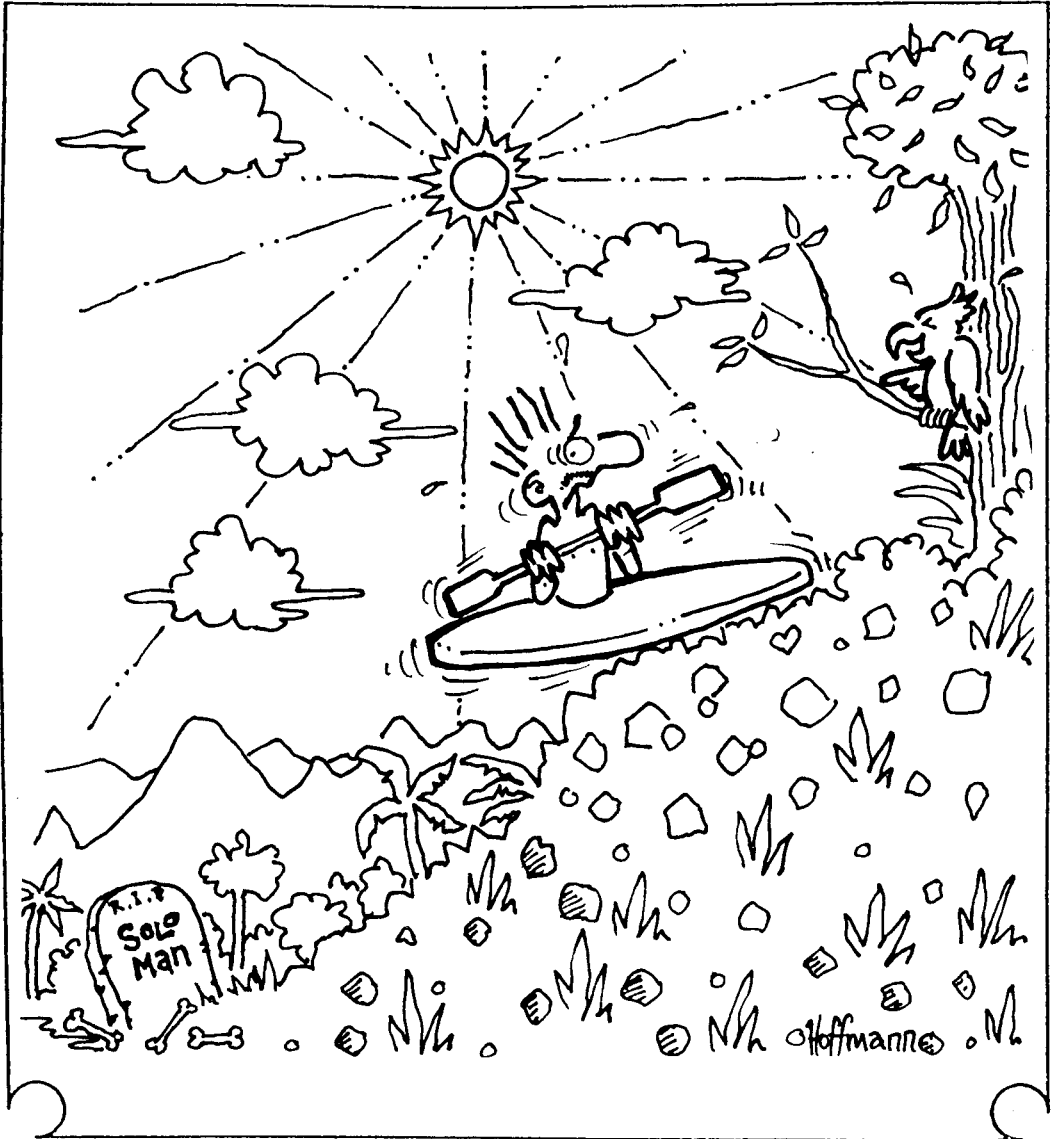


Maleny Co-operatives

A REVIEW

Volume 4, Issue 3

Spring 1993



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EDITORIAL

We are paddling along with yet another edition of the Co-op review. Many thanks to our contributors, some new faces this time as well as some real faces from the Credit Union.

The theme for this edition is "Paddling Against the Mainstream". It must have been a good one because it seems to have inspired most of the contributions.

Special thanks to Peter Hoffmann for contributing most of the graphics for this issue. May we take this opportunity to give the Maleny Spring Workshops a plug by letting you know, in case you haven't had a chance to peruse a programme yet, that Peter is presenting a cartooning workshop.

Look out for the order form for Black Possum's Anthology, together with a reprint of the stunning cover.

We will notify all the contributing groups by mail about the theme for the next issue as well as the deadline for copy.

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, Jane Skrandies, Alice Hungerford.

Thanks to:

Peter Hoffmann for the front cover and the other great graphics.

Desktop Publishing and Layout:

Peter Pamment.

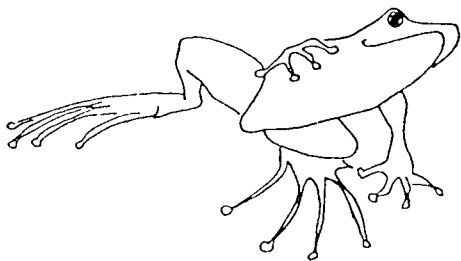
Printed by:

Cairnscross Press, Maple Street, Maleny.

Co-ordinator:

Peter Pamment Ph 074-944562,
or c/o - Enterprise Centre Maleny, 23 Coral St.,
Maleny Q 4552.

MANDUKA



Paddling Against Stopping the Stream or Frogs' Hollow Versus the Damming of the Obi

• Gillian Pechey (with help from Amanda Wilson)

I. Memories

I remember an excursion down to Baroon Pocket, walking past Jan and Steve Weis' place, through the forest where new tracks had appeared, ferns and bracken trampled, saplings cut, trees marked with yellow tape, yellow pegs in the slopes going down to the Narrows. The forest was as green and beautiful as it ever was over the centuries when the aborigines held their bunya get-togethers. Then came the white explorers, Leichhardt, Tom Petrie; then the settlers; then the urban growth and now the dam.

We watched the unfolding of this dam building project with disbelief, anger, resignation and grief. There was an emotional dimension to the experience, which gave us the energy to protest against a lifestyle which destroys so much of the natural world. A small taste of what the aborigines must have gone through as they watched the takeover of the land.

As the years passed we went through periods of calm when it all seemed far away; less inevitable. But the signs

increased until bulldozers and blasting and dust. Even then we hoped that calculations were wrong, and that part of Bridge Creek in the forested area would be spared.

In January 1987 we held a ceremony which healed, gave us resignation. We none of us could commit sabotage; and the community support was not enough to turn the tide. With friends who had known the Platypus Pool, we spent a day making small boats out of banana leaves, adorned with flowers and small candles standing upright. At dusk we walked down and put the boats into the overflow from the "turbo-tub" (a small, bubbling waterhole above the main pool). We watched the candle lit boats bob in the current then drift out across the calmer depths of the pool. It was a warm moonless night and most people ended up in the water swimming amongst the candles. The rocks around were dotted with light from candles in their crevices. Later we sang and wailed and laughed. We said our farewells to the spirits of the pool.

II. The Dam

This dam was talked about as long ago as the twenties; a perfect site for a dam. In 1939 it almost happened but a war intervened. In January 1979, Frogs' Hollow, a newly formed community which bought the land from four who purchased it in 1972, wrote to the Landsborough Council asking whether there was any intention to build a dam. The reply said "there are no plans for construction now or in the foreseeable future".

