



Hills Local Permaculture Group

Volume 2, issue 2

March 2011

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**APRIL 16TH
MEETING
LOCAL
GIDGEGANNUP
PERMACULTURE
GARDEN**

**PLEASE BRING
A PLATE OF
GOODIES**

A visit to Charles Otway's garden

This multipurpose report on the two Permaculture Local Group meetings at my place in Innaloo, is designed to achieve multiple aims in true permie style. Hills group and NAPEs meeting "minutes" and as an article on the meetings in the Enews. It might make oddish reading for that reason, not because I am illiterate :)



And so it began again, the Hills Group, the last bastion of old Permaculture association in WA came back to town. And it was good !!!!

Jokes and seriousness aside, it was wonderful to see the Hills Permaculture and the new NAPE's at my place in Innaloo, I am very early in my Edible Permaculture Gardening journey, and what I have to show is more a crazy ecologists experiment than a vege patch but I guess that's part of the fun.

As I mentioned in the tour I have 100 plus edibles and herbal plants going in the backyard, and my seed and gene bank is pushing 400 varieties these days. So plenty to keep trying and testing those best suited to Perth and its crazy weather.

To me Perth represents a Mediterranean location with a Drylands/Arid rainfall pattern and Sub Tropics humidity and Heat seasons. This presents a difficulty in edible plant choice as we must be almost unique, so other than using native noongar food species its hit and miss with European and Americas and Asian species. My evolving thoughts have my sitting in a Sub -Tropical suited plant group, that is, by managing carefully our very scarce water supplies we can use this plant group in the heat of spring/summer/autumn unlike others.

We discussed raised wicking beds, ground level wicking beds and open in ground beds (liners) to hold and channel water to desired locations and away from SuperSix fences etc. There are certainly many ways of "farming your water" I suggest, Rainwater Harvesting by Brad Lancaster Vol 1.



So let me try and remember the garden tour, ranting and note down the species we discussed. There will be lots of links posted at the end of the post covering in more detail plants, concepts and other resources you might find helpful. There is the intent to get all this material on the PermacultureWest website under a local and excellent resource section. As I mentioned there is a lot out there so the slow process for us is sifting through all these sites and either

linking the best or adapting and condensing to produce our own Perth Based material/information.

So we started looking at two small Moringa Trees (Horseradish or Drumstick Tree), these produce an edible foliage high in nutrients and naturally perennial salad greens. If you keep it hedged you should always have fresh reachable growth, you can let the tree grow up and then you have Pods to harvest, but you can't reach the foliage then so a couple of trees is worth having. Then I talked about a vine that had been growing in summer producing vine based Zucchini substitute fruit, actually a gourd, the New Guinea Bean is worth trying if you have a nice big trellis space. These spaces are highly demanded though with Chokos, Trombochino, Yam Bean, Lab Lab, Winter Mellon, Passion fruit, etc., but in my mind it earned its space. Also consider running wires laterally over (8ft) were you walk, open space, etc., tie wire is cheap enough and easy to work with, you can run wires between two point and train up vines and sweet potatoes and other plants that want to run. When you having nothing on the wires you won't even see them if you use thinner tie wire.



In the in ground plastic lined beds I had Paw Paws (seedlings and bisexuals), QLD Arrowroot, yarrow. This is a very sunny spot, so the short term solution was to put the liner in while and develop a canopy and stacking of plants to become nutrient and water self-cycling. To aid this on the edges of the plastic I put Albizia (Julibrissin Rosea), and Pecans. The two will race each other to 4 metres, the Albizia in a nitrogen fixing tree and finally the 6-8m canopy will be Pecan. Some management over the next 5 years will be required to prune back the Albizia and let the Pecan through but it will be manageable. Before all this happens the Arrowroot will have been providing chop and drop green mulch/bio mass for composting, and the Pawpaws and annual food crops will be providing fruit and vege.

Further along I had some Ashwaganda (Indian Ginseng) this seems well suited to sand alkaline free draining coastal sand, so for those looking for a heath tonic easy grow medicinal herb it is a good option. On that note everyone should also have 3-4 Aloe Vera plants, they get more potent over time so having your own plants growing away quietly in a dappled shade, semi-dry location should keep you in good supply for occasion use.



Nearby a vine, Climbing Malabar spinach, provides a leafy green even in the hottest summer days, it is semi succulent so can handle full sun 36 plus degrees. It will scramble but like to climb to light. If you want to extend the leaves pick off seeds, it produces those prolifically. So it's one of those plant once plants, even if you lose the 'sub tropic perennial' due to rot or frost in winter its minions will return as soon as it can grow.

The shade cloth sided wicking bed was described as a way to allow excessive rainfall to drain away quickly. Not really suited to Perth this design is more for Pemberton or tropics. In Perth our number one design consideration is water, every part of the garden and design must be based around effective and efficient use of available water. Did you know the only time

that precipitation exceeds evaporation is June and July? That means for 10 months of the year unless you have very wisely designed the water holding capacity of your soil you will be needing to water your garden. That effectively makes us Arid Desert. Normally we wouldst inhabit this kind of land, but its Perth, it's not getting any better, and we still all have to eat and more importantly green the globe. So all I am saying is spend the most time in your gardens designs figuring out clever ways to direct rainfall, drains, waste water and tap water and bores into above ground (tanks) or below ground water holding systems.

