



April 2010  
Vol 18 N° 3

### PSN Permaculture Design Course !

Penny Pyett and PSN is running a 2 week PSN Permaculture Design Course from March 29, for those interested in comprehensive permaculture training for design work and teaching.

The PDC will culminate in a visit to see design principles at work on broad acre and suburban permaculture sites on the South Coast. Penny is a brilliant teacher and her courses consistently produce high quality permaculture practitioners with outstanding design skills - please contact Penny Pyett for details.

### PSN Permaculture Introduction Course !

PSN is putting on an Introduction to Permaculture Course on April 17 - 18. Kimbriki Eco Garden in Terrey Hills.

### Coming Up

PSN Meeting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April : Guest Speaker Dr Terry Leahy - *IPC9 Problems and Solutions for Africa*

Permaculture Sydney Display at Royal Easter Show April 1

PSN Permaculture Design Course starts March 29

PSN Permaculture Introduction Course: April 17/18.

Fundraising team meeting - April 22nd starting at 7.30pm.

### National Permaculture Day - May 1

Creative Facilitation Workshop with Robin Clayfield: May

Permaculture Design for Fire Protection Workshop: September

APC10 Cairns: September

## Presidents Report

This coming month is a huge one for Permaculture Sydney North. Every month more and more people are seeking us out, and our membership is growing with people looking for practical solutions for environmental sustainability. While there are a lot of things that concern us in the news about the direction we're headed with population growth, consumption, climate change, the great thing about permaculture is that we are a growing network of people who are actively engaging in permaculture projects. I am constantly inspired by the knowledge, creativity and passion of our members, and would encourage you all to get out to PSN activities, learn from each other and enjoy getting active in practical sustainability.

PSN is putting on an Introduction to Permaculture Course on April 17 and 18 at the Kimbriki Eco Garden in Terrey Hills. It's very rare to have an Intro Course in the Northern Beaches local area, and it's a great opportunity for PSN members to learn the basic Permaculture principles, design concepts and practical aspects of building and maintaining a productive system. The Kimbriki Eco Garden in Terrey Hills, which is a great demonstration site for no-dig gardening, composting and recycling. This opportunity doesn't come along very often, and with a special discount for PSN members, and only a few spots left you'll need to get in quick to secure a spot. Please contact me for details.

### Guest Speaker Dr Terry Leahy - IPC9 Problems and Solutions for Africa

This is a must attend talk for all permaculturalists! Dr Terry Leahy presents us with the IPC9 happenings in Malawi! Terry follows with an examination of food security and sustainability problems in agriculture in Malawi, Uganda and South Africa. He will recount interesting stories that highlight African permaculture projects that address these problems.

Terry Leahy is a lecturer in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Newcastle, Australia.

The Royal Easter Show has already started and we have a great Permaculture demonstration display set up and running. The amount of work that has gone into this is phenomenal, and Susan, Lydia and the Shows Team are doing a fantastic job. The Show runs for 2 weeks and PSN helpers are given a free pass to the show in return for 4 hours at the stall (talking to people, explaining the display, signing up new members and selling books). If any PSN members are able to help out with this event, your assistance would be fantastic.

The planning for National Permaculture Day (May 1) is going full steam ahead, with permaculture groups from all over Australia coming on board. The core group of organisers (Permaculture Sydney Basin, Permaculture Central Coast and Permaculture South Coast) have done an amazing job getting materials ready for promotion of permaculture open house displays, permaculture events and workshops. This will be great day to get out and see what people are doing in their own back yard – stay tuned for more details over the next month.

In the last decade Dr Terry Leahy interests lay in the environmental problems of the world and why it has been so difficult to get an effective political response. Dr Leahy has a particular interest in agricultural sustainability in developing countries. His work has included anarchist gift economy utopias and how reformist strategies might help us to move in this direction.

Dr Terry Leahy published works includes "Permaculture Strategy for the South African Villages".



