



The "Permie"

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Permaculture — getting organised!

For those with an interest in ensuring Permaculture becomes more a mainstream environmental solution rather than an 'alternative' idea, then Penny Pyett, President of Permaculture North (Northern Sydney) has certainly provided us with plenty of food for thought. Penny presented a most informative session at our May meeting. Thanks to Penny and partner Geoff for making the trip to Nara.

Penny's main point was about the need for the Permaculture movement to get organised and structured. As Penny so rightly explained (it is unfortunately a fact of life), the bigger and better organised you are, the more likely you will be heard by those who most need to hear.

Some examples of movements that are well organised and consequently have a voice in Australia are organisations like The Country Women's Association, The Returned Services League, and even many sporting bod-

ies. But, according to Penny, (and supported by many) Permaculture in Australia is not a coordinated movement as such, it is in fact many enthusiastic individuals and groups Australia wide, all of whom have common goals, but also who have no centralised or systematic approach. In fact there is a lack of cohesiveness across the permaculture regions, organisations and the movement in general. That is, there is no established or supported organisational structure.

There are many advantages for Permaculture to become better organised. In fact, there are probably only advantages. Whilst some involved in permaculture disagree with trying to organise, the proposed structure for the Sydney and surrounding bio-regions, introduced by Penny, is about providing a supportive and collaborative environment for permaculture organisations and individuals. This will lead to better communication, sharing, interaction, assistance to

others, education and lobbying to name a few. And all whilst leaving permaculture practitioners (our members) free to do what they do best—implementing permaculture options at the local level.

From a PCC perspective, a more organised structure in the Sydney and surrounding region will be of benefit to our membership. Why is this so? Well with organisation comes opportunity. Eg, opportunity

- for building our membership
- for providing training to members and the community
- to attract funding
- to interact with like minded people
- to improve access to high quality local organic produce
- for those who are interested to adopt a more coordinated approach to local political processes.

Even if you just want to grow some veges in the back yard and you are not in the least bit interested if PCC becomes part of a larger structure, any such moves to do so will be beneficial to all in the long term anyway.

For as 'organised' permaculture grows and gains a voice, our rather fickle politicians at local, state and federal level will take notice of what is happening in the community. Who knows, maybe the decision makers will eventually see votes in allowing those on water restrictions to use water for growing food, they may decide that subsidies for installing renewable energy options should increase, they may reduce the waste removal charges for those who mainly recycle on site—they may eventually support permaculture initiatives of all types.

Nothing is impossible if we approach our permaculture future in a coordinated manner.



Penny holds attention

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Chook workshop — something to crow about

19 enthusiastic participants flocked to the recent PCC Chook Workshop, held at Vicky's chook pen in Warnervale.



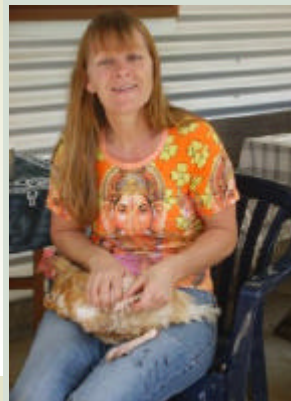
The day started with a chat about chooks and their needs, and finished with practical examples of how best to care for chooks.

The session covered many topics, including:

- Introduction to breeds suited to Australian conditions
- Chook housing

- Food requirements — what, how and where to grow your own chook food
- Chook companionship — hen pecking and the role of a rooster
- Organic treatments for ailments
- Integrating chooks into a permaculture system
- Fox proofing and vermin control
- Treating scale and other common problems

Vicky was continually egged on by the eager participants and she responded in kind with plenty of answers to questions and examples of how to handle, treat and care for



chooks. The feedback received on the workshop was all positive. Some in attendance have already used some

of the useful tips to establish their own flock, or have implemented some of the ideas in their own system.

Overall an excellent few hours was had by all. If you didn't attend, make sure you don't miss out on our next workshops—and book in early too as they are proving very popular.



President's musings

Supper roster

A big thank you to Ingelore, Lovisa, Robert and Isaac for the wonderful food they provided at last month's meeting, yum yum. Janet Walsh, Pauline Clark and Lesley Kirkwood are rostered on for June. Mmm yum, the kitchen awaits you.

Flora Festival 6 - 9 September 2007

The committee has decided that we will go ahead with a display at this year's Flora Fest. It was decided at the last committee meeting to go with companion planting, as we already have the necessary information and display items to use as a result of attending the recent Landcare Forum (see page 3). We are also toying with the idea of having a display about using the sun for cooking and drying your produce. If you have any ideas or solar contraptions that work for you, please talk to one of the committee members. All ideas and help will be greatly appreciated.

So start putting in your spring seeds now, PCC will need lots of plants and helpers over the 4 days. If you would like to help out in any way please talk to Kelly or myself at a meeting, email, call or better still,

place your name on the list which is always on the table at our meetings. There will be a Flora Fest organising morning on Sat 14 July at Jeanette's place Wyong Creek, 10am-12pm. If you can make it please put your name down, see Kelly for details.