The Sweet potato was popular, the whole plant is edible, it loves Perth summers. The running orange varie-

ties provide a great rampant ground cover (living mulch), it is prolific but its free biomass, eat it, cooked as a spinach substitute, it has a coconut milk flavour in stirfrys and curries. So throw it back cut it back, trellis is up to create "shade cloth" use that vigour as an asset. Its great in "orchards" as it provide much less surface nutrient completion compared to grass and can actually smother grass etc. The plants can be easily grown from a sprouting sweet potato from the shop, but I suggest you take cutting and start new plants. Sweet potatoes are essentially food storage vessels for the plant, if you plant it with a old tuber from the shop that is likely to get bigger but it might not set as many new tubers. I know of 3 freely available varieties in the shop, orange skin orange flesh, purple skin white flesh, and white skin purple flecked flesh. There are also some "native" varieties, I think we should have a couple of those available next year.

The strawberries are doing very well in their wicking bed, they seem to love wet feet, and the midday shade from the Box Gums. If you do have big trees consider a wicking bed for a solution to gardening underneath them, regardless of the reported alleopathy of gums, directly under them is generally full of roots and very dry, so not much good for conventional beds anyway. Back to the strawbs, will the Gauntlet and other mainstream varieties are growing and producing well they are tasteless when compared to Japanese Hokawasee and the small Alpine Strawberries. I will be progressively replacing my conventional varieties with these two. In the bed I had Sun Rose succulent ground cover in the bed as a living mulch. In spring summer I put in a couple of Borage given the reported good companionship, hard to comment on how that went but the Strawbs



are very happy so it might have contributed. One thing to think about is in a wicking bed you are controlling the access/soil available to the plant so nutrient accumulators like Borage, Comfrey, Dandelions, Yarrow, Chicory and others won't be as effective. I would suggest planting these species next to an open in ground wicking bed where they can still get a drink but mainly mine minerals outside the "wet zone". You then harvest those nutrient back to the bed with whatever means you choose, feed them to the chooks, liquid fertiliser, mulch, compost activator etc.



Some of the tress of interest came from Julie Firth - Drylands Permaculture in Geraldton, Yilgarn Seeds and a local tree nursery. Rarities in tree and vege can be found like Muruala, Neem, Moringa, Sorrel, Open Pollinated Corn - Aztec, Miniature Chinese Popping and Mexican Maize. So if you don't have some decent

corn open pollinated she is a good but limited source. Corn is a hard one to seed save as unless you have a large 20m/20m block the genetics is likely to weaken. Hence its one for the hobby farmers to supply us urbanites back for something in return.

Then we passed the Chooks, I have 4 Highline Brown (or similar 'battery' egg breed) these lay a good 300 eggs a year each. They are kept in their run but do get a lot of greens, and all our food scraps (meat included) every day. There are lots of schools of thought on chooks, so I will just say we have ours for eggs>scraps recycling loop>manure>company/pets. The egg laying breeds are worn out after 3 years, so that's when mine go under a tree (with much thanks and appreciation) I am a farm boy background so knocking something off is not daunting, but even I don't want to eat and scrawny old egg chook, but the trees love the blood and bone. I say scrawny, they are healthy but if you laid an 80gram egg every day (had a child everyday) I doubt you would be to fat either :)

The rest of the garden is full of one sleeper high wicking beds, this is my preferred design as it uses low amount of materials to construct a bed, 2 sleepers and 2 bits of barge board offcut from the house rebuild. Then I excavate inside the rectangu-



lar bed, about a sleeper deep than ground level, get it flat, put in the water holding media and the feeder/distribution pipe, and pile on the soil. All these beds were experimenting using street tree prunings (free on Mulchnet) as the water holding media, and not bothering with a barrier between the media and soil. These beds are only going to be good for 2-3 years at most but it should leave me with great organic rich beds when I reconstruct. Wicking beds were discussed at some length, there are a lot of good sites out there already so I will link those. The one issue that needs to be discussed though is using bentonite or any clay material as a liner in the bottom of the beds instead of plastic. This is clear much more environmentally friendly and may turn out to be permanent solution. As with all trials in the garden there are pros and cons of each design or trial. Please feel free to try the clay or something else water proof. The basics and principles as covered in waterright and easygrow are always the same it's just a case of customising to make the best use of your location, purpose, recycled material etc.



I have attached my plant and seed spreadsheet, I have highlighted the plants we discussed in red. So if there was something that I have forgotten to mention here I hope you can find it in the long list. Also for those interested I have a book-list further along in the extra tabs for ideas.



Well thanks for the opportunity to show my Plant Hope project to you all. Please ask for cuttings and seeds, I am happy to say yes or no depending on availability. I certainly will let you know where I got my original seeds from and add you request to a "that will be available when" type list.

And on that note I encourage you all to keep an eye out for the WA Seed Saver Collective that we will be launching soon under the wider community development umbrella of Permacultreu-West. Local groups like ours will be a primary building block in taking edible plants and food security to the wide state of WA, many hands make lighter work, and repairing the damage of the loss of 70% of our food varieties will be some heavy work, but work worth doing.

LINKS - Not many but please feel free to ask specific questions I have hundreds of good sites in my favourites from months of research.

