

PERMACULTURE WEST: sharing the permie news



BIROK, DECEMBER 2010-JANUARY 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

Convenors report, p1
Treasurers report., p2
Harry's column, p3
Permaculture in the community:
Permablitz update. p4
Prison Permaculture, p5
Seasonal Permaculture:
Wildlife after a fire, p7
Brain teaser, p9
Catastrophe planning, p10
Inspiring Designs:
Worm towers, p11
Whats on, p12

BIROK

The Noongar people of the SW Coast of WA recognised six seasons. We will aim to publish an e-news each season, Birak (Dec-Jan) is characterised by hot, dry wind.

Look out for flowering Christmas trees (*Nuytsia floribunda*) and reptiles emerging from hibernation

TO CONTRIBUTE

The Permie News is actively seeking articles. We welcome anything you'd like to share with the community, articles and event details. Please

send to

**permie.news@
gmail.com**

or contact Rachel on
0411 478 424

Welcome to the e-news

Welcome to the revival of the Permaculture Association of Western Australia's paper-free electronic newsletter. We will be sharing a bi-monthly e-news and welcome articles, contributions and photos from members and friends. The e-news will have a couple of regular columns, Harry's discoveries, Permaculture in the community, Seasonal Permaculture, Inspiring Designs, as well as on-off features and a calendar of events.

It's a brand new day!!

PAWA Convenors Sparkles Murphy and Tash Levey

On the 20th of November 2010, PAWA had its AGM and first Seed Swapin' event. As per tradition, this day saw the new Convenors (myself) Sparkles Murphy and Tash Levey signed in plus the new PAWA team take on their roles for the coming year. Created also on the day, was the new convenor support / executive team consisting of Karen McKenzie, Su Hartley, Gill and Charles Ottway, who is also our new treasurer.

This year, the committee has made some significant changes to the structure of the association; we have included new support and mentoring roles as well as an events, technology and fundraising team. We have high hopes that 2011 and will be the biggest success in the history of Permaculture second only to the WA convergence and the birthdays of Bill Mollison and David Holmgren!

Just yesterday I received a folder containing a set of handwritten notes from the 1999 PAWA local seed exchange, taken by my feelings of nostalgia and curiosity, I found myself reading through the beautifully curative writing only to find that the content still expressed relevance today. The concerns of our group over a decade ago, not surprisingly match those of our current group.

The sentiment, I guess I am hoping to express is that there is still much work to be done, and as a united movement of people, we have many great opportunities and challenges ahead of us. I am nostalgic about handwritten documents that smell of storage must, and contact lists that have not one mobile number listed amongst them. I am, however, very conscious that the world around us is moving at such a fast pace and this year, more than ever, it seems critical that we rebuild our resilience to remain a solid connection to the permaculture paradise we know this worldly garden was originally designed to be.

Over the next 12 months, the permaculture community will continue

to grow in numbers, and we will be experiencing changes to the association, the teaching of permaculture and to the movement as a whole. It is because of this I want to share with you a paragraph from a website called "children and nature network" this crew actively seeks to connect our kids to the outdoors in order to combat a syndrome known as "nature deficit disorder"....

"Communications tools such as Web sites, texting, online communities of interest, blogs, electronic newsletters, and other forms of outreach and inclusion are all serving as powerful ways to nourish and support a sense of connectedness—this sense of being a part of something purposeful, inspiring, healthy, and commonsense—that is at the heart of this movement..."

Part of the next years focus is to upgrade and revamp the technology and communication tools available to us. Don't be afraid! PAWA already had its first national Skype conference in June, there's a new team Rachel and Jason on enews and a 'foreign correspondent' Harry Wykman reporting in for a monthly column! We are working hard on spreading the permie word and will be on the radio, in the newspapers and anywhere and anywhere we can shout the word 'Permaculture' without being arrested! We will also be involving the global online community and making a call out to work with other community groups with common values such as Sustainable Population Australia for our March international speaker on Population Mark O'Connor.

With the magic of spring disappearing into the intensity of summer, I believe Permaculture in Western Australia is on the verge of becoming a hot compost system, capable of transforming cultures, and creating new possibilities for the wider Perth community. If you would like to be involved, there are still many roles up for grabs, and the opportunity to create your own as well!



