

Maleny Co-operatives

A REVIEW

Volume 5, Issue 2

Autumn 1994



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EDITORIAL

First, apologies to Barung Landcare, who gave us an article, but in the final rush on the May Day Holiday, and after many false starts we got the dreaded computer glitches and couldn't read it. We will hold it over till next time.

We had a great response this time to our theme of "a bee in your bonnet." Many co-op members must have buzzing in their ears as we received lots of fine articles. The last issue prompted some letters from out of town members. It's good to see the Maleny message is spreading far and wide.

This theme seems important to our process of development and the need to face up to issues is drawn out in some articles. Ursula's article promotes discussion of the relationship between cooperation and conflict, and acknowledges the positive aspects of conflict.

The next issue will be out on time, just before the Spring Workshops. We are currently looking for a theme, so any member with a great idea, please pass it on.

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

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Global Friends

• Jenny Law

I happened to be browsing through a Permaculture Magazine one day and noticed a small advert for an association based in Brussels called the International Association of Investors in the Social Economy.

I was eager to find out more about them so wrote sending them information on Maleny and District Community Credit Union and requested any info they had in return.

It wasn't long before they replied, supplying information and newsletters. As I looked through it I began to grow excited. There is so much going on out in the big wide world that we hear nothing about.

INAISE was created in 1989 by seven founding members. The goal of INAISE and its members is to foster and support the development of financial organisations, which invest

- in enterprises of an ethical, ecological, cultural, and self-managing nature, including women's enterprises, and enterprises run by ethnic minorities.
- in enterprises whose aims encompass the needs of disabled people, healthier living, peace and the third world; and
- in enterprises working within the social economy generally.

Of special interest to me was the information on the 35 members of INAISE who are from all parts of the world. It was like discovering brothers and sisters the credit union didn't know we had.

Our closest member is the Prometheus

Foundation in New Zealand. This year the foundation celebrates ten years of socially responsible finance in New Zealand. During this decade, Prometheus has established a national profile as the main provider of socially responsible finance in New Zealand, having made over 350 loans to total value of \$NZ 4.5 million. Prometheus' clients include a wide circle of people with broad social and environmental concerns at heart. Many of their clients express relief in finding that it is possible to incorporate social, ecological and financial criteria in financial process. Some of the projects that they have helped finance include a Biodynamic farm in Fiordland rearing sheep, cattle and deer, a worker-owned and managed dental laboratory that applies Maori tribal government to business management and a retirement home coupled with a biodynamic farm.

Prometheus began life as a charitable trust; it has now outgrown this form and is looking to find a suitable structure for the next phase of its development. Along with this has been a need to increase equity within the limits imposed by legislation.

Another INAISE member in Finland called Ekopankki (Ecological banking in Finland) was established in 1989 after laborious negotiations to obtain a bank licence.

New co-operative banks had not been established for decades, and as the Finnish bank system had been extremely centrally managed until very recently, there was considerable hesitation in granting the licence, especially as the bank wanted to be an alternative bank, an ecological banking initiative. The bank operates on a voluntary basis, with only one part-time employee, and is organised with a managing board and supervisory board.

The entire Finnish banking sector is going through severe crisis but, even though this gives Ekopankki an advantage as an alternative, it also raises the

expectations of both the public and the officials.

In the newsletters received, there are many more articles on other alternative organisations that are interesting to read. I copied them if members would like to borrow them. Of particular interest are articles on France, Italy, Bangladesh, Switzerland and Chile as well as lots of info on the alternative economic world.

I found it very inspirational and exciting to find out that there is so much being done for third world people, minority groups and just people in general who suffer from the injustices of the main steam financial world. It is satisfying indeed to be a part of this growing family tree of socially responsible organisations.

Disposable Nappies

- Jenny Law

The bee in my bonnet would have to be disposable nappies. I am amazed at the number of parents using these on their children. The convenience of using disposable nappies or "one use" nappies as they should be called is very appealing but I would like to urge users to reconsider.

These so called disposable nappies are not so disposable at all in fact they have devastating effects on the earth. It takes one tree to make 500 nappies and there are 460 million nappies bought, used and thrown away each year in Australia. The pulp that is chlorine-bleached contributes to the release of dioxins into our rivers.

The thing that I find the most alarming is that the nappy you use and discard today will still be around when your child is over sixty years old. Something to think about!

I can't imagine the manufactures or the three powerful industries - timber, oil and plastics will ever consider the effects of production, consumption and disposal of these environmental nightmares. It is up to us to care enough and seek alternatives

and demand a better product. The children who are wearing these nappies rely on us to look after the future for them after all.

News From The Credit Union

- Peter Pamment

Member Involvement:

The Credit Union is always looking for member involvement, be it feedback and / or suggestions. We also welcome members who wish to help out in any way. We are encouraging members who have some time to come and help out on one of the many committees. This way you can help out, meet the staff and directors, and just put in a limited commitment to the MCU without the total commitment of a full board member - we can cater to all levels of input!

Emergency Liquidity Scheme (ELS)

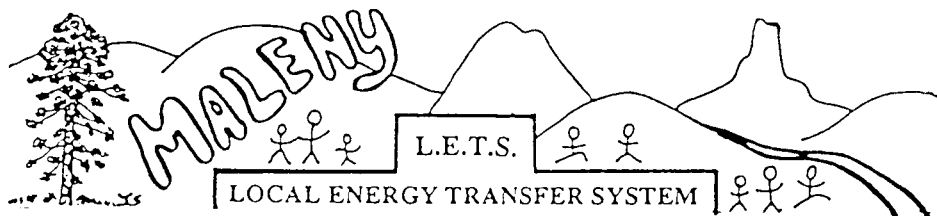
Under the new Financial Institutions Code, if a credit union need extra liquidity funds, then the ELS comes into place. The credit union needing funds can borrow from the scheme, which is in effect borrowing from all other credit unions based on a ratio of their total asset size. The credit union that borrows the funds must put up some of its loans as security for the loan. For quick action, each credit union must "ear mark" loans it would put up for security if ever needed. The MCU has done this and it's updated each month. Hopefully we will never need to access this scheme, but members should be aware that their loans could be used in this manner one day.

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

Co-Managers: Derek Sheppard, Ruth Donnelly

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How Cooperative are the Cooperatives?

• Tommy Leonard

"I thought they tried to stamp that out."

Last week I was talking to someone from the Commercial Services department at Nambour TAFE and I mentioned that I had recently moved to Maleny and was a member of a couple of the cooperatives. "Oh!", came the reply, "I thought they had tried to stamp that out!".

I initially felt a little indignant at being spoken of as one might speak of a contagious disease or a noxious weed. However, I assured her that, as far as I was aware, the coops were flourishing and were successfully meeting the challenges posed by new staff, members and directors, growth, increased competition and changes in legislation. In fact, the Credit Union was about to celebrate its 2500th member.