## Advocacy - Barry Hadaway



Since our last report in the March Newsletter the Advocacy Team has written to Senator Bob Brown, Leader of the Australian Greens.

Our letter asks Senator Brown to acknowledge that Population Policy is the most significant area of commonwealth government policy that can directly affect the level of greenhouse gas emissions. Studies have suggested that population increase drives 83% of the increase in Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

Australia's population grew by 2.1% in the 12 months to June 2009. At this rate Australia's population will increase from 21,874,900 at June 2009 to 27,493,450 by 1 January 2020. This would be an increase of 25.7% at a time when we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 25%, on 1990 levels, in absolute terms.

In 1990 Australia's population was 17.1 million. If Australia's population had remained stable at this level until 2020 then the reduction in emissions required by each person would have been 25%. However, if our population grows to 27.5 million then the reduction in emissions required by each person will be over 53% to achieve the necessary reduction in absolute terms. The Rudd Government's population policy is completely at odds with the urgent need to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Our letter asks the Australian Greens to:

1. Acknowledge the connection between population growth and increasing greenhouse gas emissions
2. Advocate that; Australia adopt a zero net migration policy while at the same time increasing the refugee intake and abolishing the baby bonus
3. Pursue these matters in the Parliament

Advocacy letters are available on the PSN website [http://permaculturenorth.org.au/index.php?q=advocacy\\_team\\_page](http://permaculturenorth.org.au/index.php?q=advocacy_team_page)

HELP! The Advocacy Team would like to identify some subject matter experts amongst the PSN Membership. For example we have had an issue relating to raw milk referred to us and it would be helpful to have input from someone who has food technology expertise. Similarly, does anyone have a scientific understanding of GM?

If you have expert knowledge in a particular field relevant to permaculture and sustainability please drop me an email just to let the Advocacy Team know you exist.

If you have ideas as to how Advocacy can tackle the big issues and promote Permaculture come to an Advocacy Meeting. The Advocacy Team meets at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month, at 3 Yerong Street, Ryde.

## Living Skills - Annette Owen-Mulder



The kitchen was humming from 2.30 when we started processing 40 kilos of tomatoes, 12 heads of garlic, 5 kilos of onions and masses of basil, thyme and oregano. 28 people signed the attendance form and between them produced enough sauce for everyone to go home with 3 bottles.

What a fantastic group of people, what a day! A picture tells a thousand words so have a look at some pictures taken by Les. <http://www.theedibleforest.com.au/LivingSkills2010March/index.html>

Afternoon tea was a feast with everyone bringing something to share. We'd made 2 different types of sauce and taste tested with freshly baked homemade bread made by Doug and some foccacia that we baked during the workshop.

The kitchen at Karonga School is a perfect venue. It is set up as 3 small galley kitchens in a huge open plan space with dining tables and chairs enough for everyone and doors out onto the raised kitchen garden created by the Gardening Team last year. With 3 stoves, 4

sinks, plenty of bench space, everyone was able to be in the kitchen together. To see so many people working together was inspiring. Jill Kaye said if felt just like being back on the Kibbutz!

The April workshop: Omar and the Art of Bicycle Maintenance. The April workshop will be held on Saturday 17 April 2pm-5pm. Omar Khalifa will be running the workshop at his home in Lane Cove. Omar is an experienced cyclist and, more importantly, has a wealth of experience in building and maintaining bicycles. He will cover basic maintenance, adjustment and roadside repairs. Bring your bike, bring your tools (if you have any) and I'll send more details closer to time.

If you're interested in attending, RSVP to me at [livingskills@permaculturenorth.org.au](mailto:livingskills@permaculturenorth.org.au). There's a number limit for this one so get in early! Ya sta heria sou!

Annette:  
[livingskills@permaculturenorth.org.au](mailto:livingskills@permaculturenorth.org.au)

9427 4040 0416 247 456

## Shows - Suzanne Gonye

All systems are go for the Easter Show, we hope to see you there. Here is the Press Release we sent out.

