



PSN News October 2010

October 2010
Vol 18 N° 9



**Congratulations to
Rosemary Hadaway
NSW Environmental
Educator of the Year**

Stop Press

PSN secures grants for Permaculture projects:

- ◆ North Sydney Local Group secures \$1,000 grant to construct a Bee Hive and run bee hive workshop
- ◆ PSN wins \$2,000 to conduct "designing for Fire Workshops"
- ◆ Willoughby Local Group secures grant to run Balcony Garden Day 2011



Presidents Report

Happy October everyone!

A PSN contingent have just returned from a phenomenal Australian Permaculture Convergence (APC10) in balmy Kuranda, on edge of the tablelands behind Cairns. We were inspired by speakers from all around the world sharing new research, projects, business ideas, practical skills. All of them were brilliant, but foremost in my memory were Eugenio Gras from Mexico, who has reduced farmer's debts by showing them how to farm organically and eliminate chemical inputs. Gerry Gillespie, President of Zero Waste Australia, passionately presented his NSW City to Soil program that returns city organics to farmland. The fabulous Janet Millington gave us statistics on sociopathic tendencies in children, and showed how outdoor classrooms can improve children's capacity for empathy and connection with the people and natural world that sustains them. Mark O'Connor, who spoke at a PSN meeting earlier this year, presented his research on population growth to the wider movement, and Rob and Jules from Bamboo Solutions showed us how to build with bamboo - what an amazing, abundant and sustainable building material!!

One of the most significant developments was the facilitatory magic of Robyn Clayfield and Robina McCurdy, who unearthed that the majority of attendees are wanting a national representative body for the Australian Permaculture movement. This signifies a major turning point for the movement, and shows that we are ready to have a national voice that can advocate for permaculture ethics and principles at a national level, respond to public statements (from Monsanto, for example) and potentially raise funding to support the

movement. PSN submitted a paper at APC10 outlining a potential model for a national structure, one designed to give the movement a voice but give greater support to develop grassroots groups like ours. At the Convergence people from around the country signed up to develop the national model, and we will be working as part of that group to ensure that it will be connected to, and support, the wider grass-roots movement. If any members have thoughts on this issue I would really like to hear them.

Many of us in PSN remember the massive amount of work required to get an APC off the ground, and for a little permaculture group, Permaculture Cairns certainly packs a punch in terms of event organisation. I'd like to congratulate Georgie, Anne, Kym and the rest of Permaculture Cairns on a fantastic effort and a superb convergence.

And on the subject of congratulations, well done to Rosemary Hadaway on being awarded the NSW Environmental Educator of the Year in the Overall Category . More details are inside; don't miss Rosemary's acceptance speech - I love it . .

It's important to stay inspired and keep learning, and this month's speaker will help us with both. I'm really looking forward to hearing the thoughts of Greg Knibbs - I hope to catch you all there.



This month's Guest Speaker - Greg Knibbs

Greg Knibbs is a dedicated teacher with a passion for permaculture and the benefits it can bring, not only to those who embrace its concepts, but also to communities.

Greg has worked for nearly 30 years in the environmental field's "coal face", gaining the knowledge and experience to offer highly developed skills and services in permaculture environmental design, earth restoration, education and design.

As well as helping to establish the not-for-profit Philippines Permaculture Institute and playing a major role in the development of the Permaculture Network Ghana, Greg has travelled to Cambodia with Rotary International

as part of a team to offer support to a local village and has also spent six weeks in Thailand on a village design course to look at ecological solutions for sustainable village development.

He was also part of an international student design team to provide design solutions to a local Thai orphanage based in a rural area.

Greg Knibbs is one of Western Australian's most interesting and active permaculturalists.

Coming to us fresh from co-teaching a PDC with Bill Mollison and Geoff Lawton in Melbourne, Greg is one of PSN's key permaculture presenters this year. And one not to be missed!!!

Read more about Greg on page five.

NSW Environmental Educator (shit-stirrer?) of the Year - Rosemary Hadaway

The following is an extract from the media release from Keep Australia Beautiful.

If there were an Environmental Educator's Hall of Fame, surely Keep Australia Beautiful NSW program manager Rosemary Hadaway would be in it.

Rosemary, from Ryde, was honoured this week to be named the Overall NSW Environmental Educator of the Year by the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE).