Nyoongar and Bush Tucker - <http://www.petercoppin.com/> - Go to Fact Sheets - Then Edible Gardening - Also have a look at other fact sheets some very handy stuff there. - Also see my Spreadsheet Booklist - one of the headings is Bush Tucker. Local Seed and Gardening Supplies and Food Gardening Knowledge - Look at the links on my blog - <http://plantinghopetrees.blogspot.com/> Wicking Beds - <http://waterright.com.au/>, <http://scarecrowsgarden.blogspot.com/p/wicking-worm-beds.html>, <http://www.easygrowvegetables.com/>



Cheers, Charles Otway

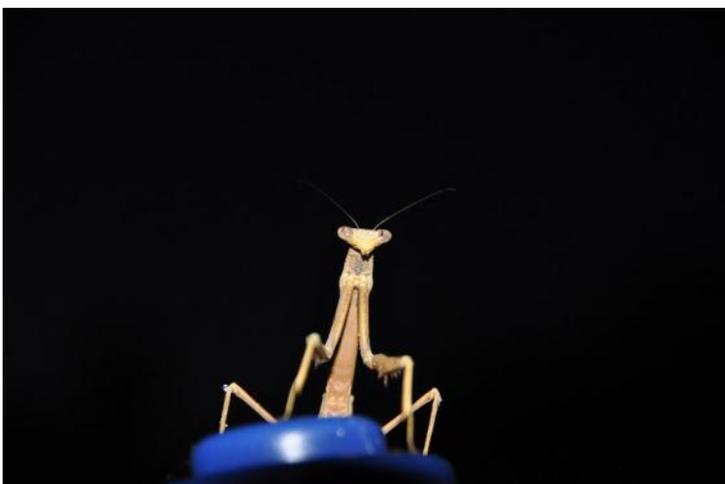
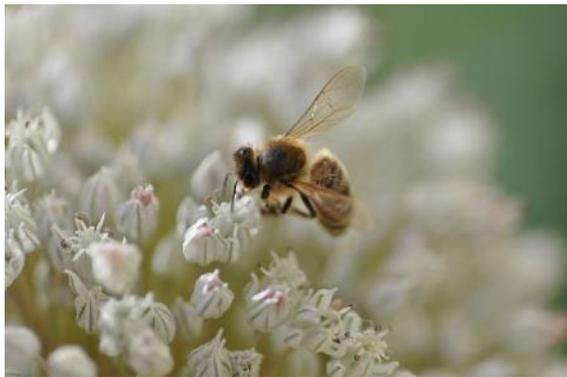
Plant Hope WA Seed Saver Collective - <http://plantinghopetrees.blogspot.com/>

PermacultureWest - Treasurer and Memberships - <http://permaculturewest.org.au/>

Northern Active Permaculture Enthusiasts Local Group - <http://permaculturewest.org.au/community/local-groups/napes>

Gwellup Organic Growers Local Group - <http://www.ogawa.org.au/>

Photos on this page and the next page taken by Charles Otway.



PermacultureWest - Book Collective - Permaculture Related Booklist

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
Bush Tucker Plants	
WILD FOOD IN AUSTRALIA Survive Anywhere	Cribb
WILD MEDICINE IN AUSTRALIA Native Plants	Cribb
Wild Food Plants of Australia	Tim Low
Grow Your Own Bush Food	K and I Smith
Edible Gardening	
Perennial Vegetables: From Artichokes to Zuiki Taro	Eric Toensmeier
Western Weeds - A Guide to Weeds in Western Australia	Plant protection society of WA
Seed to Seed - School Seed Saver Guide	Jude and Michael Fanton
Local Seed Savers Network Manual	Jude and Michael Fanton
Seed Savers Handbook	Jude and Michael Fanton
Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties: The Gardener's & Farmer's Guide to Plant Breeding & Seed Saving -	Carol Deppe
Homegrown Whole Grains: Grow, Harvest, and Cook Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rice, Corn and More	Sara Pitzer
Seed to Seed: Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for Vegetable Gardeners Seed to Seed: Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for Vegetable Gardeners	Suzanne Ashworth, Kent Whealy
Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World	Paul Stamets
The Practical Australian Gardener	Cundall
Food Forests	
Edible Forest Gardens (2 volume set)	Dave Jacke, with Eric Toensmeier
Permaculture Plants	Jeff Nugent
Creating a Forest Garden: Working with Nature to Grow Edible Crops	Martin Crawford
Herbal Medicine	
Health from Gods garden	Maria Treben
Herbal Medicine, Second Edition	Weiss and Fintelmann
The Green Pharmacy	Duke
The Spotter Guide to Healing Plants	Kresanek
Making Plant Medicine	Richo Cech
Chinese Medicinal Herbs	Li Shih-Chen
Medicinal Herbalism	Hoffman
IPM	
The Garden Guardians	Jane Davenport
The Good Bug Book	
Plants in Pest Control - Center for Indian Knowledge Systems	

Permaculture	
Introduction to Permaculture	Bill Mollison
Permaculture One	Bill Mollison
Permaculture Two	Bill Mollison
Permaculture Handbook	Bill Mollison
Permaculture - Principles and Pathways beyond sustainability	David Holmgren
The Basics of Permaculture Design	Ross Mars
Permaculture Volume 2: The Best of PAWA	Ross Mars
The Best of Permaculture Collection - A Collection M Lindegger/R Tap	M Lindegger/R Tap
Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands (Vol. 1): Guiding Principles to Welcome Rain into Your Life And Landscape	Brad Lancaster
Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond (Vol. 2): Water-Harvesting Earthworks	Brad Lancaster
Gaia's Garden, Second Edition: A Guide To Home-Scale Permaculture	Toby Hemenway
The One Straw Revolution	Fukuoka
The Australian Keyline Plan	Yeomans
Self Sufficiency	
The Grass Roots Magazine - Complete Collection	Meg and David Miller
The Australian Self Sufficiency Handbook	K and I Smith
Earth Garden Book - Self Sufficiency in Australia	K and I Smith
The First Earth Garden Book	K and I Smith
The Second Earth Garden Book	K and I Smith
Earth Garden Building Book	K and I Smith
Earth Garden - Part Set	K and I Smith
<u>Preserving Food without Freezing or Canning</u>	The Gardeners and Farmers of Centre Terre Vivante, Deborah Madison
The Humanure Handbook: A Guide to Composting Human Manure	Joseph C. Jenkins
The Concise Guide To Self Sufficiency	Seymour
Back Yard Self Sufficiency	Jackie French
Wishlist – Bush Tucker Plants	
Bush Tucker Plants of the South West CALM	
South West Map Book Quality Print	

Rainbow carrots are back!!

