

Permaculture Sydney North

Permaculture North Incorporated Est. Nov 1992 Reg No Y 16179-17
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PSN News

Volume 17 No 7 | August 2009

Public meetings of Permaculture North take place in the evening on the 3rd Monday of the month with a great speaker every time from February to November. December is the AGM, auction and end-of-year party.

Visitors welcome – \$5 suggested minimum donation

Ku-ring-gai Centre for Seniors, 259 Pacific Highway, Lindfield next to the Library, 5 minutes walk from the station.

7.00pm doors open

7.30pm speaker's talk begins

9.00pm PN business meeting

9.30pm refreshments

Next meeting

Monday 17 August, 2009:

Geoff Lawton

Earth's ecosystems are in crisis. Permaculture offers practical, sustainable solutions. Come listen to Geoff Lawton speak about permaculture design solutions used for carbon capture, carbon neutral cities, brand new sustainable cities, establishing life in the soil, and much much more!

Welcome new members

Welcome to you all. Please make yourselves at home, introduce yourselves to everyone, and join in with one or more of the teams.

Start perhaps by making a new start by joining a team or your local group to explore, meet like minded people and let PSN expand your knowledge

Healthy web statistics

Our website gets over 900 visits per month. Get the word out for your local Permaculture event by mailing events@permaculturenorth.org.au

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

Please consider letting PSN know your new / changed contact details in order to keep up with the latest information. Please forward your new details to comms@permaculturenorth.org.au

Next news deadline

PN news for next edition due **5pm 3rd Friday** of each month

Expand your horizons! Find out about Geoff's permaculture approaches and experiences in his exciting positive world change adventure. Permaculture design solutions used for carbon capture, carbon neutral cities, brand new sustainable cities, establishing life in the soil, and much much more. Geoff Lawton is world renowned for field expertise and extensive teaching experience in the ecological "badlands" of Earth, areas of extreme cultural conflicts, as well as more friendly environments. Founding Director of the far reaching Permaculture Research Institute.

Geoff is working in more countries and co-ordinating more projects on the ground than any other Permaculture Teacher/Designer today. Permaculture Consultant, Designer & Teacher, Geoff was awarded a Diploma of Permaculture Design in 1995. In 1996 he was accredited with the Permaculture Community Services Award by the Permaculture movement for services in Australia and around the world.

Since 1985, Geoff has undertaken thousands of jobs consulting, designing, teaching and implementing in seventeen different countries around the world. Geoff and his wife Nadia have just finished a cross country lecture and workshop tour of the United States and are presently travelling through the Middle East in route to set up an eco-village there, perhaps the first in the Islamic world. Clients have included private individuals, groups, communities, governments, aid organisations, non government organisations and multi-national companies.

In October 1997 Bill Mollison, upon his retirement, asked Geoff to establish and direct a new Permaculture Research Institute on the 66 hectare Tagari Farm previously developed by Bill. Geoff Lawton further developed the site over three years and established The Permaculture Research Institute as a registered charity and global Networking centre for Permaculture projects. Geoff Lawton is the managing director of The Permaculture Research Institute.

...Geoff Lawton coming to PSN
...Permaculture Sydney South launch
...PSN team reports
...and more news inside



Presidents report :



Penny Pyett

Geoff Lawton over Two Nights only! **Monday 17th August PSN Meeting – Lindfield OR** **Tuesday 18th August PSS Meeting -- Leichhardt**

BE PREPARED! This meeting will be cram packed so get there early to secure a seat, bring your own or be prepared to stand. Geoff will also be appearing at Leichhardt Town Hall Tue 20th.
Cost: Free for all financial P'c North, P'c South and P'c West members \$10 for non-members and guests.

Next PN Regional Meeting Monday 21st September
Michel & Jude Fanton, founders of the Seed Savers Network and two of the world's most passionate seed savers come to PN. Don't Miss this one either !!!!!

