

Have you ever thought of Permaculture Noosa as a centipede?



It goes along just fine while all its legs are working but if a few fall off or get tired, the whole train starts to wobble. With the added responsibility of the Cooroy Community Gardens (CCG) this past year, our little legs have been run off their little feet!

So, while PN has a lot of helpers, both in roles that are visible and behind-the-scenes, there can never be too many ... because:

- A flow of new people brings fresh ideas and energy
- Helpers take the pressure off key people who otherwise risk burn out
- Things get done quicker and with more fun as part of a group
- Life requires us to be flexible and sometimes helpers have to be absent.

As the AGM approaches, have a think about how you could be a 'leg' or help a leg. There are several ways and some only require a small or occasional commitment.

1. SERVE ON THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Being part of the management committee is both a privilege and a responsibility that requires commitment; it is also satisfying and fun. Five of the eight current committee members have indicated they are willing to re-nominate at the AGM on 18 October, so you would be joining an experienced and supportive team.

Present indications are as follows:

Current position-holder	
Vic Bateman (president)	Not re-nominating as president but will nominate as a committee member
Wendy Strathearn (treasurer)	Not re-nominating but available to train and support a new treasurer for several months
Lorraine Oats (secretary)	Not re-nominating but available to support a new secretary until the end of the year
Tom Kendall (vice-president)	Re-nominating as vice-president or committee member
Latha Matters (representative of CCG Leadership Group)	Re-nominating as committee member
Bill Berry (website, media)	Re-nominating as committee member but may be moving interstate next year
Wayne Oldham (audio/visual and website support)	Re-nominating as committee member
Tim Peek	Not re-nominating

So at this stage, it looks like we may need a president, a secretary and a treasurer. Plus a couple more committee members as all those re-nominating already have specific additional roles, e.g. Latha is the CCG Leadership Group representative on the management committee; Bill has a full commitment with media, PR and website; Wayne does our audio/visual and is also taking on some of the website work; Wayne, Vic, Latha, and Tom are also members of the CCG Leadership Group and are heavily involved in planning and working bees.

2. HELP IN ONE OF THE VITAL SUPPORTING ROLES

- Seed-saving – Sue Anderson performs a vital role in saving seeds and providing an income stream (Exciting things happening with seed-saving at CCG soon.)
- Membership records – Janine Stoner (retiring) with buddy Julie McKenzie.
- Facebook – Caroline Whittle-Herbert is our social media lady and also assists the treasurer.
- CCG Working Bees – Leadership Group comprised of Wayne Oldham, Vic Bateman, Latha Matters, Caroline Whittle-Herbert, Tom Kendall, Steve Anschutz and Tim Peek.
- Raffles and Supper – Latha and Val (retiring).
- Audio-visual/website support – Wayne Oldham.
- Media/PR/website – Bill Berry.

If you have an interest in any of these areas, please make contact and offer to help or be a back-up/buddy when needed. Having more than one person with knowledge of a role is vital to the integrity of any club or organization. At present, we urgently need a membership secretary and a supper person to relieve Janine and Val who have been in their respective roles for many years.

3. BE AN 'EPISODIC VOLUNTEER'

We don't want to overload our members who volunteer for specific roles, so we need 'episodic' help. An episodic volunteer prefers to:

- Take on short term positions defined in hours or days
- Have clearly defined start and end times prior to commitment
- Have clearly defined role boundaries and duties
- Seek positions with a product or other sort of outcome so that success is defined – this will include project or event-based work
- Avoid positions that may lead to emotional entanglement or long-term commitment.

Some examples are:

- A greeter person/people at club nights to make newcomers feel welcome
- Someone to look after the guest speakers
- Helpers to set up/tidy up at club nights; occasional help with supper or raffle
- Event organisers/helpers – for random events each year, e.g. Nambour Garden Expo, or at a sausage sizzle every few months.
- Back-up for specific roles if they can't attend a club night.

So there's lots going on to make PN vital and interesting. Every little bit of help makes our club more solid, more stepping in tune, and allows everyone to enjoy their role without overstretching.

