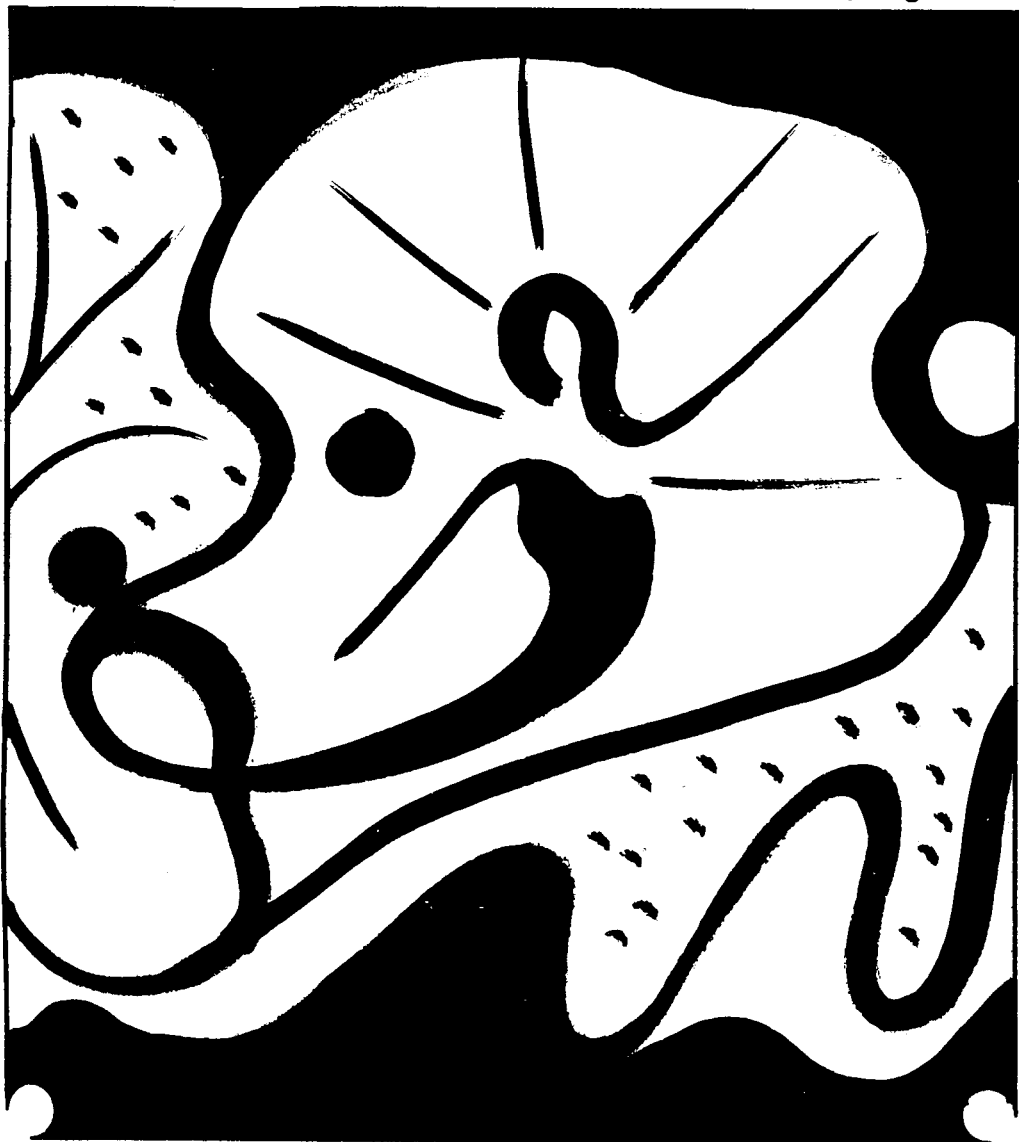


Maleny Co-operatives

A REVIEW

Volume 2, Issue 3

Spring 1991



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EDITORIAL

The theme for this edition of the review is "Growth in Our Organisations". Considering the contributions as a whole, many issues have been raised that transcend the concerns of the individual organisations. Practical questions about the limits of growth have been raised by several of our contributors. These concerns have more general theoretical aspect. We would like to encourage more discussion of this, because we think it is important for the future of Maleny. The theme of the next review is "Communication". Perhaps we could all do a bit of communicating about the topic of "Growth" and report the results to the Editors.

Speaking of which, the **DEADLINE** for the next issue is **Monday, November 2nd, 1992**. We fear that our contributors still do not take these deadline dates seriously enough. Given the collective talent of the production team, I feel sure we will eventually come up with some diabolical plot to remedy this problem. Please act now. Forestall such dreadful consequences. Get your contribution in by the due date!

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

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Meg Barrett, Jan Tilden, Peter Pamment, Jane Skrandies, Elsie Brimblecomb.

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*Letters to
the Editor*

Dear Eds,

Since you asked for feedback in your last Editorial, ...

I look forward to receiving your Review. But I must say last issue was a bit over the top. I appreciate you were aiming to lighten things up - and Lord knows I plough through enough earnest newsletters on sundry good causes. But pages and pages of this stuff ...? As for apostrophes, don't you know it's the first symptom of premature old age when you find yourself criticising other peoples spelling and grammar?

If I was in power there'd be federal legislation limiting all newsletters to four pages max. So there you have my position in a nutshell. Please keep it short and to the point - I'm a member out of commitment to the principle of ethical investment, and it's these issues I want to hear about.

P.S.: I did like the list of Self Improvement Courses on p.24-25. ♦

Frank Share, Rundle Mall, S.A.

Dear Editor

Yes please! do go on with your "lunatic behaviour". The Easter issue of your Maleny Co-op review was entertaining from cover to cover.

The Catastrophic Apostrophic Conspiracy is exposed by Meg! Good upon you girl. I have often been mystified by the incorrect use of the apostrophe; it might be a One World Order virus, I began to think.

The following pet aversions may be of interest. Firstly that exhalation of a two letter feral word "hi". It requires a minimum amount energy and once exhaled

conveys a similar amount of meaning. For goodness sake, what's wrong with our very own Aussie greeting, "g'day"? At least it sounds sociable. As for "hi", well, it sounds to me like a bad smell.

Then there is that abominable four letter word people will insist on using instead of writing "refrigerator". If shorten they must, why not add an "e". Those huge refrigerator vans that thunder up and down our highways are the worst offenders. Emblazoned along their sides in letters 4ft. high is the word ----MOBILE!

Do keep up the good work you clever people. I now await the next Maleny Co-op Review. ♦

Tony Greene-McCosker, Montville, Qld

To the Editors,

Lots of entertaining nonsense, "Sweak, sweak, sweak".

" ' ' ' ' ' ' ' 's galore" and much more fun.

Why oh, why oh, why one item, very small in size but very big in bad taste? ♦

George Cassells, Maleny

hello there,

thought it might be a good idea to send you a letter to say hello and to let you know what i get out of the review, seeing as i am one of those far flung readers who lives well beyond the bounds of the immediate local community - usually i stuff the review into my bag and read it one day when i'm on the way into the city on the bus.

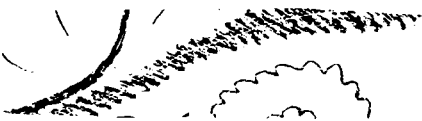
what a contrast! i glance up from reading the review where there's stories about wonderfully innovative creative human beings and look around a bus full of bored passengers - outside the traffic stops - no one can go anywhere.

back to the review and there's such

fantastic diversity - wastebusters and baring and mountain fare and crystal waters - its just so inspiring knowing that all you good people are there getting into all these things - working through problems, resolving conflicts, inventing new methods, getting stressed - but most importantly, trying - trying to live the most productive, fullest of lives.

for me it's reassuring to know that if i ever get around to visiting maleny there will be some wonderful friendly people to meet - a bit like wilderness, you don't actually have to go there to benefit from its existence - it's good to know there are good friends i haven't met yet in maleny. and the review? well the review keeps me in touch with what's happening - obviously not the massive intricacies of daily life, but a broad overview of local events - what else can i say - to say thank you seems both inadequate and inappropriate - so please, keep growing and please keep writing about your experiences for the review - for all of us, the earth. ♦

David, North Balgowlah, Sydney, NSW



To the Editors,

My name is Hermann Schwabe. I have, for as long as I can think, been interested in community issues - the lifestyle and the attempts of governments at all levels to circumvent the real issues.

When I moved into the Kenilworth area in 1979 I found out how local and State Governments approached their major planning. The first issue I became involved in was the sewerage plant to be constructed at Maleny which was to discharge the secondary treated effluent

into the longest river system in South East Queensland. Furthermore there were some water storage dams planned downstream from that sewerage effluent release.