Upcoming Event Launch of Southern Regional Permaculture Group

Permaculture Sydney South with Geoff Lawton as guest of honour and main speaker. Tuesday 18th August 7pm Leichhardt Town Hall Cnr Marion & Norton Leichhardt. Across the Harbour and the mighty Parramatta River (where many of us fear to tread) a large formidable force is developing. Permaculture Sydney South or PSS is swelling up with people from the southern, eastern and inner city shores flocking to Permaculture. PSS is a regional group the same as PN with a regional management committee covering the central, southern and eastern Sydney Region. Currently it is made up of several local group hubs throughout its region – Permaculture City & Eastern suburbs, Permaculture Inner West and Permaculture St George & Sutherland. While this group has been developing (since APC9) and doing lots of amazing activities over the past 12 months, it has not had an official public launch and formalized its membership. The management committee and Permaculture activists that have made this happen include Vicki Ferekos as President, Matt Heffernan as Vice President; Loki Yesbart as Secretary, Peter Driscoll as Treasurer, Stephen Webster Resources Manager and Caroline Aow Webmaster. This group is growing fast and promises to be a formidable force with Permaculture North who together will cover a large proportion of the Sydney Basin. It is another amazing story in Permaculture history just waiting to be told. Please come to the launch to support and acknowledge this new regional group. Meet the people, hear their dreams and share in their celebration and praise their amazing efforts to date. Geoff Lawton will be the guest speaker for the evening and do the official launch. Bring your family and friends and tell anyone who lives in the area. PSS has invited all PN members to attend this special occasion for free.

Other coming events

There are many positive and exciting pc events in coming months.

AUGUST Transition Town Training 8th 9th 12th 15th & 16th August. Only a couple of places left so book in now 9888 2575;

Geoff Lawton guest speaker PN Meeting 17 th

Geoff Lawton and Launch of Permaculture Sydney South (Tues 18th) the new Permaculture group covering the Southern Region of Sydney (City, Inner West; Eastern suburbs and Southern districts.)

Gardening Australia Expo 28th – 30th (Help needed to construct display register with Peter Brecknock PN Shows Team Leader)

SEPTEMBER Seed Saving Workshop with Jude and Michele Fanton Saturday 26th September Jude & Michele Fanton guest speakers at PN regional meeting 21st September

OCTOBER Balcony Garden Day 25th

NOVEMBER DIY Day 3rd + PN weekend Tour of Permaculture properties.

Transition Towns comes to Permaculture North

The third wave of Permaculture is breaking over the world and now Transition Towns has hit PN. We may have missed Bowral and felt left in the dark but the sunshine came to us. Janet Millington co-founder of Transition Sunshine Coast, Australia's first Transition Town and the first outside the UK, is working with reps from all our PN Local Groups on transition facilitation, initiatives and action. Janet now has 2 years of experience in working with committed and visionary groups in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada who are anxious to ensure a smooth ride as we face the twin challenges of Peak Oil and Climate Change. The series of Facilitating Transition Workshops, subsidized by PN was fully booked as our movers and shakers committed to two full weekends and a Wednesday night of positive local action planning. "There's no doom and gloom here", reported Dorothy who was very excited to hear so much good news about positive action and about being given the tools to make it happen. Other participants reported the weekend was fun, interactive, stimulating

and life changing - with interesting workshops like "Breakdown or Break Through", "Not Another Bloody Group" and "Transition Begins at Home". We look forward to reporting more at the end of the month.



...Presidents report (continued)

...September is for Seed Saving!



Presidents report continued:



Permaculture North Seed Savers Network meets the 4th Saturday of the month at:

BIDJIWONG COMMUNITY NURSERY BAULKHAM HILLS. Rear of Ted Horwood Reserve car park. Enter from Renown Road opposite Baulkham Hills Sports Club

TIME: 9am-12 noon

BRING: notebook, pen, hat, gloves, your own cup

CONTACT

Jannine Ord

Local Seed Network Co-ordinator

Permaculture North Seed Savers Network

PH: 02 9940 3481 Mob: 0432 333 769

Email: jord_55@optusnet.com.au

<http://www.permaculturenorth.org.au> <http://www.seedsavers.net>

Wolfgang Uhl

Seedbank Manager, Permaculture North Seed Savers Network

Ph: 0420 974 628 Email: wolf58@ozemail.com.au

The Seed Savers Network promotes the practice of seed saving and organises the preservation, free distribution and exchange of open-pollinated seeds. We are neither a commercial enterprise nor a mail order seed company. Seed Savers is a non-profit NGO that is active locally, nationally and internationally.