Four years later, in April 1983, a letter arrived - not out of the blue, because by now we had heard that other land holders had received notices, saying that investigations into town water supply were under way...dam in Baroon Pocket under consideration... land acquisition ... The accompanying map of the proposed dam turned out to be just the dam they built.

In those four intervening years Frogs' Hollow had some campaign experience dealing with the Landsborough Council. Our first encounter concerned access to the property. It had none, in effect, for the legal access was up a very steep forested slope across the deep Hindu Creek valley to Baroon Pocket Road. Somewhere in the past (before 1920) when the Tytherleigh Estate was sub-divided, the then Council allowed the creation of a property which had no practical access. There followed negotiations, resumption of a road through a neighbour's property, fencing and one hilarious television program before we had our access. Then we were taken to court because we had a groundsel bush on our property. (We had tens of thousands!) That's another story. Then the Landsborough Shire Council realised they had given us permission for eight houses on this rural property. They tried to rescind that. Two years of hassling and the threat of a supreme court writ saved the day.

The dam was the one we lost. Seeing it now and remembering the beauty and life of the running creek, one can only say there has been a death. But it's worse than that. There's no afterlife. It's now still water, dead trees sticking up everywhere and a bank of mud and weeds as the water level moves up and down.

On the world scale of environmental problems it is a small thing. Of all the sites for the Sunshine Coast it was the most obvious: average farm land, a narrow outlet and gravity feed to the taps.

Was it necessary? I don't know. Times are changing and attitudes to water and sewage are changing. The public outcry against the damming of the Upper Mary has brought a very different reaction from the State and Local Government. In 1983 there was only one Councillor who seriously questioned the policy of answering demands for more water by building more dams. Herman Schwabe

supported us in our research and claims that alternatives were not only cheaper than dams but they were feasible. Most Councillors thought us a bunch of loonies.

For our 17.3 hectares of beautiful forest and rocky running creek, all the life, platypuses, ferns, mosses, features which would take millions of years to create but which nature created for nothing, they offered us a ridiculous amount.

Negotiations broke down, the Water Board refused to talk with us. We found a valuer and a friendly barrister and took the Board to Land Court. We were offered double the amount minus costs. There was never a letter of apology, not to any of the land owners as far as I know. In 1993 they are much more careful and community consultative.



III. Our Campaign

With advice and encouragement from friends and people with experience in conservation campaigns, we worked hard for twelve months to get a reversal of the decision to build this dam. We had regular meetings, twice a week or more; kept a newspaper watch and file; doorknocked locals; barraged politicians with our message: NO DAMS!! Do the alternatives: rainwater tanks, water meters, water education, native plants in gardens, recycling grey water, alternatives to sewerage, study desalination etc.

We collected papers on water quality, geology, engineers' appraisal, desalination and other alternatives. We sent long letters off, anxious to share our research with decision makers. Most bowed to the "experts". (Experts in building dams and doing all the things that have traditionally been done, that is.)

Initially we focussed on trying to get an independent Environmental Impact Study. Eventually, after much correspondence we were assured that it would be done after a decision had been made on the site. We said there would be many changes necessary in the dam catchment, including land use restrictions that are now, in 1993, being considered. We warned of algal blooms, now known as blue-green algae.

Regarding the choice of site, the two Councils, Landsborough and Maroochy, had various options and their own separate agendas. The State Government had another agenda and an election as well. We arranged interviews with all Councillors and several State people like Mike Ahern and Russ Hinze. The most co-operative State politician was Tom Burns.

We prepared a paper on the installation of underground rainwater tanks, showing that these would serve an average family in the driest year. Included was the recycling of wash water. We prepared displays and printed a T-shirt with water

flowing from a toilet bowl, via a dam, into a water tap - "Maleny flush more - the Sunshine Coast needs water!"

Local media (mainly the Daily) followed the issue keenly but there was no detailed analysis of the options or final choice. There was a sort of community consultation in that they did call us together and tell us of their plans. We were not asked for our views. Now there are more people-oriented Councillors and there is more appreciation of the value of preserving clean water and natural vegetation.

It is now coming home to Maleny that we are paddling, or puddling, in the Coast's drinking water and that there have to be changes in the way we farm and treat our sewage.

You could say that the loss of our Pool mean loss of our innocence. The Pool was a shared focus, a place which was always pleasure, unwinding, socialising, meditating, perving. In its place we got dollars and dollars equals responsibility. The positive outcome was our learning efficient meeting procedures, consensus decision making, improved communication skills all of which made our group more effective and cohesive. We learnt the techniques used in the Franklin Dam Blockade which came from Non-Violent Action teachings. (July 1993 is the tenth anniversary of the end of that campaign.)



MALENY & DISTRICT



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LIMITED

Who's Who at the MCU

- Lillian Okorn and Meg Barrett

Photos by Lillian Okorn (Lillian asks readers to keep in mind that even the greatest artist is limited by her subject matter.)

The Co-operative Review is delighted to present these brief cameos of the motley crew sailing the Credit Union ship of state doggedly against the main financial stream. In reverse alphabetical order (or in order of least importance, according to Meg and Paul) they are:

Name: Derek Sheppard

Position: Co-manager

Star sign: Virgo

Hobbies: House

restoration, gardening, sketching, camping, canoeing.

Preferred reading:

Cultural heritages and backgrounds of peoples and races.

Favourite food: Vegetarian

Reason for involvement with MCU: "I am here for the ethics, the local community involvement and the co-operative and non-hierarchical nature of the organisation."

Name: Ray Passmore

Position: Director

Star sign: Leo

Hobbies: Motor-bikes



Preferred reading: Historical novels, fantasy.

Favourite food: All foods

Reason for involvement with MCU: "The Credit Union helped me a lot so I decided to put something back into it by being a director; and also to learn meeting procedure and the Credit Union's operations."

Name: Julie Park

Position: Co-manager

Star sign: Cancer

Hobbies: The beach, dancing.

Preferred reading: Good character fiction.

Favourite food:

Savouries

Reason for involvement with MCU: "I like the personal service and I'm committed to the community minded nature of the place."



Name: Peter Pamment (Peter was not available for interview so we have compiled this profile from our knowledge of the subject)

Position: Director

Star sign: Pisces

Hobbies: The MCU computer system, ideas generation (for other people to carry out), passing the buck to the Credit Committee.

Preferred reading: Prudential standards and the Act

Favourite food: Nagy's



Reason for involvement with MCU: It's opposite Nagy's.

Name: Jan Maskall

Position: Secretary

Star sign: Aquarius

Hobbies: Music of all varieties but especially classical, planning the garden for Rodger, photography, art exhibitions and shows.

Preferred reading: Travel or historical (after the Minutes)

Favourite food: Used to be chocolate

Reason for involvement with MCU: "The difference from the mainstream and 'doing something for ourselves' is the basis of the MCU for me."



working in a co-op and the ethics involved."

Name: Lillian Okorn

Position: Teller

Star sign: Cancer

Hobbies: Gardening, photography, kids and animals.

Preferred reading: About people and other places, coffee table books.

Favourite food:

Anything I don't cook myself - especially restaurant food.

Reason for involvement with MCU: "To be able to work in a co-operative atmosphere with a friendly social aspect."



Name: Sandy Malatios

Position: Teller

Star sign: Libra

Hobbies: Gardening, home building, horses.

Preferred reading:

Adventure stories

Food: Mexican

Reason for involvement with the MCU: "I'm interested in being part of an alternative choice for people to put their money where their mouths are."



