

Goolawah^{CO OP} Gazette

Journal of Goolawah Co-operative Limited

May 2017



How many pre-school girls do you need to run our tractor?
- At least 3. Thanks to Raven, Shanti and Malayka for co-operation in this spontaneous photo-shoot.

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Events & Dates

June

3: Goolawah Community Meeting, 9am camp kitchen, bring morning tea

10, 11 and 12: Farm Gate Tour.

Organised by Hastings Landcare. Meet local producers and farmers. Booklet/ticket is available via www.hastingslandcare.org.au, cost is \$30 per car.

July

1: Goolawah General Meeting, 9am camp kitchen.

August

5: Goolawah Community Meeting, 9am camp kitchen, bring beanie

19: Working bee, check phone tree for details

20: Three Rivers Challenge, paddle event in Port Macquarie (this event is not sponsored by *Three Islands Brewery*) Infos: www.threeriversminimarathon.com

September

2: Goolawah Community Meeting, 9am camp kitchen.



From the Editor

You're getting the autumn Gazette slightly earlier than the usual June issue. Not because we're changing Goolawah traditions, but because two thirds of

your trusted Gazette team will be away in early June.

Another change to the ever-flexible Goolawah tradition involves the publishing of monthly meeting minutes. Here's the new process we'd like to give test run in this edition:

- minutes are published on the website as always
- everyone gets a chance to study them
- they are approved with any amendments during the following meeting
- then they're printed in the next Gazette

To other news: everyone seems to have survived the three days of being flooded in end of March quite well. I didn't hear any kids complaining about missing out on school either. Over 400mm of rain was a treat for our dry soils, filled up new dams and topped up the levels in others.

Enjoy this issue, keep sending me ideas, stories and photos, and look forward to a fat bumper issue of our Gazette in September.

Julica (julica.j@gmail.com)

Permaculture Day



© Julica Jungehuising

A perfectly sunny May 7 marked Goolawah's Second Permaculture Day.

To get their minds in the mood and hands dirty a dedicated group of Goolies started weeding the garden behind camp kitchen and put some new plants in the beds. TLC for compost and some mulching followed.



The permaculture volunteers liberated the community garden from very healthy grasses that were taking over from herbs and chilli.

Flower magic

Once the hard work was out of the way, it was time to admire, swap and buy some plants – thanks to Alby Hunter who brought a load of interesting tube stocks, bush tucker seedlings and larger plants as well as a variety of seeds, magazines and books.



Thanks to Alwyn Hunter for bringing plants and the idea of a Permaculture Day. Next time we might have to give notice a bit earlier to get a bigger crowd.

Over a pot luck lunch - brightened up by one of Gemma's delicious and colourful flower salads - the permaculture people discussed growing ideas, plant diseases and exchanged experiences about what grows well in our area.

They shared info about good places to buy plants: Don't forget to check out the native bush tucker nursery behind the TAFE in Kempsey (Sea Street, open Tuesdays before lunch), in case you haven't been there yet. It's great value, and you support the volunteer work of the dedicated team there.

Soil ph

Alby then tested a few different soil samples, mainly from Red Hill, which showed a pH of 5.5. If the soil is too acidic (low pH, applies to most Australian soils) or too alkaline, your plants won't be able to get all the nutrients they need, no matter how much fertiliser you add. Ideally the soil pH should be between 6 and 7.

Alby's recommendation for low pH soil: add dolomite lime to those soils to improve the pH towards 7. Poultry manure seems to be an other good way to lower acidity. A big thank you to Alby for initiating and organising Permaculture Day.

Julica



Kevin's Goolawah sketchbook

John and Anne love their micro-home on the Goolawah Bowl. The views, the chooks, the closeness of living, and the fact that they have done all but the structure themselves. John is Goolawah's Treasurer. Anne is concerned about the suburbanisation of Goolawah, the *grandeur* of some of the more recent buildings being built here. The little house is doubled in size when the Tennocks are in residence by attaching a large tarpaulin to the front of the verandah, a temporary extension to the living space.. They split their time here with a suburban home in Brisbane.