September is the month for Seed Saving. Book in early to talks, films and seed saving workshops happening across Sydney with two of the most beautiful and famous seed savers in the world - Jude and Michel Fanton.

Permaculture Sydney and Seedsavers Network Present Sydney's – Seed Saving Workshops Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September.

Saturday 26th General Seed Saving Workshop – covering all aspects of seed saving from collecting, cleaning, storing and sowing. A practical and fun workshop for all. Venue and costs for workshops tba. See PN website & September newsletter for more details. Call Penny to book 9888 2575. Then

Sunday 27th September Advanced Seed Saving Workshop including how to set up Seed Saving Networks and how to train others in seed saving. Bidjiwong Community Nursery Baulkham Hills. (See address above)

Gardening Australia Expo Aug 28th – 30th

With just a few days left to go before the BIG Gardening Australia Expo PN urgently needs all hands on board to help with the staffing, bump in and bump out of our BIG Permaculture display. PN's shows team have produced a very ambitious, visionary and perhaps controversial design this year which is sure to win over non-believers to Permaculture and recruit new members. Ring Suzanne from the Shows Team on 0422 014332 suzanne@eyenet.com.au to book your place on the roster. Shifts are 4 hours each either morning 9am - 1pm or afternoon 1pm - 5pm. If you have any large fruiting specimen trees or productive plants you could lend us please also let Suzanne know. Help is also needed to erect and dismantle the display Thurs 27th August & Mon 31st.

PSN Permafides - Wanted

Home urgently needed for the PN Permavan. We need to find a new home for our Permavan. Do you have somewhere secure we could it for a short, medium or long term? We need to move it from our current home before 28th August. The position should be safe and secure from vandalism. If you think of anything please let Penny know - 9888 2575



...Garden team report
...PN positions vacant





Andrea Pape

Garden team report :

The Garden Team has been powering through winter with big teams turning up for some great projects:

June - a large party of intrepid permies met on a rainsoaked day at Libby's house in Turrumurra. Despite the drizzle we designed and dug out 2 swale systems in her front yard to capture and distribute overflows from a rain-water tank - while it was overflowing! We planted the swales out with fruit trees and acacia nurse trees, which will eventually mature into a stable, self watering food forest. The team also re-vamped Libby's herb spiral and mulched her entire backyard with newspaper and leaves so no more lawn mowing for Libby!



July - a resourceful team converged at Keelah and Alec's house in Fairlight to give it a quick spruce up and install some new garden beds. There's a lot of shade in the backyard, and so we focused on making sunny areas as productive as possible. We built two raised garden beds in sun patches - one lined with re-used bricks, the other made from an old wooden boat raised on a recycled cinder block and brick plinth. We planted these out with lettuce, winter vegies, herbs and strawberries. The team also sheet mulched some problem weed areas, chopped down a non-fruiting banana tree to let in some sun, and built some stairs to improve access to the garden water collected from the first flush devices on the rainwater tank. Keelah and Alec's house is a brilliant example of how we can live sustainably - you can check it out on Sustainable House Day in August.

The next permabee will be at Karonga School in Epping on Sunday, August 23rd. If you are interested in joining the Garden Team or hearing more about future projects, please email me at garden@permaculturenorth.org.au or come and see me after the Permaculture North meeting on August 17.

Sydney Coastal Ecovillage

Just wanted to tell you about a beautiful piece of land that we have our eye on and you may be interested in this too. The Sydney Coastal Ecovillage Inc is focused on buying a property a little way north of Sydney at Narara (easy train ride), working to develop it sustainably and then selling dwellings and blocks in the usual way. It is currently the Gosford Horticultural Research Institute, owned by the NSW government and already zoned for residential development. If you would like to know more about the project, please look at our website (www.scev.org) to see if there is any resonance for you and please join our mailing list so you can keep an eye on this ground-breaking project.

