

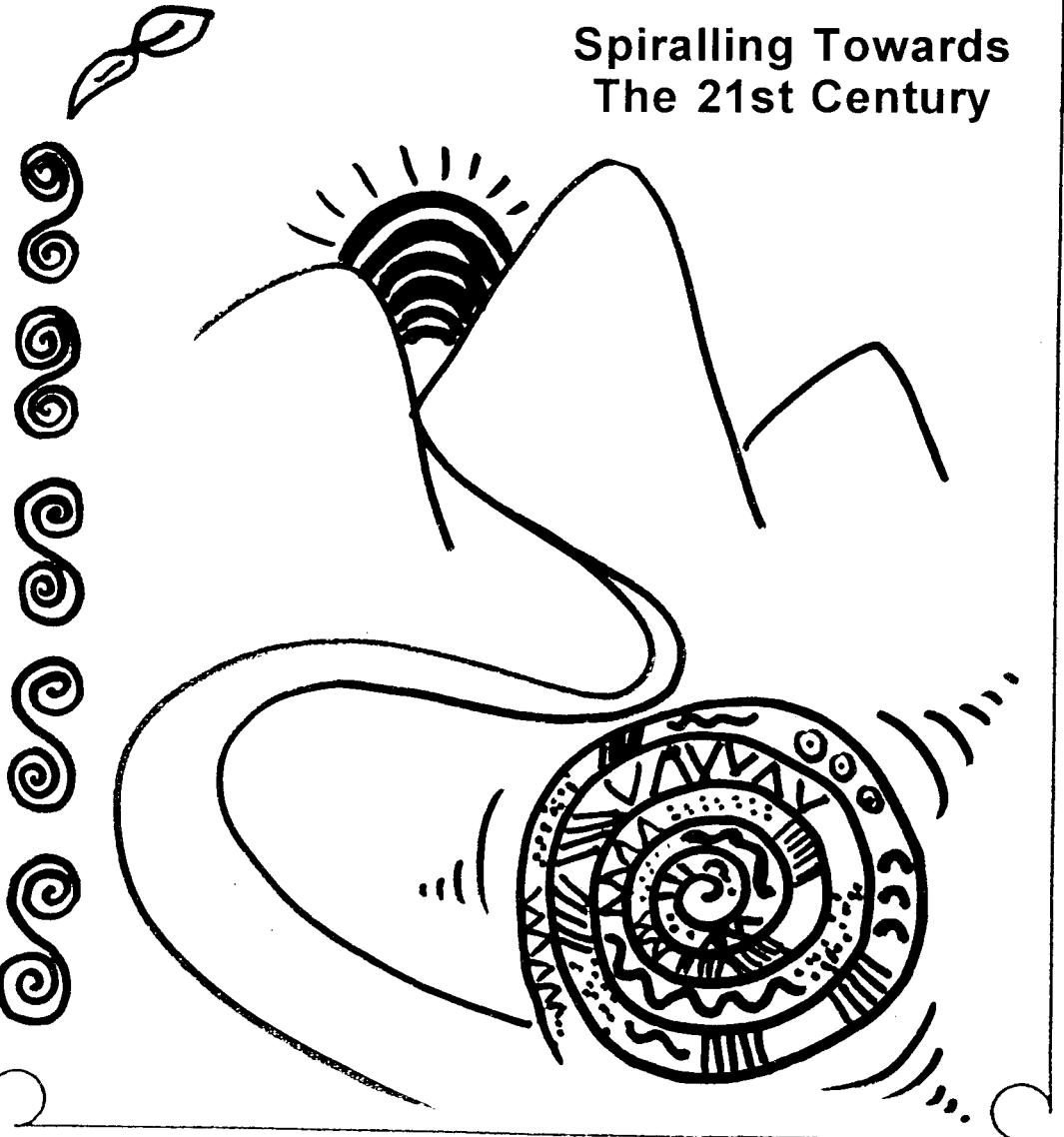
Maleny Co-operatives

A REVIEW

Volume 6, Issue 1

Summer Solstice 1994

Spiralling Towards The 21st Century



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EDITORIAL

Well, Well, Well!! True to our parting words in the last editorial - "The next issue will be out in time, just before the Spring Workshops" - the Vol 5 Issue 3 spiralled away into "Vapour Space" - Anyone who manages to find it - give us a call!

This issue is the '94 Summer Solstice one, with the "Spiralling into the 21st Century" theme. We have a reduced size (no copy from Peter, Meg or Jan!) so this is a message to all Maleny Co-operators to think about putting fingers to the keyboard (pen to paper!).

We have a few new Co-ops featured in this issue, the Club, River School and Telecentre. Other Co-op's and Associations have been launched in Maleny in recent times and we welcome contributions from them for the next issue.

The next issue (Winter Solstice maybe!) will return to the theme of "The Six Principles of Co-operation" (see Volume 1, Issue 3 of 1990). The Review needs to push the sixth of these - Co-operation Between Co-operatives - to try and generate a renewed energy for the continuation of this our Maleny Co-operatives Review.

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

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**MALENY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY
CREDIT UNION LIMITED**

**10 Year Celebration for Maleny
and District Community Credit
Union.**

• Jenny Law

The theme for this issue "spiralling into the twenty first century: Vision and Growth " is very timely for the Maleny and District Community Credit Union as we prepare to celebrate our tenth birthday.