Hooray for the very first bunch of rainbow carrots of the season.



I know they are small and not all that impressive but we are thrilled!! This bunch got three cheers. We've been waiting a very long time for our own carrots this season and because of all the floods they are two months later than usual.

Late but still delicious. This bunch were gobbled up less than a minute after the photo shoot.

Actually, that's not entirely true...some were set aside a few minutes to decorate lunch.



Daylesford Organics
Posted: 30 Mar 2011 08:02 PM PDT

<http://daylesfordorganics.blogspot.com/>



Bottled water banned on campus

The University of Canberra has banned the sale of bottled water on campus after a campaign by students concerned about sustainability. Organisers estimate the ban could stop 140,000 plastic bottles a year from landfill.

Posted: 22 Mar 2011 07:35 PM PDT
Eco Media

A Small Wicking Bed in a Polystyrene Box

One of our H LPG group was inspired in true permaculture fashion to try a small wicking box at home after visiting Charles Otway's garden in March (see photo below).

Kylie found a polystyrene box on the side of the road on the way home from the garden visit in In-naloo. Taking on board what Charles had told us about wicking beds, she set up the wicking box at home. She is trialling it because she would like to use wicking boxes for the playgroup garden that she is setting up in Darlington.

Very inspirational.





Environment Minister Bill Marmion at the 2011 E-waste launch.

E-waste program gets \$1.5 million boost

DURING a visit to one of WA's busiest recycling facilities, Environment Minister Bill Marmion recently announced that the state government will inject \$1.5 million into the recycling and disposal of electronic and electrical 'e-waste'.

The funds will go to the Western Australian Transitional E-waste Program, set up by the state's Waste Authority to subsidise e-waste recycling and disposal costs.

"Australians are among the fastest adopters of new technology in the world," he said.

"With increasing production and demand for electronic products such as televisions and computers, e-waste is growing three times faster than any other waste stream.

"With the implementation of a national e-waste strategy up to three years away, the government is providing \$1.5 million now to subsidise up to 50 per cent of e-waste disposal costs for metropolitan depots and up to 50 per cent of disposal and transport costs for non-metropolitan depots."

Electrical retailers can also apply for funding to hold one-off collection days.

"E-waste contains a wide range of potentially hazardous chemicals that can pose a threat to wildlife and human health," the Minister said.

"Anything we can do to remove such items from the waste stream is important and this will make a real difference in how we dispose of e-waste in the metropolitan area."

Background Briefing

Sunday 03 April 2011

[Dementia: into the daylight](#)

We're diagnosing dementia younger, we're living with it longer, and more Australians will have it in future. How are we to deal with this devastating and costly disease? Like cancer 30 years ago, we prefer not to talk about it. But it needs increasing attention as the dementia epidemic breaks over our health and aged care systems. Reporter: Di Martin

Sunday 27 March 2011

[Taxing mines](#)

Australia and Zambia are resource rich countries that both wanted to tax the super profits of mining companies during the world's biggest commodity boom. Find out why they failed. Reporter: Stan Correy

Tuesday 22 March 2011

[Overloaded internet](#)

Even silicon valley says the world is overconnected, corporations are overwhelmed, and we're heading for another global crisis because the internet is now cowboy country, out of control. Internet high priest, historian, and author Bill Davidow says international regulations - or some way of making it all smaller is vital. Producer, Kirsten Garrett.

Sunday 20 March 2011

[Japan's nuclear crisis](#)

As Japan's nuclear emergency continues, some food produced near the stricken Fukushima power plant has been found to contain abnormal radiation levels. Radiation traces have also been found in tap water in Tokyo and it's been detected in the air as far away as eastern Russia and the west coast of the US. What will be the health effects? Does the disaster prove nuclear power is inherently unsafe? Paul Barclay hosts the discussion this week. *Photo: AFP Digital Globe*

ABC Radio National

Sundays 9 am and Tuesdays 7 pm

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Bored with the content of the HLPG newsletter?

**Please send me your contributions, photos,
experiments, facts and suggestions.**

**We NEED YOUR INPUT
It is time for you to share —
BE BRAVE—this is your newsletter**

Frog talks to computer!

I have been recording observations for ClimateWatch on a Striped Marsh Frog in my backyard pond for over a year now. Usually there is just the one frog though, particularly on summer evenings after rain, there can be a whole chorus! Needless to say I have become quite tuned in to their familiar “tuk” call.

The other day however I was struck by a different sound coming from the pond that I wasn't familiar with. It sounded like a cackle, if not a little like a machine gun. ‘What is this?’ I said to myself. My instincts told me it was likely a frog, so I jumped on the ClimateWatch website to search for other frog species found in the Sydney region. Being the coordinator of ClimateWatch I had my fingers crossed it would be another indicator species I can start recording on! My searching came across a frog called the Peron's Tree Frog, and its call is described as a maniacal cackle “cra-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ahhk”. ‘Sounds promising’, I thought. So I played the audio file for this species and sure enough, a familiar cackle resounded from my computer.

