



Seasons Greetings from Jindibah Community December 2004

THIS YEAR OUR ANNUAL SEASONS GREETINGS card is actually more like a Newsletter for 2004.

The idea is to give all our workmates, colleagues, co-workers, various friends and favoured acquaintances, an idea of what's been happening this year on our intentional community in Fowlers Lane, Bangalow, Australia, over the past 12 months.

If there's a theme for this year it would have to be '**Community living at last!**'

Before this year, we had only two households resident on the Jindibah community. This year - Development Applications, Section 96's, Building Certificates and wastewater systems for new houses having been approved and houses built - our resident population increased by 150%. In other words, five households of Jindi-people now live here, and this year we also sold our last community block (to Warren Buchanan and Nick Jensen), with D.A.s for more houses having been approved.

First of the new households to move in was that of **Penny Cooke** and her daughter **Keira**, located on the "top" (highest) level of the community.

Their re-located Queenslander (*pictured at right*) was the fastest new house to be finished, so Penny and Keira, plus rabbits, chooks and horses, moved onsite in January. They wasted no time in getting the horses into harness and out onto the hills. When she can, Keira is seen riding round the property for up to 11 hours a day.



It seemed to take an awfully long time for the Kahlert's double-brick rendered house to actually finish, but suddenly, construction was finally and beautifully completed - including the garden landscaping.



January 04
First to move into their newly re-constructed house (a re-located Queenslander, above) were Penny and Keira, plus horses, chooks and bunnies.



JINDIBAH 2004 News Update...2

Cathy Michelsen was the next to move into her new home just down from Fowlers Lane itself, on the lower level of the property. Cathy has leaped continents to move here from California, a brave and radical step. She brings her distinct sense of style and colour to the community, as reflected in her airy, spacious home, with a perfect north-east aspect from her verandahs (*pictured at right*).

It seemed to take ages and ages for the **Kahlert's** double-brick rendered home to be finished. Luckily **Stephan and Bettina** were travelling a lot in 2004 while their house was being completed. Mid-year Bettina led a tour of yoga teachers on a 4-week intensive training with an esteemed Iyengar master in India, with Stephan visiting his mother in Germany (with side tours walking through the Austrian Tyrol and Italy). Early in the year, Stephan and Bettina represented Jindibah community when they visited well-established New Zealand intentional community, **Tui**, for the wedding of old friends.

So when Stephan and Bettina finally moved into their new home on the windswept topside of Jindibah (with sensational ocean and lighthouse views - previous page top), **Jesse Blackadder** was also able to move onsite.

For Jesse it's been a very exciting year, travelling first to **Findhorn** in Scotland to experience and learn about life in an internationally reknown eco-village – and to tell Findhorn residents and other international visitors what we're up to here at Jindibah.

After a few months in the freezing north of Britain, she got a real taste for the jet-setting life, and booked in for camel riding in Tunisia and a course of singing and yoga in Tuscany later in the year.

Moving in...



Keira (above) and Penny



April 04: After Penny and Keira arrived, next to move onsite was Cathy Michelsen, whose house (above) is located on the lower level of the property. Her spacious and airy house is perfect for entertaining (below) and indoor-outdoor living. Her love of gardening - in fact all flora and fauna - sees Cathy often working on her garden, in clear view of Jindibah horses and cows.



JINDIBAH 2004 News Update...3

When finally she settled down to life on the farm at Jindibah – after celebrating her 40th birthday in the community shed by the creek, amazingly converted into a ‘Lord of the Rings’ environment for the occasion - Jesse was over the moon to discover her novel, **AFTER THE PARTY** (set in Byron Bay) had been accepted for publication in 2005 by Hardie Grant.

Milestones

This year the community shed by the creek, once known as Harry’s Hall, had a facelift. Surviving the rigours of Council’s Building Certificate process (many thanks for the “advanced training”, Wayne!) the hall has been re-roofed and generally spruced up. Apart from providing the location for Jesse’s 40th birthday party and our various ‘Living at Jindibah’ community workshops with Mullum psychotherapist, Greg McHale, it was also the site for a wonderful celebration of the life and times of Harry Fowler, whose parents Thomas and Selina first bought this property in the early 1900s when the land was still covered in virgin scrub.