After we finished talking I felt a bit irritated, so I went away to have a think. It occurred to me that while it is quite easy to monitor how well a venture is doing in terms dictated by the non-cooperative, eg turnover, profit, number of members, growth rates etc., these indicators are pretty useless when it comes down to how successful a coop is at being cooperative.

In the rest of this article I've jotted down some first thoughts on how to tell how cooperative a coop is, because I believe that is the ultimate criterion by

which to assess the success or failure of a coop. Hopefully this will provide a useful platform for future discussion and action.

So, how can the members, staff, directors and the wider community tell how cooperative a coop is? Well, I suppose first of all we have to understand what is meant by being cooperative. Then we need to understand how any given coop will measure its success in becoming more cooperative (assuming that all of the coops want to become more cooperative). We also need to be aware of any specific targets which our coops have set which spell out ways in which they will become more cooperative. Finally we need the opportunity to assess how well each coop has done in achieving its targets.

In practical terms this could be achieved through the following:

1. An Education Programme
2. A Statement of Cooperative Success Criteria
3. A Cooperative Development Plan
4. A Performance Review

1. Education Programme

This would inform members, staff, directors and the wider community about cooperatives, and would help people to learn how to behave cooperatively. An obvious start point here would be the six international cooperative principles (open membership, democratic control, limited interest on share capital, fair sharing of profit, educating about cooperatives, and cooperating with other cooperatives).

However, the emphasis would need to be at least as much on developing practical skills as on theory-learning.

In particular, it is important to emphasise that the commercial objectives of any coop must remain subordinate to the social / ethical objectives. Otherwise there is no reason for its being a coop.

At the same time it is important to help members, staff and directors to learn how to become genuinely more cooperative in their attitudes, beliefs and behaviour - and that this is reflected in meetings, decision-making, work patterns, personal relations.

Otherwise we may find that, with the best will in the world, we fall back on the more established behaviour-patterns of domination, coercion, competition and conflict which typify conventional business practice.

The following suggestions will be of limited value without a commitment to an effective cooperative education programme.

2. Statement of Success Criteria

Each Coop could develop a simple statement in which it outlined the indicators which it would use to check how cooperative it was becoming. Again the international principles provide a good start point, but the indicators will vary according to the individual circumstances of each coop. Potential indicators might be the level of participation in decision-making, how well members get on, the workplace atmosphere, new cooperative initiatives, assistance to other coops, provision of cooperative education etc.

3. Cooperative Development Plan

This would spell out the specific targets in becoming more cooperative which any given coop had set itself. These targets would provide a very simple framework against which the coop's performance could be evaluated. Such targets might include specific education programmes, community projects, support for other coops, use of community services such as LETS etc.

This development plan could be used to drive the subordinate resource-based plans (budgets, staffing, systems, buildings) as well as any specific business projects such as new products, pricing policy, interest rates.

This should help coops to assign priority to new initiatives according to their impact on the development plan.

4. Performance Review

A regular, realistic appraisal of how each coop has performed against the targets which it set itself would keep members and the community informed as to how the coop is doing. It would also show where further education is needed. The review could also let members, staff and directors comment on and update the success criteria and targets.

CONCLUSION

I now realise that my confident summary of the coops as 'flourishing and successful' was based on a very limited experience of only three of Maleny's coops, (LETS, the Credit Union and Maple Street Coop), and that I had defined their success in terms more appropriate to non-cooperative businesses.

It would have been far more satisfying to be able to define their success in terms of specific achievements and to assert that they were more cooperative than ever. After all, what does it profit a coop if it gains market share and profitability and loses its cooperativeness?

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)

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Bee in a Recycled Bonnet

• Gaby Luft

I wonder who thought of that strange topic, but I suppose there are quite a few people who think that Wastebusters have a "bee in their bonnet".

For example, the upcoming changes at Conondale tip are probably gonna drive a few people mad, like those who drive all the way from Landsborough to dump their truck load of rubbish free of charge. Yes, well, times are changing and tip fees are about to be introduced and the tip is going to get a strong fence to keep non-paying dumpers out. However, together with Yvonne and Steff and all those other handy Wastebusters out at Conondale, we will try our hardest to be gentle but persistent, mild and diplomatic in assisting users to get accustomed to the new rules out there. Our main aim is to make this tip even more user-friendly than what it was before and recycling will be rewarded!

Now after a chat to one of the most dedicated doers at Wastebusters, the honourable Chris Russell, I heard of someone else's view of a "bee in my bonnet".

Chris and some other regular Wastebusters workers often wonder why Co-op members don't take their responsibility a little more seriously. Wastebusters Co-operative has more than a 100 members, but hardly anyone ever comes to any staff or Directors' meetings, nor do many members ever give us a hand

with any of the work. However, the passive members are hereby given another opportunity to contribute in a constructive way. They could donate a yummy dish of food or donate their talent and play some music or recite poetry at our upcoming Wastebusters Ball in April. In April the Wastebusters Co-op will celebrate its fifth anniversary and so we gonna have a ball. It would be most appreciated if members and non-members could give a hand to make this a real success for everyone - please think about it and give Chris a call.

Some clerks in the Qld Dept. of Health and at Radiation Health in Brisbane are probably shaking their heads whenever one of these letters with the Maleny Wastebuster letterheads arrive on their desks.

Perhaps they think that we have a bee in our bonnet for expressing concerns at issues related to the proposed radioactive waste dump at Esk and the "supposedly so harmless" smoke detectors. But smoke detectors are on some Wastebusters' minds since we were informed by the Communities Against Radioactive Dumps (CARD) that most of the smoke detectors that are sold and installed in Queensland contain a radioactive substance called Americium 241 which has a half life of 470 years. According to our research so far, it appears that no safe way of disposing of these detectors is being implemented anywhere in this state.

So the Maleny Wastebusters have begun to lobby several government departments to clean up their act in regard to these type of smoke detectors. The standard reply has so far been that these detectors contain only a small quantity of Americium 241, and because of that, we've got "nothing to worry about". We disagree, especially because chances are that once these detectors end up in our landfill sites, we might receive not just

one but dozens. And how are we to know if every customer tells us that there is one of those detectors amongst their trailer load of rubbish?

The irony of this matter is that there is a photoelectric smoke detector also available that does not contain any radioactive substances and therefore would pose no risk to us workers when it ends up at one of our tips. This is a clear opportunity for effective waste minimisation and we are trying to get the sale of all those smoke detectors that contain Americium 241 (water soluble!) banned in Queensland, since there is a better alternative available which is less hazardous.

Well, I dare say we have said enough and, to round it all up, we announce that the Maleny Wastebusters are considering participation, in the Naturesearch 2000 project. "They've got a bee in their bonnet", some readers might say, but we noticed that there is a lot of wildlife around our tips, so we might as well start to record some of these sightings and feed that information back to the Caloundra City Council and to the Department of Environment and Heritage. You never know, that could help eventually to protect more habitat for our fellow species in this bioregion.

Wastebusters: Positively Buzzing!

