

# Botanical Book Newsletter Extract

Issue 3: May 2000

## Workshops Unlimited

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All the first stage one workshops have been completed with mountains of paper produced in Redcliffe, Caboolture and Cooroy. Lesa Hepburn, Christine Ballinger, Wendy Birrell, Ngaire MacLeod and Penny Hudson were very busy with a varied group of excited participants.

### New papermaker Glenys Collin from Maleny at the Caboolture Historical Village

(Photo: Lesa Hepburn)



## THANK YOU

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Many thanks to all the people and organisations whose help has been invaluable to date, including:

**Lyle Morgan**, President, Horticultural Society - Caboolture Historical Village; and

**Ken Newlove**, printery collection - Caboolture Historical Village

**The Great South East**, Channel 7

### Bast Fibres & Formation Aid

CHRISTINE BALLINGER-

Tutor: Botanical papers workshop at the Cooroy Butter Factory.

A number of bast fibre papers were made by the 10 participants at the Cooroy Workshops. Bast fibre is the inner bark of phloem (nutrient conducting tissues) of the plant and is collected from plant types that have a woody core. The hand papermaker cannot use the woody core and this must be discarded, for if used it will create wood-chips in the pulp. Also avoid trying to remove the bast fibre from plant material where the outer bark has become too thick, too old and lignified.

Bast fibres are very long thin fibres (although each plant species has bast fibre with its own distinctive physical character) and results in papers that can be very sheer and still have exceptional strength. the length of the bast fibre causes problems during sheet forming because the pulp is quick draining and knots easily.

A formation aid is normally used in the vat to slow draining and reduce knotting for such pulps. Substances which act as formation aids can be based on Okra, Aloe, Abelmoschus manihot, Rosella pods, prickly pear or synthetic substances.

## **INTRODUCING**

**Maayken** - a poet and bookbinder and recent papermaking convert. Maayken lives and works on Bribie island and will be running a bookbinding workshop called **“An Alternative Way of Publishing: “A HaNDMADE BOOK”**