



The "Permie"

Volume 1 Issue 9, July 2007

9 July, PCC Narara meeting. Are eco-villages the answer?

The serious reality of life-threatening climate change seems to have eluded the State Government if its proposed Central Coast Regional Strategy is anything to go by. In the regional strategy, which plans our future over the next 25 years, it is "business as usual". Almost no regard is paid to the likely effects of climate change, how these will affect the lifestyles of the region's residents, how we might adapt to new climatic conditions, or what we can do to reduce and reverse dangerous climate change at a local and regional level.

In his talk on July 9, Mark Snell will suggest ways that eco-village principles can and should be adopted, in regional planning, as mainstream opportunities to address the pressing reality of dangerous climate change.

What are eco-village principles? What possibilities do they offer? What will it be like to live in an eco-village of the future? How will our quality of life be affected?

Mark will suggest some answers to these questions as he describes his vision of a different future for the Coast. Mark lived

in an eco-village for a number of years, before the term became popular. He is a member of the executive of the Central Coast branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation, and is chairman of a non-profit community-based eco-village group working to establish a cooperatively-owned eco-village on the Central Coast. He also works, in a voluntary capacity, as editor of Peninsula News.

Come along and get enthused, we are in for an interesting discussion.

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Rescheduled sessions

We were all looking forward to the member's book reviews at the June meeting, but as we know, the local weather forced us to cancel.

Kelly, our events coordinator, has been busy reviewing our calendar for the remainder of the year in an effort to reschedule the book reviews and the Global Gardener DVD session.

We will keep you posted on the changes and provide the updated calendar as soon as Kelly has finished. Let Kelly know if you still want to do your review, or if you weren't previously listed but now want to contribute.

On the same topic, Kelly has started working on next year's calendar of events, including what we will be doing at our Monday Narara meetings, and what other activities we can promote, arrange or participate in as an organisation. For example, we are keen to remain involved in Flora Fest, there is opportunity to have a full day of workshops for members and guests, there is scope to do lots of things—but we need you to get involved. Be prepared for discussions at our July meeting about what you want from PCC next year.

PCC and Wyong TAFE Outreach get together

Good news all round for PCC, Wyong TAFE Outreach and the Central Coast community. Kerrie Bryant, the Wyong TAFE Outreach Coordinator, recently announced that Hunter Institute of Technology (HIT) Wyong TAFE Outreach was successful in obtaining funding for a permaculture project. As a result of a written submission prepared by Christine Semken-Bastow, who was acting as the TAFE Outreach Coordinator during Kerrie's recent absence, Wyong TAFE managed to secure funding from Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Environmental Education Grants 2007-8.

Congratulations to Christine for putting together an excellent submission for the project, appropriately titled "Vegetate and Educate" and "Establishing a Permaculture Garden and Education Facility".

In the successful submission, Christine emphasised the need to provide a permaculture education centre on the Central Coast,

and identified the following additional outcomes for the project:

- Environmentally sustainable land use practices
- An educational facility/visitors centre to disseminate information and exemplify energy efficiency
- Examples of chemical free practices and organically grown produce
- Increased community awareness
- Increased and enhanced environmental education activities
- Increased involvement in other environmental projects.

Wyong TAFE has set aside a parcel of land on their grounds for this permanent permaculture education facility. PCC is a key stakeholder in this project and all PCC members are encouraged to contribute to the project, as it develops. An information session will be held at Wyong TAFE in Term 4 (dates to be advised).

This is an outstanding opportunity to showcase Per-

maculture on the Central Coast - for members to participate in practical permaculture projects, to contribute to community awareness and, to work in partnership and collaboratively with (HIT) Wyong TAFE Outreach, and interact with the local community. The community and the environment will be the winners.

And to make it all the more interesting, the permaculture education facility will be based on a suburban home and garden design. This is a totally practical and viable approach as the majority of us live in this situation.

Watch this space for future announcements about the project.

A big green tick to everyone involved, especially Christine for the submission and Geoff Dark, the Campus Director, for his support.



President's musings

Greetings to you all and hello to winter – it seems such a long time since the June newsletter.

Unfortunately, because of the effects of the long weekend storms, we were unable to hold our June meeting at Narara. When situa-

tions occur like what we saw over the June long weekend, it makes you take stock of many things.

One of the issues discussed at our last committee meeting was a plan of what to do if something like this happened again. Sugges-

tions and feedback would be much appreciated, so please chat to a committee member at the monthly meeting or contact via email or phone.

President's musings (cont)

Flora Fest 6-9 September 2007

Have you thought about how you would like to help out at the PCC display for Flora Fest? Maybe you could volunteer your time to represent PCC at the event, or maybe grow some seedlings for the display. Please note: we planned to have a Flora Fest organising day on Saturday 14 July, but the date has been changed to: **Saturday 21 July**, meeting at Jeanette's from 10am - 12 midday (details on page 4). I will be putting together a roster to make sure we have enough PCC representatives at the display for the four days of the Flora Fest - so have a think of the times and days you can commit to. I will start working on the roster at the July meeting. Kelly will be handling the organisation of the event, so please talk to Kelly about that, but see me for rostering. I am looking forward to this event very much. Remember many hands make light work.