SEED SWAP FAIR and NEW SEED HUB

Charles Otway, Treasurer and Memberships PAWA

Thanks to all those members and keen seed swappers who came along to the Seed Swap Fair. I am sure you all enjoyed the visually spectacular and detailed Q&A from Troy's Balingup Seed Saving group workshop and the Seed Saving facts and foundations presented to us by Ralph Darlington. Many thanks to Troy and family for travelling up from Balingup and Ralph for coming to us from Mundaring OGAWA group and volunteering your time and expertise, for what we intend to grow into a celebrated annual or bi-annual Fair.

We are also starting up a Seed Saver Hub within the association. Anyone that is keen to help organise, provide seeds, or receive seeds and return some next season please contact us and get involved.

It was also great to see lots of new faces at the AGM, and thanks for all those brave and dedicated folks that have come on board to help us ramp up Permaculture in WA in 2011! There are certainly some busy and exciting times ahead with new Local Groups forming, Permablitz's, Re-skilling Events and lots more planned.

Merry Christmas from everyone here at Permaculture West and we will see you all bright eyed and bushy-tailed in the New Year.

Harry's Column

Pol-e-cultures

Harry, The Travelling Permaculturalist

December 11, 2010

Timór-Leste, from which I write, is the loofah-adorned gateway to my newly begun adventures in polyculture. I have been asked to write brief snippets as I go for inclusion in PAWA's e-news, thus the less-than-satisfying reference to the electronic medium in 'pol-e -cultures.' Why polycultures? Well, this little part of the e-news is going to be a place for me to share with any willing readers some of what I learn and experience on my Permaculture journeys over the next 18 months. The name comes from the many cultures that I will encounter in this time and the strong desire in me to learn more about how to grow plants together in a way that produces abundant yields useful to people. Specifically, I hope to learn more about polycultures in Mediterranean climates.

From two weeks in Timór-Leste working at HIAM Health in their 'home kitchen garden' (home gardens are the more ancient tropical equivalent of the forest garden concept) I travel to the United Kingdom, where I will be based in Oxford, England. It is my intention to work enough to subsist and travel to those places in which I can learn more about forest gardening and polyculture in general.

Martin Crawford's forest garden in Devon, England will be one of the first destinations once I am settled. I hope to gain his advice on where to travel around the Mediterranean basin. There I hope to find polycultures and perma-cultures which will provide inspiration for work in the analogous climate of the South West of Western Australia, now and into the climatically unstable future. Next e-news, I'll get down to some specifics, beginning with Timór-Leste. In the mean time,

May your polycultures be over-yielding,
Harry Dili, Timór-Leste

*Any correspondence will be welcomed
(harrybw@peacetreepermaculture.com.au) and in
addition to this forum, I will be writing in more detail
on my blog which can be found at
<http://www.peacetreepermaculture.com.au>.*

Image: The canopy of the majestic 'ai sam-tuku' (*Albizia chinensis*), one of the canopy species

New Years Resolutions to fulfill?

Keen to be part of a dynamic community supporting sustainability and full of hope and solutions?

Consider a PAWA membership this year!

Only \$30/financial year or \$15 Jan-July
2011 its an easy choice!

For details see: <http://permaculturewest.org.au/join-pawa>

Permablitz at Lyndalls' Place

Lyndall Parkinson

The temperature was 36degrees on Sunday 28 November when fourteen Northern APES and Permaculture members, in spite of the heat and humidity, threw their tireless energy into blitzing my small duplex block backyard. It would have taken me months, working on my own, to attempt all that was achieved in just a few hours by such an energetic & enthusiastic group. Their total combination of knowledge, experience and energy was irrepressible and I'm extremely grateful for their valuable time and effort; also for their plant, seed and food contributions on the day.

Three teams were set up. One team pruned, enriched nutrient depleted sandy soil and utilised vertical space on both side fences to plant sufficient food crops to potentially produce and provide "edible fences" of beans, tomatoes and passionfruit for the entire street!

Another industrious team of "blitzers" created wicking beds, utilising recycled polystyrene boxes raised up on bricks and pallets; mixing commercial vegetable concentrate, compost, home-grown worm castings, sand and rock dust they produced a healthy, friable growth medium for vegetable planting.