Name: Vernetta Love

Position: Secretary

Star sign: Leo

Hobbies: Handcrafts, music, organic gardening.

Preferred reading: Contemporary fiction.

Favourite food: Italian

Reason for involvement with MCU: "My contribution to my community, intellectual challenge."



Name: Sharon McQueen

Position: Teller

Star sign: Aries

Hobbies: Movies, gardening, building, staying home.

Preferred reading: Travel, New Age, historical.

Favourite food: Fresh fish (caught by self)

Reason for involvement with MCU: "The community feeling of



Name: Jenny Law

Position: Teller

Star sign: Sagittarius

Hobbies: Interested in environment, women's issues, the local economy.

Preferred reading: Autobiographies, good novels.

Favourite food: Everything

Reason for involvement in MCU: "I think everybody should aim for simplicity in all



things to benefit the environment. I'm interested in making co-ops work."

Name: Paul Harper-Green

Position: Director

Star sign: Libra

Hobbies: Sleep, squash, disciplining children.

Preferred reading: Self-improvement books.

Favourite food: Italian

Reason for involvement with MCU: "I was involved for the prestige initially but now for doing good things with money."



Name: Meg Barrett

Position: Director

Star sign: Leo

Hobbies: Astrology, cryptic crosswords, shopping, going to restaurants.

Preferred reading: Feminist diatribes.

Favourite food: Thai vegetarian.

Reason for involvement with MCU: "I'm into masochism."



Forget The Paddle, Buy An OutBoard!

• Paul Harper-Green

The mainstream is made up of people who never get their act together when it comes to money. Only 5% of Australians retire with enough money to look after themselves for the remainder of their lives.

Based on these figures 95% of you who are reading this are "going with the flow" of financial trends. tsK tsK

It is probably true that, in the river of money management, many of us are

attempting to swim upstream, and we probably only know how to dog paddle anyway! If you can relate to this, read on.

This is not a new problem. You see it became apparent very early on in the use of money, that there were really simple rules to follow if you wanted to get ahead. The amazing thing is that the rules haven't changed just the monopoly board has!

These rules aren't widely known but they are available, and what's more they're free! Well that's not strictly true because if you want to play by the rules it will cost you dearly in that you must change your habits.

No way, too much! I hear you cry.

Alas, that is the problem these days. As a society we are conditioned to short term gratification.

Even though the rules are fool proof, you do have to be disciplined to use them and I don't care how loudly you protest, the truth is folks, we just don't have enough discipline. Which is why we struggle side by side with all sorts of other mainstream type people as we get washed downstream and out to sea where we lose sight of land and bob up and down resignedly.

Imagine what it would be like to be able to travel back upstream to the source of the river and have some control of the flow.

This can be done by saving. Saving money empowers the individual; saving money with other like-minded individuals empowers that group. This is what the Credit Union is, a group of like-minded individuals who have empowered themselves through pooling their money.

There is a problem here though, 95% of people find saving impossible or at least incredibly difficult. This is where we get back to those rules I told you about earlier.

The first rule of money management is
PAY YOURSELF FIRST!

Most people are so concerned with paying

bills and keeping food on the table that they forget about themselves.

Regardless of the source of your income the only way you can ever really get ahead is to put a bit of money aside for when you no longer have an income. It is recommended that you keep at least 10% of your income. This is put somewhere where you won't be tempted to touch it until it is genuinely needed. Then you pay bills and live on the remaining 90%.

If you follow this rule you very quickly notice a difference in your finances. The discipline of regular saving makes you feel good and a rising savings balance makes you feel good.

The interesting thing about this rule is that it does not discriminate. Whether your income is \$100 a week or \$1000 a week and because we live to our income the effect of applying this rule is the same for everyone.

Okay, I still hear some of you protesting that you just can't do it!

Well how about this for a wild idea: Why don't you look for ways that you can replace 10% of your cash spending with L.E.T.S. trading? That will free up some cash for you to start saving and it will support L.E.T.S. it may even encourage other businesses to make use of bunya trading!

There are enormous possibilities for creating a very wealthy community (and I'm not just talking about money) and becoming a model for others to follow.

Is anyone interested?

News From The MCU

• Peter Pamment

The Maleny Credit Union has been successfully paddling along with the new Non-Bank Financial Institutions legislation. The last few months have been an exciting time as we have both new staff and directors and our profit levels

have been ahead of our planning. We are now within easy reach of the requirement of a minimum capital adequacy of 8%.

We have achieved well over \$100,000 profit for the year and our capital adequacy ratio is now 7.5%. We are planning to have a ratio of about 10% by the 30th June 1994 deadline.

We have started an easing of our profit margin, with a dropping of loan interest rates for all but housing loans. Charges for periodic payments have been dropped and other charges are under review. As we have to pay tax on profit from charges and not from interest paid by members, we are looking at charges as well as interest rates.

Recent times have seen the resignation of three of our MCU people. Co-manager Judy Williams has decided not to return from extended leave. Bob Smalley, a long standing co-manager has left us, as also has our longest standing and original director Bill McDonald. We thank them for their considerable service to the Credit Union and wish them well for the future.

The Directors have appointed Derek Sheppard as a co-manager to work with Julie Park. Julie has been a stabilising force during these changes in management and, for a few weeks, held the fort alone with help from other staff. A great co-operative effort by all staff. Well done!

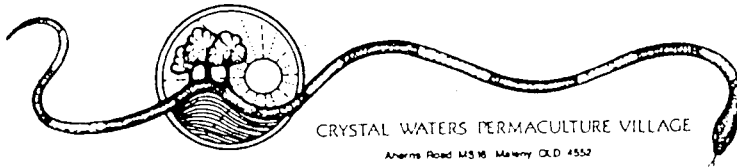
The board has been joined by four new members appointed to casual vacancies; John Dennett, Mary Smith, Lyn Blunt, and Benice McLennan. Members will no doubt get to know them better in later editions of the MCU's Who's Who.

Directors: Peter Pamment, Meg Barrett, Ray Passmore, Paul Harper-Green, John Dennett, Mary Smith, Lyn Blunt, Bernice McLennan

Co-Managers: Julie Park, Derek Sheppard

Secretaries: Jan Maskall, Vernetta Love.

Phone: 074 - 942 144



Paddling Against the Mainstream

• Brenda Stenz

To varying degrees, many of us are doing just that. Well, Salmon do it, so can we!

Individuals, towns (such as NO DAMS Conondale) and even countries are paddling against the mainstream.

What does this mean?

To gently row in contrast to prevailing customs. To vigorously propel through the murky waters, if not swamps of the dominant paradigm. To question authority of any kind. OR perhaps you're just doing it your way, saying No when there demands a Yes. Saying Yes when there demands a No. Doing nothing when you are asked to do something and vice versa.

It's about change and challenging rigid attitudes and fixed forms. Standing up to the force of numbers rather than turning a blind eye. From homebirthing to political protest, for me it means moving towards a path of growing awareness and benevolence, hard work and frequent questioning of activities and motives of the majority. However, the benefits that can reflect in the quality of life differ greatly from those that lead very fast downstream.

Conforming or Questioning?

Conforming can foster a feeling of

powerlessness, apathy and blind dependence. Questioning, with careful forethought, entails perseverance, determination, and constant review of all issues surrounding a subject, leading to a greater power and awareness of the individual. Denoting the individual as being important, in turn acknowledges humanness, which is often forgotten amidst the rush of achievement and progress.