I became active and was elected to the Maroochy Shire Council in March 1982, where I am still an elected member. Since 1982 I have taken up issues from open Government to the Mount Coolom chairlift proposal. I convinced the Council not to participate in the ocean outfall proposal with the then Landsborough Shire Council. The Water Conservation Strategy, a Recycling scheme and the Blackall Range Development Control Plan were among many other issues I stood for. On the local scene of Kenilworth the most relevant issues I achieved were the children's playground, now a model for many communities and councils across Australia and the Community Library.

I have held the position of Chairman of the Water Sewerage, Health and Community Services Committee for six years and am now the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

I still live with my family on my farm on a dirt road in the Obi Obi Valley.

At the last Council election in 1991 I was elected unopposed. After more than ten years in local government I believe, that I have served my apprenticeship and I intend to contest the forthcoming State election as an independent candidate for the seat of Nicklin.

I have never been a member of any political party and prefer to be able to make decisions on their merit and in accordance with my conscience, and do not subscribe to the lowest common denominator.

Should you believe that you could support my bid for Nicklin in any way I would like to hear from you. I believe that a new start in politics generally has to be initiated now, and if there is to be any

hope, this renewal can not come through the conventional party system. Only independents with some vision and courage will be able to initiate this. ♦

Hermann Schwabe, M/S 1852, Kenilworth 4574
Ph: 074-469140

Dear MAD Editor

I just blew into town and your "Maleny Co-operatives" is so good I'm coming back for more. I have two daughters finishing Uni. degrees in the States and I'm sending copies to them so they can see how lucky I was when I chose Maleny to settle down in.

I can *hope* the same bug may one day infect them.

Seriously, I left Corvallis, Oregon with regrets. I desperately wanted to return to Queensland's sunshine, birds, mountains and beaches but knew I would miss the intellectual/cultural spinoffs from Corvallis' university and the intense civic-mindedness, artistic endeavours and active conservationism of the people in that small city.

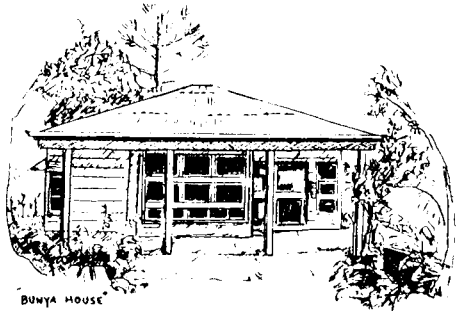
Lucky me! I have it *all* here in Maleny, including a growing spiriutal awareness, the joys of the friendliness of an even smaller town and views that make me glad to be alive.

I feel like I've won the lottery. Thank you everyone and especially all the listed Directors and Officers of the co-operatives that do so much to contribute to Maleny's unique (and desirable) atmosphere. ♦

Betty Ringer



MALENY and DISTRICT
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION
28 Maple St., Maleny, Q. 4662. Ph. (071) 842144 LIMITED



Over to You

• Meg Barrett

The Maleny and District Community Credit Union has always prided itself on being an "ethical" institution. However, as more attention is focussed on what the various financial bodies do with their money and as people become more discriminating in the placement of their investments, the term "ethical" requires greater definition. The directors of the Credit Union have responded to this need by holding a members' forum on the topic of the ethics of the Credit Union. From the discussion and ideas emanating from that forum, we have created a simple Statement of Ethics supported by an updated statement of Goals and Policies. These statements are presented here for the perusal and further input of members.

STATEMENT OF ETHICS:

The Maleny and District Community Credit Union is committed to acting in ways that are:

- socially just
- environmentally responsible
- empowering to the local community and individuals
- based on a belief in people, honesty and goodwill.

GOALS AND POLICIES:

to promote regional financial autonomy by

- ▶ keeping money circulating in the bioregion,
- ▶ offering local banking services,
- ▶ providing education in financial matters and regionalism,
- ▶ encouraging projects that promote local economic well-being,
- ▶ minimising the use of non-regional support services.

to promote socially responsible use of money by

- ▶ prioritising and proscribing uses for Credit Union money,
- ▶ giving equal consideration to members, regardless of sex, sexual preference, ethnicity, religion, age, lifestyle or political persuasion,
- ▶ being a people's bank,
- ▶ encouraging individual financial independence,
- ▶ providing budgetary advice.

to promote environmentally responsible use of money by

- ▶ supporting activities which lead to sustainable development,
- ▶ encouraging responsible land use to minimise environmental damage and habitat destruction,

- ▶ supporting the development of appropriate technology in building, land use, energy use and waste minimisation.

to promote social change by

- ▶ providing finance for projects from all walks of life (low income, group ventures),
- ▶ providing Co-operative experience,
- ▶ influencing the credit union industry, governments, banks,
- ▶ inspiring and educating the local community,
- ▶ promoting social justice.

to promote individual financial empowerment by

- ▶ helping to de-mystify money and financial institutions,
- ▶ providing an opportunity for involvement,
- ▶ providing access to lump sums of capital,
- ▶ providing for a fair and equitable return on investments.

Members are invited to submit their comments and suggestions, preferably in writing, to the Directors by 7th September.



C.U. Exhibition

I am planning an exhibition in the MCU in December for our young members or children of members. So, you arty youngsters out there, here is the chance for your first public display of your talents. Please submit work to me or leave it at the Credit Union and the staff will pass it on.

Ursula Thiessen 942895

Legislative Changes - " Some Good & Lots of Bad News"

• Peter Pamment

As from the 1st of July this year, your Credit Union is now governed by a new Act - The Financial Institutions (Queensland) Act 1992. Both Credit Unions (CU) and Building Societies (BS) are covered by the new Act, which is being adopted Australia wide. In the past CU and BS had their own separate governing acts. The new Act effectively is a kind of deregulation in that we have more flexibility in who we can lend to and for what purposes, and we don't have as many specific rules and regulations that we must follow. The new act even includes some co-operative principles that are the real reasons behind CUs and BSs. To offset the "deregulation" we are now supervised by a State Supervisory Authority (SSA) and are assessed in terms of certain parameters that are drawn up in consultation with the SSA and the MCU, rather than being set in concrete as in the old act. This supervision is very conservative and makes for a very secure CU industry.

This supervisory system is almost identical to how the Reserve Bank supervises (?) the banking industry. This means that institutions can be compared across sectors, even though CUs are very different from the Banking sector.

Unfortunately the costs of supervising CUs and BSs may be quite high as each State has to set up a SSA and levy various institutions to provide the running costs. Under the old act we paid into a State Government guarantee fund and the interest from these funds were used to fund the cost of regulating the CUs. Now

the State Government does not operate the guarantee fund, as the new Act sets up a Australian Financial Institutions Commission that will levy institutions to provide credit support to others in trouble. The close supervision by the SSA also means that institutions can be stopped from trading and/or merged or shut down as soon as any financial problem occur. But the new system also means that we will now be up for extra costs in providing Government supervision for ourselves.

The other main area that effects the CUs is the prudential standards. While they are very good in some areas, such as reporting requirements, they require codes of conduct which are very harsh in their base line parameters. These are drawn from the banking industry and are really designed for large institutions with an established capital base or easily expanded base (via share floats such as Westpac). The effect is that we will now have to keep much more funds at call in our liquidity - an extra 7.5% up to 15% now, which means that we cannot lend this money to members and thus earn us income. This loss of income on the extra liquidity will cost the MCU about \$25,000 in reduced profits for the year.

Our long term future planning has also changed, as under the old act we needed to generate a retained profit or capital reserve of 3% of total assets over 10 years. This meant having to make a profit of about \$20,000 per year to achieve this. Under the new Act we need to have a capital adequacy ratio increased to 8% within 2 years. This ratio is a very complicated risk weighted formula, but roughly translates to about 5% of total assets. Any new CUs (from July 1, 1992) must start with this capital (!!) and we have two years to get there. This means for us, that at \$5 million assets, we currently need capital reserves of

\$250,000. As we have about \$80,000 now, it means that we **must** make about \$80,000 profit for both the next 2 years. This is a fairly tall task with the additional expenses (supervision) and reduced earnings (higher liquidity). Another factor is growth; any rapid growth in assets (our current position) means that the capital requirements **also** go up quickly and we thus have to quickly turn any rapid growth into increased profits, not always easy with the lags in the system.

The worst part of the new legislation, and a great concern to directors, is that we are being forced to follow the economic rationalists and chase after profits to become a more "stable and secure institution for investors" (as measured by the egg heads!), but at a great cost to our members in terms of the cost of services and loans.

The banking lobby have seen to it that the CU & BS industry is much less competitive and less of a threat to their domination of the financial market. Many CUs and BSs may just merge to become bigger and/or change into banks or other organisations (St George BS just did, they were half of the Australian BS movement that previously provided half the funding), or fall victim to takeovers from interstate societies (interstate trading is now allowed) as the dust settles on the new playing field created by the changes.

