

May 2007

Vol 1, Issue 1

# PSW Newsletter

## Our Meetings:

We meet on the first Monday of each month at Toongabbie West Public School, Ballandella Rd, Toongabbie.

Evenings begin at 6.30 pm for supper & a chat, then meetings begin at 7pm sharp.

Please greet us at the door & collect your name badge (and drop it off as you leave].

## Dates for your Diary:

- Next Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> June
- Illabunda Open Day  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 10am
- Propagation day at  
Toongabbie next  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June



## Permaculture Sydney West

*"Working together towards a sustainable future"*

### From the president

Hello everyone and welcome to the first newsletter of Permaculture Sydney West. It has been great to see the group forming and starting to grow, and haven't the meetings been great? For those of you who haven't made it I hope you get a chance to come soon. As a group we have an official committee now and are in the process of organising insurance and a bank account. If anyone would like more information about or has skills in those areas please let us know.

A number of us recently joined with Permaculture North to hold a large display at the Royal Easter Show. Praise to PN as their display was excellent and generated a lot of interest from Sydney and rural areas. They took their caravan, which they have covered in mural art, with the awning containing a great display of a balcony garden and around the other side's demonstrations of no dig gardens, swales and a Yeoman's keyline plough. It was great to work with them and meet all the people at the show. We also signed up a number of 3-month memberships at the show, some of whom have already made it to our meetings. We look forward to meeting more of them in the future.

Permaculture North have been established for some time now and have started to refer requests they are getting from their area to us, so there are some interesting opportunities coming up that we might like to be a part of; we will talk more about these in upcoming meetings. Monday night meetings have been great, with wonderful speakers both from within our group and guests. We have recently had talks on harnessing solar power, the basics of permaculture and aspect - starting to design your garden. All have been really interesting and informative. If you missed out there were handouts you might like to look at in the resources folder, as well as some other articles and information, which you can photocopy at the school at your own cost; bring some change if you think you might want to do this. And also if you missed out on the last meetings, or even if you didn't, there is lots more coming up, I'm sure you won't want to miss. Seedy Sundays have been lots of fun at Bidjiwong learning about seed saving and propagation, and there are some more workshops coming up in the next months as well as some visits to permaculture gardens. Look forward to seeing you on the 4th of June.

Hannah Brumerskyj, President

Email: [permaculturesydneywest@yahoo.com.au](mailto:permaculturesydneywest@yahoo.com.au)

## Permaculture Sydney West

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## Our Committee

### President

Hannah Brumerskyj

### Vice President

Sue Mossman

### Secretary

Clarissa Davis

### Treasurer

Eric Davis

### Education

Robyn Williamson  
Roberta Fassina

### Resources

Sonia Barber

### Publicity

Rosanna Silvestro

### Webmaster

Andrew Leahy



## Recent Events **What did you miss?**

### Herb Spiral and No-dig Garden

In our workshops we worked hard [not too hard!!] but had a lot of fun creating these gardens. In fact we are still able to harvest some fabulous produce & also collect seed to share. If anyone would like to see photos please ask any of the committee members at the meetings.

### Presentations

At our May meeting, we had a talk on "Aspect". Eric presented us with some interesting information about aspect and how to carry out a sector analysis with regards to hills, soils and existing trees for designing a permaculture garden. Andrew Leahy set up some great props and gave out an excellent handout of a sun position chart.

At our April meeting, the subject of our presentation was "Getting Ourselves into Hot Water". Ben explained the physics of sunlight and heat & using energy from the sun. His presentation included an example of his hand-made solar hot water heater made of recycled materials as well as how to reduce heat loss from your hot water system.

## Other News

### Propagation Day

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June we will be learning about propagation. There is plenty of pruning to be done so let's not let all that good material go to waste. Come along and bring a plate of food to share, and then get into the fun stuff!

Address is 38 Favell St, Toongabbie, time is 11am.

### Contact details

Roberta: 9631 9450 or 0405 058815

### Recycle Roundabout

You may have noticed at the previous meeting that there was a table outside with pre-loved items. This is a great way of offering bits and bobs you no longer need. So bring them along, it may just what someone is looking for. Please remember to take back any of your items that are left. You can always bring them back next time in case someone new or not at the last meeting is interested.

### Resources

Sonia Barber, our Resources manager, will be maintaining a resource folder containing a variety of handouts, brochures, journals, catalogues and other publications on permaculture and related topics. If you are interested in any of the items, Sonia will be happy to assist. If you require anything to be photocopied bring some change to cover cost of photocopying. It would be great to increase our selection so any donations of publications about permaculture will be considered.

## Other Happenings

Permaculture Sydney  
Southwest  
Mt Annan

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Illabunda Eco-village  
Winston Hills

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Seedy Sunday at  
Bidjiwong

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## Permaculture Sydney Southwest Mt Annan

Permaculture Sydney Southwest meets on the fourth Monday of each month.

Below is a message from the President:

“A small band of keen people will explore no-dig gardening and how it is used in the Permaculture garden. The date for the next meeting is 28<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm at the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living – No 1 Mt Annan Rd, Mt Annan.

Please bring something for supper and a torch, as it is not well lit.

Last meeting covered herb spirals and a beautiful herb spiral was made on the practical day on Saturday”

### Contact details

Sue Mossman: 0413 480 843 for more information.

[mossmans@internode.on.net](mailto:mossmans@internode.on.net)

## Illabunda Eco-village

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May there is an open day at Illabunda Eco-village, with the focus on sustainable transportation. There will be guest speakers from Bicycle NSW, the Australian Electric Vehicle Association and GoGet car share.

Please come along and listen to their presentations and share a BBQ lunch. You will also have the opportunity to see how the no-dig garden completed in April has grown as well as the newly completed “Green Dunny” with the Ecolet waterless composting toilet.

### Contact details

[onetreehillprojects@optusnet.au](mailto:onetreehillprojects@optusnet.au) for more information.

## Seedy Sunday Bidjiwong Community Nursery

Seedy Sunday is a monthly event run by volunteers that gives people a chance to learn about seed collecting & saving, propagation and community gardening.

It occurs on the third Sunday of the month at Bidjiwong Community Nursery in Baulkham Hills.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May we brought home some cuttings of *Stevia rebaudiana* that we prepared in March, an herb that can be used for sweetening. We also tidied the community no-dig vegetable and herb garden, and at the same time harvested potatoes, parsley, Kaffir limes and chilli.

The next Seedy Sunday is 15<sup>th</sup> July [there will be a break in June]

### Contact details

Robyn Williamson: 0409 151 435

[robinet@aapt.net.au](mailto:robinet@aapt.net.au)

Local Seed Network Co-ordinator

Seed Savers' Network