

P/C NOOSA SEED SAVERS – Seed Bank End of Financial Year Report May 2017 to October 2017

It has been a busy 6 months since I took over as coordinator for Permaculture Noosa Seed Savers.

- In that time I have attended 4 major events along with the usual monthly PC meetings and Seed Saving meeting at Noosa Namaste Cafe in my role as coordinator. The events were Cooroy Fusion in May, World Environment Day in June, Nambour Garden Expo in August and Noosa Country Show in September, all important events for Seed Savers and Permaculture.

It was good to see the interest from people from all walks of life but most heartening was the young families and singles looking to make the future for themselves and their families a much healthier one through Permaculture and all that it involves. It is a very enjoyable task talking to the visitors to our tent and at the end of the day I find myself exhausted but emotionally and spiritually energised by this contact with like minded people.

The Seed Boxes - The result of taking the seed boxes to these shows has highlighted the need for some minor reorganising of the boxes to enable a more satisfactory interaction with our customers.

Firstly as a 'newbie' to Permaculture' and seed saving I realised that not only myself but anyone wanting to buy seed from us was having trouble finding what they were looking for in the seed box, hence the reorganisation of the seeds into an alphabetical order. It would be most helpful to have a catalogue complete with photo and description of each of the seeds that we hold for sale in the bank to help answer our customers questions. My intention is to remedy this in the near future.

The seed boxes have also had some changes made to them. I have applied Velcro catches and carrying handles to the boxes to make it easier transporting the boxes to meetings and events.

The Seed Packets - The existing printed seed packets now has a template for overprinting with the new alphabetical labelling to make it an easier for those who pack seed at the seed saver

meetings. There is still some work to be done, new alphabetical dividers to make the space in the seed boxes more efficient. Hopefully this will be sorted soon.

It is also my intention to redesign the seed packets so that all information and labelling can be pre-printed on the packet with only the contributing seed saver and harvest dates to be filled in by hand at the time of packing. If we do this successfully we make better use of the limited space by fitting more seed description and growing requirements on the packet for our buyers.

The Seeds - The seed bank has been overhauled and unviable seed removed. Some seed has been viability tested to uphold the legal viability rates for seed being sold. Seed that is coming in just under the legal viability % I am hoping to sell off at half price. These seeds are marked in red with % and date tested on the back of the packet. It would help if we could insulate the storage draw for the seeds to keep them at a more even temperature and hence prolong their viability. Something to attend to in the coming year!

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have helped me learn a new job and those who attended the seed saver meetings and assisted with the changeover of the seed boxes. Without your help the Seed Bank wouldn't exist. Another thankyou should go to Surinda and Elaine who host our monthly Seed Saver Meetings at Noosa Namaste Café in Pomona. Surinda and Elaine make out mornings really enjoyable and nothing is too much trouble for them. It helps that the food and coffee are outstanding.

Sue Anderson
Seed Bank Coordinator