It's not all gloom, as any changes hold challenges. We must exploit the good changes and meet the other challenges head on as always. We must continue to service our members and our community as in the past and as consistent with the vision of the MCU founders.



GROWING CO-OPERATIVELY - #1

- Pauline Shewchenko
- for MADCCU Directors.

The past couple of years at the MADCCU have seen an amazing amount of growth. While that growth has enabled us to service the community on a larger scale, along with that growth we have also been inundated with much legislative change.

This has brought us full circle in many ways, as some of this legislation (e.g. the Cash Transactions Act) is so intrusive upon the rights and privacy of our members, that we have had the great need to re-evaluate the original charter and ideals that saw the MCU start up.

Within the confines of these legislative processes which, whether we like them or not, seek to narrow these same ideals, we must find the ways to keep the MCU the way that it is, was and has been.

The co-operative principles which have been so successful for us are there to be cherished and followed and remembered. These principles are what separates the MCU from all the other financial institutions out there. These principles are not only the responsibility of the Directors, the co-managers and the staff to maintain, but also the MEMBERS.

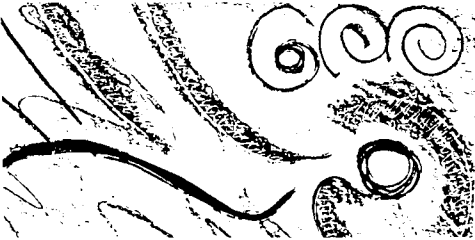
The only way that that healthy co-operative principles can be maintained is through constructive communication, and caring and nurturing.

All this can be so easily lost sight of in the hustle-bustle of life, in times of hardship and recession and in times of change. But at the core it is what will see us all through and, as members of our Community Co-operative, as a cohesive and principled ethical institution.

Without the "COMMUNITY" that is part of our name, we would not exist and

it is something which we all must remember as part of our responsibilities as members of this co-operative and members of our community.

Maintenance of pride, direction and ethics is paramount while adaption to certain outside influences is there as a challenge. That challenge is there for us ALL to meet, comment upon, act upon and communicate about.



GROWING CO-OPERATIVELY - #2

• Jan Maskall

"The next issue has the theme 'Growth in our Organisation'", the editorial said and is due July 13 (by co-incidence this means to our house, my husband's Mum's 94th birthday!!).

This is what I read in the Easter 92 Review and it was June 27th; not much time left I thought - wonder if MADCCU has anything organised (as Secretary, I had not heard a word said!). I had only just read this statement, as I always keep the best things until I REALLY have time to enjoy them, and this is what the MAD issue did turn out to be; thanks to the four contributors!

So, the thoughts started to come; "GROWTH" they said! MADCCU certainly has had that since I joined the fold in October 1987 and became #500. AND then the member numbers started to come to mind!

Members #1 & #2 (or J-1 as the computer knows them) are still very regular teller visitors, and can now think of MCU every time they have someone call and ring the surprise presentation from MCU.

#10 is a visitor if we are lucky, on a Friday - this visit must be squeezed in between all those council "days".

#17 is usually dressed in his bike gear and coming or going from the Enterprise Centre.

#23 helps everyone but especially Co-ops.

#25 returned to us a few years ago and was also a regular user of #1017 (see later).

#49 hasn't walked to town for the last few years but is always a treat to serve.

#118 is a well-known co-operator and thoroughly organised Treasurer for ex #108.

#215 an ever-present co-op (or else its members visit individually).

#238 is seen most every day behind a beard in the inner office usually but occasionally let out the front!

#310 Bridge Creek Co-op exceptionnelle.

#538 has had a few "left and returns" and is hopefully here to stay.

#685 has started the whole country (in small sections) on a new barter.

We then come to October 87 (and #664/665 J100 have been with us since then -lovely people!) AND the advent of THE COMPUTERS - Murphy and Molly were the first two machines; remember Jools? (sorry, #28)

Then there are THE CO-OPS - #1077 our own/their own women; #1028 the Earth carers; #1017 the recycling co-op who should go on forever; #1149 everybody's co-op; #1163 for all co-operative scribes; #114 (a very early member but changed somewhat since those days) - they have five "sub" memberships too now; #97 (the first co-op with MCU - by a wee bit) and every co-

opers favorite goodies spot;

Then #1000 - photo in the Range News and special presentation.

And then it seems in quite a rush and without any great effort, we are now up to #1810 (as at 26/6/92) and a bigger computer and six terminals (thank goodness say the staff!).

In between these highlighted members are so many wonderful members who are the reason to keep steadily growing and caring. It seems sometimes a long way from #1 and 2 but MADCCU still has the same ambience and ethics (ask the directors about this!) as I discovered when asked by #2 if I'd like some part-time, part-voluntary work!

Then as a secretary, I always remember those members who have been shareholders, transferred to non-shareholders and again shareholders, and now everyone has to be a shareholder anyway!

And P.S, if you need a number (any number) and can't find the list, just ask #470 (she's a wonder!).



Directors: Peter Pamment, Meg Barrett, Sharon McQueen, Bill McDonald, Pauline Shewchenko, Ray Passmore, Paul Harper-Green

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

Secretaries: Jan Maskall, Vernetta Love.

Phone: 074 - 942 144



DAM UPDATE

• Peter Pamment

In the past few weeks the Save The Upper Mary Valley Committee has met with the Caloundra City Council, Maroochy Shire Council, North Coast Local Government Association, Caloundra-Maroochy Water Board, the Water Resources Commissioner in Brisbane and will have met with the Minister for Primary Industries, Ed Casey by the time you read this. At all these meetings we have been very positive in pushing for research and in depth studies into water conservation and alternative water supply systems so as to avoid the need for any new dams in the Hinterland Region.

As we move to a more "Ecologically Sustainable Development" agenda it is important to develop and manage the water resources efficiently and with least effect on the ecosystem. This can best be done through local water supply systems and alternative systems such as tanks, ground water, flood and storm water harvesting, desalination etc. and through water conservation by real cost charging systems and user education.

We urge everyone to support us in this endeavour and to write to the Minister requesting a full review of water resources in South East Queensland and alternatives to large destructive dams for the future water supply of the region.

If you can help the Committee in any way, please contact the secretary Alf Ashton at MS 16, Conondale, 4552 or by phone on 074-460940.



What Price Workshops?

• Meg Barrett

For me and my fellow conspirators in the Maleny Spring Workshops, the months of July, August and September are marked by a steady increase in the tempo of our "co-operative" work. This year is the third year for the Workshops and for me at least, 1992 represents a do-or-die effort. As organisers, we're looking for a clear indicator that the Workshops' idea is worth inking into the Maleny calendar as a permanent feature. So far in our preparations we've been heartened by two things. One is the automatic assumption that many people have made that the Workshops will just happen, like any other annual event. The other is the good response we've had from prospective workshop presenters. There are quite a few exciting additions to the line-up and many regular presenters are coming up with new ideas. (But you can see that from our stunning programme!)

Putting the whole event together involves making numerous small and not so small decisions. One of them is what to charge. Our philosophy so far has been to work out our costs, estimate a number of

participants and determine the cheapest prices we can afford to charge. This is quite difficult as there are many unknowns in the whole scenario. Nevertheless, our principal aim has been to offer the workshops at the minimum cost, based on the idea that this is a community event and we want to attract substantial numbers (not just to cover costs, of course, but to share skills and talents around the community, to bring people together, to have fun... but that's a different rave).

One disturbing school of thought which we've encountered in setting our prices is that the Workshops are in fact too cheap! The argument goes that people are used to paying hundreds of dollars for a day of workshops and that our low prices actually put people off. While as an ex teacher I fully support the proper payment of educators for their considerable skills, I'd be expecting something pretty amazing for my hundreds of dollars - maybe an out-of-body experience or two. (I suppose I could get them at the right workshop!) Anyway, we've decided to stick with our policy of making the Workshops as affordable as possible, on the assumption that most people don't equate moderate prices with an inferior product. In the case of the Spring Workshops, it's just not the case. And you may even get that out-of-body experience (for half Bunyas of course).



What You'll Do at the Maleny Spring Workshops

- ▶ *Agitate* - From Environmental Awareness to Appropriate Action
- ▶ *Animate* - Impro Sports
- ▶ *Associate* - *with your friends*
- ▶ *Communicate* - Writing, A Journey of Self Discovery
- ▶ *Co-ordinate* - Feldenkrais
- ▶ *Cultivate* - Money Can Grow on Trees
- ▶ *Decontaminate* - Green Clean Made Simple
- ▶ *Elevate* - Creating Love and Understanding through Yoga
- ▶ *Gyrate* - Belly Dancing for Beginners
- ▶ *Integrate* - Wholistic Art
- ▶ *Liberate* - Dare to Be You
- ▶ *Lubricate* - Save Your Car from Sudden Death
- ▶ *Navigate* - Crystal Waters Field Trip
- ▶ *Participate* - Government for the People, by the People
- ▶ *Perambulate* - Rainforest Tree I.D. Walk
- ▶ *Prognosticate* - Astrology
- ▶ *Proliferate* - Active Birth
- ▶ *Quadruplicate* - Submission Writing
- ▶ *Radiate* - Spiritual Awareness
- ▶ *Renovate* - Personal Environment Design
- ▶ *Resonate* - Singing for Your Life
- ▶ *Reverberate* - Traditional African Percussion, Drum Making
- ▶ *Salivate* - *lunchtime.....*
- ▶ *Syncopate* - Cross Cultural Body Language in Dance
- ▶ *Transubstantiate* - Dying to Meet Goddess
- ▶ *Vegetate* - *in the warm spring sunshine*

Don't *hesitate, equivocate, procrastinate* - Enrol before the discount date (18th September)!

