



PSN News February 2010

February 2010
Vol 18 N° 1

Coming Up

PSN Meeting Monday 15th
February: Guest speaker
Mark Diesendorf "Life After
Copenhagen"

PSN Seedsavers Workshop –
Sat 27th February Bidjivong.

New PSN Living skills
Workshop Sat March 6th

Permaculture Sydney Display
at Royal Easter Show April 1st

Creative Facilitation
Workshop with Robin
Clayfield: May

Permaculture Design for Fire
Protection Workshop:
September

APC10 Cairns: September

**National Permaculture
Day - Saturday 1st May**

I'm mad and I'm not going to take it any more

What a year 2009 was. On the Climate Change front things have gone from bad to somewhere between horrible and dreadful!

Copenhagen was a complete flop, Kevin the Lionheart is targeting (not promising to achieve) a paltry 5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; Labor wants to increase population and emissions by 25% by 2020; Malcolm Turnbull, who at least accepted that Climate Change was real, got the chop to be replaced by Tony "Climate Change is crap" Abbott.

At the state level Developers are running riot in NSW, throwing up environmentally unsustainable, high embodied energy, high emission, high density blocks of units in communities that don't want them but have had their democratic rights crushed. Proving a lie of their earlier promise NSW is going to run the desalination plant continually, adding even more greenhouse gas emissions; the NSW government is considering construction of two new coal fired power stations; 14 new coal mines or major extensions have been approved in NSW since 2007 and every tonne of coal mined contributes

approximately 4 tonnes of CO₂, or equivalents, to the atmosphere.

Portugal, Spain and the USA and other countries are building very large solar thermal and photovoltaic power generation plants capable of producing base load power. Much of this technology was developed in Australia but, ironically, Australia is doing next to nothing in this area, what is going on in this country?

It's all enough to drive a fellow to drink!

However, 2010 is a federal election year, which gives us an opportunity to put some extra pressure on the government and, in particular, on our local members who are supposed to represent the views of their electorate.

Stick your head out the window and shout, "I'm mad and I'm not going to take it any more".

I need supporters prepared to meet with local members and to tell them what they want done about Climate Change and Population Policy in particular. I need people prepared to write letters to politicians and letters "to the editor".



I need any ideas - new, novel, daring, outrageous – that might make our political representatives see common sense and start to act with courage and integrity.

The next Advocacy Meeting is Tuesday, 9 March 2010, at 3 Yerong Street, Ryde. The meeting will be devoted to discussion of members' ideas as to how PSN Advocacy can influence political decision-makers and start to turn the tide.

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tells us that global greenhouse gas emissions must peak no later than 2015 and then reduce rapidly. We have to act now. Bring your ideas along to the next Advocacy Meeting and join the Team.

Photo: Barry Hadaway, leader of the PSN Advocacy Team

Dr Mark Diesendorf - "Life After Copenhagen"

Guest speaker on Monday 15th February is Dr Mark Diesendorf. Mark is world renowned for expertise and experience in energy policy and campaigning to governments and political leadership for climate change solutions.

PSN is privileged to have him share with us his analysis of the road forward after the Copenhagen failure, practical tips when engaging political leaders, and much much more.

Dr Mark Diesendorf is Deputy Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies at University

of New South Wales. Previously, at various times, he was a Principal Research Scientist in CSIRO and Professor of Environmental Science at University of Technology Sydney.

In a volunteer capacity, he has been President of the Australia New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics and President of the original Australasian Wind Energy Association.

His recent books are "Greenhouse Solutions with Sustainable Energy" and "Climate Action, A campaign manual for greenhouse Solutions", both published by UNSW Press.



President's Report



Hello and welcome back to all our members for 2010! I'm honoured and privileged to take on the role of president and really looking forward to the year ahead. I'm also very lucky to be inheriting the role from Penny Pyett, whose tireless work and inspired ideas have left the organisation with an innovative and functional structure and a range of exciting programs and projects that have increased the outreach and education of PSN.

With lots to deliver, this coming year will no doubt bring lots of challenges for PSN, but we have our new management committee with fresh energy and ideas, and I'm really confident in their ability to rise to the challenges of 2010. I'm writing this report from the Management Committee planning weekend in Bendalong, where we've had a great weekend planning an exciting year ahead for PSN members.