Mrs Hadaway joined Keep Australia Beautiful NSW in 2001 as an environmental educator and was instrumental in growing the organisation's Waste Watchers program into the huge success it is today. She was one of two educators when she joined the team; today five educators take the interactive mobile unit to primary schools all over the State.

Peter McLean, CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, secretly nominated Mrs Hadaway for the Community Educator Award and the first she learned of it was when she was notified she'd actually won the Overall award.

"Rosemary has an exceptional ability to relate to and engage with students of all levels and she is skilled at packaging and presenting environmental information into engaging workshops to community and local government stakeholders," Mr McLean said.

"She has taught just over 120,000 students face-to-face and grew Waste Watchers from teaching 15,000 students annually in 2003 to 60,000 in 2010.

"If there was an environmental educator's hall of fame, Rosemary would surely be in it."

Rosemary's passion for the environment and education is evident in everything she does, and she is even planning to reduce her carbon footprint to zero with her husband Barry, through the construction of a solar passive home."

Rosemary has completed a Master of Environmental Education at Macquarie University. Before joining Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, she was a volunteer at Bicentennial Park and was then employed there as a Field Education Officer for five years. She is the local group coordinator for Permaculture Ryde and is a casual permaculture teacher at Ryde TAFE.

Rosemary is a strong advocate for interactive, face-to-face education.

"I am fortunate to have conducted many face to face environmental education activities over the years and I firmly believe that nothing has been achieved, even among the best plans and policies, unless the educator engages with the audience to ensure that 'light-bulb' moment of understanding occurs," she said.

"This is the outcome we need for all – a clear understanding of our relationship to the natural world that will shape our behaviour from that point on. The value of face-to-face activities cannot be underestimated."

In her acceptance speech Rosemary advocated **shit-stirring** as a way of effecting social change. The following is a great extract from her acceptance speech, which by the way was well received - Ed.

In relation to program delivery; As I have suggested, there are many tools available, and many strategies to select from - each appropriate for a given situation. There are websites, mass marketing/advertising campaigns, brochures, magnets, calendars, footprint calculators ...the list goes on, but I want to put in a plea for a low-tech option, face-to-face personal engagement. That's what it all really comes down to - when that engagement occurs, and you have touched someone, you know you have achieved something.

As an example here is a story from the UK:

'During a recent project at a large encampment, I was explaining one aspect of compost toilet maintenance to two young women. These particular toilets were basically a framework set up over wheelie-bins.

The waste drops into the bins, sawdust is added after each deposit, and when it is full, the bins can be wheeled off, sealed, stored for two years, and the resulting compost is then safe to use on landscape plants and trees.

Often the deposits pile up in a sort of peak in the middle, I said. But if you reach in with a stick and push it around, you can get it to fill more evenly.

The first young woman looked at me with a kind of horror in her eye. We can't even get the blokes to do the dishes, she said. How are we going to get them to stir shit?

I could have said but didn't, that stirring up shit, on every level, is the basic work of anyone wanting social change.

But it does make you think, the second woman said. How privileged we are in our ordinary lives...that we never have to think about where our waste goes or where our water goes.

Watching that realisation dawn in her eyes, I knew all the work we had done to make the camp happen was worth it.'

I firmly believe that nothing has been achieved (even among the best plans and policies) unless the educator engages with the audience to ensure that 'light-bulb' moment of understanding occurs. This is the outcome we need for all – a clear understanding of our relationship to the natural world that will shape our behaviour from that point.

The value of face-to face activities cannot be underestimated.



Rosemary and Mark Caddey, Chair of AAEE NSW Chapter

Living Skills - Annette Owen-Mulder

What an amazing 4 days we just had at the Australasian Permaculture Convergence – APC10. Les and I have come back pumped up with enthusiasm and excitement and more inspired than ever that what we are trying to do is the right way forward. Meeting Bill was a special highlight for me, I was lucky enough to spend a couple of hours chatting with him and sharing a fresh coconut. It will take me some time to come down from this high.

Back to reality - we had another workshop on care, maintenance and sharpening of garden tools and kitchen knives in September. It was a great turn out, some repeat customers and some new people which is always good to see. Les, Michael and Peter again led the workshop and taught everyone the correct techniques.