Growth and Maintenance Versus Sustainability and Change



• Margi O'Connell

"We are born, we grow, we die - this is a fundamental truth."

As the Maleny experiment in social enterprise approaches its second seven year cycle, it is timely to look at the issue of growth and the implications for our organisations. Maple Street Co-op has just entered into a 99 year lease for its premises and the Credit Union is extending its boundaries to include new communities as members. Both of these strategies are issues involving the growth of the organisation.

In discussing growth, it is important to identify exactly what it is we are talking about. The basic assumption underlying business growth strategies is that, in order to survive, a business must continually expand until it has a monopoly on its market. Only then is its survival guaranteed. To maintain its position it must continue to develop new markets and new products (or repackage the old ones).

Another underlying assumption is that growth can be continual - ever expanding - and that growth is a measure of the success of the organisation.

These assumptions need to be tested in social enterprises. Our organisations are different from private enterprise in that they have both economic and social goals. These social goals are not "add-ons" but integral to the very nature of the enterprise.

Maple Street was established to provide us with clean food, the Credit Union to provide us with finance, Mountain Fare

has the social well-being of its members as a major reason for its existence. All of our enterprises were set up to meet our own needs. The economic component of the enterprise is entered into as a way to continue to meet our needs - a way to sustain the self-help strategy. This is a fundamentally different way to do business. We don't have many models of social enterprises and it is important that we question basic business assumptions to see how they apply to us, given this fundamental difference.

Firstly it would appear that our long term issue is how to continue to meet our needs over time rather than how to sell our products to as many people as possible. If so, then it is sustainability not growth that is the issue for us. Of course our own needs will change over time. A sustainable social enterprise would continue to adapt to meet these changing needs.

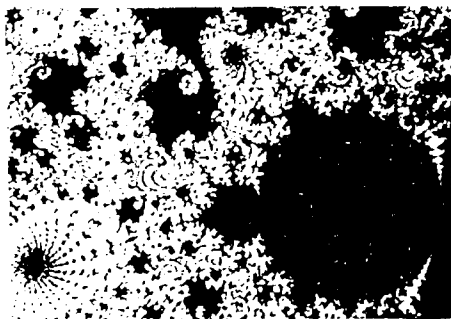
It is also necessary to combat the natural inclination of any system to entropy. Chairman Mao saw a sustainable system as one that was in constant revolution (or "renewal" in new age parlance). This implies a continual evaluation and a commitment to values rather than structures or procedures.

This is also good business sense. The classic product cycle ends in a falling-off of consumer interest and business viability depends on a mix of developing and declining products and services.

This business strategy, rather than growth and expansion, fits well into social enterprises. Changing goals to meet changing circumstances and developing new products to meet new needs are the ways we have coped to date (to varying degrees) with the need for change.

At certain stages, an organisation also has a tendency to change focus from meeting a need to maintaining itself. Our

organisations are not immune to this problem. Choosing maintaining employment over the provision of low cost food may be an example of this. Growth and expansion are also signals of this change and we should be watchful that any expansion is in order to better meet our social needs.



Fare Words

• Meg Barrett

While some of our older, well-established co-operatives ponder their phenomenal growth and wonder how big is too big, we at Mountain Fare have no such problem. It is clear that there is room for growth in both our membership, currently just over forty, and, more particularly, in that active core of members who constitute the heart of the organisation. Obviously, there is a solid base of goodwill towards our co-operative, as was evidenced at a recent "social" meeting when twenty women gathered and many others expressed "in spirit" support. While in no way minimising the importance of the social function of Mountain Fare, the problem yet remains of how to get people involved in the workings of the organisation.

One problem for prospective active members is where to hook in, how to

actually get involved. A bit of an overview of the co-operative might help.

Mountain Fare is a community advancement co-operative with the broad aim of promoting the economic and social well-being of women in the area. The present structure is a planning and co-ordinating group (Central) which includes the secretary, the treasurer and a board of seven directors. Central provides an umbrella structure and access to advice and support for M.F. "businesses". Current businesses are M.F. Catering which provides the operators with part time, self regulating work and generates occasional opportunities for other "fairies" to cook and waitress.

The Women's Education Service focuses on training and is sometimes funded through government grant. Completed this year is an Adult Literacy Tutor Training Course which trained sixteen volunteers as literacy tutors for the community. The current project is a ten week course in video production, entitled "Women on Cue". As part of its commitment to co-operative education and co-operation among co-ops, the training business has created a one-day package on Co-operation for directors and members of co-ops, which covers topics such as Understanding the Act, Finances, Meeting Skills and Meeting Facilitation. So far we have presented this day three times in the last six months to various groups.

Of course, the really BIG one for us at the moment, the focus of much of our attention (and one where we're definitely growth orientated) is the Maleny Spring Workshops, scheduled for September 26th and 27th. Mountain Fare also contributes to the Maleny Sunday Market with the Herb Stall. This stall is staffed on a voluntary basis (mainly by a dedicated two) and the proceeds go towards maintaining the solvency of Central.

So that's the state of play for Mountain Fare at the moment. Do you see a place for yourself among the fairies? In an existing business or with a new business idea or as a support member? Then join us. To become a member, contact our secretary, Ann Jupp, on 942619. Or come along to the next meeting, the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9.00 am. Check with Ann for the venue.

Directors: Lyn Blunt, Annah Evington, Meg Barrett, Nora Julien, Ann Jupp, Margi O'Connell, Helen Clark.

Treasurer: Nora Julien

Secretaries: Ann Jupp

Phone: 074 - 942 619

Barung Landcare Ass. Annual General Meeting



**on Saturday, 12th Sept, 1991
at 10 Ash St, Maleny
starting at 12 noon**

Bring a plate & enjoy a shared lunch while watching your own Barungites as Super Stars in a Landcare Video shot up here in June.

We will have a get together over lunch followed by the Meeting at 2 pm.

Please come along and find out what we have been doing over the last year, enjoy some friendly company and have a say.

SEE YOU THERE!

For Nominations

- ring Lexy

on Tuesday or Thursday on 943922.





THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE MALENY ASSOCIATION INC.

Who's the New (Old?!) Bloke at the Enterprise Centre?

Don Rudkin took over as Manager at the ECM on 1st July, initially on a one year contract. He sees a very interesting, enjoyable and challenging year ahead of him. Priority tasks include completion of the refurbishing program for the building, establishing at least an 80% tenancy occupation (approximately double present usage), and achieving financial self-sufficiency for the centre by 30th June, 1993, when government funding ceases. In addition, Don will be offering ongoing support and guidance to existing tenants in order to maximise their prospects for continued success.

According to Don, the Enterprise Centre is in itself, a small business where, hopefully, by mid 1993, more than 20 people will be employed, either as staff or resident business proprietors.

Don Rudkin grew up on a dairy farm in mid-northern N.S.W. Ironically, his first job, at the ripe old age of 14, was at a butter factory. He joined the RAAF as a teenage recruit and served at various bases around Australia as well as tours of Vietnam and Malaysia. He left the air force in 1978 with the rank of Squadron Leader and went into business for himself. In 1986 he was appointed by the N.S.W. government as small business adviser for the Newcastle and Hunter area.

Don fell in love with the Sunshine Coast during a holiday here last year and moved up in December. He has a son presently in Japan and a daughter in Cairns. His interests are as diversified as flying ultralights, playing lawn bowls, travel, bushwalking, music and reading.

Don says he has been made feel very welcome by everyone he has met here and looks forward to making a contribution to the Maleny community. He encourages inquiry as to what the Enterprise Centre is all about. Everyone is welcome to see for themselves what has already been accomplished. Potential small business operators will be given every assistance possible to achieve self-employment.



President: Bob Sample

Vice President: Judy Body

Secretary: Harry Whitehouse

Treasurer: Giancarlo Molinaro

Committee Members: Ian McDonald, Stan Tosh, Linda James, Cherry Sandwick, Don Rudkin.