Annette Mulder, the new Living Skills coordinator, has a great new program for the Living Skills team. She'll be holding workshops in woodwork, bike maintenance and the forgotten art of repairing things. She will also be moving the Living Skills workshops around PSN's region, which will make the Living Skills workshops more accessible to the wider membership. Erin Henderson is bringing new energy and expertise to the Garden Team. He is an expert on soil biology, and he is really keen to get some exciting projects happening with compost tea brewing at all Garden Team events.

Barry Hadaway is already charging into 2010 to continue his great advocacy work to promote permaculture principles in government at all levels. On the education side, Penny Goldin and the Education team are developing a practical permaculture manual, which will be the first publication produced by Permaculture Sydney North.

Robin Clayfield is coming to Sydney in May to deliver a creative facilitation workshop for Permaculture Sydney Basin members, which will be great for members to improve and

practice their facilitation and group work skills. PSN will also be holding a Bushfire Protection Workshop in September to help members with permaculture designs to protect homes and communities. This workshop will be hosted in the Hornsby area, which is one of the most vulnerable bushfire areas in our region. On the northern beaches the Warringah Local Group wants to host a balcony garden day to show apartment dwellers how to grow food on a balcony.

Also this year, PSN will be delivering Permaculture Introduction Courses and Permaculture Design Courses for PSN members, which will be a great way for new members to skill up on the basics or become experts in permaculture design.

My aim for this year is to consolidate the initiatives that Penny has put in place in recent years, and promote the good work that we do to a wider audience. We have recently created a PSN Facebook group for members to post and share information and photos from PSN activities to a wider audience – your contributions are welcome to further promote the work we do.

And, most importantly, I'd like to invite all members to become active in PSN activities. When we look at the big picture of the climate and resource issues facing us in our lifetime, it's easy to be daunted by the immensity of these problems. I strongly believe that ACTION is the most important step in becoming more sustainable, and I also believe that community is the most effective level to create change. For this reason, I'd like to encourage all our members (particularly new members) to join teams or local group activities and get active. We have a great community here in PSN – by learning and doing we can become more sustainable and strengthen the connections and knowledge within our community. I'm really looking forward to meeting and working with you all over this coming year. If you have any ideas for new directions or projects for PSN, please let me know.

Permaculture defined

Permaculture (permanent agriculture) is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems.

It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people providing their food, energy, shelter, and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way. Without permanent agriculture there is no possibility of a stable social order.

Permaculture design is a system of assembling conceptual, material, and strategic components in a pattern which functions to benefit life in all its forms.

The philosophy behind permaculture is one of working with, rather than against, nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless action; of looking at systems in all their functions, rather than asking only one yield of them; and allowing systems to demonstrate their own evolutions.

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Quote for the month

"Is it all worth it? If we do our best to heal the Earth and make our place in her a sustainable one, is there a good chance that we will succeed?...to my mind that's the wrong question. Even if we could answer it – and we can never know anything

about the future for certain, it would beg the question How do I want to live my life?

So my answer to the question... is that I want to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem". *Patrick Whitefield - Earth Care Manual*

PSN's new look Management Committee 2010

PSN starts the New Year with a new President and new blood on the management committee.

Penny hands over the reins after four years as President to a new president, Andrea Pape. Andrea has served on the management committee and been PSN's Garden Team leader for the past three years. She was also active in APC9 organising tours. She is popular, experienced and very enthusiastic about her new role.

The management Committee now comprises of 12 – a good mix of the old members with history & experience and new members with energy and ideas. PSN welcomed five new members on the Management Committee – Martin Bartlett as

Communications Team Leader; Fiona Hasselman as Fundraising Team Leader; Annette Owen-Mulder as Living Skills Team Leader Suzanne Gonye as Shows Team Leader and Erin Henderson as Garden Team Leader. Welcome and congratulations!

It's all set to be a very good year indeed. Please see the PSN website for a full list of 2010 positions and contacts.

Photos: Penny hands on the PSN ceremonial painting to new President Andrea at the AGM Dec 2009.

The newly elect PSN Management Committee 2010 left to right – Martin Bartlett; Annette Owen-Mulder; Fiona Hasselman; Doug Taylor; Andrea Pape; Penny Goldin; Suzanne Gonye; Penny Pyett; Geoffrey Hawker; Elizabeth Crichton and Barry Hadaway. (Erin Henderson absent.)



Seed Savers - Jannine Ord

Our first meeting in 2010 gathered some 12 or so people eager to start Seed Saving again this year at Bidgiwong Community Garden at Baulkham Hills. During our monthly meetings we are learning about seed cleaning and seed propagation.