### "Solving the World's Problems in Your Backyard"

Permaculture Sydney's display garden at the Royal Easter Show will not only be a great example of a Great Aussie Backyard, but it will also be a showcase for solutions to the world's environmental problems.

Entitled, "Solving the world's problems in your backyard" the interactive display garden offers a variety of easy to implement solutions to major global problems, including food supply, reducing waste, reducing pollutions, avoiding over consumption and ethical purchasing.

Andrea Pape, President of Permaculture Sydney North, said "the project is the first of it's kind, uniting more than 1000 members in Permaculture groups across Sydney, the Central Coast and the Blue Mountains."



"The theme for this year's show is the Great Aussie Backyard". Ms Pape said "We have a globalised world with global problems, and a 'Great Aussie backyard' is one that helps protect our resources and way of life for future generations."

"Our display will show how to localise our food production and water supplies, and minimise our impact on the planet by reducing the amount of resources we need."

It's exciting, because there is a growing amount of interest in building more resilient and self-sufficient cities – people want to reconnect with their communities and with the systems that support us."

The Permaculture Sydney display garden will be located in the "Great Aussie Backyard" at the Royal

Easter Show, from Thursday 1st to Wednesday 14th April 2010. What you will see in the display garden is chickens roaming a food forest, aquaculture, medicinal herbs, a solar oven, herb spiral and a vegetable patch with a difference! Come and join us at the Royal Easter Show!"

## Seed Savers - Jannine Ord

### The Gift of Seed - news from Jude & Michel Fanton

The best vegetable seeds are those given by one friend or family member to another. "Here, try these seeds, they grow well around here!" This simple gesture is the modus operandi of our eighty Local Seed Networks (LSNs) around Australia. Jude and Michel at The Seed Savers' Network hope that you will join a seed group or create one around you. This may help you to grow from local seeds and eat more diversely = nutritionally.

Local Seed Networks circulate locally adapted varieties. These varieties are the basis of local food. They have been circulated in the local community for donkeys' years and grow well in the area. They don't necessarily have names. Local varieties generally grow pesticide-free because they are attuned to local climates and regions.

At LSN garden visits and meetings, everyone learns from one another; everyone gets lots of unusual seeds and cuttings and makes new garden friends. When you grow vegetables and fruit, what do you do with the excess? LSNs exchange produce as well.



### So Go Perennial - try these

Local Seed Networks are the perfect source of vegetative propagules: artichoke slips, asparagus crowns, multiplying onions, potato tubers. Then there are the fascinating unusual tubers such as:

- . the super prolific oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*);
- . the trendy health food, maca (*Lepidium meyenii*);
- . achira (*Canna edulis*) to make arrowroot;
- . arracacha, the Andean parsnip, a tuber for delicious soups;
- . nashua, the tuberous sister of nasturtiums;
- . yacon (*Polymnia sonchifolia*) the "pear of the earth", sweet only when stored.

PSN Seed Savers meet on the 4th Saturday of the month at Bidgiwong Community Garden in Baulkham Hills from 9 - 12noon. Come and make new friends and learn new techniques.

For further information, contact Jannine Ord or Wolfgang Uhl at: [seedsavers@permaculturenorth.org.au](mailto:seedsavers@permaculturenorth.org.au)

Happy Harvesting

## *Ryde/Hunters Hill Local Group - Rosemary Hadaway*

Many thanks to the few hard-working members who mulched, pruned heavily (you should have seen the overgrown food forest!), raked, planted, watered and trimmed at the TAFE garden at our last meeting Saturday 13 March. It looks much better than it did before we started, but now we can see just how empty the beds really are. Help!!

We desperately need plants!

Please pot up and prepare and bring in anything at all that you have...herbs, vegies, it doesn't matter. The mandala is very empty, and the bed upslope from the boat is looking very sad as well. Perhaps you have some plants for the shows team to use as part of the Easter Show display - just let Suzanne know that you are happy for that donation to continue on to the TAFE garden, and we will arrange for that to happen - many

functions from one element!! The same applies for any 'Living Skills' type items as well....preserves, crafts etc...these are needed for the Easter Show, and would also be valuable for our Open Day. Let's show the world what we are all about!