Michael showed great patience with some of the very old, very blunt knives that were produced for sharpening and was most impressed by Robyn's skill putting a razor sharp edge on her cleaver. Pete is certainly a genius when it comes to making old things look better than new, ask Lucinda to show you her hammer sometime!

We saw some very interesting old tools this time with Patricia's bringing in some of her mother's old coconut graters and knives.

Lucinda made the most amazing Warrigal Green Pesto which was the hit at afternoon tea. She served it as a dip but it would work wonderfully well with pasta. Lucinda has shared her recipe which I've included below. If you'd like the recipe for the other fantastic dip, zucchini hummus, I'll be publishing it on the website.

Our October Workshop we'll demonstrate making soap from scratch using fats, oils and caustic soda and then all get involved hand milling with your favourite herbs, spices and fragrances.

If you'd like to be on the Living Skills Group please email me at: livingskills@permaculturenorth.org.au.



Everyone absorbed in knife sharpening

Lucinda's Warrigal Green Pesto

Ingredients

- 50g macadamia nuts (raw, roasted or salted; your choice)
- 1 clove garlic
- 250g warrigal greens, blanched
- 250l macadamia nut oil
- 100g parmesan cheese
- salt and pepper to taste (try native pepper berries)

Method

Blend nuts and garlic. The stalk on the Warrigal greens can be a bit stringy so just use the leaves – the first half dozen or so from the growing tip. Cut, wash and then blanch in boiling water for a few minutes.

Drain (discard the water), cool then blend with the nuts and garlic. Slowly add the oil, then the cheese and season to taste. Serve cold as a dip or hot on pasta, yum! Enjoy!

Ku-ring-gai Local Group - Diana Watson



Recently, Libby Crichton and Diana Watson conducted a No-dig garden workshop for Ku-ring-gai Council at Pinjarra Pre-School, Pymble.

The children are delighted with their new garden.

Next meeting, Sat. October 2nd includes a bamboo workshop at Jill Fisher's house with Robyn Crosland.

Contact Diana 9416 2929 for details.

Photos: Left - Libby Crichton advising on plant placement



Right- This bed was made by the children at Pinjarra Pre-School.

Compost, Compost Tea and Soil Health Workshop

Permaculture Sydney North proudly presents a one-day workshop with Paul Taylor at Karonga School Karonga Close (Dent St) Epping on Sunday 28th November 2010.

This One-day "**supercourse**" will teach you how to regenerate, hydrate, enhance and heal your soils through both an understanding of the "**Soil Food Web**" and the techniques needed to make sweet smelling, biologically active compost and Actively Aerated Compost Tea. Learn the **practical techniques** of applying compost and compost teas for small, medium and larger backyards or large-scale farming, grazing and forestry operations.

Investment: Permaculture Sydney members & non-waged \$110 Non-members \$140. Council & Corporate \$175. Course fees also include an organic lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

Bookings are essential. For more information, please contact Wolfgang Uhl Course Co-ordinator on 0420 974 628 or Email: wolf58@ozemail.com.au. **More detail on our website.**

Paul Taylor has been an organic farmer and gardener and has extensive experience with returning non-productive soils back into profitable systems for more than 30 years. As the Managing Director of Trust Nature Pty Ltd, he has extensive experience in growing healthy soils that grow healthy plants.

Lane Cove Local Group - Mandy Stubbs

After several fundraising events in August, our September meeting took us back into the garden. It was a fantastic working bee in Jill and Ralph's garden, cleaning out and replanting existing beds, putting in a couple of new beds, and building a trellis for the bean bed.

Jill's thorough planning and carefully prepared notes with diagrams made it oh so easy for us follow exactly what was required. There was just enough work for our merry band to get everything done and still have time for tea and cake!

At the PermaPatch community garden, Robyn conducted a wonderfully inspiring and informative workshop on "Growing food on your balcony". With such a popular topic, and some good publicity, the hall was filled with all sorts of people interested in learning how to 'overcome' their balcony challenges.

Robyn did a great job of helping people understand how to look at their natural resources, then calm what they have too much of, and enhance what they don't have enough of. Suddenly those with 'not enough sun' or 'too much sun' realized how to work with the assets they have, instead of cursing what they don't have. The reminder to feed the soil not the plants was a novel concept to many.