Ten years ago a small group of Maleny people had a vision to start a community based credit union that would help others in the community empower themselves economically and invest their money to benefit the local community, while looking after the environment. They achieved their vision with creative thinking, determination, hard work and commitment. Now Ten years on we have grown far beyond what could have been dreamed of and the vision certainly has been successful; but what of the future.

Many questions need to be asked about our future growth and direction. We are at a point where we have almost out grown our building which is quite amazing when you think that not so long ago, we only occupied one room.

Maleny township has also grown. There are more and more people moving into this area who are attracted to our lifestyle and the beauty of this area. This makes the land in this area very expensive which

often excludes like-minded people from ever settling here. So the face of Maleny is changing, do we need to change or do we reinforce our commitments from the past and come up with a strategic plan that can make allowances for constant change.

We need to consider what makes us unique. I personally think small is beautiful and other communities should set up their own support structures for their needs. Maleny has a very good record for doing this and it is evident in the number of co-operatives in this area. Perhaps a vision for the future could be setting up a support system to get other communities up and running. It would be a shame if we become like other small credit unions and building societies that have grown so big that they end up becoming clones of the banks.

At this time of celebration for our 10 years of achievement we should reflect on the past and step into the future proudly and with confidence as we are a part of a very unique credit union.

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Spiralling Into The 21st Century

• Sammy Ringer

Quite some time ago, some men, some sheep and some seeds landed on Australia's shores and began an uncomfortable process of making themselves at home. The seeds were planted, the sheep were turned out onto strange native pastures and the men waited impatiently for the harvest, the chops and some eligible women.

Sons were born who tended the precarious crops, the confused sheep and (one presumes) the small number of eligible women available.

Drought and flood and influenza withered their efforts. Sheep died, wheat fell over and women became old and stringy before their time.

Another wave of sons were born who tended what was left of the crops, the sheep and the women (who were rapidly finding the city an easier place to shop). Time went on. Farms were passed on to preferred sons. Some went to Gatton and other places of learning and returned home to worry their fathers with modern ideas and spreadsheets. Some simply stayed on the land and assumed their father's role.

Seasons gathered themselves into patterns, some good and some bad. The great-grandsons went on doing what their

great-grandfathers had done and many prospered.

Then, some 260 years after the first seed had been sown, a grazier stood looking over his stubbled lands and declared

'I'm sick of trying to kill things that want to grow and grow things that want to die.'

Generation after generation of farmers had stamped their ill-fitting mark on the land - but it took only one brief parcel of drought to wipe that signature from hundreds of thousands of hectares of 'productive' land.

Man had brought his geometry and his single-mindedness to the land and, in the end, despite science and obstinence, it didn't work.

His straight lines of wheat and his neat, treeless landscapes had lost the energy and hybrid vigour that is the natural order of things. The European farmer had changed his address but not his ideas.

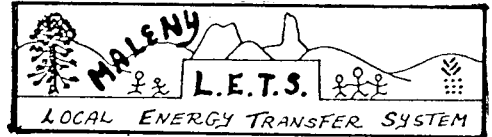
Great-great grandsons looked over their damaged fields and knew that machinery and chemicals could not reverse the slow death they had inherited. The straight line from father to son would have to shift its course.

Scratch the colours of nature's forms and you'll find the spiral in countless shapes and places. It's in the clouds and the rivers and even the innermost places of our bodies. Yet it's not a concept which sits comfortably with us. It's too aimless, too

teasing and abstract. It seems to lead the eye into a space with no horizon. It's going somewhere but we're not quite sure where.

The 21st century will certainly happen. Drought and flood may devastate the landscape but time is untouched by these passing things. It's a spiral, you see, looping and curling onto itself with the sort of freedom that grazier glimpsed briefly.

What if you grew the things that wanted to grow and let those that wanted to die - die?



Overdue For the Co-op review ! What to do ??

- Collective of LETS Members

No one had the time to put together an article singularly for this issue of our little publication. A brilliant idea came up at the LETS Meeting (over a bottle of wine or three at the new Club !!) We wondered if we could get away with "recycling" an old article. After all we'd written on this kind of theme before.

I mean! LETS IS vision. LETS IS growth. And like it or not we're ALL spiralling towards the 21st Century. We decided not to cheat, but put together a co-operative, collective rave from the attendees at the 7th LETS A.G.M. - a fine, if small, bunch of superior intellects. So halfway through the Agenda (and before too many could escape!!) pieces of paper, recycled of course, were handed out. A hush fell over the gathering.....

Launching Energetically Towards Sustainability. Systems embracing the chaos, fears, Joys and other multitudes of feelings that are the essence of our evolution.

As we spiral towards the 21st century one must wonder what's in store for us in

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the future. Will we live in a world of LETS and co-operatively run business, or will we get caught in a world of multi national companies everywhere you go ? Who knows ? Who cares ? I certainly hope you do !

I see an ever-burgeoning friendship network of energies used towards the eventual goal of subverting a greed and money based culture into an exchange (based, of course, on caring traders) of effort, giving our our community a real feeling of intelligent sharing.

LETS keep on growing, spiralling out and making a path of beauty through the community, and out from the community into the world beyond, linking arms with other similar groups sprouting up and beginning to spiral out to embrace us.

My vision for LETS is its continuing growth within many local areas, thereby keeping our energy local and empowering ourselves and each other.

The world is destroyed by flood except for our Range. We are left to build a better world.....My imagination doesn't run to how well we cope !

An ever expanding awareness and abundance with LETS, becoming more and more a part of our lives and our community.