The next Ryde/Hunters Hill meeting/working bee is Saturday 10 April, so let's get going. To hold a successful National Permaculture Day event 1st May, we need your contribution. We will do more planting, as well as finalise the rosters for promotion, set-up, meet and greet, tour guides, book display, tea/coffee etc. There is a job to match everyone! What skills or knowledge can you share? Important functions are covered by many elements.

14 community groups have been invited to our Networking afternoon tea on 12 June - make it a diary date!

## *Lane Cove Local Group - Mandy Stubbs*



*Photo: Mandy being interviewed by Channel 7*

Lane Cove Group has been buzzing in the local community garden again. The workshop programme saw Barb put on a fantastic workshop at her house and garden, assisted by her guest speaker, showing how to grow, prepare and cook Asian herbs.

The next community garden open day will be on Sunday, 28th March, when we will be building yet another no-dig bed (part of our Permaculture Design); planting seeds in our no-dig beds, plus some to take home and grow-on; tending the compost and worm farm;

greeting new members, eating cake, and generally having a great time, as usual. Come along and see us on the last Sunday of each month, or have a look at our Permapatch website.

There is still the plan to go and see the community garden at Carss Park, near Sutherland, at midday on 10th April. We are

very interested in seeing their gorgeous straw bale building, as it is one of our dreams to have a similar structure at Permapatch. And what we dream, we do! Ring me to join in a car-share and come along for a look. Also tea and cake, of course!

Our February local meeting was a working bee to prepare for a big garden club visit and talk on Permaculture, at my place, the following week. This had already been done though, as I previously had a 'last-minute' visit from Channel 7's Sydney Weekender, filming my garden for their programme on 22nd May - don't forget to watch - better remind me too by then!! Don't get too excited - will be lucky to be on for 3 seconds - but I did mention Permaculture about 30 times! As the garden was already tidy, the local group made a gorgeous native bee house (thanks Les) and painted a cute 'mural' on the compost tumbler (thanks Annette).

For our May Day event we will be greening a verge and showing neighbours what can be done to utilize wasted space to grow food locally - to share.

We love to meet new members, so come along and join this dynamic and enthusiastic Lane Cove group, with a passion for the planet (and cake!), thinking globally and acting locally.

Contact Mandy Stubbs on 9436 2891 for more information.

## *Ku-ring-gai Local Group - Diana Watson*

Our quails made their debut at the Ku-ring-gai Garden Festival and they, along with Richard and Jackie Brassil's PolyPipe system, the plants for display and for sale, attracted great interest and gave us the opportunity to engage with members of the public. Although visitors were down on last year, we had a large number of people talk to us and a larger proportion who were new to Permaculture!!

May Day and monthly meeting

Libby Crichton's garden will be open on Saturday 1 May 12-3pm for Permaculture May Day. PSNKRK monthly meeting on

Sat 11 April 2-5pm will be at Libby's to prepare for the event. Please come to the meeting if you can help. Details will be sent by email, please contact DW if you are not on the KRG list.

Volunteers needed - We shall need volunteers to act as marshals and to generally monitor activities around Libby's garden. Please let Diana Watson or Libby Crichton know if you can spare even a short time to share in this important security task.

Remember to visit our webpage.

## *Willoughby Local Group - David Cutlan*

### Community Garden Proposed for Chatswood

Willoughby Council has invited PSN Willoughby Local Group to submit a Permaculture Design Plan for Currey Park, Chatswood.

Currey Park is adjacent to the Westfield Multi-story car park in Victor Street and was created from an old car park and was opened in 2002. Council has recently released a policy to redevelop the site as a community garden. It is popular as a lunchtime venue, picnics and carries pedestrian traffic to and from the adjacent car park.

