donations to the project. Landcare Australia started up the account with \$500. Thanks to Brian Scarsbrick for this support.

For all members and friends of Landcare who want to donate towards the nursery project, please, make your cheques payable to *Barung Landcare, Australian Land Rehabilitation Project*, Maleny Suncorp Branch, Account number 04-075122-7. Receipts are available at the Barung Office. Thanks for your support!

The Maleny Credit Union donated parts of its Environment Fund (\$244) towards BLC's Nursery Project. Thanks Members, Directors and Staff of the MCU!

Demonstration Tree Plants.

Despite all that has been happening on the enterprise front there has been a lot going on in the way of education and practical demonstration.

The *Baroon Pocket Dam Plant* has been followed up by several maintenance days but had a few setbacks through bad management practises by the Waterboard and unfavourable dry weather. Tony York has been great in taking the Baroon Pocket Dam Plant up as his project.

December and January saw the *Folk Festival Tree Plant* along the Obi Obi Creek bank at the Maleny Show Grounds. Good rain made the establishment a success and a mild winter has meant little frost damage. Problems with the electric fence being turned off regularly has caused a lot of damage to the tennis court end of the

planting and the record dry is causing losses at the moment, especially on the steep banks and shallow soils. The maintenance days have not been well attended. Please put in the effort and help us have it looking great for the next Folk Festival or we will loose the good will we gained this year. There will be another Tree Plant this coming **Maleny Folk Festival on Tuesday, 31st December, between 9am and 11 am.** Please see us at the **Barung Landcare Stall on Sunday 29th December and Monday 30th December between 10am and 7pm** or just turn up on the planting day. Many hands make light work and we only have to get 250 trees into the ground.

Future tree plants are being focused on for after a real good rain possibly early next year. We need all the people who said they'd help to give a hand. Please, read the Range News for further details.

There was a further *Creek Bank Erosion Demonstration on Obi Obi Creek* which was a combined project of BLC, the Queensland Forest Service and local landholders of Kenilworth. Quite an achievement the way this very eroded creek bend of the Obi was saved by grading the bank to a managable slope, instantly planted with appropriate trees and groundcover.

Land Management Forum.

Prior to the council elections we focused our attention on the Local Government Land Management Forum. A lot of good submissions were received and research done in the preparation of a discussion paper for this event. The Forum gave the public and the standing councillors an opportunity to discuss their views and priorities. We succeeded in as far as getting Land Management onto the election agenda.

Good things have come out of it since with council town planners from both shires (CCC and Maroochy) contacting and

consulting us on Vegetation Management in particular. Barung Landcare has worked solidly on Vegetation Management recommendations and recently handed the prepared draft to the Caloundra City Council. The Environment and Recreation Committee (chaired by Andrew Champion), accepted the proposal as a blue print for their council draft policy. Our BLC proposed draft contains input from various groups of the community, DPI, National Parks, Forestry, QUT as well as Griffith University.

We proposed in this document to have an emphasis on providing incentives to preserve our habitat rather than rely on heavy legislation. The employment of an Environment Officer was suggested. His duties would encompass those of weed control, inspection of proposed building sites (especially subdivisions), to give adequate environmental advice, maybe to collect volunteered information from landholders on vegetation, fauna, land use etc., and to provide vegetation/weed maps. It was also mentioned to appoint an officer for all four shires of the Sunshine Coast. He would be able to coordinate interest groups consisting of representatives of community members wanting to have input in land management. Another strong aspect is effective education and an ongoing feedback process between the Council - with flexible input into the legislation - and the community affected by it. At the same occasion BLC received a cheque over \$6500 towards our landcare efforts in the Shire.

Catchment and Property Planning.

Glen Thomas' (Queensland University of Technology) Obi catchment planning research is ready for our comment now and we can expect to see him soon, perhaps at the next General Meeting sometimes in February.

BLC has prepared several Property Plans and contracted some Rehabilitation Plantings for local landholders which while fighting land degradation created a major part of our self-help income.

Barung Landcare Notebook.

The Notebook, enables nature lovers to record local vegetation and fauna easily, was also finished this year. After an embarrassingly long wait we received our quote for printing through the DPI which came to over \$5 per copy. We didn't have the funds to afford that much. So, we searched for local prices and with the help of Cairn Cross Press who have kept cost to a minimum, have been able to recently launch the finished product. This was done by the Queensland Environment Minister, Pat Comben, at a walk in the Conondale Ranges. We have printed 500 in this first run and have sold about 100 at \$2 each. Thanks to the many people who put in the effort to make this a reality.

Anybody who is interested - Notebooks are available at the Barung Office.

Looking ahead to a new Landcare year.