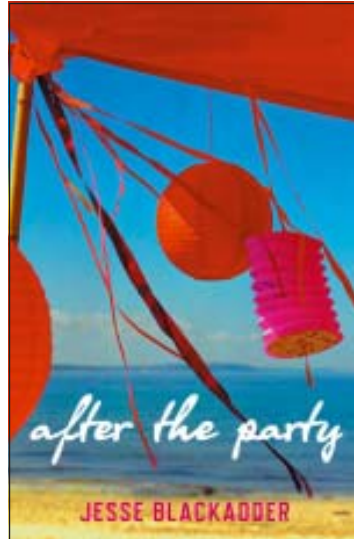
Harry Fowler’s niece Janelle Jarrett was kind enough to open her photo albums for us, which enabled us to scan the life and times of the Fowler family, dating back to the early 20th century.

Harry's 100th Birthday Bash

In honour of **Harry’s 100th birthday** on 26 July 2004 (were he still alive), together with members of Harry’s family and other friends and neighbours, we celebrated and opened a permanent exhibition of photographs of the evolution of the property, located appropriately in the shed he built about 50 years ago as a dance hall for the dairying community of Bangalow.

Keira, another ‘Leo’ (as is Cathy), celebrated her 9th birthday in the shed shortly after Harry’s 100th, and it was a case of ‘BYO pony’.

Getting around...




Jesse Blackadder, above, now settled back into life on Jindibah. Her best-seller-to-be ‘After the Party’ is to be released in 2005. At left, Jesse tries camel riding in Tunisia. Below, out-of-this-world guests arrived to help her celebrate her 40th birthday party.



Stephan (above) hiking round the Austrian Alps while at left, Bettina rounds up yoga teachers to train in India. Evidence of Keira’s BYO pony party (below).

Yoga Travel



Travel to India for Yoga Teacher Training with your own personal tour guide.

Yoga teacher and world traveler, **Bettina Kahleri**, will be taking a group of 9 people to India in July – August 2004 for a month-long **Yoga Teacher Training** with esteemed senior Iyengar teacher, **Dhanavir Mahida Singh**.

Yoga training takes place in a fully equipped Iyengar studio, located in a traditional Indian home, for 6 hours daily, 6 days a week. Maximum class size is 10. Participants will receive a Yoga Teacher Certificate recognised by the Indian Government.

The yoga training component costs (approx.) \$41,000, exact amount related to daily exchange rates.

Luxury accommodation is provided in one of the oldest tree-lined suburbs of the old Raj town of Poona, where British colonialists once spent their summers away from the heat of Bombay. Apartments accommodation, at \$20/night, includes ensuite marble bathroom, kitchen (with safe, purified drinking water on tap), laundry and cleaning services, and phone. Linen provided. Excellent restaurants close by, or a private cook can be arranged.

Children can also be accommodated, with private full-time nanny service available at very reasonable rates.

Airfare approx. \$A1,500, and road transfer from Bombay airport to Poona, a 3 to 4-hour trip, is available for approx. \$74, less if shared with friends.

What else! During your month-long stay in Poona, Bettina can also take you to visit an **Enlightened Being**, or to experience the **Dabo Ashram** in Korigaon Park. Perhaps you would like a **guided shopping** trip to such Indian highlights as the saris markets, or to eat at the most fascinating Indian gourmet restaurants. Cost-effective optical and dental work can also be performed during your stay. An eclectic highlight is a 2-day tour to the World Heritage listed Ellora and Ajanta Caves.

For further information, contact Bettina on (02) 6687 2517 or email her at bettinkah@yahoo.com.au



JINDIBAH 2004 News Update...4

The year 2004 seemed to bring us lots of opportunities to connect with the outside world in various ways. So the community decided to take a punt on entering into the inaugural **Northern Rivers Urban Design Awards 2004**.

Turned out we were the only community who entered the awards from the Byron Shire, and our application was along the theme of 'Do-It-Yourself Community Development', or 'How to transform a 46-ha 90-year old Byron Shire farm into a sustainable 12-dwelling intentional community that's innovative and contemporary'.

Our application outlined the steps we've gone through to convert the property from a run-down dairy farm into a Multiple Occupancy (M.O.), now having applied for conversion to Community Title (C.T.), with distinct zones for agriculture, regeneration and rural living.