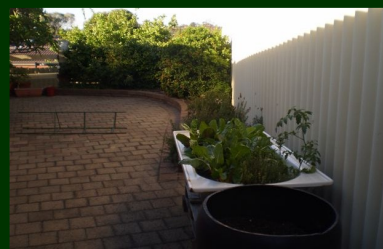
But wait there's more....my pond! A disused kitchen trough was converted into a tadpole sanctuary, complete with water lily and encircled by rocks to provide encouragement and a safe habitat for beneficial insects and other critters to dwell. Over the next few days my friends and neighbours embraced the project and provided tadpoles and suitable plants from their own gardens to enhance the surrounding pond area.

I was quite overwhelmed by the end of the day. It took me a few days to adjust to exactly how, when and what had actually taken place. With the projects happening at such a speed, and as I was only fleetingly involved with each one, I was left feeling consumed by a huge responsibility. I'm very much a Permie raw recruit, having only recently completed an Introduction to Permaculture with Sparkles and Harry Wykman. It wasn't until Tash provided me with a much need post-blitz review of the projects undertaken that I felt more confident and less uncertain of my capabilities to ensure that the work completed continues to beneficially flourish. I'm now looking forward to planning what crops to sow in my new wicking beds.

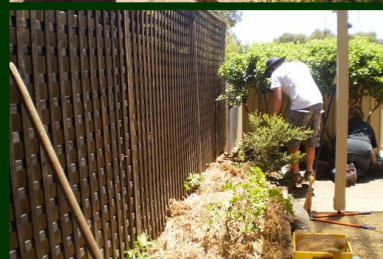
Whilst I have much to learn about productive vegetable growing skills, my blitz has provided encouragement and the impetus for ongoing knowledge, following permaculture principles. In fact, I have observed an exponentially positive community energy expanding throughout my family, friends and neighbours as a result of my blitz; everyone keen to know more about my newfound permaculture studies and to assist and support my vegetable growing success.

Once again I thank all those involved, from initial design to completion and post-blitz review: Charles, Tash, Tod, Paul, Leonie, Annora, Heather, Michele, Di, Julie, Sparkles, David, Dirk and Sam

BEFORE....



AFTER....



Permaculture at Acacia Prison

A brief story of the Permaculture Awareness Course and the planned Design Certificate at Acacia Prison

Bernie Elsner, December 2010

Acacia Prison is WA's only privately run prison located 50km East of Perth managed by SERCO Australasia. The history of the current Awareness Course at Acacia Prison began in September 2007 with a pilot course of 20 mixed race inmates and a temporary classroom and garden site. The main objectives of the



Chickens at Acacia Prison
'caged birds'

pilot course were to see if something unique could operate within the current education system and if particular outcomes could be met. These outcomes ranged from stimulating prisoners to think more sustainably, study further in a range of existing courses on offer, find work within the prison and for some just committing to a five week course and to turn up and pass would be a major positive result. This custom course I have created links the

existing industries on site and concentrates on creating new employment opportunities and even inventions that have evolved from the class. The course runs for five weeks, three days per week totalling approximately 80 hours combined class and grounds learning providing an in house certificate of completion and graduation booklet of all work done by the class. The topics covered vary from water management and drip-line irrigation, waste, energy, food and animals there are many hands on lessons on site like measuring, drawing, compost making and surveying.

The course funding is met partially by the education budget and partially by the site facilitation budget. The education department needed a course that would be available to the entire prison population targeting mostly unmotivated, unemployed prisoners as well as the large numbers of indigenous men also. Facilitations needed to enhance the grounds more sustainably and generate new jobs based on the course ideas thus a partnership of industry and education came together with Permaculture in the middle.

The course structure is based on a worldwide Permaculture teaching platform which is the Permaculture Design Certificate or PDC, but was greatly modified in order to meet the then limited on site environments in 2007-10 as well as ensure that the total population of the prison could not only attend but attain the teachings and tasks set. The outcomes were highly valued; we had a total of 20 students complete the pilot course with many genuine outcomes.

SERCO then requested four courses back to back in 2008 focusing on food gardens within specific accommodation blocks that then became the next stage of the awareness program. Additional outcomes



Marking
contours
for swales



Constructed
swales



Compost bays
built by students



Students learning to install drip-line irrigation for reclaimed



Students spreading mulch over the irrigation

began to surface there were new ideas and suggestions being taken on board inventions being created and even a change in behaviour and attitudes in not only the prisoners but Serco staff morale too.