Manager: Don Rudkin

Phone: 074 - 943 922

'Working for our future'



REPORT CARD

Year: 1992

Semester: One

Pupils Name: Barung Landcare

Age: 3 years

Class Teacher: Joanne Ferrier

Class Motto: Working for the future

Rating Scale: E - Exciting, Excellent, Extraordinary,
Exuberant, Energetic feeling.
S - Striving to achieve, Steady progress,
Sustained effort, Systems falling into
place.
B - Boringly indifferent progress; Bogged in
the bore drain.
F - Failure, F_____ up badly, Foul wind that has
brought no one any good.
U - Unratable, Unmentionable, Unimaginably
stupid.

Subject Area	Rating	Class Teacher's Comment
Community Support	B+ to S-	Consistent support has been achieved in some areas with regular hardworking volunteers such as at the Highschool nursery and working on the new nursery site in Bicentennial Lane. The Rural Subcommittee allows more farmers to have a say, and to define concerns and projects that they see as important for Landcare on farms. Feedback is that overall community perception of the group is more positive. General meetings which are open to the community have not been well attended. Too few people are doing most of the work leading to a definite possibility of burn out.

Subject Area	Rating	Class Teacher's Comment
Management Committee Working Together	S	The diverse nature of landuse in the area is reflected in the mix of people on the committee. Those members include a dairy and beef farmer, a raspberry grower, a kiwi grower, small acreage owners, nursery workers, a teacher, and a cabinet timber grower. Diverse lifestyles, expectations and values are part of the baggage at any Barung Committee Meeting and makes working together difficult at times. This is part of the challenge of Landcare in a rapidly growing community.
Education	E	The Mary River Congress was an exciting project that brought together the educational goals of Barung Landcare as well as being a vehicle for communication between groups with a stakehold in the Mary River Catchment. A wide cross section of the community gathered to share their interest in Catchment Care, to learn together and to call for more on ground action in the near future.
Networking with other groups - DPI, local and community groups, other LC groups	S	Communication with other groups has improved but these efforts need to be consolidated over time. Close co-operation with Ashley Sewell from Forestry has added expertise to the group, as has the input from LC facilitators.
Finances • National Soil Conservation Program (N.S.C.P.)	S	Barung receives \$15,000 for 3 years to co-ordinate its projects. At the time of approval BL was one of only two LC groups in Qld to gain NSCP funding for paid co-ordination. While other LC groups have received higher overall levels of funding for their projects, DPI feedback is that groups with paid co-ordinators achieve more in a shorter amount of time.

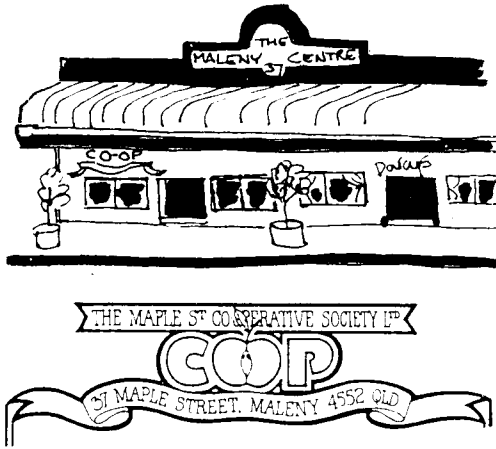
Subject Area	Rating	Class Teachers Comment
• Councils	S	Barung has received \$6,500 for the past two years from the Maroochy Shire (MSC) and Caloundra City Council (CCC). MSC supported the Mary River Congress for \$500, and CCC has agreed to a licence to occupy land in Bicentennial Lane, Maleny, to be developed as a park and nursery site/homebase for Barung Landcare.
• Enterprise Arm	S	Barung's goal of becoming self-funding through financial enterprises that promote LC is an achievable vision that has the potential to secure a long term, independent future for landcare in the local area. Projects that raise funds for LC, such as nursery sales, paid tree plants, property planning and educational activities feed into BLC's rehabilitation projects and this integrated approach should continue.
Land Rehabilitation	S	The service offered for paid tree plants is much more professional with the move from volunteers to a regular team of paid tree planters. There has been an increase in tree plants on landslips and the possibility exists for landowners to opt for paid maintenance of their plots. Barung will have to maintain its development to keep pace with the expected demand for trees, services and expertise in this area.
• Tree plants on private land		
• Public Tree Plants	S	The tree plants and maintenance at Baroon Pocket Dam are more successful now that Tony Yorkston has taken on the responsibility of organizing working bees and reduced the number of trees planted to a more manageable level. Recent working bees at the Folk Festival tree plant have been well attended and organized. This is a

Subject Area	Rating	Class Teacher's Comment
		marked improvement, but the growth and survival rate of trees at the tennis court end is severely effected by marauding cows and the difficulties of effectively fencing off a flood prone creek.
Integrated Catchment Management (I.C.M.)	Too new to rate	The Obi Obi Catchment has been selected as a pilot project by Greening Australia (GA) to find ways of developing a grass roots approach to vegetation management. BLC is working to define its input into the project but sees vegetation as including pastures, crops, weeds and natural bush. The vision is for smaller neighborhood groups to work together to sustain their patch of vegetation. Barung is to network and facilitate. GA, with NSCP funding, will be directing resources into the Pilot Project, so that the mechanisms needed to make the vision a reality might, just might, maybe, if everybody tries very hard, become a possibility.

Principle's Comment: Barung's unbridled enthusiasm has not always been matched by expertise. This gap will diminish as the group matures and is able to tap into the skills in the community. With nurturing and tender care, Barung Landcare will be able to play its part in working towards sustainable land management and effective land rehabilitation for those who dwell in the area - Barungites All!!



President: Jo Ferrier
Vice President: Mal Thompson
Management Committee: Jane Skrandies, Gillian Ainscough, Bill Hall, Denise Irons, Dean Cameron, Lexy Forbes.
Secretary & Treasurer: Lexy Forbes
Advisors: Ashley Sewell (Forestry Dept.), Sam Brown (SEQ Landcare Co-ordinator).
Co-ordinator: Lexy Forbes
Phone: 074 - 943 922 (Tues & Thurs)



A WILD UTOPIAN FANTASY

• Jenny Law

Before I tell you about my fantasy, I need to inform you of the events that led me to fantasise in the first place. The Maple Street Co-op now has a ninety-nine year lease over the building and land it is situated on. This includes a large area of land at the back of the building which the Co-op would like to develop. So I let my imagination as well as my idealistic tendency run rampant. Picture this if you will.

I visualise an abundant organic market garden, bursting with bumper crops of vegetables, fruit and herbs to supply the Co-op. Nestled aesthetically among the beautiful gardens is a self-sufficiency store, which supplies alternative energy systems, composting toilets, seeds, compost and all organic and alternative living needs.

Tucked in a corner will be a library with shelves stocked with environmentally friendly information for members to borrow. Small groups of visitors will be taken through on educational tours of the complex. We would teach and employ some of our young people who find it so hard to

find employment in a rural town. Somewhere included in all this are our senior citizens passing on their valuable knowledge and experience to anyone who wants to learn. It would be a place of learning, sharing and growing, and be productive as well. Where do we get the huge amount of money to set up such a venture, you may ask. Well, it's my fantasy and we don't need money in utopia, we just do it *Anyone want to set a date for a meeting???*

Make sure you check out the Ideas Board at the Co-op. Add your ideas or comments. We would like lots of input before our AGM in September.

Maple Street Co-operative Directors' Report

• Jan Tilden (for the directors)

A major focus for 1991/92 has been coming to terms with our new role as managers of 37 Maple Street - The Building. No sooner had the ink dried on our leases with Ian McDonald than a new upheaval was initiated requiring another whole set of legal arrangements. This began when one of our tenants decided to move on, leaving a vacant shop and two remaining tenants, both of whom wanted to expand their businesses. The outcome was our current arrangement, with Keatings' Sound Centre in the little shop and Darcy's occupying the double space. With so much action in the legal sphere we have had plenty of opportunities to develop our talents as "bush lawyers".

One of our major concerns in taking on the building was whether or not the business could afford it. Times have indeed been tight, as predicted. Our wildest hope, that

despite the recession we would continue to enjoy growth rates as spectacular of those of the past, was not realised. Then again, we have not had to cope with the worst-case scenario either. There has been growth - 7.34% for this year, as compared with 17.68% last year and 22.73% the year before. We are still paying our bills and keeping the stock on the shelves. On the other hand, there has been no increase in staff wages and payment of staff bonuses has all but ceased.

At the beginning of last financial year, we suggested several ways in which members and regular shoppers could help their Co-operative through the anticipated tight times ahead. One of these was buying more shares. The fact that this year has seen a greater increase than last year in the number of shareholders, **despite** the slower growth rate in sales, suggests that this idea may have been acted on, at least to some limited degree. There have also been members who took the request for a greater volunteer effort to heart in a big way. Many thanks go to those people. I won't mention your names, lest I offend by leaving someone out. I can think of quite a few notable contributions of time, funds and professional expertise. Of course thanks are also due to our "regular" volunteers - the ones whose commitment predates our building management responsibilities.