• Peter Banning & Kerrie Edmonds

Wastebusters certainly have a "bee in our bonnet" at the moment. April 1994 is our fifth anniversary as an official organisation and we are looking for ways to celebrate. As well, we're re-examining the original reasons for Wastebusters' birth, assessing our baby's progress.

We can see some areas which have gone ahead as planned; others are a little dormant. Plus we are forging ahead in ways we never thought of.

One of the unexpected areas is our

puppet show, which will be performed in the local schools. This is part of the education programme that Wastebusters is developing. Our secretary has recently produced an excellent booklet on recycling. Another initiative will involve sending old school books to schools in Vietnam. The steptoe shed has several boxes of old school textbooks which are out of date by Australian standards. Vietnamese schools, in contrast, have difficulty obtaining even the most simple English textbooks. As a sort of "International Wastebusting", our co-op will be sending these books directly to schools in Vietnam [*The mind boggles at what the recipients might make of the contents of some of our out of date school books!* (Ed.).]

Actually, the past six months have been a period of "buzzing" activity for this co-operative. Our main concern is to prepare for the kerbside recycling programme which will be commencing in the next few months. We are preparing the Witta depot to deal with the increase in recyclable materials we will collect from the footpaths in Maleny. Power is now on at the depot, which makes work a lot easier for those members working there. Now we can run a compactor which will reduce the bulk of the materials significantly and cut transport costs dramatically.

While we are primarily preparing to send our goods to Brisbane to be recycled, we are finding that some materials may be reused locally. Recently we have had a run on cardboard for mulching gardens. We have had orders for over two tonnes and are now separating out good quality mulching cardboard for this purpose.

The old steptoe shed has been tidied up, without losing its charm. The shop contains everything from furniture, clothing, used kitchen utensils and household items to tools and hardware, motor parts and nuts and bolts.

The future is very challenging for us at

the moment, examining the past and laying the foundations for future projects. We hope to find more members becoming involved as Wastebusters expands its influence during its 5th birthday celebrations.

Directors: Chris Russell, Kim Hinkfuss, Russell Carter, Peter Banning, Leo, Gaby.

Secretary: Peter Banning.

Treasurer: Kerrie Edwards.

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Letter to the Editors

To the men of Maleny

I feel that I must respond to the article by Meg Barrett in the Xmas issue of the Co-op Review on "White Ribbon Week" (men wearing white ribbons to show their opposition to violence against women.)

I have to ask, what is wrong with you blokes?!

Where was your support?

One thing that I have learnt in a not uneventful career in relationships (the do's and don'ts, the rights and wrongs) is that you cannot possibly survive, grow or prosper without taking responsibility for the failures and sometimes horrors that can happen in your relationships. It is now a well known fact that by far the highest percentage of violence against women is perpetuated by partners, family members or friends. Men who don't face up to the problems in 'their' lives tend to take it out on their loved ones.

There are also many forms of violence other than physical. Some of the most profound damage is caused by emotional and self-esteem abuse, which can slowly and thoroughly destroy a person.

Please don't think that I am taking a holier than thou attitude here. I am as guilty as the next "man" of these crimes, but really, the only way to grow and

prosper is to accept that these may be problems and seek understanding through counselling. Accept who you are. Meg is right, Patriarchy has a lousy track record. Have faith in women and don't assume that they are going to treat us as badly as we have treated them. The point is that this issue is a global one that is based on how we all treat each other. It shouldn't be about power. It should be based on love, compassion, understanding and co-operation.

Work on it, all you cool Maleny Doods.
Neil McDougall (ex Maleny Dood)

Maleny Telecentre

"Linking people with business, training and the world"

A new co-operative has recently been born in Maleny - The Maleny Telecentre. The Telecentre is a non-profit community facility in the form of an incorporated association, whose prime focus is to provide computer based technology for those wanting self improvement courses, skills training for employment, or business guidance.

The Telecentre was sponsored by the Enterprise Centre Maleny who obtained startup grants from the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy (DPIE) and the Queensland Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations (DEVETIR). Thanks to the Government bodies and to the hard work of the ECM in applying for the funds.

The Telecentre is located within the Enterprise Centre building in Coral Street and has facilities for computer access for individuals, small group sessions for training and a wide range of advanced computer technology available.

The Telecentre Manager, Faith Baigent can be contacted on (074) 999-911 for further information.



LETS Trading in Maple Street Co-op

• Nora Julien and Jan Tilden

Finally it has happened. On the 1st of February 1994, LETS trading was born at Maple Street Co-op. Under our current arrangements, members of the LETS system may opt to pay 10% Bunyas for purchases over \$10. Bunyas spent are recorded, to one decimal place, on a special weekly sheet. These are added up about every four weeks and the result entered into the LETS computer (rounded to the nearest Bunya).

Since the system was introduced, average weekly trading has been about 100B. At the same time there has been no decrease in dollar turnover. From the point of view of declaring the LETS experiment a success, it would be nice to say that this indicates a small increase in total turnover (dollars plus bunyas) as a result of the introduction of LETS. However, such increases are not unprecedented in the ordinary day to day life of the Co-op. The increase may just be normal growth - or it may be a temporary blip on the sales graph. It is simply too early to tell, with only two months' data available. This result **does** mean that we can continue to offer LETS trading - so that is a positive.

On the other hand, we are accumulating Bunyas faster than we can spend them, a situation which does not please us. Until we are confident that the Co-op will be able to spend any Bunyas it earns, we have set ourselves a limit of 1000B

surplus and we are really on the lookout for ways to spend Bunyas. Are you aware that you can sell or consign stock to the Co-op for 100% Bunyas - or any lesser percentage that suits you?

We have found that it is easier to spend our Bunyas on services rather than goods. Examples to date include lawnmowing, computer tutoring and small building maintenance projects. Unfortunately, there are serious problems with paying our staff Bunyas. For some reason, the Taxation Department has ruled that receiving wages in Bunyas constitutes a fringe benefit - so all Bunyas earned this way are taxed **in dollars** at a very high tax rate. Our hardworking LETS minders are lobbying to change this ruling but we will probably have to wait a long time for an outcome. In the meantime, we are allowed to pay Bunyas for work undertaken on a contract basis.

It is still early days for LETS in the Co-op. We are still refining the system and would like customers to understand our need for flexibility. Here are some suggestions about how you can be helpful. Have your LETS cards ready for presentation at the counter. If you joined LETS before the 1st of August, 1993, make sure you have paid your \$2.00 renewal fee at the LETS office before coming to trade in the Co-op. Learn how to fill in the record sheet. This will save the counter staff time processing LETS purchases, especially when the shop is busy.

Finally, we are really keen to continue offering this service to our customers. If you can come up with any innovative

ways the Co-op might spend its Bunya surplus please let us know. To give you an incentive to put on your most creative thinking caps, we are offering two prizes of 20B, one for May and one for June, for the best suggestion about how the Co-op can spend its Bunyas. Feasibility is one of the major criteria for judging!