However, the next thing that happened still astonishes, and amuses, me today. You see, my computer is located right next to a window, which happened to be open, and right outside the window is the pond. Once the audio on the computer played, the cackling frog in my backyard called back! So much to my delight, there is now another ClimateWatch species that I can start recording on, right in my backyard!

I encourage everyone to keep a listen out for any calls in their backyard or even in a nearby park that has a water body, and see if you can use the audio calls on the ClimateWatch website to identify any frog, or even bird, species. any frog, or even bird, species. You just never know, some frogs may start talking to your computer too!

Rachel Maitland

ClimateWatch – an Initiative of EarthWatch Institute
<http://www.climatewatch.org.au/>



Weedy Dragons in Perth

This information is so uplifting after so much environmental disaster. This is a suburban beach in Perth – we are so lucky! Jenny’s daughter Kate was in touch with some visiting east coast weedy dragon researchers who believed the dragons were always solitary.

Here are some photos of the weedy sea dragons in north beach.

Very exciting to see the male with eggs! You can see them in the first two photos, little orange balls along his tail.



The last photo is what had the gurus talking – they previously thought weedy sea dragons were solitary creatures (turns out this is based on a study of the east coast weedies, which may be a different species; very little is known about the ones on the west coast), but the ones I see at north beach are almost always in a group like these 3 below. I have been watching them in this spot for about 5 years now and they are never alone. If you separate one from the group it goes back to them at the first opportunity. Our theory now is that the young “adolescents” hang out in a pack, but when they reach full size and maturity (like the big one in the first 2 photos) they may become more solitary. The big one was in the same “canyon” as the group of smaller ones, but not actually with them. The group of young ones tended to be on the sandy floor of the middle of the canyon, but the adult with eggs was harder to spot and was tucked under rocky ledges most of the time.



Weedy sea dragon conservation status questioned

THE WA Wilderness Society calls for the weedy sea dragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*) to be protected.

A bag limit of 30 individuals per day can be taken by people with a recreational fishing licence.

A study by Marine Ecology Progress Series, 'Demographics and vulnerability of a unique Australian fish, the weedy sea dragon,' has found that over a seven year period, weedy sea dragon populations in NSW and Tasmania have declined.

Wilderness Society's Marine Campaigner Jenita Enevoldsen says the lack of population information on WA weedy sea dragons should be reason enough to protect them

"They are only found in the southern [half of] Australia, and they're protected in every other state but WA," she says.

Jenita Enevoldsen says there is no equivalent research being conducted in WA.

"The fisheries department do not know [the population numbers] at the moment so to say there is no problem is a bit of an issue," says Jenita Enevoldsen.

According to the Department of Fisheries the weedy sea dragon is a low risk species.

A bag limit of 30 individuals per day can be taken by people with a recreational fishing licence.

The Department of Fisheries says that the weedy sea dragon is in a low risk category because there is no record of catches for recreational purposes.

There are nine active marine aquarium licences in WA, which the department says have minimal impact on the weedy sea dragon population, with less than 30 *Phyllopteryx taeniolatus* recorded as being collected for aquarium displays over five years.

Department of Fisheries Northern Bioregions Manager Shane O'Donoghue says that weedy sea dragons cannot be taken from protected marine parks.

"Overall, the current arrangements for weedy sea dragons are considered sustainable, given their wide distribution, low catch numbers, the limited number of licensees in the fishery and hand collection," Mr O'Donoghue says.

However UWA's Oceans Institute research fellow Anne Brearily says while there may not be any evidence that people are catching weedy sea dragons, it does not mean it is not happening.

"You can't monitor the coast day and night to find out what people are doing," Mrs Brearily says.

Wilderness Society's Jenita Enevoldsen says the weedy sea dragon has only been bred in captivity twice, a number which illustrates how fragile these creatures are.

The Wilderness Society is calling for the weedy sea dragon to benefit from the same level of protection as the leafy sea dragon (*Phycodurus eques*).



**Written by Renee Sizer Wednesday, 30 March 2011 11:18
Science Network WA**

Good news for the Glen Forrest Community Garden—Not One But Two Community Gardens

Dear everyone,

Thank you to everyone over the last few weeks for your passionate input and support!

I've just spent Monday and Tuesday mornings meeting with the Mundaring Shire Community Gardens Working group, and have some lovely outcomes to update you on.

In short, we could very soon have two (yes, 2!!) community gardens in Glen Forrest up and running (fingers crossed)!

Station Master's House

Kaye Abel gave me the manual and requisite forms to apply for a friend's group to start the garden at the Station Master's House. Toni Burbidge outlined the scheme and we'll work with her to get this going. So volunteers are now required to meet and form a cluster group to get this going!! There will be some issues to iron out in terms of leasing, etc, but we're experts now in dealing with such things!!

Lot 100 (cnr Hardey Rd and Glen Forrest Drive)

The working group has proposed that the GFCGG be allocated a portion of Lot 100 (about 1/4 acre) for our 'official' community garden.

We need to be aware that due to the Local Planning Scheme Draft 4 going through the community consultation and WAPC process, both the **timing and outcome** of Lot 100 being re-zoned from residential to recreational are uncertain.