Although the weather was a hot 43 deg. We gathered, cleaned, sorted, and practiced winnowing rocket, mustard greens, and sunflower seeds to go into the Seed Bank.

Members also contributed to the seed bank by bringing in a range of bean and herb seeds from their own gardens to add to the Seed Bank.

We are hoping that all PN members who were given seed last year will be able to return some of their seed back to the Seed Bank to be shared out and grown again. Passing seeds on is good security because one day

you may need the seed yourself.

This year we will start at 9am and split in two groups of cleaning and preparing seed and propagating plant material. Robyn Williamson, who is an experienced Permaculture Designer and Urban Horticulturist, will teach us this year about plant families and soil.

All the seeds we clean will go to our seedbank and will be shared amongst members.

Regular Seed Saving Meetings are held at Bidgiwong Community Garden, Near Ted Horwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills on the 4th Saturday of the month so come along and get your hands dirty.

Next Seed Savers Meeting is Saturday 27th February from 9-12noon. For further details contact your PSN Local Seed Saver coordinators : Jannine Ord – jord_55@optusnet.com.au or Wolfgang Uhl - wolf58@ozemail.com.au



Photo: Collecting seeds for the seed bank.

"Participants may also take home propagated plants after they have been germinated and hardened off in the nursery. All equipment and tools are provided. You just need to bring your gloves sun block and hat".

Gardens - Erin Henderson

Well; excitement is one word I would use to describe the feeling after the PSN committee meeting last weekend. It was very encouraging to see a group full of people with a real energy to change things and try new ideas. That's what we need right now in our communities, including the PSN community.

It is also what makes Permaculture such an effective and enjoyable system to work with

in groups. I've had the good privilege to be nominated for garden team leader this year and despite the fact I'm still very new to PSN, I'm really looking forward to getting into it. I think 2010 presents a great opportunity to further promote Permaculture and PSN through the media and for that we need a really good core crew of permablitzers who want to expose some of what they can do.

So if you've got skills or you've got some to



Living Skills - Annette Owen-Mulder



Hello everyone and Happy New Year to all of you! I accepted my nomination as Living Skills Team coordinator for 2010 with great pleasure and some trepidation. I've very big shoes to fill after Marise McIntosh's wonderful leadership of the team for so many years.

Due to requests for weekend workshops, the Living Skills team will now meet on the first Saturday of each month. The venue for workshops will change, depending on who is leading the workshop and what we're doing. This way, various people will have the opportunity to lead or host a workshop should they wish. Karonga School has offered us their kitchen so we will have the use of a commercial kitchen for cooking workshops if the numbers are too big to cook at someone's home.

We already have some great workshops in the pipeline. For starters, Peter Pezzolesi will teach us what to do with our excess tomatoes; Wendy Bishop will run a workshop on making shoes; Barbara Shields will teach spinning and weaving. As I've had a long love affair with carpentry, I'd like to see some workshops on making basic or rustic garden furniture.

"We already have some great workshops in the pipeline. For starters, Peter Pezzolesi will teach us what to do with our excess tomatoes; Wendy Bishop will run a workshop on making shoes and Barbara Shields will teach spinning and weaving."

I've had an offer from a good friend who is a member of the Rural Fire Service to conduct a workshop on making your home or property as fire safe as possible and, if fishing takes your fancy, I'm hoping to persuade a lovely man I know to run a workshop on making fishing rods from bamboo poles. There's also been a suggestion that people may be interested in a bicycle maintenance and repair workshop.

If you're interested in these types of workshops please let me know. I'd also love to hear from you with ideas for any workshops you'd like to see happen or that you'd be willing to run.

Leo Cummins has set up a Living Skills Team mailing list. If you'd like to go on this list please send email to me at livingskills@permaculturenorth.org.au and I will add you to the list. I promise not to bombard you with endless emails!

After the management meeting this weekend, I hope to have a schedule of the next few workshops to publish in the March newsletter.

Looking forward to many productive gatherings and getting to know you all! Feel free to call me on 0416 247 456 or email at livingskills@permaculturenorth.org.au.

Shows - Suzanne Gonye



Would you like to be part of something big, really big?

Come join the "Shows Team" in 2010.

This year Permaculture Sydney North will be coordinating a joint Bioregion event at The Royal Easter Show with Permaculture Sydney South and Permaculture Sydney West.