BOOK REVIEW

Good News for a Change David Suzuki and Holly Dressel



Most Goolawah members are probably aware of David Suzuki as a respected scientist, widely published author, and founder of the David Suzuki Foundation, with the goals of helping

to protect our climate, create liveable communities, establish environmental rights and justice, transform the economy, connect with nature, and build community. Even though this book was published in 2002 and has a North American focus, I found that much of the content seemed relevant to Goolawah today and to the future choices we might make.

Rather than complain about what is not being done, Suzuki and Dressel report on positive cases ranging from Judy Wicks' *White Dog Café* to the Indian state of Kerala, from Joel Salatin's organic farm to John Young's

Wilderness Awareness Schools, to illustrate the potential for creative action to develop economically, socially and environmentally sustainable enterprises.

On reading the case studies it struck me that Goolawah is evolving to become such an enterprise, operating largely outside the unsustainable mainstream, and promoting co-operation, community, financial independence and connection with nature. But our journey continues and this book could help clarify our objectives and future direction.

The book is rich with many inspiring examples and includes a comprehensive list of over 90 organisations referred to in the text, extensive notes, bibliography and index. It is available from the Mid-North-Coast Library Service.

John Tennock



More than 100 new rainforest plants on the Ridge



Goolawah's first autumn planting bee worked out perfectly

The swale on the southern side of Al & Trinh's site – leading down into the forest where we planted a few months ago – had been well prepared. Dozens of Goolies were keen and it didn't take them long to put almost 100 seedlings and tubestock safely in the ground. Rob had made work easy for the eager helpers and pre-dug most of the holes, the soil was still nicely moist after the heavy rainfalls.

The extended new revegetation patch will hopefully see many dozens of rainforest and native plants thrive in the area between Cockatoo Ridge and the Camp Kitchen as well as further down the hill in the forest.

Social life wasn't cut short either: It was great to catch up whilst enjoying delicious morning tea treats as a reward after the gentle gardening work.



PERFECT PURLINS

Working Bees at the Last Resort



Thanks to the happy handy men and women of the working bees in April. Not in the picture but helping out too were Luke and Alby.

A small but dedicated team of volunteers met over a few Saturdays in April and May to work on Red Hill's hexagonal Last Resort.

The pretty new building actually doesn't have eight rafters but six, (sorry for getting lost in the greek lingo in Gazette 1/2017...). That's why it's called a hexagon and not an octagon.... back to business:

Fun was had whilst attaching the steel purlins to the roof. The timber poles got a few more oil coatings, and some preparations for the walls were made. Whilst original ideas dreamed about six different types of wall claddings, the plan has now morphed to a design with six earth/straw walls that will be filled into form work and rendered.

It was fantastic to see helping hands from Cockatoo Ridge and the Hill drilling away, grinding and learning new skills over the project.

If you feel you've got tools or time - don't hesitate to join the next working bee on Red Hill, there will be many more to come.

Thanks to workers, coffee & tea makers plus planning brains: Anne, Alwyn, Alan, Sattwa, Ralph vH, Nityama, Julica, Paul, Dan, Luke, Craig.





Fire juggling and special guests galore

Goolawah's April Long Weekend Party (coinciding with Easter Sunday) attracted a huge crowd this year. Apart from residents, prospective members, friends, WWOOFers and neighbours, the audience was supported by Larry's family-fan-club who drove up all the way from Sydney for the occasion. Lucky them, they were in for a fantastic night and gig.

The *Three Island Natives* had some extra support on stage: Lindy and Richard from Crescent Head sang and played various instruments with the band, whilst Helen hit the keyboards. Jason Forinton worked his magic on the drums, cheered on by Flic and their daughters. All those special guests were great additions to our trusted *Natives* and got the folks rocking along and dancing until late.

Since the pizza oven had suffered from extreme drenching in the weeks before, the experts warned that firing it up might cause damaging cracks. So instead of our favourite Italian party specialty, the local hobby chefs got creative and an enormous pot luck was brought together to feed the crowds. And a delicious buffet it was!