Name badges

As from July all PCC members will have an official name badge, these name badges will be available for all members to wear at a PCC gathering. When signing in remember to take your badge out of the badge box and put in on. When leaving put your badge back in the box ready for next time you will need to wear it. Try to get into the habit of doing this at each meeting/event. If you are a financial member, you will receive your badge.

What do you want?

There was lots of buzz after Penny's talk last meeting, with members discussing permaculture crafts and similar teams, so we have decided to have a 15 minute session at the 11 June to let members put their heads together and work out what teams would be suitable for PCC. Bring your thinking caps and ideas.

More President's musings

Permaculture Experience

We are putting together a list of PCC members who have completed any sort of permaculture course and/or have completed a Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC). Can you please email, phone or chat to me at a meeting so I can update the list. Thanks you to all who have contacted me so far. We have had a few inquiries from interested people for advice and permaculture designs, if you have a PDC and would like to help out with a request please let me know.

Mountains to the Dune Landcare Forum

PCC had a small presence at the Mountains to the Dune, Landcare Forum held at Mingara 18 & 19 May.



Allsion at back, Vicky & Jeanette seated

I presented two sessions on Permaculture and Companion Planting. Both were received very well.

A few members put together a display on companion planting, this was our very first display and it was fantastic.



Part of the companion planting display



Kelly & Allsion hard at work

We had a lot of people coming over and chatting to us about permaculture and companion planting. There was also lots of good information available and activities conducted over the 2 days. We also signed up 2 new members. Thanks to Alison, Keith, Kelly, Jeanette, Judy and Robyn for their efforts with plants, display items and setting up and packing up the display.

PCC's Easter Show involvement

As a result of our small contribution to help staff the PN display at the Easter show, PN has donated \$5.00 for every person that signed up for PCC over the show days. People signed up for 3 months PCC membership, 'to give it a go'. 14 people put their names down so we now have 60 members!! WOW! So at the last PCC committee meeting, the committee decided to extend these memberships until the end of September, when all memberships will be due for renewal.

Congratulations and welcome to all new PCC members, we hope you enjoy your permaculture journey.

Members or visitors

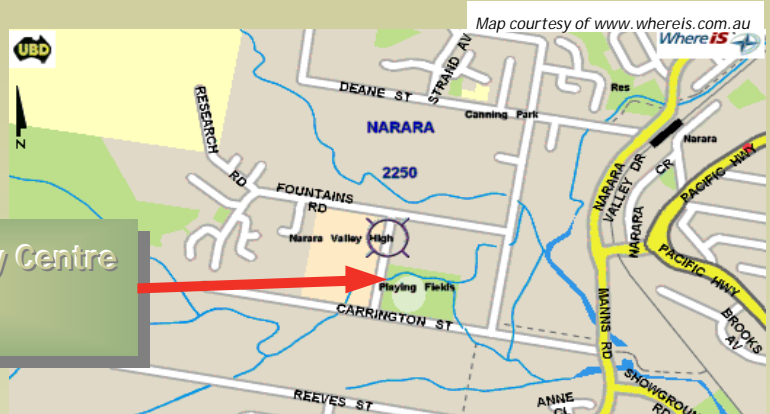
PCC can only exist if we continue to meet our expenses and to do so, we need to charge an annual membership fee. It's a fact of life that we have to pay for hall hire, insurance and day to day running expenses such as stationery, bank fees, stamps and incorporation fees etc. Annual fees pay for everything except hall hire which we cover by running the raffle at each meeting. In the interests of fairness and equity for financial members, our rules are that visitors can try before they buy for up to three visits, after which we ask you to join.

Pres

Permaculture Central Coast

Meets at: Narara Community Centre
On: the second Monday of every month
Next meeting: 11 June 2007
Doors open: 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start
Bring: a plate (snack/nibbles) and other interested parties

Narara Community Centre
Pandala Rd
Narara 2250



Map courtesy of www.wheris.com.au
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What's on Monday nights?

Monday
11 June

Mini book review: give a mini review of a useful book that you would like to share with others. Book in with Kelly.
DVD: Global Gardener Part 4 - Urban. Bill Mollison tells how to Garden the world back to life.

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?

Sunday
17 June

Organic Festival Markets
 10.00am—3.00pm
 Venue: Kantara House, 431 Avoca Drive, Green Point
 Ph: 43691528
 www.kantarahouse.com.au

Saturday
23 June

Central Coast Environmental Education Workshops
 Keith Gear and Jeanette Bunter from PCC are presenting.
 Venue: Tony Sheridan Function Room, Wyong Shire Council Chambers, 16 Hely St Wyong
 Ph: 4350 5130

Saturday
14 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, Janet Walsh, Pauline Clark and Lesley Kirkwood nominated to supply supper for the June meeting. Don't forget to bring a plate.

Property to Rent, Caretaker Wanted

Between Sydney & Newcastle

Rural ¼ acre block 2 min from Wyee train station and shops, 10 min to beach. 26 m² fully furnished studio with sleeping loft. Self sufficient life-style with solar power, rain water tanks, composting toilet, gas stove and heating. Using Permaculture principles—newly established fruit trees, garden beds, herb spiral and chooks. \$120/week neg.

Ph: 02 4357 2252 or 0413 705 489

Email: zacseal@hotmail.com

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).

Committee contacts

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