In 2009 and 2010 the main grounds of the site were made available to the course allowing us to create a range of site specific example gardens such as bush foods, bird & butterfly attracting, a scented 'chill out' garden with recycled jarrah bench seat and a herb spiral to name a few.

With no existing Permaculture examples on site to assist in the varied teaching needed for outcomes I decided to use each of these class projects in Permaculture to build an environment to then become a living classroom for future classes. This has become an important tool for the future of further education in 2011 such as the very first

Prison PDC.

The Permaculture Awareness Course and PDC has become a life inclusive program dealing with current environmental issues, health, diet, food, new and developing industry and enterprise. Understandings that these men can take with them back to their families and communities to educate in their language their way for them to make the change. Since commencing in 2007 up until this October we have had 219 prisoners pass the course and we are now in communications with Hakea prison for a similar outcome at this site.

There are over 120 chickens on site introduced as a waste management system for the food scraps from the kitchen as well as egg production, manure and 4 fulltime employment po-



A new native garden at Acacia Prison



Herb spiral garden

Since 2006 **Bernie Elsner** and his wife **Rose** have operated Sustainable Alternatives a Perth based business providing Permaculture design, recycled timber constructions, consultation, food gardens, edible classrooms and education courses. Bernie holds a Certificate in Permaculture Design, Advanced Teaching in Permaculture and is currently studying part time for his Certificate IV in Permaculture and Rose holds her Certificate in Design also.



SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES
Sustainable Solutions for Everyday Living

sitions that includes a breeding programme also. There was over 3000 light weight plastic bags used each week that are now replaced with Eco-Bags as a suggestion of the class work booklet on waste.

These are images from some of the great work done by the students.

How to help the wildlife after a bushfire?

Silvia Rosenstreich, Hills Local Permaculture Group

The word 'fire' has been at the forefront of many of our minds this summer, after the Victorian bushfires and the more recent Toodyay fires. Many of us in the Perth Hills have had some experience of a bushfire close to home. With this heightened awareness of the impact of bushfires comes an opportune time to provide some information about what we can do for wildlife after a bushfire has wiped out their protective cover, nesting and roosting sites, as well as their food sources. Remember that wildlife habitats may take up to a year to regenerate once a bushfire has occurred.

Injured wildlife, other than orphans, will adopt the preservation reflex whereby they will mask their pain and injuries in order to appear normal. Homes on the fringes of the fire will become a refuge for wildlife that may have been forced there by the fire.

**If you find a sick or injured native animal, use this 24-hour emergency number:
WILDCARE (08) 9474 9055**

than orphans, will adopt the preservation reflex whereby they will mask their pain and injuries in order to appear normal. Homes on the fringes of the fire will become a refuge for wildlife that may have been forced there by the fire.

When dealing with injured or orphaned wildlife after bushfires, it is important not to frighten them. **All wildlife should be treated with caution, especially when they are distressed and injured.** Untrained members of the public should only tend to those animals that are severely injured or unlikely to be able to care for themselves. Wildlife that may bite, or are otherwise dangerous (e.g. venomous snakes),

The immediate and basic needs of injured wildlife are:

- Secure containment to prevent further injury
- Warmth
- Quiet
- Dark
- No food or water
- Urgent help from a qualified person, either a vet or a wildlife carer.

Wildlife affected by a bushfire are more than likely:

- In shock
- Suffering from burns and/or smoke inhalation
- Injured
- Hungry
- Dehydrated
- Highly stressed – native animals are especially susceptible to stress and this alone is enough to kill them
- Frightened and disorientated
- Orphaned
- Highly vulnerable to predators
- Suffering from burns or wounds that could become fly-blown due to the warm temperatures

should only be handled by trained wildlife carers or handlers.

What to do if you find an injured native animal suffering burns, sick, injured or orphaned :

If the animal is small:

- Place it in a pillow case or cloth bag. If this is not possible place a thick cloth, such as a towel, at the bottom of the container to allow the animal to grip. The cloth should not have any loose threads in case the animal entangles its claws.
- Place this in a box a little larger than the animal, preferably not a cage, so that the animal does not do further damage to itself or its feathers. Ensure that the container is well fastened and has ventilation.