James and Dan gave party-goers a visual highlight too, with a spectacular demonstration of their fire juggling skills (off stage!).

Julica





Signage and Landscaping Group

Following the decision of the May meeting a group of members got together to discuss how signage and landscaping around Goolawah could be improved. One of the reasons for this is to dissuade unauthorised vehicles from entering Goolawah as current signage is too small and being ignored. Another goal is to beautify and encourage artwork around the co-op.

Here are some of the ideas the group (Trinh, Frank, Paul, Griff and Bronwyn) came up with:

- Planting & landscaping to beautify the entrances and create an appearance that you are entering someone's property.
- A big "Welcome to Goolawah" sign made from wood that cars can drive under. to emphasise that they are now on Goolawah property.
- Two large poles with a welcome banner across (can be taken down to allow access for tall machinery)

- Using signs such as "No Through Road" on Illa Langi & Nevertire Roads to dissuade the people who ignore the Private Property signs
- Artwork like murals on the machinery shed saying "Welcome to Goolawah".
- Large Sculptures
- "Private Property" signs remain, but these are too small for some to take notice of alone.
- Plant fruit and nut trees, create an orchard (possibly mounds) which will survive the rare major floods at Northgate.

Other members gave input regarding plants (natives with survivor qualities), the respect for the road reserve (20m), considering escape routes, suggesting sculptures and possible gates.

If you'd like to join the signage circle or add ideas, get in touch with Trinh trinh7077@gmail.com



Kevin's artist's impression of what the West Gate entrance could look like.

Deep Ecology workshop



On the third weekend of May, John Seed (non resident member from Red Hill, ecological thinker and activist) held a *Deep Ecology* workshop at the Camp Kitchen. Over the course of the weekend, we deepened our understanding of ecology, particle physics, cosmology, history, geology, chemistry, biology and sociology, through a series of experiential activities. John also created a space in which we were able to express our grief over the state of the planet, connect deeply with each other and nature, and then develop a state of empowerment to go forth and act with renewed purpose and energy to improve this world we live in.

The participants comprised five Goolies, and 15 'outsiders' from various walks of life – including one of the founders of the Nature School, a Birbai/Dunghutti strong woman, a local musician and music teacher, a climate activist, a council worker, and a midwife, to mention a few.

All were deeply affected by the experience, and very grateful to the Goolawah Community for providing the perfect surrounds and hospitality for hosting the workshop (special thanks were given to Rebekah for making delicious pizza bases and lasagne). In this regard, the workshop was a great opportunity for *Goolawah Co-op* to contribute to the wider community, and improve the understanding of what we are doing out here.

The registration fees were put towards the *Energy Forever*

community solar project and to buying beautiful nesting boxes made locally from recycled materials, which will be put up around Goolawah in coming weeks.

Anne Wilson





This photo was taken on a flight back to Port in late February. Great views of Red Hill. Amazing what you can see. Makes me re-consider skinny dipping.

Cooking for friends with special needs:

Pumpkin, Spinach & Ricotta Penne

Life doesn't get any easier, neither does eating or cooking. Did you ever have friends over and none of them was either vegan, gluten-free, celiac, vegetarian, lactose intolerant and/or not drinking but smoking? Okay, you see my point.

But since we all grow with our challenges I've reworked a recipe from Roger & Belinda using what's abundant in the garden at the moment - pumpkin!

With slight modifications it caters for a variety of friends with special requirements. Especially if you use gluten free pasta, leave out the bacon and replace the ricotta with tofu. *Bon appetit*

Ingredients

350g pasta

350g pumpkin, peeled & cut into wedges

1 tbl olive oil

1 red onion, sliced

2 cloves garlic

1/2 cup ricotta cheese

150g spinach

1/2 lemon, juiced

3 rashers of bacon, diced (optional)

Vegan option: replace ricotta by stir fried tofu, ditch bacon (of course).

Method

Cook pasta.

