

Seasons Greetings from Jindibah December 2003



As you see, heaps has been happening here this year:
Finishing the road, building fences, houses and rock walls, improving drainage...



Paul Morgan Constructions worked with Tom Condon's team to construct rock walls from loose rock found onsite.



The new paved road sweeps south-west.



Roly, from Paul Morgan's team, got pretty nifty with this giant rock-plucker-upper.



Nothing happened without Ken Chelsworth's surveying.



After heavy rains, rock wall drainage was fine-tuned and improved, thanks to Mark Hajjar and the guys from Mullum Pools (left) teamed up with Marty (pictured below) from Paul Morgan's team.



(To show how far we've come, the shot at left was taken in the 'early' days of construction on our internal road in 2002. Note pyramids of topsoil scattered like something from a surreal dream along the sky-line.)



A new way in... and a (recycled) bridge



Council required us to widen the entrance to the property from Fowlers Lane. Above and at left, work starts. At right and below, the end result. Thanks to Tom Condon and team for rock work, and Paul Morgan's gang for road construction.



Wherever we could, we recycled. Wood for our 'Welcome Centre' (seen inside entrance at right) came, from Keber in Murwillumbah.



Timber for the bridge over the Sleepy Creek (above Centre) was sourced from ex-RTA bridges along the Bruxner Highway near Tenterfield, while the steel holding up the bridge started life as a railway wagon. We sourced it from South Australia. We made functional use of loose basalt rock found on-site in stone walls and road work.





Infrastructure: Telstra, power, fences



Once the road was done, we needed internal power and phone lines. Country Energy (below) arrived in force to turn us on.



Then we had water tanks to construct (thanks to Frank at Sitecast, above right), and fences to build. Gary Jarrett (above left) is our man.





Planting and mulching, weeding, weed matting, watering



Working to a management plan devised by Firewheel Rainforest Services, we are progressively planting thousands of native trees. Finding that maintenance around our visual and screening buffer zone plantings soon became too time consuming, we now lay weed matting when we plant. Maintenance time has dropped, and our native plants are thriving.



All work and no play makes it hard going. The weed-matting team (Jesse and Cathy, below, with bio-dynamic farmer friend Ajad) takes time out for good behaviour.



Cows are a valued economic component in our community farm. To protect new seedlings from our bovine lawn movers, we use solar powered electric fencing (above).



Working the farm



‘Balancing the triple bottom line!’ Guided by our town planner, Rob Doolan, we’ve spent a lot of time working out how to combine and balance environmental, economic and social considerations in establishing this community. Our cows bring us an income which helps maintain the fences and machinery, such as the delight of 2003: our Shibaru tractor (top left and below), such a help with slashing and property maintenance on our 113 acres (46ha). With help from Steve Jarrett, this year we replaced our ageing stock of 25 breeding cows.



Our ‘special invention’ is the water trailer (at left) which attaches to any ute. One 400-litre tank lets us water newly planted seedlings until they are established, also doubling as a mobile fire pump. Its other 200-litre tank, fitted with a long hose and spray gun (thanks, Farmcare!) help us keep the weeds under control all over the property.



Building our houses

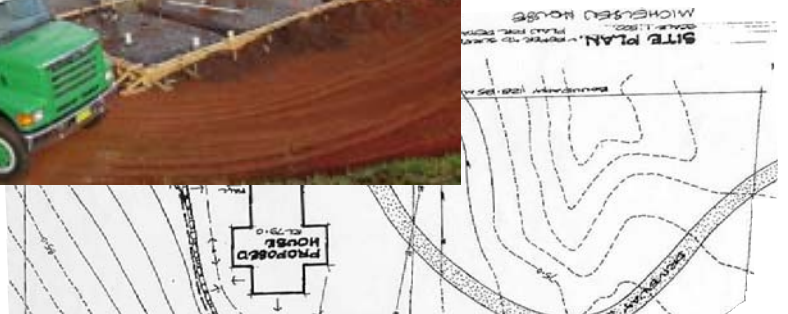


Once Council DAs came through, construction on our houses started in a big way. Penny's relocated Queenslander was first to arrive (above).



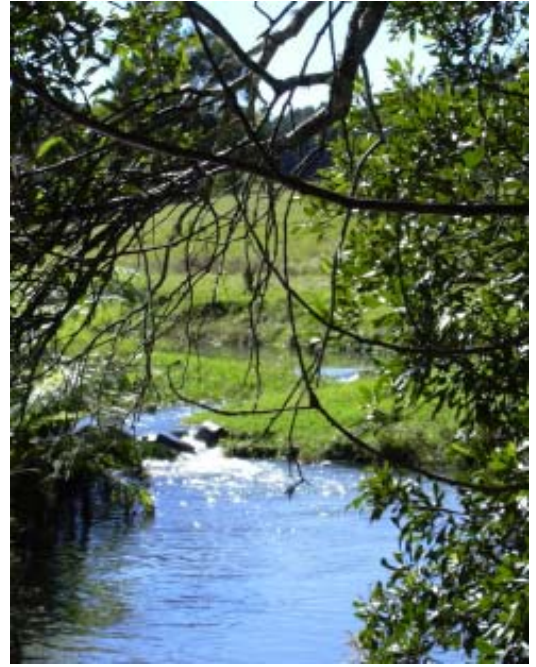
Next to get going was Cathy's north-east facing house on the Sleepy Creek level.

Below, work has begun on the Kahlert's rock water feature and wall (below right) which will give their house a protected northerly grotto, attracting sun and winter warmth. Architect Eddie Buidvis has designed four of our houses to date, starting with the Kahlert's (pictured below).





Appreciating our environment



Dedicated to all those who have helped us to establish Jindibah as a beautiful, functional community, where we can live and work.
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