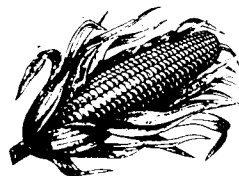
While I'm issuing bouquets, thanks also to those who answered our call for suggestions about how to use the backblock. If we can begin to get some income from that asset, our financial position will improve. A board in the shop displays ideas generated so far and gives our members the opportunity to comment or to add more.

And a big bouquet to Lakshmi Shivalanka who has been working with staff and directors to help us improve communications between the two groups and facilitate discussions, both philosophical

and "gut level", about our various roles and what it means to work co-operatively. This process was organised in the spirit of "co-operative education" (one of those famous six principles) and is ongoing.

Now for some brickbats. You will remember that a great many Co-op members, especially three dedicated directors, put in many voluntary hours on the general store at the Folk Festival. The plan was to raise money towards our building management fund. This operation was a great success but we have yet to see the fruits of our labour. The Queensland Folk Federation still owes us something of the order of \$1,400. We look forward to the day when they are able to keep their promise to pay the outstanding sum. If we run the store next year we will be a little less generous in extending credit.

To sum up our experiences of 1991/92, the weekly average sales have stayed worryingly close to the "break even" figure for most of the year and we have still to see any convincing change in this situation. We are managing but there is much room for improvement. Maple Street Co-operative offers its members and customers many features which make it a special place to shop. These include certified organic produce, the opportunity to contribute to caring for the environment by recycling and other environmentally friendly practices, ethical buying policies, the opportunity to consign your produce and, not least or last, genuinely friendly service. If you appreciate these features and want to keep your business thriving, remember to shop, as much as possible, not only **locally** but also **co-operatively**.





SHOP NEWS

Maple Street Co-operative was born, back in 1978, when one growing sector of the Maleny population, the "alternative" set, decided to co-operate among themselves to meet a need. In those days you could not even buy lentils at the supermarket, let alone tofu. With only the capital raised from memberships we set up a business which aimed to supply clean, wholesome food at the cheapest possible rate. In those days we aspired to be a one-stop shop, so we also stocked things like tobacco. The people who started this business had the set of values usually associated with the word "alternative". To put it simply, we aimed to run our business in a socially just and ecologically sustainable way.

Between then and now, mainstream tastes have caught up, to a large extent, with "alternative" dietary preferences. As well, the sector of the population that the Co-op was set up to serve has grown in Maleny. Add one more factor to this mix - the recession, which rumour says has finally begun to make itself felt here. As a result of all this, a major theme for the Maple Street Co-op this year has been **competition** - and how to deal with it. What do you do when the shop-keeper from up the street comes in, notebook in hand, buys a handful of oats, checks out all your special lines and then starts selling them - and cheaper at that.

Some would say this is good sensible business practice, survival of the fittest stuff. What is the "co-operative" way to deal with this?

Fortunately Maple Street Co-op has other attributes which set it apart from its competitors. We thought it timely to remind our members of some of them:

- **Organic Produce** - Shopping at Maple Street, it is possible to have an exclusively organic diet. Not only do we sell organic fruit and vegies in season, we also have organic bread, flour, seeds for sprouting, cooking oil, condiments, tahini, the list goes on and on. You don't even have to be a vegetarian. We sell organic free-range chickens.
- **"Ethical" Buying Policies** - Wherever possible, we buy goods which are **locally produced and environmentally friendly**. We have assisted the start up of many local businesses by taking their goods as stock or on consignment or by supplying them with ingredients at bulk discount prices. The practice of dealing locally helps to keep the money circulating within our community. If we must go further afield for our stock, we try to ensure that it is manufactured in a just and ecologically sustainable way.
- **Friendly, knowledgeable service** - Maple Street Co-op provides genuinely friendly service to its customers. As well, our staff are all well-informed about the products we sell. If we don't know the answer to your question, we will take the time to find out. We will go out of our way to satisfy customer requirements. Where else can you ask a shop assistant to divide the contents of the package on the shelf because you only need half the standard quantity?

• **You Own the Co-op** - The Maple Street Co-op runs **your** shop. You can have a say about how. Any surplus generated goes back to you, as members, in the form of shares, increasing your equity in the business. The more you shop at the Co-op, the more you come to own it. The workers are owner/members too. That's one reason why we are so conscientious about providing good service.

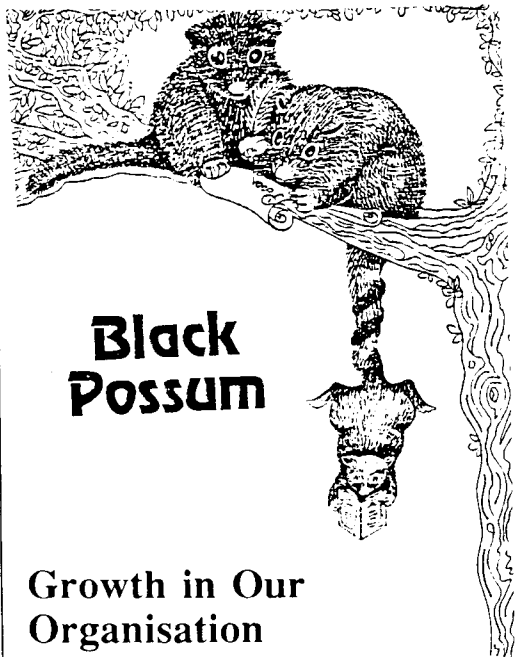
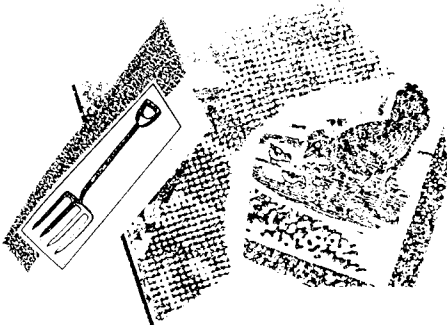
These are some of the things which ensure that Maple Street Co-op retains a "market edge" despite the fact that many of our staple and specialty lines are now sold elsewhere in Maleny. You will be hearing more about all this in the near future. The time has certainly come for us to raise our profile in the town.

Ideally, we would like to see enough money circulating here to enable all of the businesses not just to survive, but to prosper, so we will be looking for ways to achieve that result too. In this vein, we certainly support the "buy locally" campaign.

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

Secretary: Nora Julien

Phone: 074 - 942 088



Black Possum

Growth in Our Organisation

• Alf Ashton

Growth in an enterprise is not unlike human growth in that it is on-going throughout its life. In considering growth in our organisation we need to assess where we are at and where we are going. This leads us to the objectives of our co-operative:-

- the collection, preparation, production, marketing and distribution of original literary and other publishable material in value-added form on behalf of our members and the community.
- education in literature, art, graphics, photography, recording, composing, printing, binding, editing and publishing among co-operative members and in the community.

- provision of employment and training to co-operative members and assistance to groups in other regions to establish similar operations appropriate to their own regional situations.

- to do other things, calculated to promote the economic interests of the members of the society in relation to the objects herein before specified.

Like human growth there are stages in growth that will only develop over time. Maturity cannot be arrived at without the passing of time and the repetition of the functions of growth. Our co-operative, formed in 1990, has produced and marketed the Black Possum Diary 1991 and the Black Possum Diary 1992 and is currently undertaking the production of the 1993 Diary with the theme "We are the world, we are the people". Each one is full of original art, graphics and literature.

Evaluation is our tool for growth. In each production of the Black Possum Diary, we are evaluating. Using critical appraisal of our work, we seek alternatives that may lead to better printing, better procedures, design, creativity, leading to an improved Black Possum Diary enterprise, in line with our objectives.

In order to evaluate we found that we need a good record of what is done, who is to do it, how it is to be done, what is to be achieved - and more as the refinements develop. With each production, we record each function in written form and improve, add to. This procedure is also carried out in our educational workshops and seminars. We found that we were developing policy (a map) - attitudes on various issues, some important, others relatively minor. From the policy we found that we were developing procedures (the lines on the map) - step-by-step methods for performing specific actions. When an issue needed a course of

managerial action to be taken, we developed a policy and prepared draft procedures. The Policy shows the course to take (the map) and the procedures tell how the policy can be fulfilled (the lines on the map). Our plan is building a stronger base in each stage of our growth to fulfil our objectives. For comparisons of growth we needed the same yardstick. Consequently it further became necessary for us to plan economic budgets to evaluate our projects.

Growth in an organisation needs not only to be in efficiency but also in effectiveness. Imagine that you are driving your (old) car and it feels sluggish going up the range. You stop, clean the spark plugs, reset the distributor contact points, adjust the carburettor (very efficiently). You climb back in and drive off on a flat tyre (not effective though).