- Place the box in a shady/cool place that is quiet and dark if possible. Do not place water in the box as the animal will more than likely overturn the water container and end up getting wet and losing body heat.
- Contact a wildlife carer, Wildcare helpline or vet and make arrangements to bring the animal to the centre/carer.

Do not try to feed or give the animal a drink. Once the wildlife carer has made an assessment of the animal then the carer may wish to provide the animal with rehydrating liquid.

Note the exact location and time of day that the animal was found as all rehabilitators endeavour to return the animals to their own territories. This is critical in the case of extremely territorial

If the animal is large:

- Keep clear of the animal and attempt to leave it undisturbed (i.e. keep pets away and unnecessary vehicle traffic).
- Note its location and apparent difficulty.
- Contact a wildlife carer, Wildcare helpline or a vet and describe the situation. The carer/vet/helpline will then offer advice on how to proceed.

Offering water is recommended particularly during hot days.

Some simple guidelines when putting out water are:

- Place water containers at different heights and sizes for different species of animals: Ground level: skinks, lizards, echidnas, kangaroos, etc. Bird baths on pedestals: birds. Higher level/trees: possums, gliders, birds, etc.
- Place rocks or branches inside the water containers to help small animals that may fall into the water to get out and avoid drowning.
- Make sure the water container is properly secured so it does not tip over if the animals step on it in order to drink.
- Place the water containers in a shady and safe area, accessible for the wildlife, far from pets that may hurt or hunt the wildlife.
- Top up and change the water regularly to ensure a constant supply of fresh clean water.

You can help the wildlife by:

- Placing water around your house both on and above the ground (see information below about providing water for wildlife).
 - Keeping domestic animals restrained for a few weeks after the fire.
 - Being careful of what food you leave out – seek advice first – in case you attract foxes, rats and predators.
 - *Not* leaving food out for animals in natural bushland or burn-out areas.
 - *Not* trying to catch or corner animals stranded in a small area in case they are frightened back towards the fire.
 - *Not* attempting to catch kangaroos as you can cause myopathy (affects muscles) if chased. Kangaroos can also inflict serious injuries to humans.
 - Taking caring whilst driving in areas that have been affected by the fire as animals will be on the move in search of food and shelter.
 - Planting trees and shrubs that provide shelter and food for wildlife after the fire has been through – or perhaps do this when the weather cools to create a wildlife habitat.
- Building bird nesting boxes to replace logs and hollows destroyed in the fires

Heat Stress and wildlife

The high temperatures impact not only on us, our gardens, our pets and livestock, but also on the wildlife. During the hottest months numerous animals are brought in to wildlife carers because of heat stress. Dehydration and burnt paws are very common during hot days. When encountering animals affected by hot weather, contact your local wildlife carer or Vet or call the Wildcare helpline for further assessment and treatment.

If you find an animal

- If you find any nocturnal animal, e.g possums, wandering around during the day, you need to ring for help immediately.
- If the animal is lethargic and does not try to get away from you, please call a wildlife carer, the Wildcare helpline or a Vet.
- In the case of a possum or bird and if you are confident enough to do so, try placing a cool, wet towel over the animal to pick it up and put it in a well ventilated box.
- Offer water in a bowl. Many animals that are suffering from heat stress will not drink on their own. You need to get this animal to an experienced carer as soon as possible so they can start rehydrating the animal.
- Please note down the location of where you found the animal. This is really important so that carers can release the animal back to its home when it has recovered.
- Please remember, as a member of public there are penalties for holding onto wildlife without the relevant permit. It is in the best interests of the animal's health to get them to an experienced carer as soon as possible.

The **WILDCARE Helpline** operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, diverting to after hours numbers at nights and weekends, to provide immediate assistance. Volunteers handle telephone inquiries and refer callers to one of 340 registered wildlife rehabilitators who take care of the animal before releasing it back into its native habitat.

DEC Wildlife Rehabilitators' Course

DEC provides a comprehensive Wildlife Rehabilitators' Course for people interested in helping our increasingly beleaguered wildlife.

References:

- *Glove Box Guide: Sick, Injured or Orphaned Wildlife*. Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.
- <http://www.kanyanawildlife.org.au/contact.php>
- Graeme Eggleston *Caring for native animals after bushfires*. Primefact 404, November 2006. NSW Department of Primary Industries. <http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/home>
- Wildlife Rescuers www.wildliferescuers.org.au
- Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. www.dec.wa.gov.au

Brain Teaser...

