

TOPIC : “AUSSIE EROSION GARDEN PRODUCTS”

GUEST SPEAKER : STEPHEN BERRY

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 25 JULY, 2017 UNDER THE OLD WITTA SCHOOL

- Stephen recently became interested in the horticultural aspects arising from erosion
- Based in Yandina, started his business under the house 10 years ago
- Now has 2 large sheds and 6 staff and works for many local councils in SEQ, Ballina and Parks Dept at Mt Kosciusko who bought coir mesh and pots by semitrailer load
- Stephen’s company provides environmental solutions protecting creeks and waterways as the build up of silt has a massive effect
- Silt sediment on leaves of aquatic plants affects photosynthesis and plants die
- Installing coir blankets helps councils and developers to comply with rules
- South African land owner constructing a road on his property on Murdering Creek Rd affected 100m x 5m wide Melaleuca wetland and Lake Weyba. Seed was spread then covered with coir blankets and is now sprouting. Land owner had to pay for damage
- Creek stabilisation project successfully undertaken at Little Mountain
- Silt fence installation for sediment control to protect creek at Reesville after road build
- SB was always interested in the environment - studied plant husbandry but became a chef for 10 years. Then went to TAFE and studied conservation and land management, erosion and land degradation - now imports coir from India and Sri Lanka
- Coir comes from between outer coat and coconut shell. Fibre, peat and chip also come from coconuts. Coir chips last 2-3 years longer than sugar cane mulch
- Indian Government invited SB’s company to attend Coir Product Expo as guests
- Visited coconut fibre processing plant, which supplies his company, where 4 men making a coir log take 10 minutes. Retail here at \$24.20 for 1.5m log: \$44 for 3m log
- Workers crush coconuts in antique crusher with their hands. Dust masks not used and fingers are lost in process separating fines (peat) and fibre. India is a land of contrasts
- In coir log process coir is manually pummelled into 200mm diameter mesh cylinder
- Fibre is processed into twine and woven into mats, blankets and mesh retainer barriers for disturbed soils until revegetation occurs. Mesh is biodegradable but lasts 2-3 years depending on position/climatic conditions - purifies water flowing into creek
- Currently exploring biodegradable pins made of corn starch to replace metal ones for attaching mesh
- Native Lomandra is very good plant for creek banks – withstands flood flow
- SB also uses hessian and jute which is finer and cheaper and doesn’t last as long as coir
- Hydromulching – one step process where seed, fertiliser, mulch and a binder/tackifier are combined with water to form a slurry to spray over large areas of disturbed soil to achieve grass coverage
- Compressed coir logs control erosion, provide a micro climate for plant establishment, promoting balanced, healthy regeneration of habitat
- Immerse grow poles in Seasol and attach orchids, broms. Good for vertical gardens

CONTACT : AUSSIE EROSION, 19 CENTRAL PARK DRIVE, YANDINA QLD 4561. PH 07 5315 5431

info@aussieerosion.com.au aussieerosion.com.au

PRODUCTS : pots, grow poles, block coir peat, coir blankets, coir mesh, coir logs, jute mesh, jute mat squares

END