Navigating the mainstream if you've got your human compass intact and don't drown or get lost, can be an ever so rewarding but tricky activity. Chrystal Waters, by the very nature of its uniqueness and difference from the usual structure in society, is going against the mainstream but has been endorsed by it also. One can make this an act of rebellion or, more responsibly, a conscious effort.

Wholesome and benevolent ideas and actions are not always welcomed by some big fishies out there. If you meet with a shark on your way and he says I'm sorry, you are going too fast, please turn around and go back, one might be pretty tempted to do so.

However, hope springs eternally, hopefully.

Nothing is static and I believe the mainstream is faltering in its negative capacity and perhaps, who knows, narrowing ever so slowly into a brook.

By hook or by crook, its bound to happen, the Power of One being acknowledged. The world is changing and we know it.

A wonderful placard I read on the C.U., WC wall which I gauge myself on at times says:-

'There are those who wonder what happened (ignorance is bliss), those who watch things happen (apathy) and those who make things happen (choice and action).'

All appropriate stages in life.

There are very impetuous salmon amongst us and there are careful planning ones who prepare themselves and wait for signs of the right season to move.

So, whatever the cause,

Here's to

Steering your own ship, canoe, speedboat or yacht

Whatever the case may be-

UP THE STREAM OF LIFE!!!!!!

P.S. To avoid frustration and futility remember-

Change the things you can,

Accept the things you can't,

And have the wisdom to know the difference!

As for harnessing my go-cart the eternal force-well, no: I pushed my go-cart into the eternal stream and so it went faster than the ones that are pushed across stream or up stream... I am still puzzled as to how the individual counts: a lot, I fancy, if (s)he pushes the right way.

T.E.LAURENCE (1930)

Paddling Against The Mainstream

• Denise Soya

Paddle up the Mary
Up Kilcoy or Scrub Creek
You'll come to Crystal Waters
Our quiet bush retreat

No cats or dogs to worry
Our furry and feathered friends
Plenty of weeds and cane toads
To drive us round the bends

We grow our own organic food
To sustain our inner lot
A community is thriving though
Mainstream cares not a jot

The moguls of power want to flood
Building regs. want to box
Strictures of mainstream thinking
Predate us like a fox

Sometimes we have to paddle
The quiet reaches of the soul
Sometimes against the madding crowd
That measures by a different pole

If you want to paddle
In our quiet waters here
You may have to struggle
Against your mainstream fear

When the torrents flashing
It's mighty hard to move
Against the mainstream rabble
That seek to keep us in a groove

Riding with the mainstream
Can be rather rushed
Paddling 'gainst the current
Not many can be fussed

But those of us who do
Our mettle's true and tried
We come to further depths
To the source we are tied

Community is the essence
Though diverse we may be
We can paddle all as one
Formidable and free

For while we pause and dabble
And build our strengths within
Our call is love and sharing
Nurture Earth as our kin

One day it may come to pass
Love will find a way
Our valley and our region
Kindred spirit in our play

So paddle 'gainst the mainstream
Softens its blinkered stance
Feel the flow a-changing
To the steps of a different dance.

Where's Everyone Gone On Sundays?

• Sinclair Armour

Have you noticed recently that your friends are never in on Sunday morning when you call? Ever get the feeling something's happening but you've been left out? Where have they all gone? Something's happening down in the valley...

Students, travellers and Woofers from around the world have known about it for some time. A few locals were in on the secret, but now it's public knowledge!

At last, at very long last, the Crystal Waters Community are proud to announce a new, and very public venue for the best kept secret in the Hinterland. The latest event on the Alternative Social Calendar,

the ultimate place to be seen, the Crystal Waters Sunday Morning Kitchen Cafe.

Be casual or be sophisticated, sit out on the porch and swing your legs over the side (we've got plenty of good chairs if you prefer). Bask in the warm morning sunshine or shelter under a cool verandah. Chat to the locals, make new friends, choose from a selection of munchies.

So, any Sunday take a drive across the hills, down the winding road to the Mary River plain. We're open between 10am and noon, and look forward to seeing you all.

Co-op Secretary: Patria Cardle

Co-op Treasurer:

Committee Members: Denise Soya, Jan Freyee, Fred Kohl, Phil McLeish, Barry O'Connell, Francis Lang.

Phone: 074 - 944 620



ROCK THE BOAT AND MAKE WAVES.

EVEN A DEAD DOG CAN SWIM WITH THE CURRENT. <Rev.R.Jensen>



'Working for our future'

My Impression of the Landcare Movement

• Lexy Forbes (From a talk at the State Landcare Conference)

Landcare is an excellent idea and we are leading the world, but I do feel that if we don't get our act together it will become like so many of our other excellent ideas in this country - someone else will run with it and we will end up buying it back at a highly inflated price. The world is watching us, so let's get out and show them how to do it.

One of the major problems that I see facing the movement is that too much is expected from Landcare Group members, voluntarily. If we are going to take all that responsibility then let's get serious and pay some people to do the job instead of overloading an already heavily overloaded rural community.

Too much of the funding is caught up in the bureaucratic system. Also the amount of research in our area, although totally necessary, does seem to be a lot of paper shuffling and not very much action. There are a lot of wonderful theoretical ideas out there which can never be implemented because of the lack of funds on the ground. We have heaps of information available to us but it would be a full-time job just to try and collate it all. People in

our area seem to be reinventing the wheel all over the place.

We really feel like we know what to do in our area, we have the people with the skills to do the job but we just can't seem to get hold of the money to make it happen. It seems to be caught up at the top with very little filtering through to the action oriented people who can actually achieve something on the ground.

How many \$12/h jobs can you create for one \$35/h job? We need practical implementation to save our land.

I have a job in Landcare and I believe in it, which is great, but what I do for \$250/week is a joke. There are heaps of people in our area who believe as I do in Landcare but they can only do so much for nothing.

Positive Actions.

It's a growth industry. Why don't we get serious about what Landcare can do for our country and push things such as tax deductibility?

We really need to get into much more communication and networking especially those within the government departments.

We need jobs, not training schemes. With a few jobs surely we can create more in this area which has vast parameters. Work for the dole is a possibility and I see that the Leap Scheme is trying to do that but surely Landcare could mobilise a country caught up in lethargy and lack of foresight.

Corporate sponsorship - there are people working in a corporate way for Landcare. Why can't we get any decent sponsorship. It's because the politicians are not well enough informed as to how important Landcare is to this country.

Something which is really necessary is that we, the people on the ground, meet half way with the bureaucrats. I feel that it is really necessary for all of us to meet in the middle and discuss the issues from both angles.

I really do feel that if the Landcare

groups and their volunteers are pushed any more without financial support the whole thing will start to collapse.

Landcare is a wonderful idea but we as a movement we have to have the confidence to push this idea with the belief that it's going to work and that we can do it. I really think that a lot of us do underestimate the importance of Landcare to the World and its future.

Postscript:

The Landcare network is an Australia-wide phenomenon which includes community-based groups throughout the State of Queensland. Thinking about the theme for this issue of the Maleny Co-ops review - the "mainstream" is currently polluted with phosphates and nitrates, choked with blue-green algae and mired in bureaucratic ineptitude - that's if it's flowing at all in this drought. Landcare is right there in the middle of all that muck. With enough community and government support of the right kind it has the potential to turn the tide.

President: Jo Ferrier

Vice President: Mal Thompson

Management Committee: Harold Hopper, Jane Skrandies, Gillian Ainscough, Bill Hall, Denise Irons, Lexy Forbes.