Images from the Balcony Day brochure

Robyn also reinforced the opportunities to seek out second-hand and rescued 'pots' for the balcony. Although some in the audience were uncomfortable on this point, those photos of Robyn's own beautiful balcony (using painted styrofoam boxes) went a long way to counteracting their resistance.

The community garden Open Day is on the last Sunday afternoon of every month (next one is 31st October). So come along and see the garden and maybe even attend a workshop (see permapatch.org.au for details). The garden is looking very smart with its new fence and tool shed, hand-painted banners, the drain re-laid, kids garden made, and all the petals on the Mandala completed and planted up.

Coming up this month is our annual stall at Lane Cove's Sustainability Lane on 10 October. We'll be selling seedlings, having a raffle, promoting Permaculture, and trying to encourage more people to join PSN.

Our October meeting will be at Belinda and Roger's place, as they prepare their garden for the coming season and their upcoming happy family event! We're looking forward to seeing their new chooks and chook tractor, and of course, eating more

Karonga News by roving Karonga reporter Ulrike Sturm

Most PN News readers will know that Karonga Special School is often the venue for Living Skills workshops, especially those that are kitchen-based. Recent workshops have included bread making and tomato bottling. For the tomato bottling workshop, an added benefit of having the workshop at Karonga was that freshly picked herbs from the school garden could be added to the bottled tomatoes.



Another activity that has taken place at Karonga on quite a few occasions now, is the practical component of the PDC offered through Ryde TAFE.

While these events are wonderful in themselves, in that they facilitate learning and sharing skills, there is a really huge benefit beyond this. The Karonga students have gained so much from the interaction with the wider community, and from the joys and responsibilities they have gained from the school's thriving permaculture garden.

We hope to include a short regular update on Karonga in each edition of PN News, and hope it will be interesting reading for you!



Photo: Top - Collecting produce from the garden. Left - Living skills workshop in action

My Journey by Greg Knibbs

I first came across Bill Mollison, the founding father of this great movement back in 1975 when I was just sixteen years old at a alternative lifestyle festival in NSW. I was just walking along and came across this robust white haired bearded man who was smoking a good healthy rollie. There were a few people hanging around and Bill was raving on about building a potato garden. He had an old horse hair mattress and a few newspapers and a bale of straw and some old manure. He claimed he could grow a garden anywhere. He demonstrated how to lay down the garden and maintained that in a few months there would be a healthy clump of spuds to crop. I was highly sceptical and thought this guy was off his rocker. I gave a polite smile and I slowly moved on searching for something else.

At the time I was being trained as a Green-Keeper, I was in my second year and had been trained to use chemicals and nonorganic fertilisers and knew that you needed the right NPK ratios and a well planned spraying program to grow anything. How wrong I was. I could not get this idea of growing food anywhere out of my head. The next day Bill was still around (Bill loves a good party) so I stopped and listened to him again. He was talking about different permaculture systems. As I listened I realised the previous days scepticism was disappearing. Bill was making amazing sense about how we need to design our living environments and learn to provide for our own needs. Bill has been teaching and designing, writing and inspiring anyone who cares to listen since those days in the 1970s.

All you young (and not so young) people out there I can say to you in all honesty and with an open heart if you are thinking of getting into permaculture go and do the Permaculture Design Course (PDC) as soon as you can. Things do happen when we are ready for it; my regret is I didn't do a PDC until the early 1990s at Kangaroo Valley at Dave and Rose Loneragan farm. My teachers were Dave Holmgren and Leah Harrison.

Up until then my life had been one of doing what was expected of me from society's point of view; you did an apprenticeship, worked hard and didn't question anything. Why did the school system never teach us to think? Not to question anything? And why did not we learn about ethical financial systems and how to manage money. Even after that great 2 weeks learning about permaculture, it was and still is hard to shift my paradigm and is still hard but I feel I am getting there.

In 1995 I wanted to start teaching permaculture so I worked a few hours at a childcare centre in Fremantle building food gardens with kids and also at my son's school. I was trying to promote healthy home-grown food or kitchen gardens that are all the rage now. I thought well if I made a mistake they won't know. Around this time, I started working on my Diploma of Permaculture Design. I built the first straw bale house in Perth with the help of friends and also started working on my own permaculture teaching notes.