The Royal Easter Show will be open to the public from Thursday 1st to Wednesday 14th April 2010.

The theme for The Royal Easter Show display is "The Great Aussie Backyard", Permaculture Sydney will showcase a display inspired by "Solving the World's Problems, in Your Backyard".

The design elements include the PermaVan, a mandala vegetable garden, herb spirals, tea garden, medicine chest, food forest, chickens, balcony garden, as well as an educational gazebo. Interactive educational sessions on using a solar oven, making your own herbal teas, how to make compost, paper pot making and many others will be on offer at this year's display.

The design and elements will be presented at the next Permaculture Sydney North

general meeting.

The Bioregion group welcomes enthusiastic members to join us in the event planning and preparation. Meetings are held each Wednesday evening, 7.30pm until the big event. 17th, 24th February, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March. We have six meetings to go and we would love to see as many Permaculture Sydney North members attend as possible to participate in such activities as plant sourcing and coordinating, transport logistics, produce coordination, resource sourcing and coordination, education and promotion.

If you would like to be part of this exciting project please contact Suzanne Gonye, Shows Team Leader
shows@permaculturenorth.org.au

We are also seeking volunteers to help with the set up of the display, representing Permaculture Sydney North to the public during the show itself and to assist with deconstruction of the stand at the end of the show. Bring your diary to the next general meeting as a roster will be circulated amongst our members seeking volunteers for these tasks!

Green Thumbs, Get planting... we require lots of lush vegetation for our display, particularly herbs, vegetables, medicinal plants and fruit trees. We would love your contributions!

Fundraising - Fiona Hasselman

Hi As a relatively new member I am as surprised as anyone to be taking on the fundraising team leader role.

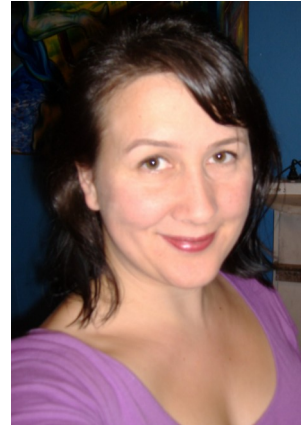
My work experience has included fundraising and facilitating environmental events, activities such as tree planting days and kids gardening clubs. I claim to have been generally successful (It was only once that I lost a child entrusted to my care).

I'm very pleased to be part of PSN and looking forward to working on some exciting permaculture fundraising activities I would love to hear from anyone interested

in being part of the fundraising team- in particular people interested in helping with raffles, sale of books, submission writing or simply discussing ideas. Anyone who is happy to work very hard and who does not mind if I take the credit is most welcome to sign up for my team.

Fundraising meetings will be 6pm to 9pm, the third Thursday of each month.

For further details contact me at fundraising@permaculturenorth.org.au



Communications - Martin Bartlett

I volunteered to help with the newsletter and somehow ended up on the Management Committee responsible for Communications. I now understand at least one of the reasons why PSN is so successful – it is very hard to say no to Penny.

I recently moved from Sydney's inner west to Hornsby Heights with my partner and four year old son. Our back deck is bigger than the back yard that we used to have and we now back onto the bush on two sides. We still pinch ourselves and feel very fortunate to live in such a wonderful part of the world.

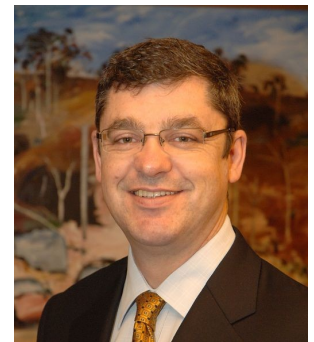
Our garden is the typical grass variety and the bush around us was infested with privet. It has taken the best part of a year, but I now feel that I have the upper hand with the

privet and look forward to implementing permaculture principles in the garden.

My background is in sales and marketing and for the last five years I have worked in the not-for-profit sector including two years with The Fred Hollows Foundation and three with a national children's charity.

I am now involved with Commonwealth Governments Green Loans Assessments Program for residential households and the NSW Governments Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program for business.

Thank you to everyone that I have met at PSN who have all made very welcome and a special thank you to Sandy Aureli who has been a great source of knowledge and information.



"I encourage anyone interested in contributing to the newsletter, getting involved with public relations, media relations or anything to do with communications to call me on 0457 778 881 or email me at comms@permaculturenorth.org.au

Local Groups & Transition Town Groups - Penny Pyett

This year my new role involves co-ordination of PN's local groups and Transition Town Groups of the PSN region.