Directors: Vivienne Prescott, Derek Sheppard, Louise Kay, Owen Hutchison, David Bromet, Marlene Leinster, Peter Van der Duys.

Secretary: Nora Julien.

Co-managers: Francoise Leduc, Gayle Butson.

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more money??

Shit man, I'm really offended. My main reason for selling my house is so that I can better use my money to help the world.

AND I'm NOT out of the ordinary. AND I didn't have a house till I was in my forties - or a car (\$200.00) which was only because I had a bicycle accident. Grrrrrr.... I'll get over it soon....

Gill Watson, (Hereford U.K.)

Is Cooperation Better Than Conflict ?

• Ursula Thiessen

As I passed the Maple Street Co-op the other day, I admired the beautiful window display (must be another one of Annemarie's). I noticed the Co-op donkey teatowel which I like a lot, yet I must say that the phrase on the bottom of it: "Cooperation is better than conflict" doesn't sit well with me anymore. Have I changed? That logo seems really outdated to me. Its judgment makes one good and one bad and, I feel, keeps the fears about conflict going. Isn't conflict rather an equally important part of the whole process? Or perhaps it even IS the process and therefore more important? (That sounds like I prefer the line: "Conflict is better than Cooperation".... Oops, must have lost it here!) The process is equally important to the outcome, maybe.

"Nature uses conflict as its primary moderator for change ... people need conflict to grow..." as Thomas Crumb says in one of my favourite books, "The Magic of Conflict". I am changing my consciousness around conflict. And I am attracted to phrases that support me in that, like Kerry Rostron's new workshop:

Letter to the Editors

Dear People,

I really appreciate all your works and what you're trying to do achieve - so much so that I've invested money with you. [*the Credit Union (Eds)*] I do try and limit my letters to those of praise rather than rage - but I do have a snarl to take up with Peter Pamment's paragraph on wealth and age. Grrrrrr - He says "the older people get higher wages to add to their increased wealth..." etc. etc. I am an older person who doesn't fit this category. I have been on a pension for over 10 years and before that worked (unpaid) as a slave to family. When I was young I had (as in earned) nothing like the amount of money I have now (and it's the same as the dole), and I lived much more frugally - no theatre pictures, hair do's, buses only occasionally and very simple food..

Quite honestly I feel attacked and wounded by that paragraph.

How have I got money to invest you ask? I've sold the house I brought 10 years ago - with a gift of \$5,000.

"..young people have more... idealism than the elderly..." and therefore need

"Is conflict natural? - yes!" Conflict is not worse. It just is.

Clever Brian Day pointed out to me the other day that there can't be conflict without cooperation. If one person, say, just walks out, conflict couldn't work. I love it! I am reading a book by Laurens Van der Post at the moment called "Journey into Russia". All these collectives he visits and "has" to admire make me a little sick, really. Or rather, the image of "we are all so nice and happy - we all think the same - all is fine in our organisation - we have no conflict" seems so outdated. And I also feel a little smiling about it. I am getting older. It's like I have lived history, have been part of something and now I am in the process of changing - to be part of new history I suppose. What do I call my self now? A new age socialist? I feel I'm about to start rambling now. All these bugs under my bonnet want to talk at the same time and I want to spare you that!



Bees In Our Bonnets; Community Settlement Style

• Jill Jordan

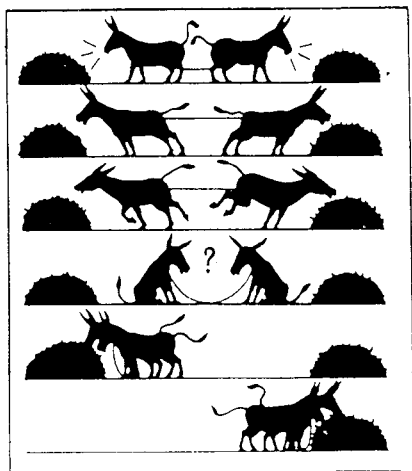
When thinking about how the subject of "bees in our bonnets" could *possibly* apply to such a reasonable bunch of people as resides on Manduka Co-operative, I finally twigged on how to lift the lid on our more obsessional side(s); by looking at those agenda items that appeared, re-appeared, and (sometimes) still re-appear at Directors' meetings time after time.

In attempting this task, I realised that there were different categories of "Bees", and, in order to have the reader understand that not *all* bees are of the pernicious variety, I thought it would be useful to set out the various categories, as I saw them, before going on to talk briefly about the "bee-ness" of each of them!

The first category I have called "Reasonable" bees, my second is the "Slightly silly, but tension-relieving" bees, while the third ("Serious and persistent" bees) and fourth ("Extremely earnest" bees) categories are ones that will probably dog the co-operative during its entire life.

THE "REASONABLE" BEES: This category includes issues like our battle during the early eighties against the Water Board when they first mooted building the Baroon Pocket Dam, thus flooding portion of our land (but which I do not intend to cover, as it has had previous coverage in a Co-op. Review), and our battles with Council over groundsel, and house numbers. I call them "reasonable" because, although, while the issues were current, we all lived, breathed, and ate them for months (*very* characteristic of "bee-ness"),

CO-OPERATION



IS BETTER THAN CONFLICT....?

it was important that we did so, as the outcome to both, I believe, proved.

We mounted good cases, finding precedents that had been set elsewhere, in order to convince the Council of the day that (in the case of the groundsel) there were other ways of combatting "the scourge", and in the case of our desire for more than the usual number of houses on a single parcel of land, that we would look after the land a darn sight better than the previous several owners, who had done everything "by the books", but had left the land in an extremely degraded state. With the housing issue, it is important to remember that all this happened *before* there were formal Town Planning restrictions in place (between 1979 and 1982), but even so, after applying for four houses in 1979 (and being granted that right), when we applied for another four in 1982, we were told that the Council had given us permission *illegally* in 1979, and so could not therefore count it as a basis for any new case. Although we had to hire a Town Planning consultant at that time to represent us in Court, we won that case, and it gave us the confidence to represent ourselves when the next "bee" (the groundsel) started buzzing. We won the right to a five-year moratorium on that one, in which time we madly and bee-like-ly planted thousands of trees on our slopes, and cut and swabbed huge forests of the dreaded weed!

SLIGHTLY SILLY, BUT TENSION-RELIEVING" BEES: This category of bees includes such issues as the communal garden, the Frogs going on holidays together, and our tree-planting policy. The first case (the communal garden saga) came about at a time when a few of us had small "Kitchen" gardens, and loved to work in them. With the suggestion that the way to improve our "co-operativeness" was to begin a large communal garden that we could *all* work in, we abandoned our intimate patches for a more

"right-line" approach. Result? Those who liked to garden were found in the communal patch (but not as often, as it was not really handy to anyone's house!! Permaculture knows a thing or two!), while those who were not keen on gardening didn't come within cooee of it anyway. Of course!