In 1997 I took a year off from my business New Earth Enterprises and taught four PDC's and a few Introduction Courses in the Philippines. And with the graduates from that first design course formed the Philippines Permaculture Institute. This fuelled my passion to continue on the work that Bill had started. It is a wonderful feeling to

pass on the gift of permaculture; particularly in the Developing World.

In the last few years, I have been to Ghana three times to run PDC's and I have been funding a local teacher there. In August 09 I ran another PDC and started raising funds to set up a Teaching Centre and Demonstration Farm. We are now working with many farmers and

we have six community tree nurseries up and running. Last year we gave away over 35,000 trees, including grafted mangoes. Recently I was back in the Philippines running PDC for a resource company and I have recently established International Permaculture Services, based in Perth. My goal now is to keep on teaching Permaculture and to set up Teaching Centres and Demonstration farms in the developing world.

I love my permaculture work and I have met so many wonderful people. So where ever you are on your permaculture path remember you are doing a great job and there are many of us. You are never alone just join with one or two others and keep going and have fun. Join in and be part of positive change.



Ever thought...hmmm... "What is Permaculture??"

It's a philosophy; a way of life; a system of earth & water management; sustainable living at its' best ... AND

"We don't just grow veges and keep chooks!!"

Now you can learn from some of the best "permies" in the land!

Introduction to Permaculture Course

Start your permaculture garden or community project through this Four Day Introduction to Permaculture course and learn to live more sustainably. This course will give you the essential Permaculture theory and practical hands-on techniques that you need to:

- ◆ Design a beautiful, productive and abundant family garden
- ◆ Build nourishing, sustainable gardens with rich soil
- ◆ Learn simple organic farming techniques
- ◆ You will save time and money through more efficient gardening
- ◆ Be the change, take charge and live more sustainably
- ◆ Your kids will LOVE IT!

When: October 23, 24, 30 and 31. 9am – 5pm each Day

Where: Karonga School, Karonga Close, Epping.

Trainers: Permaculture North is the largest Permaculture group in Australia with some of the best educationalists in the country. Four experienced and passionate Permaculture trainers will be guiding you through this course, providing a diversity & range of knowledge.

Investment: \$360 for PSN members, \$390 for non-members. Lunch, Morning and Afternoon teas are included in this price as well as course booklet.

Bookings and inquiries: Please contact the course co-ordinator Penny Pyett on Ph 9888 2575 or email on pennypyett@hotmail.com. Numbers are limited and bookings close Sunday October 17.

Please make all payments to Permaculture North by: Cheque or postal order PO Box 1145 Chatswood, NSW 2067; or by direct transfer to Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account Number 127031227 and please identify this payment with the letters 'Intro Course'.

The Watson Permabee - by Diane Watson

Between 20 and 30 people came to the Watson Permabee and had a most fulfilling day. Les did a wonderful job allocating people to tasks and keeping people informed. In the education segments, Erin gave really interesting talks on fungi in the soil, banana circles and the recent course that he had attended with Darren Doherty (I think) together with a presentation. The chicken palace, a recycled shed, was carefully re-assembled on a newly created base of tiles on a concrete and sand base. The mandala raised no-dig garden was created and lovingly planted with strawberries and the green manure is sprouting and tastes wonderful.

The jungle courtyard was transformed from a swamp to a banana circle, with gingers, galangal, Jerusalem artichokes, within a tropical food forest which includes mango and

transplanted pawpaw. Filling the centre of the banana circle was a joyous event with contributions of garden waste thrown in from all directions and from great heights.

Thank you to the magnificent team in the kitchen, we would not have eaten without you.

Thank you so much to all the lovely people who came to help and worked so hard moving the 7 cubic metres of forest fines and compost around the garden. This was in addition to the chain gang passing and throwing the bricks, hoarded for years for just this occasion, from under the house. I still have some tools so please let me know if you are missing anything. I am now contemplating how I can protect the banana circle from a brush turkey that has been seen in the area.



Photo: A classic 'before and after' of the no dig garden



Transition Epping - by Sandra Nichols

Our mission: To explore, promote and implement practical actions for an environmentally sustainable and supportive community in North Epping (and surrounds).

Transition Epping had its first public meeting at North Epping on Tuesday 2 March 2010, where 40 local residents gathered to hear about the origins of the worldwide Transition Town Movement and why the first transition town in Hornsby Shire has been formed.