Secretary: Marion Greenfield

Treasurer: Patrica Jacobs

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

Co-ordinator: Lexy Forbes.

Phone: 074 - 943 151 (Tues & Thurs)

PROUT

Paddling Against The Mainstream

• Jenny Alister

I knew - the first wet season we spent in Maleny when Bridge Creek raged with flood waters, barred the entrance (and exit) to and from our property, and we were stranded for days and days - that in choosing this property at Lot 4 Bridge Creek Road as the site for our community, Ananda Kamala, that we had subconsciously decided to paddle against the mainstream.

I knew - when six of us crammed into a three-bedroom house and made our first muddled attempt at cooperative living - that we had chosen to paddle against the mainstream.

I am reminded each day as my commuter train passes by endless streams of comfortable barricaded suburban houses, with their neat lawns and fences which draw careful demarcation lines - that we are paddling against the mainstream.

And I know now, after seven years, that the Prout Community Settlement Co-operative (an Ananda Marga project) is inextricably committed to this paddle upstream.

As my train passes by these anonymous suburbs and I sometimes fleetingly repent the loss of my anonymity to community living, I am instantly aware that I could not now trade our open doors for the closed "security" of the suburbs. The paddle upstream definitely makes life more complicated, but it also makes for



more depth and richness from the relationships which develop from shared struggle and the personal growth which comes from the challenge of our lifestyle presents.

In our efforts to set up an alternative primary school here at **Ananda Kamala** (Land of the blissful Lotus flower), we have been faced squarely with the task of paddling against mainstream. Our educational system is simply not geared, either financially or philosophically, to the creation of small alternative schools.

Each time I wonder why it is taking so long for our school to start, I realise it is because what we are trying to achieve has been turned into an almost impossible task for small, independent community groups.

But after three years of working on this project, and a few significant achievements, we feel that the realisation of our vision - for a holistic education - is within reach. At the end of 1992, we received provisional approval for Commonwealth Government funding for 1994. Commonwealth funding is an indispensable prerequisite for the success of any alternative school and we regarded the Commonwealth approval of our funding application as a major achievement for our project.

While there are many obstacles to alternative education in broader society, our success in establishing an alternative educational option for the children of Maleny will be guaranteed in the long term, not by Government grants (although they will certainly help), but by community commitment. And the community response and support we have received suggests that, at least within the Maleny community, we won't have to paddle against the mainstream.

When enough people are prepared to paddle against the mainstream, the impossible does happen, the tide does turn and "up stream" becomes "down stream".

Community Residents: Prabha

Jewson-Brown, Steve Demason, Jenny & Paul Alister, Dada, Kashi, Marcus and Tarani Bussey.



• Mary Cremmin

We are indeed paddling against the mainstream- challenging the dominant paradigm, questioning authority, etc. et ... creating a new and better world.

We live out our lives imagining we're the cutting edge of Change and Progressiveness..

We create our cooperative banks, shops, pubs, economies... BUT- what have we really changed for our children??

We still send them through that awful awesome, dehumanising system known as school, where racial discrimination, sexual harassment and "low-grade" violence are normal and acceptable.

We continue to drive our cars, pour our chemicals and waste straight into our stunning rivers, and gaze in wonder at the exquisite views... because there is no longer a forest as high as the sky anywhere to be seen.

Where indeed are we paddling in our good ship Mother Earth?



Dam Update

• Peter Pamment

Good News & Bad News:

The much awaited discussion paper on the water appraisal study for the Sunshine Coast area was released to the public in May 1993. The DPI have called for submissions till the end of August 1993. These will form part of the input into the strategy group that will develop a long term plan for water supply on the Sunshine Coast.

The good news for many residents on the Upper Mary River was that the government has ruled out any large dams on the Upper Mary or Obi Obi. The bad news is that the strategy can still include smaller dams on creeks and/or raising existing dams. Currently Amamoor and Wide Bay Creeks are under threat as is area around Borumba Dam due to its raising. All these affect some people and habitat of native plants and animals.

Many groups are making submissions that will stress the importance of water alternatives and the need for population and development controls on the Sunshine Coast region. It's not just the water supply, it's the whole question of sustainable development in this region.

Currently the Save the Upper Mary Valley Committee is working on a

submission on the discussion paper and any input into the process would be welcome. You can contact the Committee or even write to the DPI and encourage them to be serious about long term sustainable water supply alternatives. We need to change the direction of some sections of the department so we can paddle along with them and not against them!

The STUMVC is also in the process of incorporation, as it sees itself being around for the future protection of the Upper Mary Valley and for its long term sustainable development.

Save The Upper Mary Valley Committee

Alf Ashton

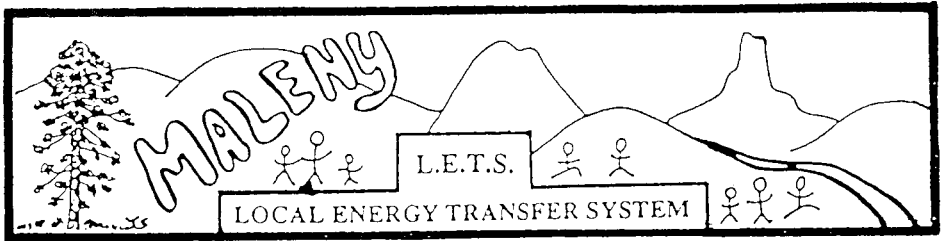
MS 16, Conondale. Qld. 4552.

Phone: 074 - 460 940



IF YOU TRY TO DO SOMETHING AND FAIL, YOU'RE VASTLY BETTER OFF THAN IF YOU HAD DONE NOTHING AND SUCCEEDED.

IF IT'S NOT YOU, THEN WHO IS IN CHARGE? <Harvey Jackins>



Who's Paddling??

• Ann Jupp

They say you should learn something every day. Well, today I learned a lot! Firstly, that while LETS works, delegation does not and while most people out there would agree that LETS is definitely AGAINST the mainstream, many of its members, for whom it works very well, consider it IS the mainstream and wouldn't dream of paddling against it! Hence I get to be hurriedly scribbling "lines for a deadline" yet again.

So, a few quotes and stories - no names named.

"LETS isn't mainstream now, but it's sure the way things will have to go in the future"

"It feels like this is the way it should be, feels very right"

"LETS has made it possible for us to consider alternatives and be more creative"

"I like the way it makes you feel valued for what you can offer and give"

"It has made a heap of difference to my quality of life"

"If everyone was a member of a LETSsystem, getting all their needs met, there wouldn't be a problem with crime and domestic violence" (This from an unemployed city dweller)

A whole new way of thinking comes in. First one has to let go of the concept of

"debt" and replace it with "commitment" and "making someone else "richer". Hourly rates and Bunya/dollar equivalents are best dropped from the vocabulary. Along with "scarcity", "poverty" and "not enough to go round". DARE TO BE DIFFERENT!!

Co-operation and equality are important to us in Maleny LETS, in the day to day running. No Bosses here! But we in Maleny are used to the co-operative way of doing things. The few LETSsystems around Australia who have had a hierarchical format, often headed by one person who called themselves "President" or other such title, have been the ones to come unstuck, get in trouble or generally not work. LETSsystems allowed to grow organically always succeed.