The report from the Working Group recommending the use of Lot 100 will now go to council in April, so we still have to wait until then before we can officially celebrate, but it's looking good.

As part of the Shire Officer's policy and report to the councillors, I'd like to put in a mud-map of our proposed design for the garden - if anyone's been tossing around in their head some ideas please email them to me! I'm thinking the Hardey Rd end of Lot 100, which will help the Shire tick the appropriate boxes in terms of toilet facilities, access and shelter, as well as get rid of the blackberry brambles and other creekline degradation issues. It doesn't need to be detailed, just something visual give life to our vision!

On Tuesday, Jeremy and I had some preliminary discussions about the nitty-gritty areas of the Shire's policy - ie:

- water and electricity responsibilities (supply, usage and for water, rates),
- maintenance,
- repairs,
- servicing equipment,
- membership admin,
- income from membership,
- insurance,
- hygiene and aesthetics,
- safety,
- accommodation of varying garden practices,

- allowances for selling, swapping, donating produce (ie, no individual for-profit sales allowed, but group sales allowed for purposes of reinvestment in garden allowed).

and so on. Jeremy's input was fantastic as he's had so much experience in these areas with various community gardens around Perth. The bottom line is that we're on our own with pretty much everything (the Shire is at this stage proposing to put in \$5000 seed money to help us leverage this into other funding/business partnership opportunities). The Shire, through Kaye and Lyndsey, will continue to provide support and guidance. I will send out a summary of the draft policy once it's finished - probably next week.

So now I think we need another meeting (!) to sort out some clusters for:

- Station Master's cluster group,
- Lot 100 design cluster group,
- Lot 100 establishment group (for above nitty-gritty stuff - may require one or two groups)

Any other clusters/ ideas?

Thanks again, everyone, and over to you, meeting organizing cluster!

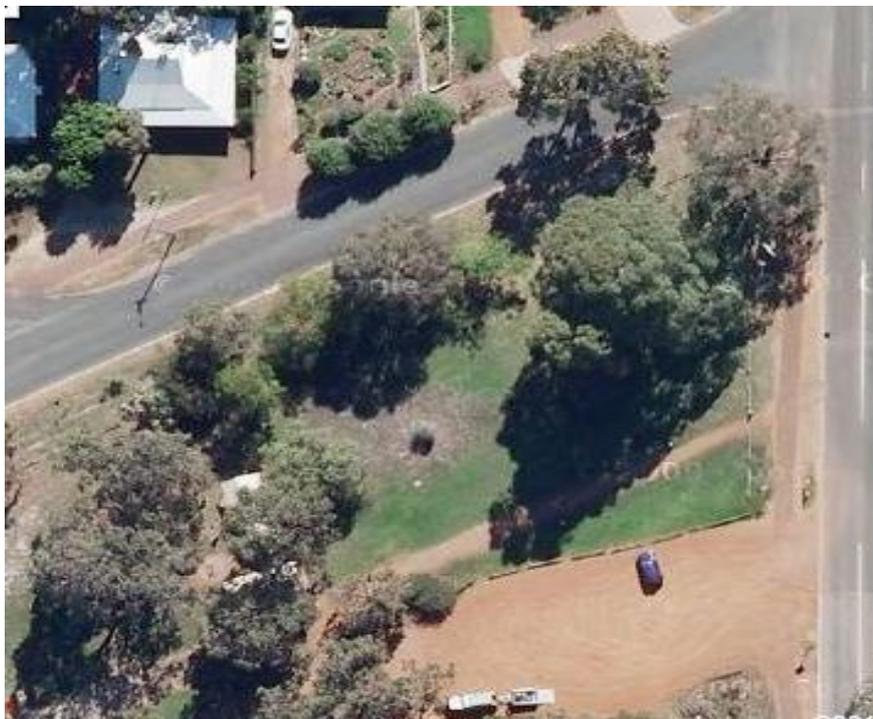
Regards,

Kerry

Glen Forrest Community Garden web site and email list on google groups

<https://sites.google.com/site/glenforrestcomgarden/>

glenforrestcomgarden@googlegroups.com



Aerial shot of train park in Glen Forrest—previously discussed as site for Glen Forrest Community Garden, but now earmarked for another Shire project.

What's the buzz, tell me what's a'happening?



New Organic Fruit & Vegetable Stall at Verissima House every Wednesday starting 13 April

Hi everyone,

I am so excited to announce that we are trialling an **organic fruit & vegetable stall starting on the 13 April** and every subsequent Wednesday thereafter. We will begin at 9am until sold out!

Personally, I think so many of us are aware that it is **not just what goes on our skin but in our mouths that determines the health** of our body and our minds that I think this will be a very welcome addition to the Verissima family. This is a way to ensure you are providing nourishment inside & out, an avenue to heal yourself naturally. Food is not just food; skincare is not just skincare, they are medicine when you choose untainted awesomeness.

Our aim is to provide a weekly stall so that you have access to **local organic produce** without the excessive travelling, price tags and packaging! If there is a shortfall in the variety of *certified organic* fruit & vegetables available we will source local spray-free produce as well. All the produce will be clearly labelled so you know exactly what you are buying & our *preference will be for certified organic*.

Since this is a trial event, the **long term success will depend on public interest**. We will have a wish list available, so that you can let us know which foods you would like access to. If this idea flourishes, then we will develop and grow to accommodate your needs, so your feedback is really important to us.