There are many tasks, many talents necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the co-operative for growth. In nature the foundations of growth are in the seeds. In our co-operative, the foundations of growth are in our people. Participating in the experience of planning and decision-making (consensus), skill sharing in the production of the Black Possum Diary, in educational workshops and seminars, the people of our co-operative have grown. The magical growth of a mushroom is in our people. We have not as yet fulfilled all of our objectives of our co-operative. However we have grown.

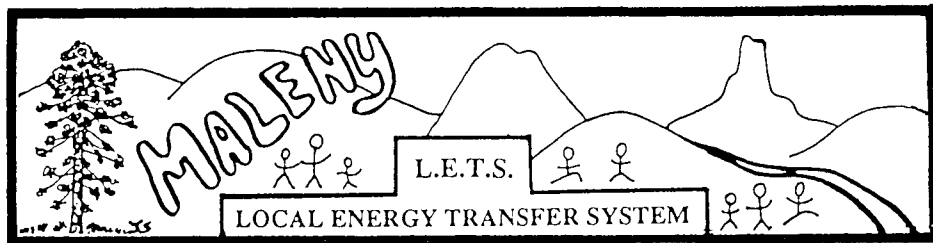


Directors: Rosmary Allan, Beryl Muspratt, Elsie Brimblecomb, Alf Ashton, Danny Ross.

Treasurer: Paula Grimaire

Secretary: Jean Elder

Phone: 074 - 941 021



GROWTH.....LETS grow

• Ann Jupp

It feels good to be talking about growth in relation to LETS at this time because in the conventional economy all is doom and gloom.

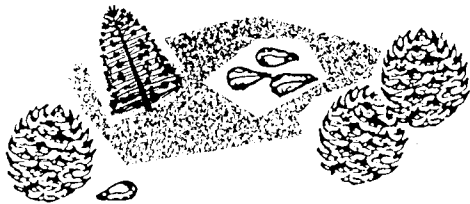
The recession has made most of us look long and hard at our expectations, needs and lifestyles. And a lot of people have come up wanting - or their needs not being met. Not so if you're a LETS member. Or not necessarily so. It is entirely up to you! If what you want is not listed on your LETSystem there is the option to go out and convince (coerce?) the provider of that service to join LETS, so you can have what they offer. It's a growth for them too as their services (for \$\$) may be less and less in demand as the economy forces people to give up the non-essentials. What quality of life is that? Here within the LETS community we can get what we need, have a few "luxuries" and live very nicely, thank you, knowing that our Bunya spending is making others - as well as ourselves - "richer", keeping our community "rich" and keeping the real wealth and energy flowing.

As an organization LETS Maleny has grown incredibly too. We're coming up to our 500th membership. Soon we may need to think about maybe "hiving off" another LETSystem, before we become too big and unwieldy to be workable. As it is, the

workload in the office has GROWN, along with the membership. Our staff numbers have increased to cope with the busier times.

Each and every one of us (staff) have grown too in many and varied ways. We've learned new skills and assumed more responsibility for the smooth running of things. Our friendships have grown. A disparate, loosely connected group has grown into a marvellous "team", reliable and capable of seeing what needs doing and getting in and doing it.

Lastly, the LETS "family" around Australia has grown prolifically over the last year or so. So many start ups and equally pleasing, so many success stories. In the West LETS appears to have consolidated with a couple of systems folding and others getting stronger. Queensland has recorded steady growth but Victoria has had an absolute boom going from three LETSystems to more than 15. The networking has also become more organized and has made this huge country seem smaller. I think the communication with other LETSystems has enabled us all as individual systems to feel stronger and more unified. The coming National LETS Conference should help in this way too, and I for one am looking forward to it immensely. Very exciting, stimulating and growth producing in every way.



RECESSION BUSTING WITH LETS: A grand theory

• Jan Tilden

Bearing in mind that I am no economist, I would like to offer Co-op Review readers my "grand theory" about the potential of the LETSYSTEM to help Maleny through the recession. I would welcome criticism from those who have a better understanding than I about how these things work.

Regarding the mainstream economy, it strikes me that one reason why it does not work for us is because it is too big. With the invention of money, way back when, came the possibility of importing and exporting goods far from their site of production. Economies gradually moved away from local control. In the late twentieth century, this trend towards non-locality has reached a stage where not even the governments of individual countries can exercise control. A fluctuation of some economic factor in Japan or Europe produces a result in Australia which we are powerless to change.

Employment is one economic factor whose variation is out of control. An economist friend tells me the problem goes something like this:

**LACK OF DEMAND → LACK OF
SPENDING → LACK OF
EMPLOYMENT → POVERTY →
LACK OF DEMAND**

People can't afford to buy things and this has a disastrous effect on the jobs of those who make the things that no one can afford and so on. (Roundabout and roundabout and roundabout we go.) The economy "settles" into a situation of less than full employment and the factors which generate this result don't respond to manipulation at the national level, let alone locally.

Now, I can see no natural limit to employment. I'm prepared to be proved wrong on this, since there is a natural limit to population growth. However, it seems to me that there are as many jobs as there are people. What varies is how many people get paid for doing them. Our economy is, in fact, supported by a vast amount of unpaid labour - that of the informal sector including much women's work.

It strikes me that the LETSYSTEM has the potential to act as a buffer for the mainstream economy, reducing the fluctuations and minimising their local impact. For this to happen at an optimum level, we would need to use Bunyas as a medium of exchange for **every** good or service (or part good or service) that was **local** in content. For example, locally grown organic vegies could be exchanged entirely within the LETSYSTEM. Non-organic produce would require the outlay of a dollar component for chemicals which would ultimately have to be recouped in dollars.

We could probably do a lot more Bunya trading than we do now, but how to get it going? How to maximise the recession busting potential of LETS?

Well let's begin with the demand side. Make a list of everything you consume and every service that you use. Include any planned future projects, such as building or making a new garden. Try to find someone who will reliably provide

these goods and services for Bunyas. Create a **demand**.

Now let's look at the supply side. If you are underemployed or can't move your goods for \$\$, make a list of what you could offer for Bunyas. How do you like to make a living? Does your work have any local component? If you manufacture goods locally, for example, then a component of your labour could be exchanged for Bunyas. What goods or services can you offer for part Bunyas?

The idea is to stimulate the local economy. If people can obtain more goods and services for Bunyas they will have more money to spend on items with a dollar component. Demand will increase and the vicious cycle of unemployment will be broken.

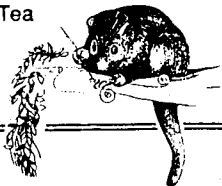
What do you think? Have I got it wrong?

Trustees: Andru Martin, Ann Jupp, Peter Pamment, Robin Clayfield
Advisors: Jane Skrandies, Jill Jordan, Mohan.
Phone: 074 - 943 113

Black Possum Publishing Co-operative Notice of Annual Meeting and Launch of 1993 Diary

1:30 pm 6th September 1992 at
 Girl Guide Hut, Cedar St. Maleny
 2:00 pm Launch of Diary by Jill Jordan
 3:00 pm Afternoon Tea
 3:30 pm A.G.M.

All Welcome!



Crystal Waters
Permaculture Village

PERMACULTURE EXPO

20th September, 1992

9 a.m. til late

What is the Permaculture EXPO ?

It's a one-day event, in which people are cordially invited to visit Crystal Waters and experience Permaculture, in it's diversity. As it follows immediately after the 5th National Permaculture Consultants Convergence, it also offers the public the opportunity to learn fromn and talk to some of the hundreds of Permaculture Consultants who will be gathered for this rare event.

In additions to talks, seminars, workshops and demonstrations there will be a variety of information and trade stalls as well as food stalls and evening entertainment.

There will be a SWAP session, where anyone can bring suitable items for sale or barter.

The EXPO will also feature a SOAP BOX area where anyone will be able to offer impromptu talks, demonstrations or performances.

For further inquiries & registration, contact Permaculture Expo, c/- Earthcare Enterprises, Lot 58 Crystal Waters Community, Maleny, 4552, or ring Skye or Robin on 074-944707.

Co-op Secretary: Barry O'Connel
Co-op Treasurer: Kathy Trudgian
Chairperson: Robert Tap
Committee Members: Chris Gwin, Ann Duffy, Patia Cardle, Chris Rew.
Phone: 074 - 944 620

THREATENED SPECIES OF MALENY AND ENVIRONS

• Jan Tilden

In my last Co-ops' Review article I familiarised readers with the different categories of "threat" suffered by wildlife. This time I have decided to look at some local threatened species - one in each category.