People through the bioregion use LETS wherever they go and whatever they do. We discover that some of our S.E. Asian neighbours are impressed with LETS and together we'll start an era of "LETS Tourism" which catches on real fast with the Japanese, who give up whaling and other environmentally destructive practices in order to join!! The Taiwanese and Koreans soon get intrigued by it all. So, over the years, thanks to LETS Tourism, the capitalist systems are replaced eventually by LETS.....HOORAY !!!

I hope that the LETS info which I have given to a certain emissary will help to promote and extend LETS within Bangladesh, where he's visiting soon.

What we're doing is about creating affluence on a community level, sharing resources and what we have with others. Making a paradigm shift, a huge jump, from the illusion that money is security and survival. Worry about money keeps us narrow - if we had less we'd think and live more creatively.

A rapidly advancing, barely controlled, ideologically (perhaps !!) sound method of seducing the multitudes to embrace alternatives otherwise unknown by ? civilised communities.

Depending on which way you spiral, you could either end up in an unfortunate place or disappear into the never-never.

One plus one can be much fun; so LETS trade together.

As a late comer to this gathering, and after hearing the words that have amassed, and the power emanating from them, I feel that anything I might add would be quite superfluous.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE !! (Who said that !!)

The papers were collected. A nice warm fuzzy feeling filled the hearts of the lovely folk, a beatific smile settled on every face. And as Robert's mellifluous tones spoke out these words of hope and optimism, inspiration and love.....a rainbow lit up the sky over the valley.

And no, we hadn't had a drink or anything !!!!!!!

Trustees: Ann Jupp, Peter Pamment, Vicki Potter, Rhonda Barnes, Tommy Leonard.

Advisors: Jill Jordan, Mohan, Clarissa Townsend, Robin Clayfield, Ruth Donnelly, Christine Southall.

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Spiralling into the Twenty-first Century: You Only Get Dizzy if You Close Your Eyes...

• Sammy Ringer

Perhaps they had more vision than most when they appointed Faith Baigent Manager of the Telecentre. She was, in her own words, 'pretty computer illiterate'. Sit in her office and talk with her about the future of the Telecentre and you'll notice the absence of any techno-dialect: no *GUIs*, *gateways* or *glorks**, the *RAM's* up the back paddock and *chips* come in newsprint. And a *motherboard*? Who's got time to be bored?

The Telecentre *does* have extremely sophisticated hardware and an impressive range of software - but rather than getting dizzy with the glamour of ever better and brighter gizmos, it has focused that energy on the things that can be done with these tools - things for the community at large, businesses and individuals.

One of the frequently asked questions is - "What's a Telecentre?". They don't quite defy definition - but there are almost as many models as there are centres. What does a Telecentre do? What can you do with a Telecentre? At its simplest, a Telecentre is a rural resource, based around computers and other hi-techery and offering computing facilities, information services, training, distance education and distance working. In practice, Telecentres grow in response to particular community needs and may offer all or none of the

above, in different proportions. Their role is to stimulate the economy of rural areas and balance the tyranny of distance with the wizardry of electronics.

The Maleny Telecentre started off with a bang and things haven't really quietened since. In its first months of operation, the Centre established a connection with TAFE, offered a wide range of computer orientated courses, began a feasibility study into videoconferencing, connected itself to the World Trade Centre Network and acted as production centre for the High School students' magazine. And that was just the consolidation period!

The next major step is in the direction of telecommuting. It's here, it's happening and you've got it at your fingertips. The idea behind telecommuting is moving work, not people - and people right here in Maleny are using the Telecentre to do business, saving themselves the need for office space and often the need to commute to Brisbane.

Are we spiralling into the Twenty-first century? Too slowly? With too much haste? Probably a bit of both - either way, closing your eyes to the changes that are possible (much less those that are happening) will just make you dizzy.

Drop in at the Telecentre (in the Enterprise Centre) or give Faith or Sharon a call and find out what's cooking at Maleny's electronic kitchen...

Ph: 999 911

* 'Glork' - a hacker's term of mild surprise - "My PC's just glorked itself..."

President: Reg Collard

Vice President: Michael Berry

Management Committee: Trevor Angel, Sue Ingram, Bo Williams, Reg Little (DEVETIR)

Secretary: Sammy Ringer

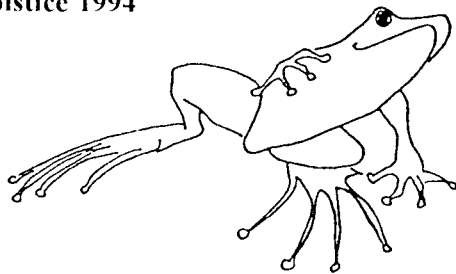
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Manduka Co-op



Spiralling Towards The 21st Century - "All in a Spin - or Spinning Out"

• Ann Jupp

Spiralling, whirling, twisting, turning, winding, convoluting, gyrating, rolling, spinning inexorably and dizzily towards our individual and collective destinies.

That's the Manduka mob, who, a few years ago saw ourselves as a stable bunch of people who were getting a bit older and would look after each other in their old age. We used to joke about the prospect on Manduka becoming an "Old Spider's Home" but we're all so busy now, we see it more as a resting place for old horses!

The Vision.....The reality is that we're a more or less co-operative group, all doing our own thing/s. We come together on work and Meeting weekends always, and occasional social occasions sometimes - especially for birthdays and regular weekly pool nights at Gary's place. At these times we catch up on what everyone is doing in their lives. Otherwise it's see each other in passing, usually at high speed and on a mission (or five)!