It is proposed to run a Permaculture Community Garden Course in July/August for residents of Willoughby.

For more information email David Cutlan  
willoughby\_coord@permaculture.org.au



*Photo: Currey Park*

## *North Sydney Local Group - Peter Pezzolesi*

On 17th April, North Sydney Local Group have organised to go mushroom picking in the pine forests around Oberon.

If you would like to join them they are meeting at the Coal loader, Balls Head at 7am and leave at 7.30.

Peter will be providing a mushroom lunch. Car pooling essential. Contact Peter Pezzolesi on 02 99530814 or 0412817605 for more information.

North Sydney Local Group meets at 2pm on 2nd Saturday Feb-Dec at the Coal Loader, Balls Head Drive, Waverton,

## *Hornsby Local Group - Lucinda Coates*

Hello to all PSN members who happen to live in (or near) Hornsby Shire! Our friendly group meets from 2pm at members' places throughout the Shire on the second Saturday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on 10th April at Lynda Matthews' place at 11 Thorn St, Pennant Hills.

As per our last meeting, the aim is to race through the meeting in order to spend most of the afternoon working in Lynda's garden. Lynda has a new PC plan and we will be putting in the first elements of it!

Please bring something to share for afternoon tea. Our last meeting saw an intrepid band of PH members get stuck into the gardens at Karonga School, Epping, bolstered by Sue and Doug and a hearty afternoon tea. The community garden project at Epping is still going strong, but a bit slower as yours truly is snowed under with work: the next phase is a re-do of the design, to be submitted to council for their Review of Environmental Factors.

Our group recently staffed a very successful stall at Hornsby's OneWorld multicultural fair: the stall raised a lot of interest



*Photo: Lucinda and Kerry staffing PH stall at Hornsby's OneWorld Fair*

throughout the day, and now a bit more work adding the many new email addresses to PSN's newsletter list.

At the forthcoming Pc May Day our group will run open gardens at Epping (in the morning) and Berowra Heights (in the afternoon) and, in the evening, a film/speaker event at Berowra. All offers of assistance gratefully received!

### DIARY DATES:

10th April: 2pm mtg At Lynda Matthews' (11 Thorn St, Pennant Hills), & working bee

10th April: visit to Carss Park CG (with Lane Cove local group)

Sat 1st May – National Permaculture Day – open house(s) and a film event: see above.

September – a seminar day or similar for Hornsby residents on bushfire prevention, the Permaculture way

You are most welcome to join us at our next, or any, meeting, and to share in convivial conversation, delicious afternoon teas, sharing produce and other surplus and, of course, saving the world, starting in the Hornsby Shire.

## Permapatch - Lane Cove's first community garden

by Mandy Stubbs, Jono Ladmore and Barb Khalifa

We're only new, but already we've made a lot of progress!

In the garden itself, we have compost bays, a herb spiral and two of our no-dig garden beds built.

Our workshop program is already underway, with very well-attended sessions on no-dig growing beds, summer herbs and another on asian herbs. All conducted by garden members who are also Permaculture people, with no previous experience of teaching these subjects.

Although the garden itself doesn't look much yet, behind the scenes we've come a long way and have formed a committee, got a draft constitution and made ourselves into a legal entity. We already have 50 members! This is due to the incredible energy and enthusiasm pumped into this garden by the members. There is a grant's committee who are working hard applying for grants, the church is putting in some funding, and we have already received a small grant from Lane Cove Council for tools.

The idea for the garden started towards the end of 2008. Jono and others at the Chatswood South Uniting Church were doing a working bee on the old tennis court area at the back of the church block. The idea came up that the area would be perfect for a community garden. It's a beautiful spot: a large area, flat, surprisingly quiet for such a busy junction, with some good sunshine, and surrounded by trees.