With Wildflower Botanicals joining us up in our shop at the beginning of March 2011, we **now supply a wide range of raw organic super foods (including raw chocolate!), herbs, and teas alongside our pure and chemical-free natural skincare range**. Both Verissima Natural Skincare and Wildflower Botanicals create all of their products on the premises by hand – so you know that you are purchasing natural and healthy products made ethically and locally with love.

You may have noticed another new face in the shop, as Kylie Ellis joined our team at Verissima Natural Skincare in February 2011. Kylie has worked in the organic food industry for many years; she initiated the organic food movement in Kalgoorlie by creating an organic food delivery service and then co-founding the organic shop, Switch Organics. Kylie is here to assist me in the running of the business, and to bring fresh ideas in as we all blossom and grow together.

In line with our passion for health and organics both on the inside and out, we are dedicated to providing ethical options for you, so keep an eye out for new additions as we work together to create a one-stop nurturing shop!

IF YOU KNOW ANY LOCAL GROWERS OF ORGANIC AND/OR SPRAY FREE FRUIT & VEGETABLES FORWARD THIS ON:

We are extremely interested in hearing from them and making their produce available from our premises at Verissima House in Mundaring. We feel that there is a shortage of businesses selling quality, local, certified organic &/or spray free fruit & vegetables, so would like to purchase produce

from local growers and on sell to the public at an extremely affordable price. This is a venture that we will start on a trial basis, but as interest grows we see it as a long-term sustainable project. They can call me on 0430 529 730 to discuss what you grow or make, supply times and/or collection arrangements. If they are a certified organic grower we will require their certification details.

OUR FIRST STALL IS BEING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 9AM UNTIL 12PM OR UNTIL SOLD OUT! BE QUICK.

Natallie Wright

Verissima Natural Skincare

16 Craig St Mundaring WA 6073

P: +61 (0) 8 9295 6473

F: +61 (0) 8 9295 6483

M: 0430 529 730

www.verissima.com.au

ORGANIC PRODUCE STALL WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 9AM TO LUNCHTIME OR SOLD OUT!

SOURCED FROM LOCAL GROWERS

CERTIFIED ORGANIC &/OR SPRAY FREE FRUIT & VEGETABLES

LOCAL ARTISAN PRODUCTS - HONEY, GOATS MILK & YOGHURT, JAM, SAUCES, OLIVE OIL, OLIVES

LESS TRAVEL, LESS PACKAGING, LESS IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

ARE YOU A GROWER, PRODUCER OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC &/OR SPRAY FREE PRODUCE?

MAKE CONTACT & WE CAN DISCUSS ADDING TO OUR RANGE OF GOODIES.

Our aim is to provide a weekly stall so that you have access to **local organic produce** without the excessive travelling, price tags and packaging! If there is a shortfall in the variety of *certified organic* fruit & vegetables available we will source local spray-free produce as well. All the produce will be clearly labelled so you know exactly what you are buying & our *preference will be for certified organic*.

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Glen Forrest Community Garden

**GARDEN
DREAMING**



Come and get your hands dirty...

at an interactive 'visioning our community garden dream

You'll have the opportunity to decide on:

- ❖ **where to put the pizza oven**
- ❖ **what fruit/nut/other trees to plant**
- ❖ **what garden beds to have and where**
- ❖ **what other activities to include**
- ❖ **and more...**

Where: Train Park (Morgan Reserve) Glen Forrest

When: Sunday 3rd April 10am – 12pm

Refreshments provided



Research Seminar on Carbon and Biomass

Oil Mallees and Revegetation, and

Oil Mallee Industry Conference

Carbon, Bioenergy & Landscape Change

Perth, Western Australia

14 and 15 April 2011

**For conference program, registration
and more information contact:**

Telephone: 08 9433 1244

Email: omainfo@oilmallee.org.au

Website: www.oilmallee.org.au



STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Bored with the content of the HLPG newsletter?

**Please send me your contributions, photos,
experiments, facts and suggestions.**

We NEED YOUR INPUT

It is time for you to share —

BE BRAVE—this is your newsletter

Links

Biodynamic

Biodynamics2024—biodynamic farming and gardening in Australia
<http://biodynamics2024.com.au/>

Eden Valley Biodynamic Farm Dumbleyung in southern Western Australia
<http://www.edenvalleybiodynamic.com.au/>

Highvale Biodynamic Orchard – Pickering Brook
<http://www.highvale.com/home.html>

Bushtucker

Bush Food Network
<http://www.bushfood.net>

Bush Tucker Plants
<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/bushtucker/>

Yelakitj Moort Nyungar Association
<http://www.nyungar.com.au/bushtucker.html>



Community Gardens

Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network
<http://communitygarden.org.au/>

Glen Forrest Community Garden
<http://groups.google.com/group/glenforrestcomgarden?hl=en>

Growing Communities WA
<http://www.wacgn.asn.au/>

Compost and Soils

Eureka Organic Compost
Address: 4040 West Swan Rd, West Swan, WA, 6055
Phone number: (08) 92745526

From the Soil Up
<http://www.fromthesoilup.com.au/>

Green Life Soil Co.
Family business promoting the practical use of Permaculture and Organic Gardening. They have developed several specialist soil mixes designed for improving Perth's impoverished soils

<http://www.greenlifesoil.com.au/index.htm>

178 Farrall Road, Midvale WA
Trading hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Closed Wednesday.
Ph: 9250 4575

GroundGrocer.com Earth Supplies

NEW

Online shop for composting products, compost tea brewers, monitoring equipment, microscopes and bioactive soil additives - everything you need to put the life back in your soils.

