

2007 at Jindibah: Ch-Ch-Ch Changes



Two huge milestones have hit home at Jindibah this year: of course the November **change of government** (bringing a far more responsible attitude to dealing with Climate Change) and on 19 September 07, Byron Council **approved our application** to convert from Multiple Occupancy to Community Title. These events in particular are helping us see out 2007 and welcome in 2008 with an enormous feeling of relief!

The process leading up to Council's approval of our MO2CT DA has taken nearly a decade. Those of us in the **Rural Landsharing Communities Association (RLCA)**, have been closely involved with the conversion of 18 Byron Shire communities from **M u l t i p l e Occupancy to Community Title**. We have negotiated and liaised with 3 sets of Byron Councillors, 3 Mayors (Ian Kingston, Tom Wilson and Jan Barham); 5 General Managers: (Eastcott, Ken, Kanaley, Read and Westing), and 4 Planning Directors: (Kanaley, Svikis, Smith and Darney). And we're really hanging out for the partridge in the pear tree!

So as this 'decade of uncertainty' comes to a close, at Jindibah, we are methodically working through Council's 36 Consent Conditions to complete our conversion process.



A working bee in April.



Hapi McMullen, our youngest resident.



Maggie and Penny out riding.



The excellent Ragged Blossom Nursery in Bangalow, our source of native seedlings.



M u l t i p l e Occupancy to Community Title. We have negotiated and liaised with 3 sets of Byron Councillors, 3 Mayors



The September 'Spawn of Jindibah' get-together in New York: Jindi parents and kids.



Stephan and Bettina



Maggie and Paul's March wedding: a family affair



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Construction projects

On the physical plane during 2007, a **new house** was finished...actually the guest wing of the **Inge and Martin Lass** home on CT Lot 10. Their builder of choice was **Phill Johnson**. This is the third Jindibah home Phill has constructed, a testament to his skill and reliability.



Inge and Martin's guest house, built by Phill Johnson, most frequently used Jindibah builder.



Rolly on the job.

With water a consideration in an era of changing weather conditions, we had two sets of water diviners assess our prospects for a bore, then, after obtaining the appropriate licence, called in the boys from **Griggs 'Our Business is Boring'**, to drill the bore within our cattle yards. A successful job, they discovered water at precisely the predicted spot.



The "Boring" business hard at it.



In order to bring the septic systems of the two original dwellings on the property up to contemporary standards,

Brad Nicholson from **Trine Solutions** came to the party, calling in his mate,

Rolly from **Rolly's Excavation Service**, who was one of the original team who constructed our internal roadway and rock walls.



The new metal fence in the cattle yards (above right).

The highly esteemed Jindibah maintenance man is **Ross Wood**, who can turn his hand to any job we throw at him: fixing fences, slashing, planting trees, drenching cattle, repairing the tractor, resurrecting the fencing in the cattle yards...nothing is impossible to this capable fellow, who's been training to become a registered nurse as well this year. (The fact that he's lived on intentional communities for decades, also comes in handy!)



Ross Wood (above)

Brad Nicholson (below). Alan Grant, Lawn Gurus (below right), making mulch.



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As well as building houses and community spirit, each year we make progress on our **Environmental Enhancement Management Plan**, revisions prepared by **Rob Fleetwood**, who has been aiding and abetting our efforts to meet the objectives of the **1999 Byron Rural Settlement Strategy** and the **2004 Byron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**.

So each year, we plant and maintain more trees in our shelter belts and visual screening buffer zones, our agricultural buffer and regeneration plots and on the expansion of our patch of Big Scrub.

In the past 12 months, we have 'topped up' the areas known as **R1** and **R2** (riparian regeneration projects), and established a new lot, **R5**, a revegetation block up a gully and steep slope between Sleepy Creek and our internal road, where we planted 1,200 rainforest trees.

Having discovered that the nursery providing seedlings to the well established and most efficient **Bangalow Landcare Group** was **Ragged Blossom Nursery**, run by horticulturalist **Liz Gander**, we are now sourcing our regeneration stock from there.

As well, a resurrection of the **Possum Creek Landcare Group** (Jindibah community are members) has met with the **Bangalow Landcare Group**, who have agreed to mentor our planting programs. We make sure there's time for social interaction, which makes the work part more fun.



'Waste=food'. Thanks, chooks.

Planting and Growing



Phillip Frazer (*above*) planting lomandra.



We have proved that weed matting really helps new plants get established fast.



A view of Sleepy Creek next to the **R1** planting. We use electric fencing to protect trees from grazing cattle.



Friends from the Twin Creeks community join us at a Landcare meeting.



Working out our planting strategy with friends from the Bangalow and Possum Creek Landcare groups.