Name tags

Don't forget, all financial members now have PCC name tags to wear at meetings and events. When you sign in at each meeting, look in the box for your name tag, be sure to wear it each meeting or when representing PCC at other events. On leaving, put it back in the box ready for next time. If you take it home, you might forget to bring it back.

Mayday 2008

I get great inspiration from seeing what other organisations are doing and after reading Permaculture North's (PN) flyer about their DIY day, (see attached), I thought it would be great idea to have something similar for PCC. The management committee recently discussed this and have decided to hold a similar event in May 2008. This will indeed take a lot of organising, so if you would like to help out, please see Kelly. More on this event next time. In the meantime, why not attend PN's DIY day and get inspired. Check out the information tables at the next PCC meeting for more details on PN DIY day.

Supper roster

It was suggested by a member at the last meeting that all PCC members should bring along their own mug/cup for supper, as the process of washing up of these takes quite a bit of time. We did encourage this at the first few meetings, but we got a bit way laid and did not follow through. So in fairness to all of us and the supper volunteers, could you BYO mug/cup to all future gatherings, this will help keep the load lighter for us all.

Supper Volunteers for July meeting are **Pamela Drummond and Helen Stubberfield**, other members still encouraged to bring a plate.

Get Involved

We are planning to have a session at the July meeting so members can help to identify what type of teams/groups would be suitable for PCC. We have previously mentioned the possibility of setting up teams to cater for the specific permaculture interests of members. So knows the time to get active—wear your best thinking cap and bring along your valued ideas to the meeting. This session will take place after Mark's talk on Eco Villages.

Get involved
Set up a special interest
permaculture team

Tell us what you want and maybe help us set it up

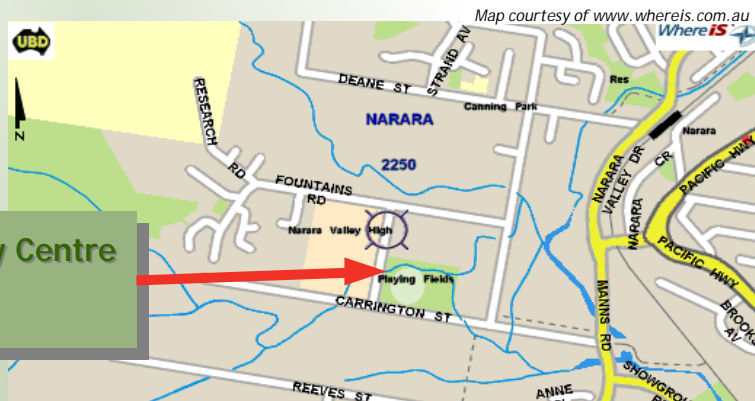
Permaculture Article

I have just received the July edition of New Internationalist Magazine - the front cover reads: "**Edible Earth In search of Permaculture**". This article is NI's main topic this month — I haven't read it all yet, but can't wait to get into the article, which was written in the UK (well it is a global movement). I would be interested to hear feedback from anyone who reads the article. YEAH for Permaculture! Lets all start with our own backyards.

Permaculture Central Coast

Meets at: Narara Community Centre
On: the second Monday of every month
Next meeting: 9 July 2007
Doors open: 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start
Bring: a mug, some snacks/nibbles and other interested parties

**Narara Community Centre
Pandala Rd
Narara 2250**



What's on Monday nights?

Monday
09 July

Guest speaker: Mark Snell Eco-village Advocate, Co-operative ownership model. Ways that eco-village principles can and should be adopted in regional planning as mainstream opportunities to address the pressing reality of dangerous climate change.

Monday
13 August

Presentation: Jeanette Bunter, Herbalist and PCC member. Herbs for medicinal purposes.
DVD: Global Gardener Part 3—Cool climates. Bill Mollison tells how to garden the world back to life.

What else is happening?

Saturday
7 July
(postponed from June)

Central Coast Environmental Education Workshops—Green Living
Keith and Vicky Gear from PCC are presenting (among others).
Venue: Tony Sheridan Function Room, Wyong Shire Council Chambers, 16 Hely St Wyong
Ph: 4350 5130

Saturday
21 July

PCC Flora Fest organisation day.
10.00am—12.00 midday
We know you have very good ideas so come and get involved in organising the PCC display for the Spring Time Flora Fest.
Venue: 518 Yarramalong Rd Wyong Creek (Jeanette's place).

Supper roster

As a reminder, Pamela Drummond and Helen Stubberfield nominated to supply supper for the June meeting. Don't forget to bring a plate and look after the kitchen for the night.

All members please remember to bring your own cup for tea coffee — then take it home to wash it up — it helps the helpers.

Swap table and rubbish round up

A reminder—please take home what you bring but nobody else wants. If you leave early but have brought something with you, please arrange for another member to take home what is left.

The idea of rubbish round up is to recycle and reuse. The idea for the swap table is to share surplus.

Your thoughtfulness means less work for the committee and helpers at the end of each meeting.

The full year's calendar is available at the meetings. Other activities will be advised when arranged. Don't forget that every meeting will have: a swap table, rubbish roundup, members information table, an eco information table, notice boards, suggestion book and of course, supper. Newsletter article contributions are encouraged. Contact Keith (see adjacent contact details).

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