Many of us here are doing things we'd never dreamed, never planned a few years back down the track. Some of us wonder if we'll have the energy to continue on towards the 21st Century - just getting through the day is hard enough!! Did we ever plan for this? Or have events just taken us by surprise and left us gasping?

One of our number has recently gone from being a 26hr/day Councillor to a

30hr/day Director of the new CO-op Club and "old" Credit Union, with a new job to contend with as well. Our "social Butterfly" is the Chef at the Club on top of her usual job at the Library, finding time for slashing and fencing in between! Not much partying for her lately. Another has moved her workshop to town and has "double exposure" at Peace of Green and the Purple Church Hall. Also doing Treasury for Manduka, and looking out for Catchments in her spare time. Another is leading not a double, but a treble life, as Co-ordinator of T.S.N., active member of Manduka, and townie/newspaper assistant. Another is working almost full time at the Hospital at present. Her "retirements" from nursing could fill a book! She's also dealing with teenagers and multiple equine persons.

I often think it's easier for blokes to create stability in their lives. They seem to achieve it almost effortlessly, round their income producing activities. One continues to build and restore things, as well as running a mini farm. Another of our group, turns his wood creations - only the lathe is spinning - with a sense of purpose. Our elder statesman/rebel, at 70-something, gives the impression of being a predestined part of life, too - fixing and inventing, challenging a few attitudes and creating a few stirs. Maybe they're born with it.

Even our visitors/tenants are effected. One is on every cause known to the world. Another is a feminist par excellence, though I think she's taking a break from the Rat Race - how does she manage that?? Another is building,

learning to deal with the bureaucrats and Co-ops. He's often seen spiralling down Bridge Creek hill on his bike. Another has left our tranquil valley for a less stressful life in town.

Many of us are spinning, spiralling Sometimes I feel quite out of control, of time, events, paperwork, deadlines, officials AND huge learning curve I find myself on. I never know what the day will bring. Frantically spiralling, ever spiralling.....

Manduka Community Settlement Co-operative

Secretary: Ann Jupp.

Address: P.O. Box 380, Maleny, Q.4552



The River School - An Ananda Marga Primary School Starting Soon

• Dada Mayadhiishananda

Wonderment, adventure, innovation, challenge, sensitivity, stability, creativity, compassion... just some of the words we'd like to bring to life at The River School. Frankly, there is no river at the school, but there is rambunctious Bridge Creek. We're using the concept of "The River School" as a metaphor for the school's vision: of openly flowing ideas and interactions, between the school and community and art and environment, for example. The curriculum plan is a spider's web of interconnections; interweaving art and biology, recycling and maths, for example.

The School will be a child-centred primary school, where the innate curiosity and yearning to learn will be the focus of activities. Children will make choices and decide what they want to learn, as well as being offered a full range of academic subjects, taught in small groups. We plan to have an abundance of leaning resources and talented volunteers from the Maleny and surrounding communities. So far, parents have expressed interest from Peachester, Landsborough, Witta, Maleny and Caloundra.

The name is also an acknowledgment that the school constitutes its abundant natural environment just as much as the school building itself. There are fifteen acres of rainforest and many of the programs, will feature ecological activities. A grant is being sought for a National Landcare Program, where children will help with wildlife preservation, water monitoring, seed germination and tree planting, as well as model gardens. Barung Landcare has kindly agreed to work with us on the

project. The Caloundra Council recently approved our development plan, which will include: primary and pre-schools, ecology centre, drama and arts centre and residence. The Commonwealth and State governments have also tentatively approved funding for the school.

We've realised that Ananda Marga primary education has been around Australia for over twenty years, and one volunteer here helped start our first primary school. He now flies remote control airplanes for a hobby, and plans to help kids at the school, study birds and air currents and engineering, all part of learning about flight. Tapasi, a former Ananda Marga primary school student is now the keyboard player with local rock group, ESP, which will perform at an upcoming benefit program. Her mother will teach music at the school. Vistara Primary School in Lismore has now been going for seven years and has a long waiting list. Northern Rivers University now prefers to send their teacher trainees to do their practice at the school.

The philosophy behind the school is Neo-humanism, there is a high value placed on each person's ability to reflect and discriminate for themselves and to view themselves as an integral part of the web of life. Each child comes alive to their individual thought processes, relationships and conscience. Neo-humanist education focuses on the cyclical processes of life and the cycles within each individual. Each child learns at different rates and in different ways, and has different interests. The school will help each child find comfort in their own natural style of leaning.

We hope to start the school in January, and we now have to build a bridge over the creek, a toilet block, playground, renovate the classroom and landscape the grounds. We're forming a cooperative of volunteers keen to help us start the school and plan on having monthly meetings and

discussions. There are also several fundraising events planned.

If you'd like to find out more, come out to see the facility or volunteer, please feel free to call:

Dada Mayadhiishananda, Prabha, Guhan, Dharmamitra

942887 or 943559.

Ananda Marga River School

P.O. Box 411

Maleny 4552



Spiralling

• Kerry Edmonds

To talk of spiralling brings to mind a glowing galaxy with arms whirling out into space from a central vibrant core. This description could also represent the evolving shape of Wastebusters as it reaches arms out into new directions and extends itself from the nucleus of its operations at Witta.

From the basic commitments of "Waste Not, Want Not", and "Reduce, Re-use and Recycle", Wastebusters is spreading out more strongly into the community. The kerbside pick-up through Maleny involves a large commitment in time from members involved in that area. The pick-up will bring the name of Wastebusters into every home in Maleny via the recycling bags being left in everyone's letterboxes.