- Steam pumpkin until just cooked
- Heat oil in pan, add onion (and bacon), cook for 3-4 minutes until soft, add garlic chilli and pumpkin. Cook for 2 minutes. Drain pasta and return to saucepan.
- Add pumpkin mixture, lemon juice, ricotta and spinach.
- Toss over low heat for 2-3 minutes or until spinach has wilted. season with salt and pepper.

Variation: use sweet potato instead of pumpkin.



April General Meeting Minutes

1st April 2017

Chair/Facilitator: Paul Martin

Minute Taker: Anne Tennock

Attendance: Craig Singleman, Ralph Erthel, Peter O'Hara, Nityama Martin, Julica Jungehueling, Louise & Tony Roberts, Mark Doonan, Dennis & Denise Cobourn, Greg Ryan, Roger & Belinda Ball, Alan Blake, Paul Martin, Rob Hewitt, Isaac Ryan, Gemma Dowell, Todd Henshall, Mick Clancy, Kevin Harper, Wayne Ellis, Ralph V. Hulst, John & Anne Tennock, Trinh Nguyen, Daniel Rose, Justin & Cynthia Fitzpatrick.

Apologies: Rose Mahar, Bronwyn Little

Confirmation of Previous Minutes: March meeting & Jan GM. *Proposed* Ralph E, *Seconded* Nityama, *Unanimous*

Business arising:

- Amended By-Law 10A (a) i) re tree felling - formally ratify it and associated flow-chart (agreed at February meeting). *Proposed* Ralph E, *Seconded* Mark, *Agreed with 1 abstention*
- Sandmine & Outback Dam rehabilitation GMK quoted \$6000-\$8000 for both (Sandmine about 1/3rd). Dam area is too wet for work, so postponed till later in the year. Agreed that Mick Conomos could dig some sand at the Sandmine on his next visit to the Coop. Members should then only take it by trailer. Where larger amounts are needed, members are to organise with him directly (rather than deplete all supplies for themselves).
- Cemetery: to mark out proposed site on Goldmine Hill Rd on NE corner, as no plans for that site and it complies with requirements, above 1 in 100 flood level.
- Vision Statement: 40+ responses. Dan compiling data. Louise & Anne T to assist analysis/writing up.

Reports

Secretary

- Canberra university request survey response re management of our native forests. Rob, Todd & Gemma will complete it.
- Correspondence to KSC re signs on Nevertire and Illa Langhi: no response, so Ralph to follow up.
- Overdue member levies list: two members over 1 year owing, with largest amount \$250. Ralph will automatically send reminder request to any member over 12 months overdue.
- Cameras: two hunter cameras working well, with excellent images. Not adequate to cover whole west gate. Dan has augmented power to Camp Kitchen, Machinery Shed, West Gate for solar and trickle charge camera batteries. Coverage will include car number plates. Regulator, 120w solar panel, stand-by battery. Other cameras can be added later. Additional \$600 requested to finish the job. *Proposed* Roger, *Seconded* Ralph E, *Unanimous*

Roads

- Nevertire maintenance: GME to grade next week. Ralph to ask Council for exemption from Sect 138 fees.
- Driving through flood waters damages our roads, increases pothole sizes, and therefore adds to our road maintenance.

- Internal roads: if roads are not cambered (crown in middle) they degrade and increase cost of repairs. As our crowns are flattening fast, maintenance is required soon. Meeting approved up to \$25,000 to repair internal roads. *Proposed* Paul, *Seconded* Roger, *Unanimous*

DA

Ralph tried to get a response from Council re our S96 application, to no avail, despite Shane Reinhold's assurance that Council won't drag their feet. Several members will watch upcoming Council agendas to ensure they don't put it on the agenda without notifying us.

Membership

Julia & Frank; Ric & Jack; Barry & Alison & 4 boys under 10; all expected to stay at CK at Easter.

Machinery

No problems reported, with 3 Slashers and tractor all working.