Jono says the real catalyst came with his introduction to Mandy Stubbs from Permaculture Sydney North (PSN) - who was having the same dream at the same time! The local Lane Cove group of PSN had just been started, and they proved very keen to help bring this community garden idea into being. With PSN Lane Cove on board, the project gained much more momentum. A giant step forward came when Penny Pyett of Ryde TAFE conducted a permaculture course for us, focusing on designing and building community gardens. Jono thinks this was simply brilliant – those who took part in this course gained a much better understanding of what it takes to create and run a community garden. We conducted detailed site analyses and learned about permaculture design. Out of this TAFE course came several potential designs for the site, and we're using these to develop our design.



Image: One of the potential designs

We held our first Open Day in October last year, with 30+ people attending. Our plans to build the herb spiral were put on hold when a massive storm flooded the area. Typical gardener's luck! Yet spirits were certainly not dampened and once the rain cleared we still had time to make another big compost heap.

Our November Open Day saw us building the herb spiral, and gain more new members. The watering team have done a wonderful job of keeping the herbs thriving through the hot dry months – it looks fabulous. Good enough to eat!



Photo: One herb spiral later

The next open days we learnt about seed propagation, growing sprouts and food from cuttings. By the end of February we reached 50 members and now look forward to getting our fence built - then just watch us grow this garden!

We have a kids club to keep the children busy and safe; we try to use as many reusable and recycled materials as we can (choice and necessity!); the interest shown in the garden by local residents is strong; and the sense of community, participation and pure joy that fills the air on our open days, is wonderful to behold.

Our dream is to make this a vibrant, breathing, calming, space, where sustainable ways of living can be shown to everyone who visits: And to make a small difference to the state of this planet. Think global – act local!

Our Open Days are held on the last Sunday of the month, from 2pm to 5pm. Everyone is welcome to come along to these; participate; see what we are doing; have a cuppa and some cake. Or have a look at our website on [www.permapatch.org.au](http://www.permapatch.org.au).

## *Want to learn more or become an expert?*

### **Permaculture Design Certificate Course (PDC)**

Monday, September 20, 2010 through to Saturday, October 2, 2010 at Trinity College, Melbourne University presented by Bill Mollison and Geoff Lawton.

#### Course Fee & Payment Information

Please note, dates and times referred to are Australian Eastern Standard time (AEST). The Registration office is attended on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays only.

Course Fees: Full Course Fee = \$1,750.00 AUD inclusive of GST. Full Course Fee includes a non-refundable Registration Fee of \$175.00 AUD.

Course Fees can be paid by: Cheque/Money Order; Credit Card or Direct Bank Deposit.

- Full payment on registration (see info on discounts for early payment below), or

- Payment of a non-refundable Registration Fee on registration, and balance of Course Fee

\$1,575.00 AUD paid by Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

Discounts for early payment of Full Course Fee:

Early payment 10% discount

If Full Course Fee is paid by 4.30 pm on Wednesday May 19, 2010, a discount of 10% \$175.00 AUD will apply

10% Discounted Course Fee = \$1,575.00 AUD

Early Payment 5% discount

If Full Course Fee is paid by 4.30 pm Wednesday, June 23, 2010, a discount of 5% = \$87.50 AUD will apply

5% Discounted Course Fee = \$1,662.50 AUD

No further discounts apply for payments received after June 23, 2010.

Email for course enquiries: sales@tagari.com

### **Australian-Palestinian Permaculture Design Certificate and intercultural exchange program**

Australian-Palestinian Permaculture Design Certificate course and intercultural exchange program in Marda, Palestine, 3-19th of June, 2010.

Join world class Permaculture instructors Brad Lancaster, David Spicer, and Murad Alkhufash for the first Permaculture Design Certificate course to be held Marda, Palestine.

In addition to this being a groundbreaking drylands PDC course, it is a once in a lifetime immersion opportunity into the rich culture and heritage of the people of the rural West Bank, who have cared for and farmed the land of this region for over one thousand years.

Course participants will be part of the world-changing movement to "green the deserts" of the Middle East through the design principles of Permaculture - learning skills such as rainwater harvesting, food forest production, home scale gardening to maximize production on small acreages, and more.