Regular Family Fun Days will continue to be held at various places through the area. We wish to gather members and non-members together with their families and enjoy the fun that can be had by using items that often just get thrown away. And of course, to provide yet another opportunity for people to gather together for a common purpose, fostering the growing sense of community found in the Maleny area.

Wastebusters also has arms spiralling into the political and environmental arenas. We are being represented at meetings formulating waste management policies. Representatives are also involved with a number of environmental protection groups. There is room for much involvement in this aspect.

Just by being there, and being hands on with the "garbage", Wastebusters is spreading its message. Every time a Motorcycle or Four wheel drive group contacts Wastebusters to arrange recycling bins for an event, the name of Wastebusters and Recycling is taken out into the larger community beyond Maleny. We have an ongoing commitment to maintaining a high profile presence at the Folk Festival.

Members of Wastebusters are also out and about regularly in the schools, showing children about the 3 R's of waste minimisation, right from the beginning of choosing carefully what you buy. It is precisely these small people who will carry these Earth-protecting ideas into the

21st century.

Presently there are 15 volunteers working the various shifts at the Witta and Conondale Recycling depots, 4 of these are directors. As we expand our operations beyond "running a tip", it is hoped that more members will become directly involved by offering their time, knowledge and strength to the areas that interest them. It would be wonderful to hear from members with fresh ideas and energy.

Just as Wastebusters is spiralling outward with its messages of a cleaner world, so can its members spiral inwards to give support to the inner core. To strengthen itself as a co-op allows the Wastebuster organism to grow.

Vision the Wastebuster organism as a being adopting a spiralling form of growth, sending out its arms throughout the cosmos of human life. The energy to keep this precious creature alive comes from the energies of the members making up the organism. A strong, healthy Wastebusters can move into the 21st Century sending its message personal responsibility to the ends of the universe.



Spiralling Into The 21st Century

• Gaby Luft

Hopefully the Wastebusters will be out of a job by the end of the 21st century - that is if enough of the ESD - principles were implemented in Australia. Once people practise an ecologically sustainable lifestyle there shouldn't be much waste left for anyone else to recycle, everyone does their own.

But between now and the future, much more groundwork needs to be done to educate consumers and industry as well as local authorities about waste minimisation and low-impact waste management.

Everyone has to help to inspire and empower consumers, that task is too huge to be left up to the Wastebusters or other green advocacy groups. One simple way that most people could assist with this challenge is "tithing " and reforming the churches. Some churches practise the concept amongst their congregations to the maximum - for example the worldwide Mormon church nets millions of \$s annually out of all its members who are supposed to give 10% of their income to the church. Unfortunately the Mormon church doesn't appear to care much for ethics, therefore most of this money is invested in major activities that exploit and poison the Earth. When questioned about their conduct on environmental matters, most church people have a standard answer: "God will take care of this problem"! Well, I certainly hope that God will, but meanwhile I don't think that this is a good enough excuse to sit on my bum and spend my time praying, but doing otherwise very little to repair environmental damage.

It is time for everyone to not only pay lip service to green matters but to recognise environmental wrongdoing where ever one works, prays, plays, learns.... Point out unethical investment if you get an opportunity at work or at church, refuse those styro-foam cups and plastic bags where ever you go, promote environmentally - preferable alternatives and keep your eyes and ears open regarding local green matters.

"Tithing" could be one of the best form of support your local environment centre could benefit from. Even if it is just \$5 per week regularly deducted from your account automatically and transferred into the Sunshine Coast Environment Council's

accounts, could help with so many issues that organisation works on in our bioregion.

It is not enough to only give donations to large groups such as Greenpeace or the ACF - these groups never allocate any of their money to local groups like SCEC. It is all very well and good to think globally and to act locally, but this can also be done financially. Lets face it, some of the prominent green groups get certainly more, it is great, they work on that nationwide or global level. On the other hand we local residents have to acknowledge also the fact local groups such as SCEC don't even have enough funding to pay two part-time Co-ordinators to handle the multitude of equally important and urgent issues.

As a solution I suggest to everyone to re-consider their spending priorities and perhaps set a regular amount aside to invest towards the 21st century by tithing it to a genuine green group who works locally.

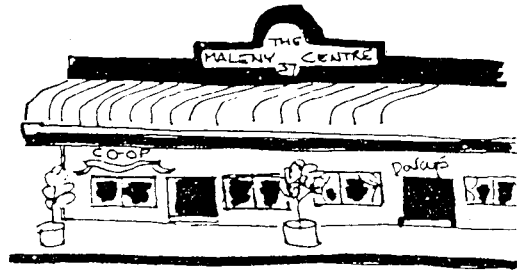
The end of 1994 is not far off with all its New Year resolutions. Perhaps one resolution could be to tithe a certain amount on a regular basis for the Earth and our local life support systems. And for those of you who follow their faith in one of the churches I wish you good luck with the exciting job of greening them! Hallelujah!

Directors: Chris Russell, Gaby Luft, Kim Hinkfuss, Russell Carter, Peter Banning, Leo Sayers, Mikki Taylor.

Secretary: Peter Banning.

Treasurer: Kerry Edmonds.

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Spiralling Into The 21st Century

• Marlene Leinster

From the outset I must say I feel uncomfortable with the slogan "Spiralling into the 21st Century". It seems to imply a set destination with a set promise. When we get there this is what will happen if we do this. A tactic that politicians delight in using. The problem is that this approach tends to encourage us into believing in the reflected rather than in the real. Consequently we tend to rely upon the fiction that rhetoric will produce the goods. However, if we're dying of thirst, the formula H_2O will not quench that thirst.