With regard to the communal holidays - this arose from the same motive as the previous issue, but the result was even more hilarious. When we tried to choose a period of a few days in which everyone could get away, we had trouble enough, but it seemed that, as it was a holiday we were shaping up, and not something *serious*, no-one really could be bothered to organise the likely holiday-makers. Usually, decisions were put off and changed enough so that only the most dogged of the Frogs could be bothered to see it through.

The tree-planting policy down through the years has been a constant bee, but quite light (mostly!). Knowing nothing about suitability of species, positions, etc. when we began the group in 1978, we gaily went about planting everything, everywhere. Only to find that houses ended up under "widow-makers" (E. Grandis), and roads remained boggy because of shady spots. Although this issue is not as bee-like as it was back then, it still buzzes from time to time.

SERIOUS AND PERSISTENT BEES: As there are quite a few of these, I will only deal with a couple in any depth because of space constraints, but those living on communities will, I'm sure, be able to relate to this category. They mostly cover issues of sharing (eg. commonly-owned machinery), where, in spite of every user knowing the protocols and operating/maintenance procedures, and adhering *strictly* to them, there are quite a few times where the machine seems to break or break down between one use and the next!

Another set of issues relates to animals in one form or another - our two "bees" seem to revolve around our "no cats or dogs policy" and "the bloody horses/cows are in the garden again!" Suffice it to say that, with regard to the first, I cannot recall a time in our 16 years when there has *not* been *at least one* dog or cat vaguely, or more than vaguely, attached to the place, even if it is only the neighbour of a mile away's cat which "seems to like it at Frog's Hollow more than at home" Hmmm!

Another bee in this category is to do with dealing with bureaucracy; although I am convinced this is more of a bee for bureaucracy than it is for us, in spite of the inordinate amount of time we have to spend fulfilling their petty requirements (eg. complying with Annual Returns - that mass of hard-to-come-by statistics which the Registrar's office lackeys seem not to do anything useful with, but merely hassle you until they receive them, and then file them away!)

EXTREMELY EARNEST BEES: This is a very interesting category of bee, as it runs like a thread through the community's life, always buzzing gently below the surface, and sometimes becoming extremely noisy. One issue in this group of bees is that of recruitment, and the ageing nature of the community. Given that most of us here are not brilliant breeders, and, as the time rolls by, none of us is getting any younger (in age, anyway!), we sometimes fret about the continuity of the community. It's all very well talking about "in perpetuity" and all those high-flying ideals, but it is important to come to grips with the reality that, in a sustainable community, we must ensure a spread of age-range in the long-term, so that we don't become like the rest of society - spending our old-age pensions hiring young "worker" bees to look after us as we become old drones!



Bilby Conservation in Queensland

• Jan Tilden

The Bilby or Rabbit-eared Bandicoot (*Lacrotis magrotis*) is an arid zone marsupial with long silky blue-grey fur and a distinctive black and white tail. It lives in burrows and has a varied diet which include insects, seeds, bulbs, fruit and fungi. The Bilby falls into a critical size range, (35 - 5500 gms) described as "medium-sized". Of this group, 90% of Australian arid zone mammal representatives are classified as either extinct or endangered. Hence we hold the "world's worst" record for mammal extinctions. So far, the Bilby is a survivor but there is no reason to suppose that the process of arid zone mammal extinctions has ceased. The Bilby's range has contracted to less than 10% of its estimated range at the time of white settlement. There is grave cause for concern about its future.

The phenomenon of arid zone mammal extinctions can be traced to changes in the ecology of arid environments. Significant factors which have altered arid ecology include changes to fire regimes, the proliferation of introduced animals such as rabbits, cats and foxes and the grazing of sheep and cattle. Changes are complex

with extinctions involving a combination of factors. Many species, and probably the Bilby is one of these, follow a boom and bust population cycle. During boom times, the species may be relatively common but when the population busts, numbers drop drastically until only a few remain. Typically, these few will rely on refugia of prime habitat for their survival. At this stage threatening processes, such as competition and predation by introduced species and changes in vegetation profiles, make their effects felt. With each bust in the population cycle, fewer and fewer individuals of a threatened species remain. When there are too few to constitute a viable breeding population, the species will go extinct.

I say this scenario is "probably" of concern in the case of the Bilby. One of the problems we face with Bilby conservation is that very little research has been done on Bilby ecology, so we don't really know why Bilbies persist in the areas where they do or how populations can be expected to behave with changes in seasons or other ecological variables. Research into Bilby ecology is a high priority activity for State and Federal conservation agencies.

In Queensland, Bilbies are found in the far south-west on grazing properties in the Mitchell Grass downs biogeographic region. The Queensland population is isolated from the larger Western Australia/Northern Territory population.

In 1988, the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage did a Bilby survey of the Diamantina Shire which revealed a high concentration of Bilbies on Davenport Downs. This property is managed for cattle grazing by Stanbroke Pastoral Company, Queensland's biggest land holder. The QDEH has been doing Bilby research on Davenport Downs, concentrating their efforts in the "Store Paddock" an area of some 250,000 ha which, according to the findings of DEH

research, contains the State's largest Bilby colony. It has been estimated that 80-90% of the Bilbies in Queensland live in the Store Paddock and that this could be the last viable colony in the State.

The Department of Environment and Heritage want to resume the "Store Paddock" and add it to the adjacent Diamantina Gates National Park. Their aims in doing so are to protect this important Bilby habitat and to increase the holding of Mitchell Grass Downs, a biogeographic area which is under-represented in the current National Park estate.

Stanbroke object strenuously to proposals to resume the Store Paddock. They have employed a consultant to research Bilbies on Davenport Downs. They dispute QDEH findings that 80-90% of Qld's Bilbies are to be found in the Store Paddock, stating that there are greater concentrations of Bilbies on other parts of the property and raising questions about Bilbies on adjacent properties. They point out that there have been cattle grazing the Davenport Downs in numbers comparable to the present stocking rate for at least the twenty-three years for which records exist and possibly much longer. In view of this, they claim with some justification, that maintaining the status quo, that is, continued grazing of Bilby habitat, constitutes a precautionary approach. Stanbroke has a Bilby Management Plan for Davenport Downs which re-iterates this philosophy. Stanbroke people also say that resumption of the Store Paddock would affect the commercial viability of Davenport Downs as a whole and force heavier grazing of those areas of Bilby habitat not included within the proposed park boundaries.

The dispute between the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage and the Stanbroke Pastoral Company over the management of Bilbies on Davenport Downs has several dimensions. One of the

most straightforward is the issue of whose research presents the more accurate picture of the distribution of Bilbies on the property. Is it true that 90% of the Bilbies in Queensland are found in the Store Paddock? CSIRO has been called in to mediate the dispute and this will be one question they address. Both sides seem confident that CSIRO will support their findings. But even if, as Stanbroke insist, there are also high concentrations of Bilbies on other parts of Davenport Downs, this is not an argument against making the Store Paddock a National Park. It is an argument for managing other parts of Davenport Downs with Bilby conservation in mind, an option which would require Stanbroke's co-operation.