Photo: Transition Epping and Epping North Primary School working together to build compost bays

Our workshop series: At the public meeting we advertised our workshop program and got people to commit to coming along. The Saturday morning workshops held over eight consecutive weeks attracted from 12 to 15 regulars and featured a guest speaker (preferably local and passionate about their

area) who provided information that encouraged individual behaviour change. Topics included energy efficiency, health and wellbeing, waste and greywater, local biodiversity and our ecological footprint, building community, transport and local food production.

What are we working on now? At the end of the workshop series at our planning workshop a number of projects were chosen for the group to work on. Project teams and a committee were formed. The projects are progressing well and include: a verge garden at the local shopping centre; bi-monthly practical skills workshops; compilation of a community directory; assisting the primary school with their new food garden and a bulk-buying group for green technology. Our public launch is planned for Tuesday 19 October from 7:30pm at All Saints Anglican Church North Epping (cnr Malton Road and Devon Street). It is hoped that we will attract many more members to help with our projects now that we have some runs on the board.

Sandra Nichols, Coordinator Transition Epping

Ph: 02 9869 1351 or Mob: 438 415 715

Email: envirodoc@ozemail.com.au

Websites for more information: www.transitionsydney.org.au and <http://transition-epping.blogspot.com>

Don't miss the first in Australia FAIR SHARE FESTIVAL - The FSF: Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd October, auspiced by Hunter Permaculture Region and Transition Newcastle Inc

Interactive workshops, displays and "edutainment", skits, music and comedy on key eco-social justice problems and sustainable solutions Fri 4pm-8.30pm, Saturday 9am-4.30pm at Hamilton Public School, Tudor St, Newcastle

What is the Fair Share Festival - FSF ?

It's in other words an Eco-Social Expo and School, (10-12 workshops) aimed to educate and inspire the public towards achieving sustainable and caring society, so it includes a holistic focus on all 3 of economic, social and ecological sectors, as being all inter-dependent (as also now taught in Permaculture meaning "**Permanently sustainable culture**"). *We'll focus on...* equitable, sustainable, community-strengthening financial/economic and eco-social systems.... as ethical, enduring alternatives to the "greed is good" system which have produced not only boom-and-bust disasters like the GFC -Global Financial Crisis - but great costs to communities (the poor in particular), culture, the environment and health.

allyn river permaculture

Permaculture in practice

Introduction to permaculture course

5th, 6th & 7th November 2010

A long weekend on the farm learning about the ethics and principles of permaculture which is a design system that offers practical skills which will help you understand the possibilities for living a more sustainable life.



The course content will be based on Bill Mollison's book "Introduction to Permaculture" which will be available for purchase if required. The course will be held at Allyn River Permaculture Farm and a nearby property at Torryburn which is in the early stages of planning and development using permaculture principles.

Allyn River Permaculture Farm is a 7.5ha property on the beautiful Allyn River at Allynbrook, NSW. The farm is being established as a permaculture display and education centre by Peter Brecknock who is an architect and permaculture designer and teacher.

The farm has been established illustrating the major components of water harvesting with dams and swales. A citrus and stone fruit orchard and a subtropical food forest are in place. Farm forestry and riparian area revegetation are works in progress.

Our animal systems include free range chickens and guinea fowl, we have also just introduced two young Dexter heifers to the property.

Your teachers will be led by Peter who, since completing his PDC in 2005 has been working as a permaculture design consultant and teacher. He has been on the management committee for Permaculture Sydney North, was co-convenor for APC9 and recently became a committee member of the Permaculture Hunter Region. Peter is passionate about illustrating permaculture principles with practical examples.



Peter will be assisted by other experienced permaculturists to present an enlightening and inspiring course full of practical information that will be relevant wherever you live.

Time: Join us for lunch at 12 noon on Friday. We commence the course at 1.00pm and continue until 5.00pm. on Sat & Sun the course time will be 9.00am to 5.00pm.

For those students staying on site the evening will be filled with discussion, selected dvd's on permaculture and related issues, or quiet contemplation on the riverbank.

Cost: Course cost is \$230.00 (Permaculture Hunter Region members 10% discount) which includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas. If you wish to stay on site during the course an extra \$25.00 per night will cover dinner and breakfast.

Accommodation: Camping, on site is free of charge. There may be some in-house accommodation, pls. contact us for detail.