The co-ordination of PN's local groups involves organising gatherings of all PN's local group co-ordinators and assisting the local groups with issues and activities.

Co-ordinator Transition Towns is a new role in PSN and will involve promoting the concept of Transition Towns across the region as well as communicating with groups and assisting with making links and

connections between groups in the Northern Region.

I will also be working with PSN auspiced Transition Town Groups and assisting transition projects.

The long-term vision would be to see a Northern Sydney Regional Energy Descent Action Plan EDAP produced – a visionary and creative document that says what we want for our region and future.



Article of the month

Handicapped by 19th-century technology

No wonder Australia is lagging behind Spain and China with renewable energy, writes Matthew Wright in the SMH Feb 3, 2010.

Renewable energy is the fastest growing power source in the world, and already generates baseload electricity on the scale of utilities. Large solar thermal plants with

heat storage can dispatch power around the clock every day of the week regardless of whether the sun is shining, and make handsome profits during demand peaks.

Wind power is being installed on scales that dwarf Australian grid requirements. These and other clean energy technologies are replacing coal on modern grids. While Australia continues to throw money at 19th-century technologies, Spain, China, the US

and others are charging ahead with zero-emissions power generation, and creating export markets.

To read the whole article Google 'Handicapped by 19th-century technology' or go to <http://www.smh.com.au/business/handicapped-by-19thcentury-technology-20100202-nb3t.html>

Hornsby Local Group - Lucinda Coates

Hello and welcome to 2010! We continue to meet from 2pm at members' places on the second Saturday of the month. Our first meeting for 2010 will be held on 13th February (see below for details).

This is the day before Valentine's Day. Therefore, if the mood takes you, you would be most welcome to dress in red or pink. Please bring a red or pink confection for afternoon tea.

The community garden project at Epping had a successful outcome at the council meeting on 9 December in that the project was approved and council are happy to give the group a maximum 5-year lease.

We didn't get the exact site we wanted (the old bowling green at Dence Park) but are right next to that and council is undertaking a Review of Environmental Factors at present. This year our group plans to get more perma-bees done at members' places. Please let me know what else you are interested in doing, hearing about or contributing to in the coming year.



Diary dates

13th February - PSN Hornsby meeting from 2pm at John Zanetia's place, Wahroonga. Theme: Valentine's Day!

Sometime in February - movie evening, Uniting Church, Alan Road, Berowra. Information from Virginia or Leo.

27th February - Seed Savers meeting at Bidgewong Community Nursery.

21st March - we will have a stall at the One World Multicultural Festival at Hornsby Park.

Saturday 1st May - National Permaculture Day - open house/s and probably a couple of other events as well.

Later in the year - 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.

Ryde/Hunters Hill Local Group - Rosemary Hadaway

Ryde Hunters/Hill has a very full year planned for 2010: assessing potential sites for street tree plantings; meeting with a range of local groups to introduce ourselves and seek agreement to register a Transition Town initiative; planning our May Day (PC action day); maintaining, planting and developing the Demonstration Garden at Ryde TAFE with a view to entering the Council garden competition in Spring, as

well as participating in annual local festivals.

Come and join us! Meetings previously were the first Saturday of the month - please note a change - now the second Saturday of the month 1.30. Please call for venues.

Rosemary Hadaway Ryde/Hunters Hill Local Group Coordinator. Mob: 0414 603 304 A/H 02 9809 1253

Lane Cove Local Group - Jonathon Ladmore



It was a great sight to see so many people helping construct and plant our first no-dig garden. What a fantastic team of people! Handing and placing bricks, wetting and laying newspaper, filling in layer upon layer, topping with beautiful rich compost, mulching, then planting our new no-dig garden bed. Meanwhile Xenia Weber entertained the younger kids (and some big 'kids') with face painting.

Altogether more than 40 people came along for part or all of the event, with most people taking part in the no-dig garden working bee.

Congratulations to the Garden Design and Planning team who started early, drawing up where the garden bed was to go and starting construction, to Mandy Stubbs (Coordinator of PNS- Lane Cove) who did such a great job of telling us how to do it with a very slick PowerPoint presentation on "No Dig Gardens", and to the Communications Team for great signage, and particularly to Helen Smith who coordinated the event.

"PermaPatch - our place within the community to share, learn, grow and play sustainably".



