

Botanical Book Newsletter Extract

Issue 2: January 2000

WET WET WOODFORD

Well the Botanic Book team survived their first big adventure. Launching the project and running workshops at the recent Woodford folk Festival. Lesa, Annette and Armahnya were busy talking to interested Festival visitors, making paper and keeping the workplace in order under difficult conditions.

Papermaking is normally a wet activity, but three days of heavy rain had us all getting out the gum boots and learning how to mud ski. Working in these conditions added character to the resulting papers.

HARVESTING

Harvesting has been very fruitful to date. This includes milkweed from Woodford. Cotton tree (*hibiscus tiliaceae*) stems, day lily (*hemerocallis aurantiaca*) and Ismene leaves (*hymenocallis x festalis*) from Redcliffe. Also a haul of mulberry (*morus nigra*) and Cotton Rose (*hibiscus mutabilis*) stems from Beerwah.

The best stems for bast fibre sources are those that are still supple and no thicker than your index finger. Leaf fibres should always be taken from the outer leaves of plants like lilies, pandanus and palms.

INTRODUCING

Kevin Lang - Kevin is a professional photographer. Kevin also operates the **10 Artspace** gallery at Palmwoods. Kevin will shortly be returning to his favourite photographic territory - South East Asia.

Christine Ballinger - Christine is a highly experienced papermaker, working from her studio and gallery **Flaxton Mill**. Christine tutored in papermaking for years. She has studied and worked in Japan and the United States and will run the Noosa Workshops after returning from a solo exhibition in Vienna.

Wendy Birrell - Wendy lives in Cooroy and has been involved with the Cooroy Butter Factory for 2 years as workshop coordinator.

Ngaire MacLeod - Ngaire since 1988 has pursued her long time love of beautiful paper and creative books. For the last two years Ngaire has run workshops in the community, exhibited in Brisbane and is currently Secretary of the Papermakers of Queensland.

Kay Schiefelbein - an artist and permaculturalist closely involved with the development and management of the Cooroy Butter Factory permaculture garden.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Milkweed - this common pasture weed is found throughout South East Queensland and the Pacific generally. Milkweed is one of the food plants for the Wanderer butterfly and the source of a very beautiful paper fibre.