1 Acre of PV versus 1 Acre of Corn How many miles per acre can you get?

by Christopher Dymond from the Oregon Dept of Energy
contributed by Warwick Rowell

How much electricity from an acre of corn? 1 Acre of PV in a reasonably sunny location will produce 120,000 to 200,000 kWh of electricity per year. An electric car gets something between 1 and 3 miles per kWh - Thus we can get at least 120,000 miles per year on an acre of PV.

How much ethanol do you get from an acre of corn? Let's say you can grow 160 bushels per acre. You'll get about 2.8 gallons to the bushel (about 450 gallons to the acre, an excellent yield), and each gallon of ethanol contains 85,000 Btu of energy. At 15 miles per (less miles per gallon than gasoline, because ethanol holds 69% of the energy of gasoline per gallon), we can get 6,720 miles per year on an acre of corn, possibly 20,000 if we're driving an ultralight commuter car.

This shows clearly that the future belongs to electric vehicles. And once you understand that you begin to realize just how much electric power is going to be needed to keep the world rolling.

Catastrophe Priority Setting

Warwick Rowell

TYPE OF CATASTROPHE	Most likely	Most Severe	Priority
Food shortages			
Power failures			
Water contamination			
Major accident			
Job loss			
Serious injury/ health problem			
Internal house fire			
Wind damage			
Water penetration damage			
Building collapse			
Bush fire			
Flood			
Severe erosion			
Climate change			

Step 1: Add your own ideas about catastrophes that could occur for you and yours, where you are now.

Step 2: Rank each line in terms of the **likelihood** of it occurring in the some time frame that is relevant for you: the next five years, your lifetime, your grandchildren's lifetime... 1: most likely, 2: next most likely, 3: next and so on.

Step 3: Rank each line again in terms of its **severity**. Consider the number of people involved, the time it takes to recover, the cost. 1: most severe, etc

Step 4: For each line, add these two numbers.

Step 5: Decide which ones you need/want to take action on within the next month.

Step 6: Allocate the most time and resources to the selected lines with the lowest number in the fourth column- they are the highest priority; they are the most likely to occur, and their impact is the most severe.

Step 7: If you would like to see what other Permaculturists have identified as their priorities, scan this page when you've completed it, and email it to warwick.rowell@bigpond.com before the end of Dec.

Inspiring designs: Worm towers

Milkwood Permaculture Farm, Mudgee

<http://milkwood.net/2010/10/12/how-to-make-a-worm-tower/>



Adam drilling holes for worm tower

We've been adding worm towers to garden projects for a couple of years. We love them because they are so simple to make, are energy efficient and they are so beneficial. Who came up with the idea



Raised bed planted, with hole dug for worm tower

THE CONCEPT

Essentially a worm tower is an in-garden worm farm that allows the worms and their nutrients to interact directly with the surrounding garden bed.

originally we do not know, but it's a darn good one.

THE DESIGN

It consists of a vertical pipe, placed half submerged in a garden bed, with holes drilled in it. The pipe contains a bunch of compost worms, and you periodically feed the worms with handfuls of organic matter (kitchen scraps, leaf litter, weeds, etc).

The worms do their wonderful wormy thing and convert that organic matter into rich worm poo and worm juice. The worm juice leaches out the holes and into the surrounding garden, bringing increased soil moisture, microbiology, fertility and in turn yummy veggies, for very little effort on your part. The worms can venture out into the soil of the garden bed if they choose, and come back to feed (compost worms will tend to stay put, though, which is fine). Every 6 months or so you can clean out the worm tower and harvest the rich, fertile worm poo, using it as you choose on your garden.



Worm tower complete, they're the things under the terracotta pots

GREAT FEATURES

- 1.As the worm tower is half submerged in the soil, its ambient temperature is relatively stable, something the worms appreciate greatly
- 2.Depending on what sort of lid you use, they can be a very discrete and aesthetically integrated addition to any garden, unlike a traditional worm farm, which usually looks like a big black box.

It always amazes me how much little nudges of fertility can benefit an entire system. It's that whole 1% rule, yet again. And though you do need to keep feeding them, a worm tower is an incredibly effective and low energy-input way of increasing the goodness in your garden, and they're very easy to get going and to maintain. Yet another example of slow, small solutions adding up to provide complexity, stability and abundance.