Photos by Robyn Cooper

Ku-ring-gai Local Group - Diana Watson

Volunteers are needed for a 2hour shift on our stall at the Ku-ring-gai Garden Festival on Sat-Sun 134-14th March at St Ives Showground. Plants, seeds, or seedlings to sell would be most welcome. Contact Diana Watson 9416 2929. Our January evening meeting on harvesting bamboo, servicing a worm farm, and making herb vinegars was a great success.

The February evening meeting was about planning for future shows and produce sharing possibilities. March meeting will be an informal affair as we shall be at the KRG Garden Festival. See webpage for more details.

Next meeting will be April 10th details later.

Want to learn more or become an expert?

Permaculture Design Certificate Course (PDC)

Bookings are now being taken for the next PDC Course 29th March – 10th April 2010.

This PDC will be based in Sydney with a 4 day out of town fieldtrip excursion to the Bega Valley. Here we will be visiting seven different Permaculture properties including staying at The Crossing, Permaculture Education Centre in Bermagui.

The course will involve the usual pattern of classes and fieldwork design in Sydney over the two weeks but also the special four day excursion of field visits to sensational Permaculture properties including small to broadacre, urban and rural, and commercial Permaculture businesses and properties.

Four outstanding trainers will be delivering this course including Darren Doherty, John Champagne, Penny Pyett, and Peter Brecknock, and you will get to meet many other permaculturalists as well.

These new style field visit courses have received excellent feedback from participants and take the PDC course to a new dimension. You will be able to see and experience first hand permaculture in action and can obtain many ideas from a

range of properties in a more real, meaningful and powerful way.

This total package is exceptional value at \$1950 and includes not just the course itself but also all meals for two weeks; accommodation; air fare, bus travel; and all notes and expenses.

Upon completion participants receive two certificates, one from the Permaculture Institute and one from TAFE. Both are valuable for your cv.

Call Penny for more details 9888 2575 or book in immediately with TAFE ~~before~~ end of February 94486 301.

www.tafeplus.com or www.tafestudy.info

Introduction to Permaculture - Hurry last days!!!

Last chance to enrol into the next Introduction to Permaculture Course "Garden design - Permaculture" at Ryde College of TAFE 20th February to April 10th.

This most comprehensive intro course in the country, runs across nine Saturday mornings 9am – 1pm. Ring Ryde College to book in 94486 301 or Penny 9888 2575 for more information. Hurry though; numbers are limited.

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 & 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.
- Compost tumbler – enclosed compost tumbler wanted – call Penny 9888 2575.

Gardens Continued from Page 3

develop (that's just about all our 500+ members!) then be sure to jump in on at least one Permabitz this year and lets show Sydney what we can do. I've got some great ideas on the drawing board, including regular compost tea brewing sessions and some in depth testing to see what our member's compost looks like under the microscope.

I know there's plenty I've got to learn from all of you out there. Please feel free to send me an email to let me know who you are. I'm looking forward to meeting you all. All those who have put themselves on the garden team list I'll be sending out a heads up this week.

All the best Erin - garden@permaculturenorth.org.au

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We're on the web . . .

www.permaculturenorth.org.au



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 speakers 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
- 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 for all details.

Bill Mollison - Senior Australian of the Year, National Finalist

By Lisa Mollison

Known as the father of permaculture, Bill Mollison has influenced the lives of millions of people all over the world.

It all started at the age of nine when Bill grew his own crop of radishes and developed a love of gardening. But it wasn't until the 1950s when he took a job with CSIRO observing wildlife behaviour that he began to become seriously concerned about the lethal effect humans were having on the environment.

Bill studied environmental science and in 1972, a Eureka moment led to the development of permaculture, creating stable productive systems that harmoniously work with nature, not against it.

Bill continues to spread his message across the globe, teaching permaculture in almost every country. It has become accepted as a viable alternative to chemical-based agriculture which Bill sees as one of the greatest contributors to the destruction of our environment.

For his groundbreaking work Bill was named one of Australia's Icons of the Millennium. Bill was awarded with the distinctive title of "Senior Australian of the Year 2010 – National Finalist" in a ceremony held in Hobart on November 23, 2009.

Bill then went on to the National Awards ceremony held in Canberra at Parliament House on January 25, 2010.

Whilst unsuccessful in winning the national title he is extremely pleased with being recognised for all his efforts here in Tasmania.

Photo: Bill celebrates his nomination in Hobart. Image courtesy of the National Australia Day Council