A lot of work is ahead for this year, our members' and friends' support is needed more than ever. We will need to erect a shed on our new site, a security fence, shade houses, irrigation etc. This will be our priority over the next few months. We will probably be consolidating this year rather than starting any new projects.

The joint coordination of the project between Dean Cameron and Lexy Forbes is working well and makes the load bearable. Over the last year the Submission Subcommittee has drafted several submissions and some of these have been accepted for funding. The Federal

Maleny Co-operative Review Spring 1991

Government is to continue the funding for coordination of our project, Maroochy Shire has committed funding and Caloundra has given their funding as mentioned above.

In mid December we hope to have a planning and Land Care opportunity meeting with the DPI to involve innovative farmers in landcare issues.

After the AGM we have formed the following **Subcommittees**:

- ▶ Submissions
- ▶ Computer
- ▶ Public Relations
- ▶ Newsletter
- ▶ Nursery Site
- ▶ Enterprise Arm
- ▶ Fiance.

Further areas of interests are

- ▶ Horticulture
- ▶ Treeplants
- ▶ Field days
- ▶ Fundraising.

All members are welcome to join any of the above groups. Please give us your most needed support - or our busily working management committee will eventually run out of steam.

We have received the support from the state DPI of \$3900 for our much needed computer equipment. The computer will be used to run the MapInfo Program (for property planning, mapping of all relevant local information on vegetation, contours, catchment areas etc.), to use the flora and fauna database (mostly all the collected info from our notebooks, herbarium etc.), administrative tasks, newsletter production, to write submissions, to run a stock management program for our nursery and lots of other things we surely will find to do. Our new Barung Office is now in operation. You can find us in

**The Enterprise Centre,
23 Coral St., Maleny, Ph: 074-943922,
every Tuesday and some Thursdays.**

We decided at the last AGM to reduce the number of committee members from ten to eight, including the two co-ordinators, to ensure a workable management group.

Your Barung Landcare Committee Members are:

President: Jo Ferrier

Vice President: Mal Thompson

Management Committee: Janel Skrandies, Gillian Ainscough, Bill Hall, Denise Irons, Dean Cameron, Lexy Forbes.

Secretary & Treasurer: Lexy Forbes,

Advisors: Ashley Sewell (Forestry Dept), Sam Brown (SEQ Landcare Coordinator).

Shared Co-ordinators:

Dean Cameron & Lexy Forbes.

The Green Tree Frog.



- Dean Cameron.

The storm clouds were building and it looked as though the drought may break. A lone green tree frog had something important on its mind and spoke thus:

Barung! Barung! Barung!

Barung! Barung! Barung!

Barung! Barung!...

at the top of its voice.

Eventually it got the better of me and I agreed to employ him and a whole swag of his mates (things have been pretty quiet for them lately) as subliminal advertisers for Barung. They are under strict instructions not to hassel paid up members.



BLACK POSSUM

Possums' Year

• Elsie Brimblecombe
and Ron Smith

Our regional publishing co-op had a busy year ending in September with the Annual General Meeting and the launch of our second community diary, Black Possum 1992. We are moving into new areas of community publishing after what has been an exciting year; made so by the energy and commitment of our directors and some of our members. Recognition of one outstanding personal contribution was made when the "Possum of the Year" award was presented to Lesley Singh at the AGM. We are aware of the dangers of looking too much at the end product and not spending enough time on the process involved. The need to stay in touch with the spirit and structure of co-operatives led us to invite Jill Jordon and Sue Smith to give a workshop for directors and executive personnel early in the year. We are also in the process of drafting membership brochures providing information about the co-op. A very successful members meeting was held in March. About twenty people came demonstrating their interest and commitment to the co-op. A number of ideas were put forward for discussion and as a result a series of policy guide-lines was established at a special meeting of the

board in early April.

One of the ideas from the members meeting was the introduction of an annual subscription. The thinking behind this idea was to improve communications with in the co-op and to provide a cash flow to cover essential administration costs. The figure which the board recommended to the membership at the AGM was twenty dollars a year. The members debated this in some detail; some finding the figure too high whilst others found some difficulty in seeing what they would gain for their money. The motion failed to secure the necessary three fourths majority required for a special resolution.

Other policies now firmly established concern the regional nature of the co-op and manuscripts. Our region, defined in policy, now covers four local government areas: namely Caboolture, Maroochy, Noosa and Caloundra City. Our manuscript policy is based on the area thus defined. Activities will be confined to community based projects and publications like the diary, anthologies and collections. Manuscripts or projects from individuals will not be accepted at this stage. This policy is to be reviewed annually. The society has been pleased to see an awakening in the arts generally, particularly at state government level. We have responded to official proposals and have been very encouraged by the state government report "Queensland: A State for the Arts" released this year. Regional

activities, particularly writing and visual arts, have been singled out for special attention. This augers well for arts workers and the co-op.