For details of how to build your own worm tower and what you will need, see <http://milkwood.net/2010/10/12/how-to-make-a-worm-tower/>

Our first inspiring designs idea comes from the beautiful blog of Milkwood Permaculture Farm, NSW. <http://www.milkwoodpermaculture.com.au/>

We hope to make inspiring designs a regular feature of the e-news. If you have seen, created or experienced an inspiring design that you would like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Please help us keep the permaculture magic spreading by sharing your stories.

What's on....

Events, Courses and permaculture related community activities

Permaculture West:

For an up-to-date list of what's happening around Perth in the Permaculture world please visit the Permaculture West website

Events: <http://permaculturewest.org.au/events>

Courses: <http://permaculturewest.org.au/courses>

If you have an event, activity or course you would like added to our next e-news (Feb/March 2011) please send an email with details to permie.news@gmail.com by Jan 25th.

Permablitz:

Keep an eye on the Permaculture West website for details of the next Permablitz in your area and how to get involved. See <http://permaculturewest.org.au/permablitzperth>

Get closer to nature...rediscover parks

As part of DEC's Rediscover Parks campaign there will be a series of FREE entry days at selected parks over the summer. National Parks are ideal places for family get-togethers, picnics, relaxing or talking a walk. A visit to a park is a great way to revitalise yourself after the consumerist Christmas season, reconnect with nature and get some inspiration for new designs in your garden.

Free entry days include:

30th Jan 2011 Porongurup National Park

6th Feb 2011 Cape Le Grand National Park

For more details see: <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/contentview6240/1/>

For other great nature based activities check out DEC's Nearer to Nature website:

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/3404/1885/>

Grow it yourself

The grow it yourself movement has made it to Perth. Local groups are springing up around the city. If you are interested in joining the movement or keen to check out what they are up to see: <http://www.giyaaustralia.org/>

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts

19-21 Jan 2011

A three day workshop exploring environmental issues of importance to us all. Topics cover living sustainably and how each of us can make a difference.

For details see: <http://www.aaeewa.org.au/cc.html>

KISS at City Farm

Keep it Sustainable Sweetheart! Head to City Farm 4.30-6.30 on the second Friday of each month for a monthly Sustainable September Soiree. Bring snacks to share or a sausage to sizzle.

14th Jan 2011

11th Feb 2011

Interested in volunteering at City Farm?

Volunteering for 2011 commences Tues 4th Jan Mon-Fri 8.30-4pm, Sat 6.30am-3.30

For more details call City Farm on 9325 7229 or check out the City Farm website <http://cityfarmperth.org.au/>

If you have an event, activity or course you would like added to our next e-news (Feb/March 2011) please send an email with details to permie.news@gmail.com by Jan 25th

Permaculture West

The Permaculture Association of Western Australia (PAWA or Permaculture West) aims to help people learn and use permaculture in their lives. The Association provides the opportunity for members to obtain information and build skills to implement permaculture designs, by:

- Disseminating permaculture information and resources
- Promoting the design and construction of permaculture systems
- Providing opportunities for interested people to meet
- Seeking contact with any other related groups

Permaculture Ethics



Care of the Earth



Care of People



Fair Share

& Design Principles



1. Observe & interact



2. Catch & store energy



3. Obtain a yield



4. Apply self-regulation & accept feedback



5. Use & value renewable resources & services



6. Produce no waste



7. Design from patterns to details



8. Integrate rather than segregate



9. Use small & slow solutions



10. Use & value diversity



11. Use edges & value the marginal



12. Creatively use & respond to change



permacultureprinciples.com



Join a local permaculture group

Belonging to a local permaculture groups can provide inspiration, motivation, hands on practical help and opportunities to share equipment, and plant resources.

They also provide a great sense of comradeship and connectedness. There are several active local groups around Perth.

Check out their websites to see what the groups are up to and how to join:

The Hills Local Permaculture Group (HLPG)

Contact:

Silvia Rosenstreich

silviarose88@yahoo.com.au or

Rosemary Taylor (08) 9252 1237

The Northern Active Permaculture Enthusiasts (APE's)

Contact permaculturewest@gmail.com

The Lockridge Group

Contact Tash at

lockridgecommunitygarden@gmail.com

The Fremantle Permaculture Group

Contact Sparkles at

sparklemerchant@yahoo.com