Tony Rafferty, the marathon runner, ran across Australia. He almost lost the plot in his attempt until he changed his way of looking at the task.

"After struggling to complete 1500 miles I realized that I still had 2,000 miles ahead of me. At this stage I was tired, sore and feeling sorry for myself. The task looked impossible. During this phase of depression I changed my thinking. I decided to run sixty to eighty miles every day and try to repeat it as often as possible to see how far I could go. As soon as I made this decision my attitude changed and I started to feel confident and enthusiastic. I was confident that I could cover this distance every day. My mind was directed away from the huge

distances ahead of me and it was focused on my daily assignments. Because of this I was able to complete the run. Had I not done so, I don't think I would have achieved anything."

On the surface the individual, daily, cooperative actions of the staff, directors and members of the Maple Street Co-op may appear modest responses when compared with the serious social and environmental concerns that surround us. These concerns can certainly overwhelm us, but Tony Rafferty's story provides us with a good example. When we work day-by-day, moment-by-moment, the results are far more effective for change than to set our sights on some future ideal state. Not that vision is not important. It is. But that too is always in the moment. The power of living in the moment with a vision has an achievable immediacy about it. It inspires action - and vision and action go hand in hand. Vision and action keeps on working, long after the projected image has long been forgotten, to manifest the insight we have on how we want to live with our human family. Active participation "spirals" us into areas of wisdom and insight and experience that could not possibly be forthcoming in any other way.

The countless small actions and decisions taken have accumulative effects. The Maple Street Co-op's decision to sell only organic or biodynamic fruit and vegetables not only encourages growers

and farmers but provides good clean food for customers with the added bonus, that by our stance, we could educate the community, or at least bring to their awareness, the desirability of clean food.

The criteria to provide bulk produce in order to reduce expansive packaging and to recycle, what to many people is considered garbage, is laudable. Thankfully, there are people out there in the community, such as Wastebusters, who are doing great work in this area. It is an unfortunate aspect of our present society that nature is seen only as a source of needed substances that exist only to be consumed in some way. The general attitude to the waste products that ensue from high productivity is that it's a regrettable result of our consumer society. It becomes a sort of antiproperty. No one owns it. No one wants it. Put it out of sight. But waste is not the *result* of what we have made. It *is* what we have made. And it is no less a part of nature than anything else we have produced or chosen to produce. The dilemma we're in at the moment is that whilst some of the waste is recyclable and benign we can no longer exploit much of the rest of it for our own ends. However, in time, perhaps, society will realize that what it has chosen to make it can also choose not to make. And the Co-op can be one of the focal points for education in this area.

It is easy to look out upon the world and be tempted to feel that conflict rather than co-operation rules the day. But despite a flourishing surface competitiveness, there is a deep well of co-operativeness in our human natures that keeps the world going. When it is applied to a co-operative venture, a sense of community spirit and neighbourhood bonding can develop. And in Maleny I believe this to be the case. Being a part of the co-operative is empowering. It encourages us to take charge of our lives and the life of the community through

self-organizing and self-governing activities which develops self-reliance and self-determination. The co-op is a way to get to know people and the more you know about someone the less likely you are to be prejudiced and the more likely you are to be tolerant. That is why the staff are so friendly to all-comers in the shop. It is a welcoming atmosphere.

There is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race as we move day-by-day, moment-by-moment towards becoming a human family and a members of this wonderful planet. Perhaps in time we can abandon the I - as El-Arabi said. "The sufi abandons the three 'I's. He does not say "for me", "with me", or "my property". I think our Aboriginal family believes something along the same lines.

Directors: Derek Sheppard, Louise Kay, Marlene Leinster, Peter Van der Duys, Gaby Luft, Steve Budden, Rod McDonald.

Secretary: Lyn Bromet.

Co-managers: Francoise Leduc, Gayle Butson.

Phone: 074 - 942 088





Contemplating the Future

• Alice Hungerford

Its a strange thing, this contemplating of the future- I find that I have to struggle to muster up the courage to actually believe in life after the year 2000. For me, having children, and comitting my life to caring for the Earth, are two actions I have taken in order to affirm my belief in the future. So, my life constantly oscillates between **creating** in my mind a vision for the future, and working flat out to make it actually happen.

I work for the Threatened Species Network, **just in case** there is a chance to prevent the extinction of some species. Perhaps its a last ditch effort- my last stand before the world comes crumbling down on the eve of 2001.

The stangest thing is the fact that, willingly or unwillingly, we are going to hit the 21st century. What sort of a world will it be? Are we about to jump off the cliff into the abyss only to find the mythical "millenia of peace" magically appearing below us? Or, are the dire straights of our Mother Earth merely an indicator of what is yet to come? Either way, its a very scary thing when you allow yourself to take a look at it.

Spirals have been a power symbol since

ancient times, throughout the cosmos and right here on Earth. There is a hell of a lot of housework to be done by each and every one of us, if we are going to survive as a species at all. I'm trusting that the strength and power of the spiral, and our own will to survive will be enough to get us through these next five challenging years.