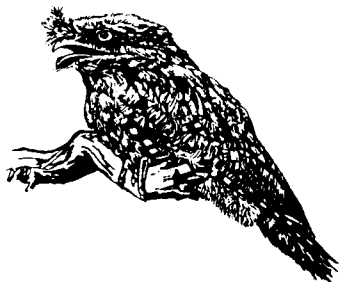
Platypus Frog
Rheobatrachus silus

Endangered

Probably our most noted endangered citizen is the **Platypus Frog** (*Rheobatrachus silus*). This amazing little beastie was discovered in 1973. Known only from boulder strewn, fast flowing creeks in the Blackall and Conondale Ranges it has not been seen for a number of years and experts strongly suspect that it is already extinct. The reproductive habits of this frog and its congener, *Rheobatrachus vitellinus*, are unique in the whole of the animal kingdom. The female frog swallows the eggs which develop in her stomach. Eventually they are regurgitated as fully formed froglets. The mother does not eat at all while the babies are inside her. The production of acid in the stomach and all gut movements cease while the froglets are developing.

The platypus frog is a good example to cite to pragmatists and economic rationalists who sometimes have trouble recognising the value of conserving threatened species. Its interesting reproductive habits made it a very strong candidate for medical research, with the potential for aiding in the development of drugs and techniques applicable to humans.

It is also illustrative of the very worrying global phenomenon of frog disappearance. In the last twenty years, five species of frogs are suspected to have gone extinct in Queensland alone. These frogs were all living in apparently pristine streams in National Parks under the highest degree of protection that was available in the State (until recently). Nobody knows why they have disappeared.



Marbled Frogmouth
Podargus ocellatus

Vulnerable

The **Marbled (or Plumed) Frogmouth** (*Podargus ocellatus plumiferus*) is believed to roost in thick rainforest during the day and to hunt for insects during the night. It resembles the more common Tawny Frogmouth but has irregular white blotches scattered throughout its plumage, which provide a marbled appearance - hence the common name. It is rarely seen.

There are two sub-species, the other being *P.o. marmoratus* which is restricted

to the tip of Cape York Peninsula. P.O. plumiferus is found in rainforests from Widgee Shire to just south of the New South Wales border. It is one of several bird species threatened locally by reduction of its rainforest habitat.

Potentially Vulnerable

Although locally fairly common, the **Freshwater Catfish or Dewfish** (*Tandanus tandanus*) is a species whose distribution has been considerably reduced and continues to decline. For this reason it is considered potentially vulnerable.

Although individual fish can tolerate a wide range of river conditions, the species has sensitive breeding requirements which are adversely affected by dam construction and siltation through soil erosion in the catchment. A population of these fish in Bridge Creek, for example, was wiped out by the construction of the Baroon Pocket Dam. This is one species which will certainly be threatened by any proposal to dam the Upper Mary River.



Australian Lungfish
Neoceratodus forsteri

Rare

While we are on fish threatened by dam proposals, let's take a look at the **Queensland Lungfish** (*Neoceratodus forsteri*). This fish has often been called a "living fossil" and is of great scientific interest. It has no close living relatives, being the only species in its genus and

family. A very similar fish is known from the Devonian Period, nearly 400 million years ago. To put it another way, this species, or its close relative, was around before continental drift took place. The lungfish is one of the few Australian freshwater fishes that evolved in fresh water. Most are relatively recent adaptations of salt-water fish.

In its natural distribution, this fish is confined to the Burnett and Mary River systems. It is another species which was found in Bridge Creek before the advent of the Baroon Pocket Dam and which is threatened by proposals to build dams in the Upper Mary River Valley.

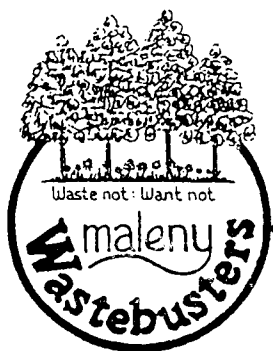
If you are interested in finding out more about continental drift, biological diversity and threatened species, come along to my workshop at the Maleny Spring Workshops on the 26th of September. I find this one of the most fascinating aspects of natural history. I would like the chance to spread my enthusiasm around some more.

STOP PRESS!

More up to date lists which have just come to hand describe the Queensland Lungfish as vulnerable. Furthermore, it is not found in any protected area, such as a National Park. The Mary Cod is also vulnerable and unconserved and its habitat is even more restricted than that of the Lungfish. There is added cause for concern over the future of these species given current proposals to dam the Mary Valley.

THREATENED SPECIES NETWORK

Jan Tilden
c/- Maleny Enterprise Centre
23 Coral St.,
P.O.Box 465, Maleny, Q 4552.
Phone: 074 - 943 922



MALENY WASTEBUSTERS

Growth in Our Co-op OR More is Less

• David Barnes

Those of us who pass time picking through 'recyclables' on the Witta and Conondale tip faces are not widely known for our deep philosophising. But lately with the rise of garbage as a growth industry, Wastebusters everywhere have been cogitating on the meaning of it all - hence the following.

For Wastebusters growth in interest in recycling means, paradoxically, a probable decline in growth for our Co-op. In earlier years Wastebusters pioneered community involvement in recycling in response to the lack of genuine commitment by governments and business, and essentially we had the field to ourselves. Under pressure local Councils, government departments and industry have become more environmentally aware and through this increasingly involved in recycling garbage. When these big spenders move into

garbage, organisations like Wastebusters can be dumped, bulldozed and buried.

But thats not necessarily a bad thing because it indicates that recycling at least has moved into the consciousness of mainstream society (even if reduction in consumption has not). So it can be seen that the ultimate aim for Wastebusters is to put ourselves out of business by educating everyone to take personal responsibility for their garbage and its recycling. When that happens there should be no need for Wastebusters as such. Therefore, perhaps the test that we are succeeding in our aims lies in our decline and not in our growth.

Having said all that, it is clear that there will be a place for such organisations as Wastebusters and we need to think about our future role now.

If we don't face up to the realities we will simply be overtaken by circumstances and trashed. The garbage recycling revolution is a lot closer than most people realise - we need only look at the computerised wheelie bins in Maroochy shire to appreciate that large-scale, high tech recycling will become commonplace in the very near future. Clearly Wastebusters is out of its depth with this type of recycling operation.

However, there will be niches in the recycling market that are specialised, or local, or small, or uneconomic in conventional terms. These are the areas where growth is possible for Wastebusters Co-op. For example the chipping and mulching of organic material is one area where Wastebusters may be able to expand. In addition those localities not serviced by wheelie bins (or other alternatives) may be suitable for low cost feral organisations such as Wastebusters to move into. Metaphorically we can pick over the financial carcass of the garbage recycling business when the big predators have moved on and claim the delicate little sweetmeats for ourselves.

It can be just like back on the tip face - amongst the garbage there are little treasures for all of us. But I've already said that we dump rats are not into philosophising, which is just as well because I was going to do a rave on how it's struck me lately that the goings on at Witta dump can be seen as a metaphor for LIFE itself . . . and we know how life imitates ART.... and then I was going to show how recycling can be seen as the highest form of ART etc. etc. But that's another story in the hopefully long and slow decline of Wastebusters Co-op.

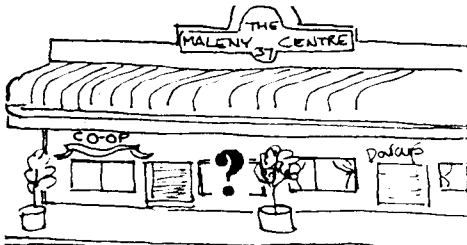
Directors: Robert Lyndon, Nigel Parrett, Marjolie Schouten, Peter Erdmann, Rob Swain, Kim Rosenberg, Russell Carter.
Secretary: Rhonda Barnes.
Treasurer: David Barnes.
Phone: 074 - 943 922

Involvement brings commitment.



Date		Claimer
August	Saturday 29th	Crystal Waters Co-op AGM
	Sunday 30th	Discount deadline, Permaculture Expo
September	Sunday 6th	Black Possum AGM
	Thursday 10th	Maple Street Co-op AGM
	Saturday 12th	Barung Landcare AGM
	Friday 18th	Discount deadline, Spring Workshops
	Saturday 19th	Mountain Fare AGM
	Sunday 20th	Permaculture EXPO
	Saturday 26th	Maleny Spring Workshops, Day 1
October	Sunday 27th	Maleny Spring Workshops, Day 2
	Monday 28th	Wastebusters AGM
	Saturday 3rd	Crystal Waters Body Corporate AGM
	Monday 26th	Maleny Credit Union AGM

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Some of the services we offer to our members:

- Telephone answering service, 1B/call
- Computer and printer hire (with wordprocessor - PCW or WP) 5B/hr + 1B/10 sheets of paper
- LETS Checkbook 1B + 50c

Maleny & District Community Credit Union

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday October 26th 1992 - 7pm
Community Centre - Blue Room

We would like to advise members that nominations are being called for position of Directors, and are to be received at 28 Maple Street, Maleny office by 4pm September 28th 1992. Nomination details are available at the office.

Any other business for inclusion on the AGM Agenda should also be advised by this date.

J.M.Maskall Co-Secretary July 27 1992