Earlier this year, we enjoyed a presentation by an American student of permaculture who used the Narara land and the project for her final report. Her powerpoint presentation is down loadable from our website....i think you would enjoy it.

Please contact me any time for a chat or a coffee: Lyndall Parris (02) 9953 6699, 0419279711 Lyndall@scev.org

PN POSITIONS VACANT – can you help?

PR & Media – someone to help Promote PSN activities & do Media Releases

Raffle Organiser – PSN is looking for a person to organize and run a one-off major raffle to be drawn at the upcoming DIY Day in October. PN also needs someone to run regular minor raffles at PSN meetings. If you can assist please talk to Barry Thompson

Submission Writer – someone who will help with funding submissions See Barry

Librarian – assist Jill and Barbara with our PSN Library at monthly PSN meetings.

Historian – someone to document PSN activities and maintain a scrap book.

Photographer – PSN would like to film its great work at activities such as permabees, living skills, our balcony garden day DIY Day and other shows and events; we need someone to help film our PSN activities and to train others how to do this important job.

Call Penny if you can help us with any of these important jobs. 9888 2575.

Thanks to those who volunteered for positions at the last meeting.

Speak to Penny if you can help us with any of these important jobs.

...PN Local groups



PSN Local groups

PSN Hornsby co-ordinator | Lucinda Coates | (W) 9850 6312, (H) 9869 8256; best to email lcoates@els.mq.edu.au | Come and check us out!

From August, our meetings will be held on the second (not fourth) Saturday of the month, in line with the other local groups. Some other dates/projects are below:

- Aug 26 & 30; Sep 2, 9, 13 & 16: free TAFE Outreach Intro Permaculture course for anyone interested in becoming involved with the proposed Epping Community Garden at Dence Park. Contact Lucinda for more info.
- Now that Hornsby North Primary School has finished its TAFE Outreach Intro Permaculture course, some members will be volunteering their time to help out at the new garden. Again, contact Lucinda for details.

PSN Ku-ring-gai co-ordinator | Diana Watson |

Balcony Day - Ku-ring-gai Council has generously granted us \$2,000 to help with our Permaculture Balcony Education Day on Sunday 25 October. This will be a big project and we shall need a great deal of help from members of PSN. If you would like to take part in the planning of this wonderful day or contribute some ideas please come to our first planning meeting at Penny's House on Monday 10 August at 7.00pm.

Pigeon Droppings – A member has kindly offered highly nitrogenous racing pigeon droppings for composting. Contact Diana Watson 9416 2929 for details.

Political Representations – We visited Brendan Nelson and Barry O'Farrell to discuss climate change and let them know what PSN is doing for the community. We received a warm welcome from both members of Parliament.

Details of our 2nd Saturday of the month meetings are sent by email to members who live in the Ku-ring-gai, please contact Diana, 9416 2929, if you do not receive a notice.

PSN Lane Cove co-ordinator | Mandy Stubbs |

Permaculture Sydney North – Lane Cove, is turning out to be a very dynamic, interesting and fun group, and I'm honoured to be a part of it. Come along and join us if you are nearby. Contact Mandy on 9436 2891.

PSN North Sydney co-ordinator | Peter Pezzolesi |

PN North Sydney Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at The Coal Loader, Waverton. Please contact Peter on for details.

PSN Ryde/Hunters Hill co-ordinator | Rosemary Hadaway | 9809 1253(H) | rosemary.hadaway@gmail.com |

This is a busy time as we move into festival and fete season. The Ryde group had a very successful stall at the Hunters Hill Moocooboola festival on Sunday 2nd August, and will also be present at the Putney Public School fete on Sunday 9th August. Our next meeting will be Saturday 5th September for the usual seasonal working bee at Ryde TAFE demonstration Permaculture Garden (entry from Parkes St) 1.30 pm. All welcome. Ryde Council has announced its Spring Garden Competition with a best Edible Garden category (vegetable garden, permaculture garden, pots and planters). We are all about to roll up our sleeves and get busy! Why not check your local council garden competition?