Stanbroke does have a Bilby management plan in place which, at present, is focussed towards maintaining the status quo. Their justification is that this is a precautionary approach. It is also an approach which ensures minimum disturbance to Stanbroke's commercial operations on the property. Stanbroke representatives say they remain open to modifying their management practises in the light of findings communicated by the QDEH and that their preferred option is joint management.

This brings up more fundamental questions about managing land for conservation. Conservation is the *raison d'être* of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. It is their job to develop policies and to put them in place. One key element of the current conservation strategy is to increase the National Park estate and to ensure that it includes a representative sample of the biodiversity of Queensland. The QDEH also has the responsibility for protecting the critical habitat of threatened species. On this basis, their intention to acquire the Store paddock is well founded. In line with current policy, they should have it and they should be the ones making decisions

about precautionary approaches to cattle numbers.

What objections can possibly be raised? For one thing acquisition of 5% of the State's land surface is **not** going to protect biodiversity in Queensland (although it is an important element as I will later argue). Co-operation of land holders managing property for other uses will be necessary. This is recognised in provisions of the Nature Conservation Act (1992) for Nature Refuges and Co-ordinated Conservation Areas. Also, Governments have priorities other than conservation and the degree to which they value conservation aims is reflected in the funding and other forms of assistance they provide to their conservation agencies. The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage is notoriously underfunded. They can afford very few officers on the ground to manage National Parks. Again, they need the co-operation of their neighbours, usually rural producers.

The Stanbroke Pastoral Company, on the other hand, is in the business of making money from grazing cattle. They will adopt conservation aims primarily because it is in their business interests to do so. At the moment, they recognise that it will reflect very badly on them if Bilbies go extinct under their management, so they are putting considerable resources into dealing with the Bilby conservation issue. In the long run, all rural land managers will have to adopt conservation measures as a routine part of their land management practice, regardless of whether their land is habitat to threatened species. This will be necessary to avoid irreversible land degradation which will destroy the producers' means of livelihood.

Ultimately, the Bilby debacle on Davenport Downs brings up one of the most fundamental issues of conservation policy. Why do we need National Parks? Why can't we have production and conservation cohabiting on the same piece

of land? Stanbroke pastoral company would, perhaps, cite the case of the Bilbies on Davenport Downs as an example of this. They might hope to go on grazing cattle in prime Bilby habitat on the basis that so far, the Bilbies on their property have not died out. But they don't know enough about Bilbies to be sure. This is the problem. European settlement of Australia went ahead in ignorance of the ecology of this continent. Mass extinction of arid zone species was the result. Until we know as much about managing the land for conservation and production as its indigenous inhabitants once did, we need National Parks to ensure that there are some safe places for this country's wildlife and biodiversity. When we have learnt as much as there is to know, National Parks may still be an important part of the scene, especially in the arid zone.

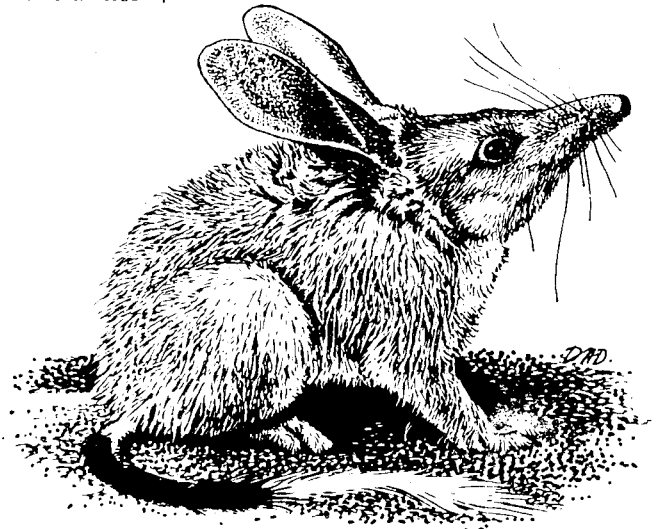
Meanwhile, back on Davenport Downs, what is best for Queensland's Bilbies? Ideally, one might like to see the QDEH making decisions about how many cattle should graze the Store Paddock, not a company with a financial interest in the answer to that question. However, if the Department has neither the financial nor

political backing for acquisition then joint management may be the answer, provided an acceptable agreement can be reached. Joint management and off-reserve conservation has to start somewhere. It's debatable whether such a high risk species as the Bilby is an appropriate candidate for an experiment of this sort but if that is the best chance available for Bilby conservation in Queensland, then so be it.

Action: Write to Mr John Cox, Managing Director, Stanbroke Pastoral Company, GPO BOX 155, BRISBANE 4001, urging him to continue negotiating with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage about Bilby management, both in the Store Paddock and on other parts of Davenport Downs, until a satisfactory solution, which protects the future of Queensland's Bilbies, is achieved.

Jan Tilden
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Greater Bilby
Macrotis lagotis





**Black
Possum
Publishing
Co-op**

The Song Festival

• June Glover

Mary Fieldmouse wished she hadn't come to the meeting. Nothing was going to be resolved and everyone seemed to be talking at once. She knew the smaller animals would be lucky to get a word in.

'I don't object to the Song Festival in principle,' Karen Koala was saying, 'I just don't want it under my tree. We koalas need our sleep.'

'I agree,' Eddie Echidna's spines were raised in indignation. 'It's impossible to locate ants' nest when all that racket is going on. Keep it well away from my territory. But I'm not against the festival at all.'

'Well I think we should have a Song Festival more than once a year. It brings lots of new songs to the district and the young ones really learn a lot.' Barry Butcherbird was a picture of pious earnestness.

'Huh! Learn a lot of bad habits you mean. All those strange creatures with rings in their ears, noses, tails and heavens knows where else. Down right disgusting I call it. And the things I heard they got up to. Certainly not singing if you know what I mean.' Petunia Possum bristled with outrage.

'But you think anyone who doesn't live on the range is uncivilised. Climb down from

your tree once in a while. Open your tiny mind, dear Petunia.' Gerald Goanna hissed at her.

'It's all right for you, you don't even hear the music.'

'Ah, but I can dance to the beat.' And Gerald did a quick dance around the fig tree to illustrate.

A group of King parrots clapped wildly, nearly falling out of the tree.

'I think the festival should continue,' said William Wallaby. 'I don't have any special axe to grind, but I think the district benefits from the visitors and the cultural inflow.'

'Hypocrite!' shouted Peter Paddymelon. 'You made a fortune last year selling bunya nuts and native fruits to the participants. Of course you want it to continue. And it won't be sited near you, will it, because you're nomadic.'

'We Kookaburras will vote for it to be held again,' cackled Katrina Kookaburra. 'We had a wonderful time last year, didn't we fellas.'

The Kookaburras burst into wild laughter and nobody could hear a thing for several minutes.

'That proves the points,' protested Petunia Possum. 'They want the festival and they can't even sing. What kind of culture is that?'

'It's the singer not the song that counts,' cried one of the Kookaburras.