<http://www.groundgrocer.com>

Herbs

Dipaunka Macrides—Living as a Herbalist

www.theherbalist.com.au

www.groveofpan.com.au

Mobile: 0412180796

Plants for a Future – edible, medicinal and useful plants for a healthier world

<http://www.pfaf.org/index.php>

The Amazon Plants – Tropical Plant Database

<http://www.rain-tree.com/plants.htm>

Nurseries

Tass1Trees – specialising in fruiting plants – Fruit Trees

<http://www.tassitrees.com.au/>

Zanthorrea Nursery

<http://www.zanthorrea.com/>

Organics

Aussie Organic Gardening – a gardening blog by Lyn Bagnall

<http://aussieorganicgardening.com/>

Mundaring Organic Growers

<http://www.mundaringorganicgrowers.net/>

Nutritech Solutions – products for organic gardening

<http://www.nutri-tech.com.au>

The Green House Organic – provides organic seedlings

www.thegreenhouseorganic.com

The Organic Growers Association of WA – some good links and information

www.ogawa.org.au

Vital Organics

NEW

WA distributor of Natrakelp, located in Darlington. Natrakelp is a liquid seaweed for plants, animals and soil conditioner.

<http://www.vitalorganics.net.au/>

Permaculture / Living simply

City Farm

www.cityfarmperth.org.au



Links (cont.)

Down to Earth—preparing for the future by relying on the past
<http://down---to---earth.blogspot.com/>

Fremantle Environmental Resources Network (FERN)
www.fern.org.au

Hills Local Permaculture Group
<http://permaculturewest.org.au/hlpg>

Peacetree Permaculture & Edible Landscapes (PPAEL)
<http://www.peacetreepermaculture.com.au/>

Permablitz Melbourne
<http://www.permablitz.net/>

Permaculture Design – Pathways to Sustainable Living
<http://www.permaculturepathways.blogspot.com/>

Permaculture Power – spreading the permaculture word
<http://permaculturepower.wordpress.com/>

Permaculture Research Institute of Australia
www.permaculture.org.au

Dr Ross Mars - permaculture Designer, Teacher, Author, Consultant.
Candlelight Farm and Candlelight Trust
www.cfpermaculture.com / www.redplanetplants.com

Water Installations and Greywater Reuse Systems - greywater and rainwater tank installations, manufacturer and consultant.
www.waterinstallations.com / www.greywaterreuse.com.au

Sustainable Agriculture Research Institute – Jeff Nugent
www.permacultureplants.net

Sustainable Alternatives – Bernie and Rose Elsner's web site
www.sustainablealternatives.com.au

The Worm Shed – information about worms and worm farms
www.wormshed.com.au

Recycling

There is an email list for locals to pass on unwanted items or to find items all for free – Mundaring Shire Freecycle. You have to join the yahoo group to be able to post and receive notices.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FreecycleMundaringShire/>

Seed Savers

Diggers Club—heritage seeds
www.diggers.com.au

Seed Savers' Network

<http://www.seedsavers.net/>

The Drylands Permaculture Nursery and Research Farm

<http://www.permaculturenursery.com.au/>

Yilgarn seeds in Geraldton
Part of Seed Savers Network

Suppliers

Greenway Enterprises

Horticultural, landscape and landcare tools and equipment
21 Tacoma Ct, Canning Vale WA 6155 (08) 6258 0333

Landmark – wide range of products, including multigrow

32 Farrall Road, Midvale WA

<http://www.landmark.com.au/>

Sustainability

Environment House—Bayswater

<http://environmenthouse.org.au/index.php>

Perth Solar City

www.perthsolarcity.com.au

Miscellaneous

A Frog Pond

<http://afrogpond.com/>

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

[www/emrc.org.au](http://www.emrc.org.au)

Ecological Agriculture Australia Association

<http://www.ecoag.org.au/www/>

Silver Tree Steiner School

http://silvertree.wa.edu.au/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

Slow Food - WA

<http://slowfoodperth.org.au>

Soul Tree Organic Store and Café

Shop 6, 3-5 Railway Parade, Glen Forrest

<http://www.thesoultree.com.au/index.html>

Swan Hills LETS System— Local Exchange Trading System

<http://swanhillslets.org/public/>



H LPG

Contact us

Silvia and Rosemary

Email:
silviarose88@yahoo.com.au

Subscription to mailing list

If you wish to **subscribe** to the H LPG mailing list please send an email to us with the word “*subscribe to newsletter*” in the subject heading, and provide your full name and brief message.

If you wish to **be removed** from this email list, please send an email to us with “*unsubscribe*” in the subject heading

Permaculture West

Permaculture Association of Western Australia (PAWA)

<http://permaculturewest.org.au/home>

Hills Local Permaculture Group (H LPG)

The Hills Local Permaculture Group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:30 for 10:00 start and finishing at 12:00.

The H LPG meets at the Silver Tree Steiner School in Parkerville.

Please bring a small plate of goodies for morning tea and a spare mug if you have one.

If you are interested in joining in, or have questions or suggestions, please contact Silvia or Rosemary by e-mail silviarose88@yahoo.com.au

Web: <http://permaculturewest.org.au/community/local-groups/hlpg>

The H LPG meets at the
Silver Tree Steiner School in Parkerville

The school is at **69 Beacon Road in Parkerville.**

If you are coming via **Great Eastern Highway** then turn into Seaborne Street (which becomes Byfield St and then Roland Rd).

If you are coming via **Toodyay Road** then turn into Roland Road.