PSN Warringah co-ordinator | Cameron Little |

We have set ourselves a challenging target of 200 people on our contacts list by the end of 2009 so if you have a friend or family member who live in the Warringah or Pittwater council areas we would love to hear from them!

warringah_coord@permaculturenorth.org.au <mailto:warringah_coord@permaculturenorth.org.au>

Permaculture Warringah Google Group: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/permaculturewarringah>

We meet the last Thursday each month 7pm – 10pm in the Berry Hall at the Tramshed Arts and Community Centre, 1935 Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen. Just turn up if you live in this area and bring a friend. Contact Cameron Little for more info on 0414 385 644.

Advocacy team update



Barry Hadaway

Since the July Newsletter was published the Advocacy Team has met with the Leader of the Opposition in the NSW Parliament, Barry O'Farrell. Diana Watson, Keelah Lam and I met with Barry O'Farrell, on 13 July 2009, to discuss Climate Change. The main message we conveyed was that Climate Change is a State Issue.



While there has been a lot of talk about the federal government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, most 'policy levers' relevant to Climate Change are controlled by the States. For example the States control electricity generation and agriculture policy. We presented a 'table' to Barry O'Farrell, which shows: various areas of State Government policy, actions that could be taken at State level and the benefits for addressing Climate Change and for promoting Sustainability. This table may be viewed on the PSN website.

Our next task is to prepare a submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry looking at the proposed sale of land at the Hurlstone Agricultural High School at Glenfield. It would help the cause if PSN members were to make some personal submissions to the inquiry. You don't have to write a lot – just tell them they should be keeping this invaluable educational facility intact, and not selling any land at all.

Beyond the Hurlstone Inquiry Submission we will be following up on our representations to Penny Wong regarding Climate Change.

The Advocacy Team meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3 Yerong Street, Ryde, commencing at 7.30pm. Any PSN member who would like to come along will be most welcome.

Allsun Farm Tour – October 31 - November 1 2009

The end of year tour this year will be to Allsun Farm on the weekend of October 31 and November 1. Allsun farm is the home of the Gundaroo tiller and is located at Gundaroo NSW, not far from Canberra. More details and the itinerary for the tour will be available in the next newsletter. For more information on Allsun farm go to <http://www.allsun.com.au>.

Tickets will go on sale at the August PSN meeting.

Invitation to the launch of *Permaculture Sydney South* by Geoff Lawton

The Power of Permaculture:

Designing the first carbon-neutral city in the world

Permaculture Sydney South is the regional permaculture group covering the central, southern and eastern Sydney region. Currently it is made up of several local group hubs - City, Eastern suburbs, St George, Sutherland & Inner West. Come to celebrate our official launch with Geoff Lawton and join one of our local groups.

Geoff Lawton, international permaculturist has travelled the globe for almost 30 years, sharing the teachings of permaculture with individuals, families, communities, cities and nations. His consistent application of permaculture principles has transformed environmental, social and economic systems globally.



Hear about the same principles that Geoff applies in diverse settings: **from**

Greening the desert in Jordan

to

Transforming Macedonian refugee camps into **self-reliant communities**

& now

Designing the first ever **carbon neutral city** in Abu Dhabi.

Learn how we can apply permaculture principles in the city and suburbs.

Meet Geoff & celebrate the launch of *Permaculture Sydney South*:

When: Tuesday 18 August 2009. 6.45 for 7pm-9.30pm, supper provided.

Where: Leichhardt Town Hall, cnr Norton and Marion St.

Cost: Free for Permaculture Sydney South members, otherwise \$10.

RSVP: Thursday 13 August 2009 via email to yicki.f@hotmail.com

Membership: Phone Peter 0412679215 or email Vicki yicki.f@hotmail.com



...Fundraising team report
...Shows team report



Fundraising team report



Barry Thompson

Willoughby Council awarded PSN a Community Grant to run this year's Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Day on Saturday October 3 at the Dougherty Centre in Chatswood. Congratulations to Penny and Penny on the successful application. Planning for the event is now underway within the Education Team to fill the spaces in this large new venue.