We decided to continue the dialogue at the local government level and met with the mayor and officers of the Caloundra City Council to see what progress was being made there with the setting up of structures for regional arts development funding. No other arts organisations had approached the City Council in this context so we brought the possibilities to their notice. At the time of going to press we are waiting for the Council to call a public meeting. This meeting will elect the necessary Community Arts Committee; the peer group which will assess applications for grants under the new scheme. Without this committee in place no arts workers in Caloundra City will have access to the Regional Arts Development Fund.

Black Possum has also taken advantage of Australia Council initiatives in support of the arts. We have been successful in receiving a grant from the Community Cultural Development Unit for \$4000 to fund the publication of a document describing our unique venture in community writing, the Black Possum Diary 1992.

We have also received a grant for \$1000 from the Literature Board to conduct a workshop on Short Story Writing on 15 February 1992. This workshop will be the first step towards the development of our next major project - the publication of an anthology of short stories, written by authors from our region.

Our reputation as a publisher is becoming firmly established on the basis of the Black Possum Diary. Following last year's Annual General Meeting, Black Possum 1991 was launched. 600 copies sold out within several weeks. It was a most successful publication. Work began on

Black Possum 1992 in March this year and the Diary Team coordinated by Lesley Singh worked on it right through until September when it was launched. A Creative Workshop on writing and drawing for the diary was held in April, entirely funded by Black Possum and subsidised by tutors who participated. This year's theme "Celebration of Life" inspired a large number of artists and authors to contribute material from which a very interesting selection was made.

DIARY 1992

Celebration of Life



Under the direction of our "in house" artistic expert, Veronica Davidson, a delightful publication has been produced, even better than last year. This year we have printed 2500 so we need all the membership and co-op support we can get to market our community diary. Why not buy one or two for Christmas presents.

At this stage the diary is the backbone of our activity as a community publishing house. Through it we are supporting and encouraging creative people in our community and the community is supporting us. We are sharing skills, gaining knowledge and experience and building up funds which can be used on other projects. We have established a Project Structure, which has worked for Black Possum 1992, and on the basis of this experience, we now have a tested *modus operandi* for handling publication proposals.

In August Black Possum played host to Robyn Sheahan, Coordinator and Literature Officer of the Queensland Writers' Centre. Members of the co-op as

well as non-members attended. Robyn spoke very enthusiastically about the writing scene in Queensland and the role of the Queensland Writers' Centre.

The board of the co-op is beginning to come to grips with the financial management and direction of our growing cooperative. We would like to pay members who work on projects at a reasonable rate. Eventually too, we would like to pay the Secretary, Treasurer and the Directors for their skills and time. A sub-committee has been formed to pursue these matters so that we can move from being a predominantly voluntary working organisation to one which is competitive on the labour market and useful to members from a financial point of view.

With the Black Possum Diary 1992 we are on the threshold of potential financial viability. We have several publications now to our credit and some assets. Our most tangible asset is our members. Their skills, talents, interest, goodwill and support are the foundations of this society.

Let us rejoice in the co-operative spirit which binds us together. Let us work at defining what we are, what we want to achieve and how we are to operate. Let us cooperate fully with each other and with the many other organisations in the community, which like ours, are striving to make our lives fulsome and worthwhile.



Directors: Elsie Brimblecombe, Alf Ashton, Beryl Muspratt, Danny Ross, Rosemary Allan Coleman.

Secretary: Ron Smith.

Treasurer: Marion Greenfield.

Maleny Folk Festival - Who's Who?

► **Organic Corn Stall *** LETs Maleny.

► **Chai Tent *** Team from C.W.

► **Healing Space (in the Chai Tent)***
Ivonne Tolley, Pamela Linwood,
Rob Swain.

► **Pièce de Résistance French Café***
Peter & Gillian Ainscough.

► **Lemonade Stall*** Rosi Cox &
Peter Pamment.

► **M.F. Vegetarian Food Stall***
Mountain Fare Women's Coop.

* all these stalls (and any others with the *LETSTRIDE* sign) are operating on full or part Bunyas ... so it's time to get your LETS ID card at the LETS Office to take the full advantage of these great and healthy offers.

Have a Merry Folk Festival on Bunyas!

► **Spaghetti Junction** Molinaros

► **General Store** Maple St. Coop

► **Recycling** Wastebusters

► **Barung Landcare Info Stall** BLC
(Sunday & Monday)
Tree Plant (on **TUESDAY**)

All the groups involved: Mountain Fare, Barung Landcare, Maple St. Co-op, LETSsystem Maleny, Wastebusters, are welcoming any help and involvement by their members. Please consider a few hours of your time to support your community group(s)!

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