Many of our members aren't at all what you'd call mainstream, either. We have several older active members, and a couple who spring to mind are nearly-70 year old women, with active being the operative word. At an age when many of their peers are sitting at home in front of the telly, these two are flying around involved in crafty, creative or literary pursuits or building vegie gardens, doing markets and getting involved. And enjoying life to the full! LETS staff and their working styles could be thought a tad "off-beat" And our meetings -we have to have them! - are far from orthodox (even the A.G.Ms) They're actually FUN, and

we do get things done as well. It all WORKS beautifully, harmoniously (most of the time), effortlessly (some of the time). Just occasionally we find ourselves not lazily paddling, but working furiously to avoid being drowned in a sea of paper! Not waving, drowning!!

Now that LETS has attracted media attention, big business has tried to get in on the act - Bartercard, Contrabanc et al - We splash on in our own Local streams knowing that imitation is a form of flattery, but they'll never have the warm feelings and sense of community with their trading. They may even find themselves up s--- creek without a paddle! We don't need to be concerned by mainstream takeovers. Big ideas seem to have swamped some of our fellow LETs people out there too. Talk of MEGA, MULTI and GLOBAL (Lots of \$\$\$ involved too). I personally hope that canoe contacts a rock or three and sinks without trace!

Meanwhile Paddle on, paddle along and enjoy the scenery and the people you meet along the way. Remember the immortal words of the Dambusters (No, silly, not Wastebusters!) whose motto I quote -

"Pas de l'yeux Rhone ca nous", loosely translated as "Paddle your own canoe"

APOLOGIES to all our French speaking locals for bastardisation of their lovely language. And to the author, because I probably got it wrong!!!

Trustees: Ann Jupp, Peter Pamment, Robin Clayfield, Vicki Potter, Rhonda Barnes

Advisors: Jill Jordan, Mohan, Ursula Thiessen, Clarissa Townsend, Gillian Pechey, (Jane Skrandies, Andru Martin)

Phone: 074 - 943 113



Gathering the Fragments

• Meg Barrett

Having been involved in the organisation of the Maleny Spring Workshops for the past four years, (yes, this is number four, folks), I have found there are three phases of the process I particularly enjoy. First is the gathering of the workshop presenters, secondly, the gathering of names to fill the workshops as the enrolments arrive and, finally, the actual physical gathering of all the people - presenters, participants and organisers - to make the event happen.

At the time of writing we are in the midst of the first phase where daily, sometimes painstakingly, presenters' information flows (or trickles) in to form the giant jigsaw that is ultimately the whole programme. It is exciting to see the picture take shape as we balance the programme, session by session, within the constraints of people's availability, the facilities and the various themes that the workshops develop. This year's picture is complex and colourful. With more than seventy excellent workshops and only six sessions to present them in, it's inevitable that you'll find two or three workshops on

each line that you really want to do. We have an abundance of alternative therapies, we have crafts and skills, movement, music, personal and community development. There are quite a number of exciting new presenters as well as some old favourites. (No names here but check out the programme!)

I'm looking forward to phase two, when the enrolments start to flow in and the event grows on paper, before the culmination in the 'real thing' on 18 and 19 September. If you haven't been to the Spring Workshops before, come along for a fascinating weekend. If you have been before, I don't need to urge you to come. I'll just see you there.

Meetings, Meetings

• Meg Barrett

It is the common wisdom within our co-operative scene that meetings are boring necessities, chores to be got through before the real business of living and achieving takes place. Mention you are off to a meeting and people offer commiseration, sympathetic understanding and compliment you on your fortitude and selfless community spirit. Two or three meetings in one day and you are a martyr or a candidate for therapy. No one doubts that meetings are the bane of a co-operator's life.

There are whole sets of behaviours that characterise people in the meeting situation. Before a meeting, we 'meeters' mill around apprehensively, confirming the horror of the impending event and making commitments to getting the whole ghastly business over as soon as possible. We look over the agenda in the vain hope that it will be short; we are delighted, liberated, (a stay of execution) when we

fail to reach a quorum and the meeting is postponed.

During the meeting itself, we all conspire to make the process as enervating and tedious as possible. We determinedly stamp out any suggestion of humour or frivolity. Someone cracks a joke or digresses for a moment and we frown and tut-tut, or demand righteously that we get back to the 'business' of the meeting 'if you don't mind', while the perpetrator of such folly hangs her head guiltily or crawls into a corner. Yes, we soldier on and on through the agenda items, way beyond the limits of normal (or even abnormal) endurance and concentration. Finally, when the meeting is over, we rush away thankfully, our duty done, to get to the really important, enjoyable or meaningful parts of our lives.

This being the common view and process of meetings, I have been forced to do some serious self-examination. What is the social and indeed mental status of a woman who, by choice, spends approximately half of her working week in meetings? Well, I have cogitated at length on the whole phenomenon and came to some rather startling conclusions. Let me confess. I actually enjoy meetings. I enjoy them much, much more than parties. I used to think that my 'real' life must be incredibly dull in comparison to everyone else's and that this was the shameful reason behind my peculiar tendencies. I used to think that I enjoyed meetings more than parties because I was lacking in social skill and spontaneity and needed the structure of a meeting for support in my social ventures.

But lately, I've tried to view my preference more positively, to throw off the mantle of social conditioning and acknowledge some hitherto unacknowledged truths, both personal and general. Firstly, my life is no more lacking in excitement than any other. Indeed there have been times when the level of

excitement (chaos) has been so great that I've had to immerse myself in a few meetings to regain my equanimity. Secondly, my social ineptitude is not so profound. I'm simply one of those people who prefer the structure and purpose of the gathering known as a meeting to the randomness and inanity of the gathering known as a party. Which brings me to the crux of the matter. I would like to legitimate the meeting as a meaningful and enjoyable process. Let's acknowledge the positive. At a meeting, you can normally see and hear other people without huge efforts of concentration, the whole event is actually set up in a manner designed to facilitate communication rather than impede it, and most people are in full possession of their faculties! For the serious student of humanity in all its varied forms, the meeting offers unlimited possibilities. So I would like to see us put as much preparation and positive anticipation into a meeting as we do into a party. You're just as likely to meet someone nice (not to mention politically sound) at a meeting and you don't have to dance. Finally, I'd like to bring all those secret meeting-lovers out of the closet. All of you who enjoy getting together with a group of like-minded people, to plan for social action and change, to realize goals and to build a world more consistent with our dreams, stand up and be counted. And let's work together to enhance our preferred social interaction and make the meeting a better place to be.

Directors: Lyn Blunt, Meg Barrett, Nora Julien, Ann Jupp, Karen Symis, Helen Clark, Alice Hungerford

Treasurer: Nora Julien

Secretary: Ann Jupp

Phone: 074 - 942 619



A Book Review

• Jenny Law

HOW TO LIVE --- FREE AT LAST by Dr. Pat Howden

Dr. Pat Howden lives on Macleay Island near Brisbane and has an idealistic lifestyle of self reliance and sustainability. He manages to live on about \$36 a week which includes running his small car.

His book **How To Live --- Free at Last** tells us how he manages to achieve this.

This is a manual of sustainable lifestyles and is a no frills book full of good practical advice and ideas on just about everything including how to publish cheaply, without the usual photos of happy smiling people in abundant vegie gardens that you usually see in books of this type.

If you like gadgets and inventions this is a book for you.

He not only covers organic gardening, farming and edible forests but also has details for small alternatives for energy saving and low cost housing and much more.

Throughout the books he points out that with a bit of organisation we can all achieve a rich abundant life with plenty of leisure time and with much more harmony with nature.

After reading this book I became aware of how complicated we make our lives. Simplicity in all things is the key.

Although living such a frugal lifestyle

may not be everyone's cup of tea, there are certainly environmental advantages to us living a more simpler life.