A Silky Oak is planted - with 1,199 friends, on our R5 slope.



Liz Gander (*right*) supplies our native plants. *At left*, our red water trailer, most useful for new plantings.



Martin, Penny and Kate (*above*), and a Landcare barbecue (*at right*).



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A few of us on Jindibah community, working with facilitator **Ken McLeod**, plus **Joanne Walsh** and **Mick O'Regan** from the **Twin Creeks** community further down Fowlers Lane, formed a working group called the **Green Coast Catalysts**. Working with the **Bangalow Community Alliance**, this year we staged several events to heighten local community awareness of Climate Change.

To start, we invited one-time comic **Steve Davis**, one of those trained by **Al Gore**, to present the **Inconvenient Truth** powerpoint presentation at the **Bangalow A&I Hall**. Crowds came from up and down the coast to attend this event, including busloads of high school students and their teachers.

Following the success of this event, the same team organised a **Climate Change Hypothetical**, (the brainchild of Jindibah's **Christopher Sanderson**) also at the A&I Hall. It drew a packed audience of 350 people to witness an astounding event, in which local (National Party) MP **Don Page**, as the new "NSW Premier", worked closely with Byron Mayor, (Greens Party) **Jan Barham**, as his "Environment Minister", and 13 other skilled locals in a panel format to come up with a bipartisan solution to dealing with a "climate change refugees from the Gold Coast in the year 2012".

The event was filmed and made into a DVD by local film-maker and fellow Green Coast Catalyst **Terry Bleakley**.

Not long afterwards, Christopher was asked to join a new political party, the **Climate Change Coalition**, to stand for **NSW Parliament**. Headed by **Patrice Newell**, the team was inspired by the visit of veteran underdog (of the David and Goliath variety), **Erin Brockovitch**.

Changing attitudes to climate change



Chris Sanderson (above), candidate for the Climate Change Coalition.

Don Page and Jan Barham (above) at the Hypothetical, drew a crowded house (below).



Steve Davis (centre) with wife Sheila (left) and Inge Lass (right): workmates from the past.



Chris and Stephan (right) handing out 'How to Vote' forms at the Bangalow A&I Hall.



Chris Sanderson (back row, eye patch), and other Climate Change Coalition candidates for the NSW Parliament. Erin Brockovitch (short skirt) at centre.

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Sharing this rural property with a growing number of other community members, we make a fundamental commitment to **work through community differences of opinion** with integrity, creativity, goodwill and as much consciousness as we can muster. This is probably the most **important core value** of this community - after we discovered that what we do individually, affects us all.

For this reason, 3-4 times a year, we engage talented Mullumbimby psycho-therapist, **Greg McHale**, to hold half-day **'Living Together'** workshops for community members, as well as the occasional 'clearing' session.

Like our friends on other communities, we find there's a constant delicate balance between the "me" and the "we", and it can take time to get used to this. Our workshops, together with a combination of openness, patience and mutual respect with each other, are proving to be the best way to get on with each other - despite our differences.

To live happily on a community can be a challenge. You need commitment to work through complex issues. This takes time, energy, enthusiasm - and a willingness to put community needs ahead of your own. Our experience is that people need to work cooperatively in order to live together harmoniously.

The end result? Individual accountability, positive inter-dependence and equity, and a regard for everyone's wellbeing. Though 'community' is not everyone's cup of tea, for us it's fun!



Living & working with others



Eliza and Inge Lass greet old mate Alan Hennessy on a recent visit.



Annette and Mark Kern (CT Lot 4).



Inge at the Coorabell Flower Show. Mich McMullen with son Hapi. Penny and prize bloom.



Phillip Frazer and Kate Veitch, new owners this year of CT Lot 8.

Above: Penny, Cathy, Alan and Chris at Inge's 50th ABBA style birthday party. Below: Greg McHale and Bettina at a break during a LIVING TOGETHER workshop.



At right: Christobel + Christopher with friends Maggie (in red) and Stephanie at their house-warming party.



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As we become better established and our homes more comfortable, more relatives and friends are coming to visit.

In the past 12 months, we have seen the visits of **Mark Kern's** parents, and daughter **Pippa**, from Sydney; **Stephan's** mother **Eva**, from Germany; **Maggie's** dad, from Queensland; **Inge's** parents, from Holland; **Christopher's** daughters, from New York and Perth; **Christobel's** daughter, son-in-law and grandson, from Sydney; and **Stephan and Bettina's** son Zen, also from Sydney (and soon the Gold Coast). **Martin's** brothers and their families also came to visit.