For bookings or additional information please contact:

Peter Brecknock 02 4938 9748 0418 209 307
(mobile doesn't work at farm)

E info@allynriverpermaculture.com.au

W www.allynriverpermaculture.com.au

Shopping for Christmas is easy in the PSN Permashop !! Here some ideas:

APC9 DVD's

These DVD's will keep everyone enthralled for hours with some very funny, emotional and entertaining presentations from APC9 2008. See the greats of Permaculture speak celebrating 30 Years of Permaculture. Contains 3 DVDs. \$27.50 or \$25 for PSN members. Limited stock.

PSN T-SHIRTS

Get your own PSN T-Shirt and you're bound to get tongues talking about Permaculture. These attractive T-s are organic cotton, produced locally and the colored PSN logo on the Green Tea look fantastic. Comes in all sizes. But stock is limited. Special price for members \$25.

DELUX PERMACULTURE SHOW-BAGS.

These gorgeous Hemp showbags with the colorful PSN Logo are a smash hit great Christmas pressie. They contain lots of seeds and goodies and make the perfect gift for anyone at only \$20

PERMACULTURE CALANDERS AND DIARIES

Back by popular demand these new release 2011 Permaculture Calendar and diaries will now be available at the next meeting for a limited time only til stocks last. You cant beat these for a Christmas gift. Priced to sell out quick at a bargain \$10 for Calendar and \$25 Diary. The Permaculture Diary is printed locally and ethically using non-toxic ink on 100% recycled paper. This may be the most ethical book you will ever buy and will lead you through a positive and hopeful journey all year.

FULL RANGE OF PERMACULTURE BOOKS NOW IN STOCK!!!

The Permashop is now stocked with a large range of Permaculture Books ready for Christmas! Sit back relax and enjoy reading about your favorite topic – Permaculture!

PSN Permashop – in the hall at every PSN meeting – *just 3 more meetings before Christmas!!*

Shop ethically, and help yourself and the planet; All Proceeds go back into Permaculture North's Permaculture Projects. So make your shopping a win- win –win for all!

Permaculture Sydney North

PO Box 45
Chatswood NSW 2057
Est. Nov 1992 Reg No Y16179-17
Phone: 1300 887 445
E-mail: info@permaculturenorth.org.au

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 Keynote Presentation, 9:00pm Short Business Meeting and 9:30pm Light Supper and Refreshments

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 for all details.

The 2010 Convergence - from John Champagne

Hello everyone,

Well.....that was quite a Convergence in Cairns. Exhaustive, stimulating, hilarious, all that, but importantly productive. Lots of highlights from the delight of having Costa around us and movie star Darryl Hannah to the serious issue of moving forward as a movement toward a national collaborative framework.

We managed to get a 'design brief' from those present of our needs, thanks to Robin Clayfield for her 'hot potato' brainstorming session. Thanks also to Robina McCurdy for her 'sociograph' process where people voted with their bodies and overwhelmingly decided that in the best interests of the movement, one structure that suits all is the way to go. So the Great Design Challenge has begun.

Nice catching up with a number of you on this list I don't often see and a huge thanks to the fledgling Permaculture Cairns crew who put together a fantastic event.

Heritage Fruit Network

PSN is keen to get a mailing list together of people interested in setting up a heritage fruit network, so that we can join forces with the well established networks in South Australia and Victoria.

To help identify and propagate successful local varieties, we would like to find out who is growing what, and we're organising some grafting workshops to be held in our region next year. If you are keen to help set up a local heritage fruit network, please email Andrea on president@permaculturenorth.org.au

Bill Mollison turned up for a couple of days looking a whole lot better than when we saw him last in Sydney two years ago. Gave such a funny speech tempered with a lot of humility, which is always been hard for Bill as we know.

I'll share one little gem from his talk-

Bill was on a panel somewhere with religious leaders, Buddhist, Muslim, Catholic ect, to a large gathering. The facilitator asked each the question -" How do we bring more love to the world?"

The religious leaders all gave their usual opinions and last was Bill. His response -" Well I've been married 5 times so I've already given plenty of love to the world".

Yes well.....that's Bill.

Go Well

John



Photo from Andrea Pape. Harry Harrison (President of the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia) who called a meeting at the Australian Permaculture Convergence to set up a national fruit network.