Evolution: MO2CT

Together with 19 other M.O. communities in Byron Shire, Jindibah has applied to convert its status from M.O. to C.T. essentially to give us the chance for each shareholder to be able to have title (and thus exclusive ownership) to a distinct area of land within the community. This will give us each greater legal security of tenure, and access to bank finance.

Ultimately, our plan is to have 12 'islands' of private ownership averaging 0.68ha each within the community-owned area of 37ha. The complex conversion procedure is detailed on Byron Council's website <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/> and on the site of the consultant processors, GeoLINK, at <http://www.geolink.net.au/motoc/>

The application to convert from MO2CT took years to prepare, and is taking years to process. It also involved developing an almost intimate working relationship with a range of consultants to supply **Byron Council** and the **Department of Natural Resources and Planning (DIPNR)** – among others - with the necessary reports detailing how we run our community.



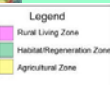
Northern Rivers Urban Design Awards 2004

Project Name:

'Jindibah Intentional Community' Brief Outline



Concept Plan,
Balanced Systems.



Concept/Challenge:

To transform a 46 ha 90-year-old Byron Shire farm into a sustainable, 12-dwelling 'intentional community' that's innovative and contemporary

How?

- From 'Farm' > 'Multiple Occupancy' > 'Community Title'
- Distinct zones for Agriculture + Regeneration + Rural Living

Now?

- DA approved. Five existing households; seven in planning stages
- Privacy (av. 0.68ha x 12 individual lots), yet companionship and support
- Enhancing natural, economic and social capital (37ha community lot)

The new direction?

- 'D.I.Y. community development', by owners for owners

Introductory page to the Jindibah application in the 2004 Northern Rivers Urban Design Awards



Penny's picnic birthday party



New shareholders in 2004: Nick and Warren



JINDIBAH 2004 News Update...5

Reports supplied include the legal framework on which we are structured, or the 'Deed of Agreement' (our thanks to **Walters Solicitors** in Lismore for that epic) which helped us work out how our Management Committee and Neighbourhood Association are structured and operate.

Town Planners **Balanced Systems** (in the guise of **Rob Doolan**) worked with us to put the whole proposal together, with input from **Greg Alderson and Associates** on internal road and wastewater systems design, **Firewheel Rainforest Services** helping us come up with a Environmental Enhancement and Vegetation Management Plan for the property, and **Landmark Ecological Services** helping out with the flora and fauna analysis.

In the outside world

We may be one in a million, but we're also one of 37 other intentional communities in the Byron Shire, represented collectively as the **Rural Landsharing Communities Association (RLCA)**.

Since **Christobel Munson** and **Christopher Sanderson** are on the steering committee of the RLCA, they are always sticking their noses into anything which may affect or benefit both Jindibah and the other communities in the shire. Christobel produces an irregular newsletter to inform the converting communities of relevant news as it happens throughout the conversion process.

The RLCA steering group is in close contact with the Shire's many other communities and meets to discuss matters of common interest, like how to set up the best legal structure for your community; which company offers which type of contemporary waste water treatment system and which is preferred on an intentional community.

Memories of our first 100 years...



This page features images from the permanent exhibition of the history of the first 100 years on Jindibah. Above, swimming in Harry's pool in the 1930s. To right, from the 1970/80s era of pop concerts. Below Harry Fowler, with friends, by the creek pool and around the property.



Harry, in his 80s, in training for his swimming meets (above). Pony club meetings (below) and summer picnics by Sleepy Creek in the 1970s.



JINDIBAH 2004 News Update...6

Back in Bangalow, Christobel has been involved with the **Bangalow Community Alliance** since 2000, which holds forums when matters of concern arise for the people living in the Bangalow 2479-post code area. Early in December, she worked with Bangalow's Heartbeat to stage a Community Forum on the proposed new route of the Pacific Highway through Bangalow, Ewingsdale and Newrybar.

Our fame is also spreading beyond the constraints of Byron Shire or even Australia. In an article in the Summer 04 edition of a quarterly British magazine, 'Living Lightly', readers around the world read how "a small rural Australian community works out a way that allows the people in it to live together in conscious awareness, and to deal effectively with conflict without resorting to cold warfare".