'Melody is in the ear of the listener,' said Katrina Kookaburras with dignity.

Malcolm Magpie released a few golden notes amid the melee. 'I like to show off what I can do to an appreciative audience,' he cried. 'Would you deprive us birds of one of our great pleasures?'

Mary Fieldmouse covered her ears with her tiny paws. The din was overwhelming. Dendy Dingo rapped on a hollow log with his gravel. Gradually the noise reduced to

isolated murmuring.

'I have appointed myself chairman.' he said. 'Any objections?'

None was forthcoming.

'We'd just like to know your attitude, Dendy, before we agree.' Mary Fieldmouse felt very vulnerable, but knew the question was important.

Dendy grinned so that all his teeth showed. 'Why I'm totally for the Song Festival.' He said. 'It brings a lot of new blood to the area.' There was a collective gasp followed by utter silence.

'Ah, I'm sorry about the bad pun.' he said but the feral gleam in his eye said otherwise. 'Do continue with the discussions.'

But the fire had gone out of things for the moment and everyone seemed to find reasons to head home, to babies needing them, or pots boiling or letters to be written to long lost relatives.

Mary Fieldmouse reflected that she had been right. Nothing was resolved and the issue would buzz away dividing the community for a long time yet. Why couldn't everyone just share the same goals or at least learn tolerance. She sighed.

No intended references to any person living or dead are contained in this story, please note.

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

Secretary: Rowena Walters

Treasurer: Paula Grimaitre

Phone: 074 - 944 789



Waste not. Want not

Maleny Music Cooperative

• Tommy Leonard

Is there anybody else out there who thinks that it would be a good idea to start up a music cooperative in Maleny? If there is, I'd be very interested in getting involved.

I don't really have a clear idea of what exactly a music coop would do - probably most of the things that the commercial music business does - except that the emphasis would be on cooperation rather than exploitation, and on music rather than business.

The more I think about it the more zillions of ideas keep buzzing around...One way of keeping the emphasis on the music and off money might be to use the LETS system as much as possible... would a coop try to cover all styles of music (including Country & Western!!) or would it be selective?...etc.

Anyway, here's a few suggested services which seem obvious candidates for a music coop to provide.

1. A Shop - is Maleny crying out for a local music shop which could supply instruments, accessories, music, books, CDs etc? Maybe there isn't enough demand for a complete range of goods, but perhaps the shop could carry a limited range and act as an agent for an existing hinterland music store. (I personally think it would be particularly appropriate for a Maleny shop to carry a good stock of folk music and instruments. Who knows, the Folk Federation might even provide some sponsorship if we asked them nicely).

2. Lessons - the coop could bring together those who have musical skills and experience with those who wish to develop / acquire them.

3. Performance - as well as putting on performances for the enjoyment of members and the community, the coop could provide an entertainment service for

community events.

4. Instrument Making - a workshop, similar to that which is run for free at Lota by Geoff Wills and Doug Eaton, could provide assistance in instrument making. Perhaps this could attract support from employment / training initiatives or the Arts Council.

5. Writing - this could cover anything from a local writers' support group to the writing of scores for film, tv, theatre and video, songs on particular themes, musicals. Potentially this type of work could make use of the telecentre to transmit compositions world-wide.

6. Music Publishing - Instead of leaving local musos to the mercy of commercial publishers, the coop could publish their work locally. In time this service could be offered to cooperative-minded musos from further afield.

7. Recording - a recording studio would let impoverished local musos record their works. The studio could raise income by charging out to non-members at market rates, as long as members always had first call.

Right, that's one more bee out of my bonnet. So if there's anybody out there who's interested, let's get lots more ideas into the melting pot and then let's get together and make it happen.



Recycled Music



No! I Don't Work!

- Alice Hungerford

That is, I don't get paid to work. What I mean is let me tell you what I do.

A typical day begins between four thirty and five thirty, that is, if I manage to sleep through the three o'clock rooster crowings. Often it begins with one child's wet bed.

In whining voice: "Mu-u-ummm."

Groggily I drag myself out of the depths of sleep to find cold, wet, smelly, unhappy child sitting on edge of top bunk. Having cleaned that up, mattress acting nicely like a sponge, I crawl hopefully back into bed (joined by child whose bed is unusable), wishfully thinking I might grab another half hour or even an hour's sleep ... Huh! She wriggles and squiggles ..

"I can't sleep," she says.

Bright as the dawn chorus comes her sibling's voice: "It's morning. Can I get up?"

Sadly I let go all hopes of more sleep and begin the day - it's almost light.

Nevertheless, candles and lanterns are lit; I get dressed and try to do an hour's study from that never ending pile of homework. It's interesting - I like it - and when I've finished, I will be a qualified naturopath. Maybe there'll be work for me ... If only I could blank out the kids' fighting - "It's my turn to hold the budgie. You've had your go ..." etc, etc. Where was I?

I give up on the study and get on with the morning tasks: squeeze orange juice for us all, get brekky organised - there's no yoghurt again, bugger! I scrape out the container into their two bowls and do without myself. The simplest processes of eating breakfast and getting dressed escalate into yet another drama where my frayed pre-menstrual temper tries hard to remain patient, controlled,.... I get on with making the lunches. Maybe we'll make it to the bus in time.

I glance at the clock, dreading what I might find. Seven thirty, hmmm, just enough time to run down the hill, feed the chooks, fill up the water containers and struggle back up with them before we head off.

I get back - it's like time has stood still since I left. The hair is still not brushed. Toothpaste adorns both faces and the school shoes are missing (one from each kid). Fifteen minutes to get it together and climb up the muddy hill or we'll miss the bus. There's now tears alternated with a whine so annoying that one gets the urge to do violence, as I put pressure on them to "hurry up!"

I drag/push/harangue them up the hill. It's too steep and long to keep it up, as we all get puffed. Dark looks flash. We pile into the car and roar off down the road.

"Oh, Goddess, the river's up." That rain last night has raised the crossing to questionable depths. I find it over my knees as I wade in. Too bad, I'm going through. I'm not scared of floods, really I'm not. I hold my breath, say a prayer to the river spirit to help us across. Red warning lights flash across the dash board but we make it anyhow. Yippee! We all cheer. The floor in the back of the car is now a three inch deep, muddy soup of socks, newspaper and gumboots. (Funny how it comes in but won't run out!) Child in the back seat is well-trained and keeps the school bags high and dry. Get to the bus stop too late. Its tracks tell me we've

missed it by a good five minutes. Another ten miles drive to the school.

Back home by nine o'clock. Many people are trundling off to their jobs and beginning "work" for the day. Now "my" time begins.

"You don't work. How 'bout you come in and help me with ...?"

Everyday, I try hard to be domestic, clean up around home, plant some autumn vegies, do some study, sewing, building. The tasks I want to do are endlessly creative and endless, and again others drain my time. If it's not the school, it's town and shopping and some meeting or other. I try to do my bit for the community, the environment, have some contact out there. Let's see ... there's Mountain Fare, Spring Workshops, co-editing the Co-op Review, Threatened Species Network, the co-op school, my own school of naturopathy, writing, washing etc, etc.