A good book that will come in handy time and time again if you are on a low income or setting your self up for a simple self sufficiency type of life.

The book can be purchased by writing to him at Cone St, Macleay Island Q. 4184 and is \$35. He also takes groups for tours through his property if you book ahead.

Co-operative Education at the Show

• Jenny Law

I'm not sure about the theme for this issue, "paddling against the mainstream". I prefer to think we are paddling along *with* the main stream, we just have a better paddling team rowing our specially crafted canoe. Of course everyone else paddling around with us doesn't always understand why we paddle the way we do or why our canoe is different from theirs. This is why it is important to take the time to stop paddling for a while, (let's face it some of us are paddling our canoes at a frantic pace) and demonstrate how co-ops work and why we are committed to our co-operative way. This enables the community to become aware of the types of co-operatives that are in our local area and of the dynamic and active group of people they have the opportunity of joining.

It was with this in mind that I decided to put together a joint co-operative display. I thought the Maleny Show was a great place to start, as a lot of locals would be attending who may otherwise not ever come in contact with our co-operatives.

The display came together well with

seven co-ops participating, each co-op making its own display, which were all different and very interesting. I learnt a lot myself about the other co-ops that I'm not a member of.

The first observation I made was that a lot of Maleny residents had heard about L.E.T.S., Maleny Credit Union, Waste-busters etc., but because they don't have the word co-operative in our names, they were unaware that we were actually co-operatives.

The second observation I made from the display was the importance of recording our history. Each Co-op should make sure they keep a record of events and perhaps a photo album. Besides it's fun to look back and see how much everyone has aged after ten years of involvement in co-ops!

The third observation I made was the need for each group to purchase or make some sort of permanent, light weight and easily transportable display boards to make it easy to put a display together any time.

I also feel we could make better use of existing venues for display and advertise or write articles for the Range News. Perhaps some of the articles that go into this co-op review could also be reprinted in there to reach those that are not already converted.

I really enjoyed taking the display to the show even though it was quite miserable weather and then later on to World Environment Day at Cotton Tree, which was a great day. Thankyou to everyone who helped with transport, setting up, pulling down and getting the displays together. A truly co-operative effort!

Directors: Jenny Law, Vivienne Prescott, Derek Sheppard, Jan Tilden, Louise Kay, Owen Hutchison, David Bromet.

Secretary: Nora Julien.

Co-managers: Francoise Leduc, Gayle Butson.

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**THE ENTERPRISE
CENTRE
MALENY**

In There and Swimming

• Annah Evington

The Enterprise Centre Maleny is now an established part of this community, up and running, supporting and housing 12 Maleny businesses. It has been quite a story, overcoming amazing obstacles in our naivety, creating this workspace and maintaining the vision.

The building itself, the old Butter Factory, the first of Maleny's co-operative ventures...very well used, gutted and almost derelict, it was hard to imagine the transformation back then - even for those with the vision! Council requirements, Health Department imperatives and many, many fraught committee meetings. And the concept...

Enterprise centres (shared workspaces, business incubators - all part of the same family) are a bridge into successful establishment of a small business. Traditionally small businesses battle. Costs, corporations, bureaucracy and bad advice. Often based on "a great idea", often in love with their product and not having business planning experience, they can find themselves locked into long-term leases, facing high set-up costs, and working in isolation. They founder, overwhelmed by the realities of the business world.

Support in small business establishment is a relatively new concept in Australia, this "small businessperson's battle" is almost a part of our national psyche. In the early days of development the ECM was the subject of some whisperings, of "government handouts", hippies and hangouts, murmurings of "when I was

starting out...", convoluted understandings of what was being created.

Enterprise Centres are an attempt to return to LOCAL community economic development. Acting as an umbrella for small business start-up, they offer affordable workspaces, easy in/out leases, lower establishment costs, access to communications equipment and business planning advice through a centre manager who is well versed in business management.

Times are changing, Maleny is moving, growing. The awareness of need for community support of local business is developing. Enterprise centres are being developed all over Australia. In fact the Enterprise Centre Maleny is now being used by the Government powers that be, as a successful example of the concept! We are moving on. Still stumbling over financial blocks and still needing back up from our departmental parents. We are not far off independence, but once again the mainstream ideas, time-lines and expectations of the centre's operating needs don't quite match up with the reality of maintaining and managing it.

We've overcome most of the resistance and disbelief and plans are afoot! Establishment phase is ending, long term visions are coming into focus along with more new concepts. Talk of a telecottage (telecommunications centre), developing the ECM as a community education facility, a business resource centre - we're still swimming...

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Secretary: Errol Richardson

Treasurer: John Dennett

Committee Members: Ian McDonald, Annah Evington, Geoff Finegan.

DEVET & IR Rep: Gavin Leckenby

Manager: Judi Body

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THE THREATENED SPECIES NETWORK

Paddling

• Jan Tilden

When I first heard the theme for this issue of the Co-ops' Review, "Paddling Against the Mainstream", the image that came to mind was wandering up the creeks of my childhood with jeans rolled up to the knees, skipping stones and catching mosquito fish in home made nets. I suppose it was the word "paddling" that played this trick on me.

The creek I used to play in as a child was called Cubberla Creek and meandered along the developing edge of the western suburbs of Brisbane. After school I would go down there with my net and a couple of glass jars clinking in a bucket. As well as mosquito fish, there were thin silvery smelt, carp gudgeons and glassy clear shrimps that usually flicked their tails and sprang back into the creek before they could be dropped into a bottle of water and properly examined. On the way home I sometimes stopped to fashion spears from the long straight stems of "stinking roger" that grew along the creek bank. I practised throwing them further and further until the sun was almost gone and the cicadas began to call.

I remember bulldozers and graders moving in to make a nice public park out of one section of the creek where I regularly paddled. My friend Dougie

Ahern was very much into earth-moving equipment at that stage, so he took some interest in these proceedings. He called the machines "D9s" and other technically more accurate names that I can't remember now, if I ever did. I wasn't very keen on these yellow mechanical dinosaurs with their clanking, primitively articulated buckets and blades so I stayed away for a long time and tried not to think about what might be happening to my favourite secret places.

When I finally went back it was all gone. No trees, no mossy logs, no "stinking roger", no creek, no reeds, no mosquito fish - all these things were replaced by uniform grassy slopes, the contours of which appeared to bear no relation to the terrain they replaced. There didn't even seem to be a drain.

I can't remember any feeling like sadness. It was more like being thumped in the chest and having my breath taken away. I was stunned. I ran home to my mother's house to see what she would make of this strange behaviour on the part of the powers that be. "Mum! You should see what they've done to Cubberla Creek. I don't understand how they could do that. Where will the water go when it rains?"

Do You Have Rainforest Remnants On Your Property?

• Annemarie Watt

With less than 3% of Queensland's native forests protected within National Parks, vegetation remnants on private property play a vital role in the conservation of the states fauna and flora. In many areas, these remnants can facilitate the persistence of native communities outside National Parks, by providing habitat for dispersal between more extensive, forested areas. For some

vegetation communities, such as Brigalow in western Qld, the most substantial remaining areas occur almost exclusively on private property. It is important that private landholders realise the conservation value and ecological significance of native vegetation remnants on their property, and ensure that disturbance to these remnants is minimised.