Participants will also have the unique opportunity to participate in a 3-day Arabic immersion course, traditional Palestinian culinary workshops, and a historic tour of the ancient Salfit area.

The PDC will run from the 6-17th of June, 2010, with an optional 3 day Arabic-language course starting the 3rd of June, 2010.

Please go to <http://bit.ly/9CBkga> (short URL) for further information, booking options, and contact details, or email [mardapermaculture@gmail.com](mailto:mardapermaculture@gmail.com).

This course is kindly supported by the Australian Government through the Council for Australian Arab Relations (CAAR), the Firedoll Foundation and the Permaculture Research Institute

## *Permafides*

### **PSN needs more people to take on functions. Can you help?**

- Bookseller – urgent!!! We need someone to look after our bookstore at meetings and our book stock: this includes purchases and ordering.
- PR & Media Coordinator: to help promote PSN activities and do media releases. See Martin for more details.
- Raffle Organisers: PSN is looking for help with organising raffles at PSN meetings and shows. See Fiona for more details.
- Historian: to collect Permaculture articles, document PSN activities and maintain a scrap book. See Penny for more details.
- Photographer: PSN would like to film its great work at activities such as permabees, living skills workshops, balcony garden days, DIY days and other shows and events. See Penny for more details.
- Submission Writer. Someone who will help with funding submissions. See Fiona for more details.

### **Wanted!**

- Storage Space. PSN needs storage space for its possessions. If you have a garage or storage room that is accessible you can please help us with let us know urgently.

## Permaculture Sydney North

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## PSN monthly meetings

PSN regional meetings take place every month except January, in the evening on the third Monday of the month. We have a great speaker every time, February through November. The December meeting is the AGM and end-of-year review and party.

Visitors welcome – \$5 suggested 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 guest speaker's talk begins.  
9.00pm break for refreshments, 9.20pm PSN business meeting

Starting in February 2010 PSN Teams and Local Groups will meet as follows:

- Garden Team Permabees – the third Sunday of each month
- Living Skills Workshops – the first Saturday of each month
- Advocacy Team Meetings – the second Tuesday of each month
- Education Team – the first Wednesday of every second month
- Fundraising - the third Thursday of every month except April (22nd)
- Communications and Shows Teams - dates to be announced soon
- Local Group Meetings second Saturday of the month except for Warringah, Pittwater, Manly: these 3 are on fourth Thursday evening of the month

See PN's website [www.permaculturenorth.org.au](http://www.permaculturenorth.org.au) for all details.

*We're on the web . . .*

[www.permaculturenorth.org.au](http://www.permaculturenorth.org.au)



## LETS by Annette Loudon

*Permaculture members have all been signed up to trade on Sydney LETS. But perhaps you're wondering...*

### What is Sydney LETS?

Sydney LETS (Local Energy Trading System) is an alternative trading network made up of individuals who trade goods and services using a community currency called 'Operas' instead of federal dollars. We trade all services at 20 operas an hour.

Members advertise goods and services via our online trading system. Offers in Sydney LETS include babysitting, massage, personal trainer, bike repair, gardening, holiday accommodation, mending, design, business services, DVDs, books, clothes, dinners, cakes, etc.

'Offers' and 'Wants' are advertised on the online trading system (similar to Gumtree). Once a trade has been completed the seller charges the buyers account. That's all there is to it. A few PN members have already starting trading, so ask around if you want to find out more about trading on Sydney LETS.

## LETS...

Build Community  
Recycle & Regenerate  
Support Local Equality  
Create Community Wealth  
Value Time and Talent  
be Self-sufficient &  
Sustainable!

### Want to start trading?

Go to <http://www.auslets.org/sydney/> then log in using your member number and password we sent you.

- \* browse the directory of goods & services
- \* list your OFFERS & WANTS for trading
- \* enter transactions after trading

If you can't find your access details, or have any questions please drop us an email: [syuce@community-exchange.org](mailto:syuce@community-exchange.org)