Directors: Ann Jupp, Karen Syrmis, Kerry Edmonds, Marilyn Edwards, Susannah Molinaro

Treasurer: Margaret Tonner

Secretary: Helen Clark

Phone: 074 - 943 674



The Up Front Club

The Up Front Club

1st July 1994 saw Maleny's newest co-op open its doors to operate as a licensed restaurant but still without a name. A special members meeting was held with Lillian Okorn appointed as "clapometre". The Community had submitted names and the one attracting the loudest response was to be adopted. The large selection was ruthlessly cut to just a few. Jill Jordan's face had a look of horror as the voters all loved "The Feral Duck". But somehow "THE UP FRONT CLUB" became the chosen one.

For day's no one could remember the name and when reminded of it asked if we could change it? (who did vote for it?) Ian McDonald who always finds something positive to say in the face of any adversity said "It will prove to be the right name" (such words of wisdom).

Mathew Davies came along and hung the sign he had so skillfully painted and like magic the name came to life.

Yes, it is the right name!

All Maleny and district residents are invited to become a member of the Club by purchasing shares at \$10 each. Well over 500 have joined in the first few months.

We invite everyone, members or guests to come and frequent our Licensed Brasserie often. There are theme nights each week, music on Fridays and jam sessions for local musos on Monday evenings.

There are lots of things to be done to improve the premises and activities. Volunteer help is always needed so please offer your services and see what you can do to be a part of a great community venture.

The Club is open from 10am to 10pm each day, except Sunday is early closing at 8pm.

Congratulations to all staff, directors and members who are working together to make this a successful venture.

Directors: Jill Jordan, Derek Sheppard, Billy Abott, Ian McDonald, Veronica Davidson, Paul, John Fox, Dick Barnes.

Address: 31 Maple Street, Maleny, Q. 4552

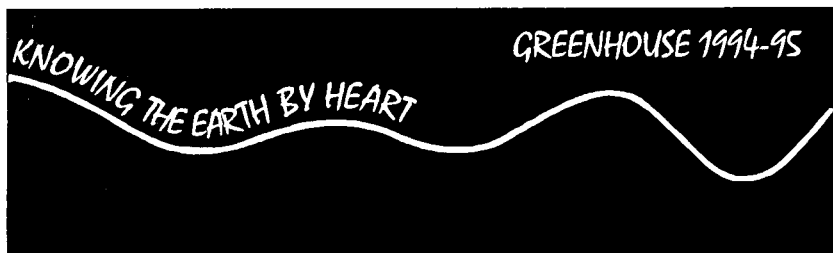
Phone: 074-942592

NEWSFLASH

Calling All Non Smokers

Come out come out wherever you are, your hermit days are over. Come and socialise with your friends, you can now have fun and breath at the same time.

Yes at last we have a non smoking venue here in Maleny.....



• Alice Hungerford

One of the exciting and innovative events which the Threatened Species Network has coordinated for the past few years at the Maleny Folk Festival is the GREENhouse. Each year a myriad of speakers and performers draws us along the spiral of awareness of the Earth.

The theme for the GREENhouse this year is "Knowing the Earth By Heart". By feeling our connection with the natural world and understanding in our hearts that we are part of a complex and marvellous living system, we can begin to treat our planet with the respect she deserves.

For a long time, most humans have seen themselves as isolated individual members of an isolated species. We must begin to see ourselves as part of the web of life. For some, the concept of the Earth as one whole living organism is evoked.

The experience of 'belonging' to the living Earth is often achieved through physical contact with nature. So, this year the emphasis in the GREENhouse is on action and participation - doing and feeling. We have more bushwalks, more workshops and more performances which speak from the heart.

The new folk festival site opens up all sorts of exciting possibilities. This new Woodford site is drier than the Maleny Showgrounds. A few scraps of remnant vegetation alerted us to the fact that the creek banks here once supported a type of dry rain forest with emergent hoop pines. This vegetation is now rare in South-east Queensland. We will have a chance to restore parts of this site to something of its former glory by replanting the species which were once found here, some of which are on the verge of extinction.

At last the Festival spirit has a home. Here we can make music, plant trees, sing up the country and over the years come to know this part of the earth by heart.

An outline of the programme for this year follows:-

THURSDAY, 29th DECEMBER

9.30am - 10.30am **"GUBBI GUBBI ON THE LAND"**

Les Malezer, a member of the Gubbi Gubbi clan, examines the future of his people on the land.

Maleny Co-operative Review Summer Solstice 1994

10.30am - 11.30am "KNOWING OUR PART OF THE EARTH BETTER"

Professor Ian Lowe will give participants an overview of what scientists know about the condition of our country - a broad picture which will be invaluable background for local action.

11.30am - 12.30pm "ATTACKING MAGPIES: HUMAN/WILDLIFE CONFLICT"

Nick Cilento from the Human/Wildlife Conflict Group at the Griffith University looks at why magpies attack and how we deal with it.

2.30pm - 3.30pm "CULTURAL MIX, CULTURAL MIX-UP"

Craig San Roque and **Wally Jungarra Morris** from Alice Springs explore both sides of the issue in relation to Australian indigenous culture. This presentation includes discussion and illustration with sand drawing and indigenous art from central Australia.

3.30pm - 4.30pm "PERMACULTURE: THE HEART OF THE GARDEN"

Robin Clayfield and **Skye** from Crystal Waters will get you well and truly involved in your garden.

4.30pm - 5.30pm "WORDS FROM THE HEART - STRONG AND CLEAR"

Walbirra Gindin.

Listen closely to this murri woman, mother, poet, educator and facilitator.

7.00pm - 8.00pm "NATURESEARCH 2001 REVEALED"

Naturesearch team member **Adrian Caneris** explains the database, how it evolved, its use and its exciting potential for transforming the environmental side of planning in this region.