Periodically, **Bangalow's Heartbeat** monthly magazine, also makes mention of the events which pepper life at Jindibah.

Finally: Fowlers Lane is upgraded

Section 94 fees of about \$90,000 paid by Jindibah shareholders, together with a contribution of \$104,000 from the Irecon community at the end of the lane, and a further amount from Byron Council of around \$111,000, meant that long-overdue work to upgrade Fowlers Lane itself took place in the second half of the year.

Grateful Fowlers Lane residents thanked **Cec Charlton** and his hard-working team of Byron Council workers with a barbecue in the Jindibah community shed when work was completed.

Re-roofing the shed...



With a view to maintaining our priceless heritage - the community hall Harry Fowler had constructed in the mid-20th century - this year, we had the roof repaired and strengthened in time to celebrate Harry's 100th birthday in it in July. Fowler family and friends and neighbours came from near and far to help us remember his birthday and pay tribute to the amazing work he did for the community of Bangalow over his long lifetime.



Ray and Janelle Jarrett (above), who kindly opened the Fowler family photo albums so we could put the exhibition together.



Resident Cathy Michelsen (above) chats with neighbour Nell Coles at the opening.



JINDIBAH 2004 News Update...7

Viva Jindi-Net!

Utilising advances in technology to make life and work easier has been a theme of life at Jindibah. Resident computer-addict Christopher has a special knack of discerning what advances in technology could help us all in our daily lives. This year, his most satisfying project was the establishment of Jindi-Net.

Jindi-Net pioneers the concept of a non-profit, community-owned and cooperatively operated **wireless broadband network**. It brings fast internet access at about two-thirds of normal commercial rates to any interested residents of Jindibah and the Sleepy Creek catchment area.

Following a mention in **Bangalow's Heartbeat** of our intention to establish a broadband network, Chris received a phone call from Newrybar resident, Leon Cornwell, who runs a company called **Advatel**, and works closely with Lennox Header Dainen Keogh, of **World Without Wires**. And the show was (almost) on the road.

After a three-month trial period, we now have "happy users" from Coolamon Scenic Drive, down Fowlers Lane and on to Possum Creek able to access much faster download times 24-hours a day, keeping costs way down by working together as a small collective. Neighbouring teenager, **Kynan Dwyer**, helps with user technical support, while **Ted King** (at King's Coffee up the lane) keeps an (online) eagle eye on the finances. By year-end, we hope to also include users in Friday Hut Road.

With Jindi-Net in place, residents are now preparing to be able to add **Voice over IP (VoIP)** to the services already received, as that technology emerges. **VoIP** allows phone use via the internet, reducing phone call costs by 50%. As well as speedy internet access, Jindi-Net provides users with a private network where music, video and other data, can easily be shared as well.

Upgrading Fowlers Lane...



After two communities in Fowlers Lane paid Council Section 94 contributions, Council was able to upgrade 1000m of Fowlers Lane, sealing it, and making it wider and safer. Jindibah also contributed about 800 sq m of land (a sharp corner in front of the property) to improve the safety of the new road. Work started in August (above) and was completed by November. The end was celebrated with a barbecue the Jindibah community shed (bottom right).



The end result? The best dead-end lane in the Shire.

...and a Happy New Year!

From all of us here at Jindibah – both onsite residents and residents-in-waiting – we would like to wish you a very Happy Holiday season, and an exciting year ahead.

We'd also like to thank all of those people who have worked with us to establish Jindibah as a beautiful, functional community.



An article in U.K. magazine LIVING LIGHTLY (above) describes Jindibah's in-house workshops.



World Without Wires' Dainen Keogh (above) briefs Jindi-Net subscribers in the nuts and bolts of how the wireless broadband network works.

We are kept informed about MO2CT news via the RLCA newsletters (below)



Rooftop aerials (above) connect subscribers to broadband via a wireless network.



Stephan and Bettina

Jindibah Community, Sleepy Creek, Bangalow, NSW 2479
 is a 12-house site Multiple Occupancy intentional community located on a 46ha farm in Fowlers Lane, Bangalow.
 For more information, see www.jindibah-community.org, or email DIY@jindibah-community.org