Fire

Ban now lifted, so we can burn piles. Fire Squad to meet soon to prepare for next season; upcoming exercise/working bee on our fire equipment. Review last year burn-offs to determine effectiveness.

Treasurer's Report/Work Claims:

- Unidentifiable payments: money deposited in Goolawah account without any indication of payee.
Contact John if you don't get a receipt by email in 24 hours or by post in a week then your payment is not recorded.
- NAB fees: John negotiated reduction from \$50 to \$10 per month. Gratefully approved.
- Road Levy for Financial Year 2017-18: DA Road funds currently total \$162,000, with \$39,000 incoming yearly from levies. Insufficient for expected requirements, so cannot change road levy yet. Agreed to continue \$500/site next financial year. *Proposed* John T, *Seconded* Peter, *Unanimous*.
Procedurally, Special Resolution required for June GM to ratify today's decision.
- Work Claims: 8 members' claims as per the Treasurer's Report. Agreed: *Unanimous*
- Sheet in Camp Kitchen to volunteer your name to facilitate meetings or take minutes.

Resolution: "That the western boundary of site #18 (by road) be adjusted to align with the currently planted row of bamboo. The area of the site (½ hectare or 5000m³) is to be compensated by an adjustment of the northern and/or





© Todd Henshall

Todd used his drone to get these amazing photos of Griff's site on Cockatoo Ridge. He is happy to do the same for any other Co-op member..

eastern boundaries where appropriate (both fire access trails)".
Proposed Ralph V. Hulst, Seconded Ralph E, Unanimous

General Business:

- Agreed Dan can claim hours for camera installations, and he generously offered materials.
- Community toilet: paper goes missing, but lockable holder too expensive. (Roger)
- Elections for Local Land Services Board. Co-op pays \$140 annually as landholder with +2 hectares. Co-op enrolled to vote with Ralph E as rep, and agreed we vote for Greens candidates.
- Emergency Services Fee now to be charged to all ratepayers.
- Two Director Deputies, in absence of Denise (3 months) and Stuart. Four Directors needed at meetings. Nityama will deputise for Denise, and Kevin for Stuart.
- Approved Jobs List: agreed that security cameras work included under machinery.
- Cleaning the bowl of the community toilet with a pressure cleaner. Thanks Roger.
- Rainforest Planting. Rob has another 100+ trees to plant across from CK - meet 9am next Saturday. Rob can claim expenses - receipts to John. Photos to record for growth history.
- Langford's livestock, fences, gate, cattle grid and dust: Langford spoke politely to Rob, and welcomed others to talk to him. Contact him re his cattle on Goolawah; he knows they could be impounded.
- Fences: our northern boundary fencing may need some repairs. Apparently neighbours have cut wires in the past, so no action planned at this stage.
- Cattle grids: Northgate not deep enough, so cows walk over it; Maria River Road is getting more broken and needs repairs, but no action planned with \$96 still pending.
- Nevertire gate at Maria River Rd: will have no legal status once the DA is approved. Council may not require removal of the gate and cattle grid. Debate about trying to reason with Langford.
- Dust on Nevertire: Co-op members still driving too fast on Nevertire with resulting dust.
- On Co-op NW corner there is a missing gate, with fence posts. To be checked.
- July Newsletter: will be 2 weeks early, before Griff leaves; Julica to advise deadline.
- Noisy machinery operation 8:30am to 4.30pm from tomorrow, due end of daylight saving.
- Farmgate Tour for Hastings Landcare - long weekend June 12-16. Discussion re possible participation: no need to open for whole 3 days, can determine visitor numbers, guided tours only. 5 people interested in opening their sites and guiding. John to discuss with Landcare.
- Easter Sunday social event: our band, pizzas from 4pm, and soccer at 3pm. Visitors to put their tents away from CK. Roger will get containers for tea/coffee etc.. Encourage your visitors to put money in donation box for use of facilities.
- Closing Circle – *Abundant thanks.*



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Gerard has been busy making Goolawah's first steam room, very impressive!

Newsletter Team

Editor - Julica Layout - Griff Printer - Ralph

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