8.00pm - 10.00pm "FROM TREE TOPS TO HOLLOW LOGS"

This is a night-time spotlighting walk, led by reptile specialist **Adrian Caneris**.

FRIDAY, 30th DECEMBER

6.30am - 8.30am "EARLY-BIRD BUSHWALK"

Come on this early morning bird walk and see how many new species of wildlife you can add to the growing list that we are keeping in the GREENhouse.

9.30am - 10.30am "DIFFERENT WAYS TO SEE AND KNOW - THE VALUE OF PERCEPTION"

Peter Oliver presents a practical demonstration of the different ways we perceive our surroundings.

10.30am - 11.30am "FINDING OUR PLACE"

Maureen Watson, explores finding our place in a country that has an indigenous culture going back thousands of years and maintaining the harmony and balance with respect in this land that we all call home.

11.30am - 12.30pm "THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FIREBIRDS"

An acrobatics, drama and singing performance by a new **kids circus troupe** with **Gyps Curmi**.

2.30pm - 4.30pm "CONCILIATION CIRCLE _ HEART TO HEART"

Bidngi/Walbirra Gindin - Black and White sisters singing and sharing their vision of conciliation for the healing process of this land.

7.00pm - 8.00pm "WALS, WHALES, WANKERS AND WILDLIFE: FINDING THE CATALYST FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE"

Steve Phillips, tells a moving story about "a bloke at a whale stranding" whose life was transformed by the three day effort to save the whale. Includes video and slides.

8.00pm - 9.00pm "WE REMEMBER: A RELIC FROM THE RAINBOW ARCHIVES"

Lisa Yeates sings about her life as a "rainbow warrior", singing on the front lines of environmental actions and in the political halls of power.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31st

9.30am - 11.30am "NATIONAL PARKS: ARE THEY ANY USE?"

Dr Carla Catterall, ecologist from the Griffith University, examines this issue, and discusses the importance of conservation on land which is **not** in the National Park Estate. This session will be followed by a **tree planting party**.

9.30am - 11.30am "YOUTH ECO-DRAMA - VOICES OF THE EARTH"

Anja Light, gives you a chance to forget about being human for a while, instead sharing your

voice with other earth beings.

An intensive workshop of four two hour sessions. Voices of the Earth is spread over Saturday and Sunday, culminating in a performance on stage in the GREENhouse at 4.30pm on Sunday. This is the first session.

10.30am - 11.30am "FINDING OUR PLACE"

Maureen Watson, works with different cultures around the world through story telling, theatre and cultural workshops.

11.30am - 12.30pm "SAME LAND - DIFFERENT EYES: AN ABORIGINAL MAN DESCRIBES HIS COUNTRY"

Using sand pictures and story telling, **Wally Jungarra Morris, Jude Pritchard and friends** will highlight some of the paradoxes of "landcare" in central Australia and show how people from different cultures look at the same country.

2.30pm - 4.30pm "COUNCIL OF ALL BEINGS"

A guided process where participants have the opportunity to put aside their human identity and, through mask making, connect with and speak for another species. **Alice Hungerford and Gyps Curmi**.

2.30pm - 3.30pm "NON-VIOLENCE IN POLITICS"

Susie Chapman Convener of the Queensland Greens takes an in depth look at how we can bring more heart into politics and reconnect with the realities of the environmental context.

3.30pm - 4.30pm "COUNCIL OF ALL BEINGS" continues in the GREENhouse (see above).

4.30pm - 6.30pm "YOUTH ECO-DRAMA" continues. Check notice board for the location.

7.00 - 8.00pm "REANIMATING THE DEAD HEART"

John Auty presents a progressive proposal for reversing the spiral of degradation in the arid lands and "Reanimating the Dead Heart".

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st

10.00am - 11.00am "EXPLORING OUR CONNECTIONS WITH THE EARTH"

Kris Plowman, presents a personal exploration of how we think, feel and write about our connections with the earth.

10.00am - 12.00 noon "YOUTH ECO-DRAMA" continues.

Please check the GREENhouse notice board for the location of this session.

11.00am - 12.00am "CHORNOBYL CHILDREN: LEGACY OF A NUCLEAR DISASTER"

Australian Chernobyl Children's Relief Fund. In this session, fund worker **Irene Sawczak**, will put GREENhouse participants in touch with the realities of life in a nuclear contaminated world, focussing especially on the children of Chornobyl and their enduring hope for the future.

1.00pm - 3.00pm "YOUTH ECO-DRAMA" continues. Check notice board for the location.

2.30pm - 4.30pm "WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN? WILDLIFE MONITORING TECHNIQUES"

There are techniques you can use to find out what animals are moving about your property. All are fun, relatively easy and don't require catching or interfering with the wildlife. This workshop presented by zoologist **Dr Annemarie Watt** and GREENhouse co-ordinator **Jan Tilden** will examine some of these methods. Includes demonstrations in the field.

3.30pm - 4.30pm "YOUTH ECO-DRAMA PERFORMANCE"

This will be the culmination of eight hours of intensive workshoping presented by **Anja Light** and a brand new drama group formed at the Folk Festival.

Jan Tilden
17 Bicentenary Drive.
P.O. Box 465, Maleny. Q. 4552
Phone: 074 - 943 587

THREATENED
SPECIES
NETWORK

Maleny Folk Festival

GREENhouse

A Forum for Discussing Environmental Issues



KNOWING THE EARTH BY HEART

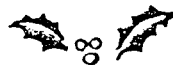
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