(Some days I actually do a "proper" job. It goes from nine until three, or five if I can get childcare, and they pay me for it. It's unbelievable, the warm glow of inner satisfaction I get at these times.)

And then at three o'clock, I prepare for the onslaught again. (Did I have lunch? I ask myself.) Three thirty and I roar off down to the bus stop to collect them. Afternoon tea, put away their things, help with homework, prepare dinner, fill up the lanterns.

..... No, I don't work.

Bedtime talks and stories, study into the night.

No Bees in Mountain Fare's Bonnet - Just a Feather in Her Cap.

• Meg Barrett

Although the 1994 Maleny Spring Workshops don't actually take place until

September, planning has already begun. It takes a lot of effort from a number of dedicated Mountain Fare members to co-ordinate a programme of seventy or eighty workshops, their presenters and between one hundred and fifty and two hundred workshop participants. Thus far we've managed to get it pretty much right - ironed out the bugs and eliminated any flies in the ointment. So just when you might expect that we'd sit back, be social butterflies and allow the Workshops to run along smoothly on the experience gained from the previous four years, a new element has been added. No chance for the fairies to become complacent!

This year, we are having a dinner and guest speaker on the Saturday night of the workshops as well as the usual two full days of workshops on Saturday and Sunday, 17 and 18 September. And what a speaker! Internationally famous feminist and author, Dale Spender will be our guest. Now here's someone with bees in her many bonnets. Not only is Dale known for her scholarship and research but she's also something of a multi-media personality, often called on for television interviews or newspaper comment. Some of us who have heard her speak on a number of occasions can vouch for the fact that she is a witty, intelligent and challenging speaker. Humorous and controversial too. She may just send a few staid Malenyites away with a flea in their collective ear. We think that bringing Dale Spender to Maleny is something of a coup for Mountain Fare. No flies on us!

WANTED - Old Hands or New Faces.

The 1994 Maleny Spring Workshops are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, 17

and 18 September, and the organisers are now assembling the programme. If you have knowledge or skills to impart in one or more two-hour workshops, please contact us on 074 942680. Workshop presenters are paid a modest fee for their services but the main remuneration is the excitement and satisfaction of contributing to a wonderful community education event. Closing date for workshop presenters to get their information to us is June 20.

A Bee in the Booth is Worth Two in the Bonnet.

• Lyn Blunt

I must admit to not having many bees in my bonnet until my recent move to Brisbane meant that I had to endure a month of "life without a phone". The use of public telephones in the '90s is an entirely new experience. A set of procedures and criteria for use is required.

(A word of advice for those contemplating using the public phone system for any length of time - Don't! Harass Telecom and get your own phone installed A.S.A.P.)

Now for the rules for the successful? use of public phones:

Don't attempt a call if you're in a hurry! You will almost certainly have to wait for something (or someone) or the phone won't work.

Have more change than you could imagine - and forget about any of the little coinage. A plastic card is useful, if the phone accepts one of these. A Tele-card is also a handy item, if you can remember to bring it with you, and if you can remember the long process and the pages of numbers required to operate this way. Don't lose it either - it could be costly.

Don't be mislead into thinking it's safe, just because you see more than one

telephone. Quite often they are of different "denominations" - the plastic card sect, the cash sect or the familiar old "doesn't work" sect. Very rarely will you find all phones operational at once.

About now, if all is well, you can begin to dial and if you're very lucky

This is the point where the unwary phoner can experience the wrath of the next phoner. This person will inevitably adopt one of the following behaviours. Frown at you, immediately. Pace back and forth noisily (in case you're blind). Reach in quickly for the phone book (creating all kinds of "attack" responses). Jiggle change or keys and generally be as noticeable as possible.

If you're really unlucky, the previous phoner may very well have smoked a packet of cigarettes and eaten a fish and garlic sandwich before you arrived.

When a connection is finally made, don't get too excited because you could always be placed on hold. The ultimate "bee in my bonnet" has to be when, after all that, the "phonee" at the other end is not available! Now, I can walk back home knowing that I can come and do it all again later ...

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

Treasurer: Gyps Curmi

Secretary: Ann Jupp

Phone: 074 - 942 619

C.C.C. CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION WEEKEND

The Co-operative Community Council will present the annual Co-op Education Weekend this year at the Ewen Maddock Environment and Recreation Centre from Friday evening 27th to Sunday 29th May.

Issues for workshops include:

- The Role of Co-ops in Society (with special reference to promotion and raising public awareness),
- Selection/Training/Responsibilities of Directors,
- Neurolinguistic Programming and Communication, Facilitation and Conflict Resolution.

Some sessions will offer two "streams", one for general interest, which will also interest newcomers to the Co-op scene, and the other for specialised Co-ops. Included in the latter will be Democratic Work Practice, Legislation Changes and their Implications for Co-ops, and a Co-op Seminars Summary.

In case you think this is altogether too heady, the weekend will also offer Introductory Games, Tai Chi and Yoga, Bizarre Bazaar Trading, Circle Dance, Videos and, the "*piece de resistance*" a Co-operative Artistic/Visual Statement. The venue has facilities for canoeing, walking, cycling and a ropes course.

All of this for only \$30 for the weekend!! You are asked to bring food to share and take a turn at co-operative cooking or washing up.

BROCHURES AND POSTERS WILL BE AROUND TOWN SOON, SO WATCH OUT FOR THEM AND JOIN US IN A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL WEEKEND.

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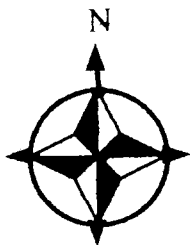
17 Bicentenary Lane, Maleny
(behind Rainforest Plaza)

Tubes \$1.50 6" pots \$3.50
Tubes over 200 \$1.00 each 8" pots \$5.50

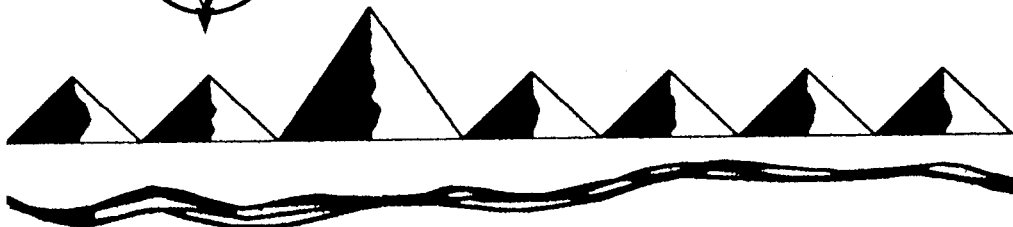
Bunyas welcome

Tuesday - Friday 9am to 5pm Saturday 9am to 12pm

Call in or phone us on 943 151



ADVENTURE BOOKS



3 MAPLE ST. MALENY 99 9977