Rainforest communities in Queensland have been extensively cleared due to their rich soils and value for agriculture, and in many areas residential development has increased the intensity of clearing. Much of the remaining rainforest is highly fragmented, especially in the south-east of the State. Remnants on private property may form critical links between these fragments. I am working with the Departments of Environment and Heritage and Lands to encourage private landholders to adopt appropriate management practices to protect rainforest remnants of their properties. The project is based in south-eastern region, concentrating around the upper Mary River Catchment (Mapleton/Maleny/Conondale) and in the Beaudesert Shire. If you live in this region and have rainforest remnants on your property I would be very pleased to hear from you. If you live outside the area of my study, I would be happy to put you contact with someone within your region who may be able to help you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dr Annemarie Watt, PO Box 36, Sherwood. 4075. Ph: (07) 375 0700, (074) 944 129

Jan Tilden

C/- Maleny Enterprise Centre
23 Coral Street.

P.O. Box 465, Maleny. Q. 4552

Phone: 074 - 943 922

*DON'T LEAVE IT TO OTHERS THEY
MIGHT BE LEAVING IT TO YOU.*

*YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO, NOT WHAT
YOU SAY.....*

*TAKE GREAT CARE WHEN LISTENING
TO EXPERTS*

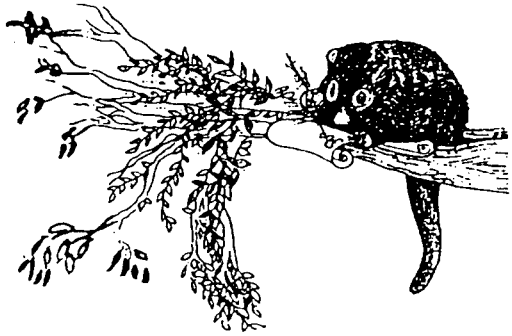
*prefix EX = "not what it use to be",
SPURT = "a drip under pressure"*



GOING AGAINST THE FLOW



BLACK POSSUM



Wolves, Cats and Sheep

• Mary Garden

A few months ago I overheard someone I respect very much say 'Well, I'm not an environmentalist' to a LEAP co-ordinator. The statement was not an invitation to an argument or even a discussion; there was no hint of self-righteousness in his voice. They went on to talk about other things.

However I was a bit startled and thought what a blasphemous thing to say. Outrageous, yet courageous. Certainly going against the mainstream of thought in this region, if not the wider society as a whole.

I thought a lot about his comment in the weeks that followed and began to realise that if I am to be true to myself I cannot call myself an environmentalist either. That's a scary thing to say up here for to become 'green' is the trendy thing to do -- to plant trees, recycle and dislike (even hate) cats. The problem is that I love cats. It bothers me that seldom do you hear people arguing for responsible cat ownership. It's usually 'let's get rid of them all, let's ban them from this or that community'. Occasionally a lone letter appears in our national newspapers protesting that cats are being used as a convenient scapegoat for the destruction of the wildlife and the environment, even

though the real villains are human beings. Cats more than any other animal seem to bring out the 'sadist' in people including environmentalists. Daily in Australia they are mistreated, abandoned even tortured.

I realised also the senselessness of having a reforested green planet inhabited with people who have not healed themselves; people who still lie, cheat, betray friends, abuse children and each other. And we up here all play these same old games, even in subtle ways. I certainly have, haven't you?

Last year Cheryl Wickes gave my family a kitten we named 'Astro'. It was a present for our 'inner children', the wounded and the magical which we had begun to reclaim and look after. That kitten is now a cat who does not kill birds (apparently some breeds don't), who is gentle and sensitive (dare I say psychic). It has been a healing force in our lives. It's the first time since I was a child that I've really treated a pet with care and respect.

The power of this bonding has been a surprise to me and yet research does confirm that bonding with animals increases health and strengthens a sense of self. Gloria Steinem mentions in her book *Revolution from Within* that if a cat is treated with care, then they do what they do naturally - i.e. love unconditionally and that quality brings out therapeutic changes in their caregivers. She suggests that by



unhardening our hearts to animals perhaps we open them to ourselves.

Three days ago we took 'Astro' to a new home (the home of an astrologer naturally), because we are in the process of moving to Crystal Waters. Our home feels different, we sense a real absence. It feels like a season of loss, what with a dear dear friend returning to England several months ago. And yet there is a story in our BLACK POSSUM'S *Flights of Fantasy* that comforts me, reminds me of the grace that comes with loss. If for no other reason you buy our anthology buy it for this one story by Anna McEwan. It is worth it. 'A Cat called Wolf' is a simply beautiful story which moved me to tears, tugged at my heart. It is seen through the eyes of a child and touches life, birth, love and death. And it's about a pet cat. Your contribution was a gift to my family, Anna.

(The above is a personal story and was not written on behalf of the Black Possum Publishing Co-operative)

Directors: Rosemary Allan, Alf Ashton, Bryan McLennon, Mary Garden, Jean Elder.

Secretary: Rowena Walters

Treasurer: Paula Grimaire

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Please support your local publishing co-operative by placing your pre-orders NOW. We need your money so as we can cover the printing costs of FLIGHTS OF FANTASY which should be ready for release early September, if not sooner. Cost will be \$10 plus \$2 each for postage. Copies can also be collected at the launch which will be held in Maleny (day, date and place yet to be determined). At a later date we will also notify people via The Range News of the other places for collection (e.g bookshops, ECM ect.)

Anthology:

Co-ordinator Mary Garden: 944789

Editor June Glover: 942963

Illustrator Peter Hoffmann: 944569

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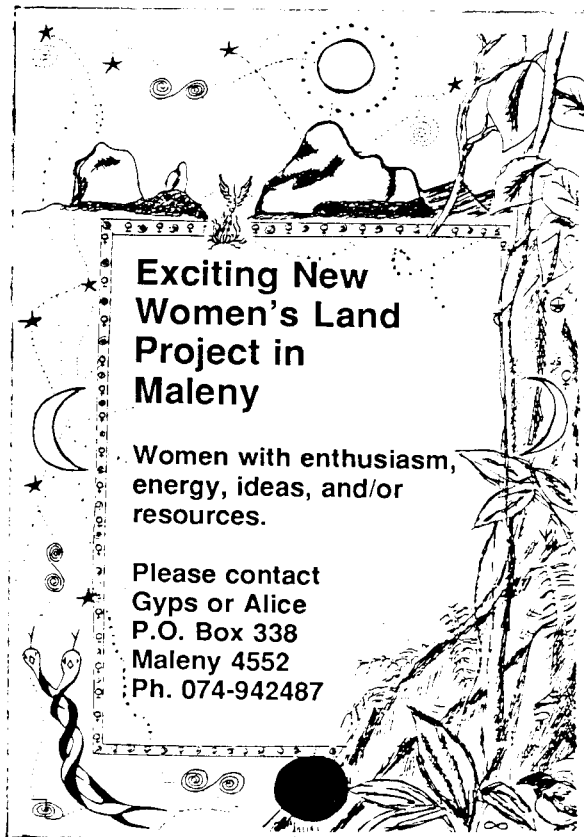
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LIMITED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY NOVEMBER 1st 1993 at 7pm. ENTERPRISE CENTRE, CORAL STREET, MALENY

The Directors would like to advise members of the above date for the Annual General Meeting of the Maleny Credit Union.

We also advise that nominations will be called for the position of Directors, and these are to be received at 28 Maple Street, Maleny office by 4pm on September 30th 1993.

Any other business for inclusion on the AGM Agenda should also be advised to the Co-Secretary at the MCU office by September 30th 1993.

The meeting will be followed by a supper as usual, and we look forward to seeing you there.

J.M. Maskall, Co-Secretary July 13th 1993.