Plans are firming to reintroduce a raffle at each monthly meeting. There have been some great suggestions for prizes. Trying to get them together, we're now thinking of offering a choice as follows:

1st prize

- a \$25 box of organic fruit and veges, delivered to your home for two weeks of your choice OR
- an organic lamb pack to the value of \$50 – available for collection from Chatswood on a Saturday of your choice OR
- books from the PSN bookstore to the value of \$50

OR

- a \$50 Bunnings gift voucher (for gardening tools or consumables)

2nd prize

- a \$25 box of organic fruit and veges, delivered to your home for one week of your choice

- a \$25 Bunnings gift voucher

3rd prize

- a Permaculture calendar from the PSN Bookstore (pre-christmas)

We think the idea of organic food prizes is timely, given the gap in the supply chain caused by the closure of the MACRO chain (Sam, the organic butcher in Naremburn, has closed recently also). By allowing the winner to choose the timing of receiving their prize, the issue of a sudden surplus of food (on a Monday night) is avoided.

Your feedback on these ideas, or additional thoughts would be welcome.

Shows team report



Peter Brecknock

Gardening Australia Expo. URGENT

PN needs helpers to staff our Permaculture display at the Gardening Australia Expo 28th, 29th and 30th August.

Ring Suzanne from the Shows Team on 0422 014332 suzanne@eyenet.com.au to book your place on the roster. Shifts are 4 hours each either morning 9am - 1pm or afternoon 1pm - 5pm.

If you have any large fruiting specimen trees or productive plants you could lend us please also let suzanne know. Help is also needed to erect and dismantle the display Thursday 27th August and Monday 31st.

Peter Brecknock | 0418 209 307 | Fundraising-Team@permaculturenorth.org.au

Office-Bearers 2009

President	Penny Pyett	9888 2575	president@permaculturenorth.org.au
Vice-President	Doug Taylor	0427 552 030	vice-president@permaculturenorth.org.au
Secretary	Elizabeth Crichton	0415 127 047	secretary@permaculturenorth.org.au
Treasurer	Geoffrey Hawker	9888 2575	treasurer@permaculturenorth.org.au

Team Leaders 2009

Advocacy	Barry Hadaway	9809 1253	advocacy@permaculturenorth.org.au
Communications	Adam Littman	0421 860 097	comms@permaculturenorth.org.au
Education	Penny Goldin	9978 4024	education@permaculturenorth.org.au
Fundraising	Barry Thompson	9412 3296	fundraising@permaculturenorth.org.au
Gardens	Andrea Pape	0402 561 036	garden@permaculturenorth.org.au
Living Skills	Marise McIntosh	0409 401 136	livingskills@permaculturenorth.org.au
Shows	Peter Brecknock	0418 209 307	shows@permaculturenorth.org.au

Local Group co-ordinators

Hornsby	Lucinda Coates	9869 8256	hornsby_coord@permaculturenorth.org.au
Ku-ring-gai	Diana Watson	9416 2929	kuringgai_coord@permaculturenorth.org.au
Lane Cove	Mandy Stubbs	9436 2891	lane_cove_coord@permaculturenorth.org.au
North Sydney	Claire Hanley	9955 2703	north_sydney_coord@permaculturenorth.org.au
Ryde	Rosemary Hadaway	9809 1253	ryde_coord@permaculturenorth.org.au
Warringah	Cameron Little	0414 385 644	warringah_coord@permaculturenorth.org.au

Other key positions

Librarians	Barbara Shields	9948 8756	bishields@smartchat.net.au
	Jill Fisher	9949 1117	jillianf@ozemail.com.au
Graphic designer	Sandy Aureli	9953 4816	aureli@tpg.com.au
Membership Sec.	Ian Watson	9416 2929	watsonianr@netscape.net
Meet-n-greeter	Lainey Brecknock	9416 8560	elainebreck@hotmail.com
Seed Bank Manager	Jannine Ord	9940 3481	jord55@optusnet.com.au
Excursions co-ord	Deb Bryce	9747 5180	debryc@anatomy.usyd.edu.au
Webmaster	Greg Bell	-	grogbell@gmail.com
Returning officer	Geoffrey Hawker	9888 2575	geoffrey.hawker@mq.edu.au
Perma-van co-ord	Cameron Little	0414 385 644	cameronlittle@hotmail.com