After seeing their son **Alex**, in London, and daughters **Saskia and Eliza**, in New York, **Inge and Martin's** youngest daughter, **Eliza**, hopped on the next plane and followed them back here. Cleverly, Eliza managed to land a job as an apprentice chef at the Byron Beach Hotel within 48 hours of arriving here - no mean feat!

In September, since Bettina was again in America to take part in the **Burning Man** arts festival with son Zen, she took the opportunity to meet up with Inge and Martin and their girls in **New York**.

Thanks to **Phillip's** hospitality (Phillip and partner Kate bought Lot 8 this year), a momentous event took place while they were all in New York, dubbed the '**Spawn of Jindibah**' party. Inge and Martin's two girls, Stephan and Bettina's son Zen, Kate's son Felix, Phillip's son and daughter - plus various parents, all took part.



Eva Kahlert and Bettina (above); Inge Lass with parents Gerry & Bas Verhoef (below right).



Maggie's father Laurie Mulham meets grand-daughter Allegra.

Visitors: New faces and old



Christopher (below) with daughters Stasia, Misty and Penny.



Pippa Kern (below left) and friend Sam.



Christobel and grandson Harrison (above); Harrison tries out the quad bike (below left); Maggie, Paul and Allegra, after planting their 'wedding trees' (bottom right).



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For **Inge's 50th birthday party** in January, she held an ABBA-inspired birthday party in our community shed. Christopher screened non-stop ABBA videos, and guests were invited to dress in their favourite 1970s fashions.

Stephan's Virgo birthday was celebrated with a more discreet afternoon tea, also the occasion to welcome **Kate Veitch** and her brother **Michael**, after they had driven up from Melbourne for Kate's move to Jindibah.

The community shed was also the setting for a birthday party to celebrate **Isabelle McMullen's eighth birthday**. The **McMullen family - Lisa and Michio, Isabelle, Moby and Hapi**, are the new owners this year of CT Lot 5. It was also the opportunity to welcome her to community life in Fowlers Lane, with many of the kids living at the **Twin Creeks** community further down Fowlers Lane, arriving to help celebrate (and eat the goodies!)

Keira, of course, arrived on horseback, and has been helping Eliza remember what horse-riding is all about!

In October, a rare opportunity came up for community members to see for themselves the talents of **Martin Lass** (a professional violinist) with wife **Inge**, who were performing on the Gold Coast. Loud cheers erupted from the Jindibah contingent as we finally witnessed the consummate ease and skill of Martin and Inge, live and in the flesh.



Celebrating life

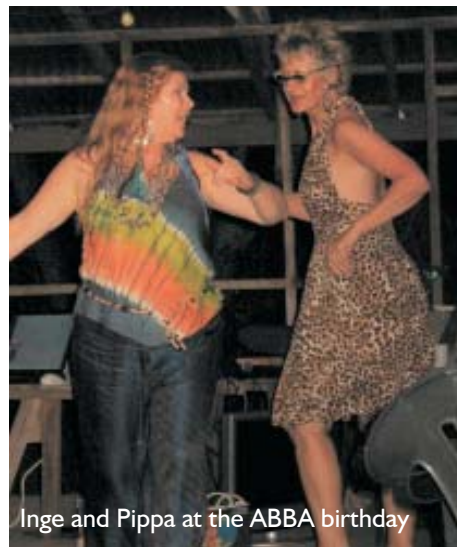
Kate Veitch (above right) and brother Michael (left) join in celebrations for Stephan's birthday.



Isabelle and Moby McMullen explore the Kahlert's pond.



Keira arrives on horseback, of course!



Inge and Pippa at the ABBA birthday



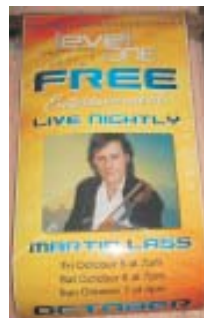
Boys on bikes from Twin Creeks.



Keira plays the music for musical chairs at Isabelle's 8th party.



Stephan chats with Isabelle, Lisa + Hapi.



Isabelle (above) blows out the candles on her cake. A poster for Martin's Gold Coast performance. Eliza in chef's uniform (right).



Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year!



Jindibah residents - and residents-in-waiting - wish you happy and relaxed holidays, and an exciting year ahead.

We thank our friends, neighbours and consultants for helping us this past year to bring to life the beauty and strength of our emerging community.



Jindibah Community, Sleepy Creek, Bangalow NSW 2479 Australia
is a 12-house-site Multiple Occupancy intentional community in the process of converting to Community Title. It is located on a 46ha farm in Fowlers Lane, Bangalow, in the Byron Shire of Northern NSW. For more information, see www.jindibah-community.org, or email DIY@jindibah-community.org
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