

PermacultureWest: sharing the permie news

DJILBA, AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2011

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TO CONTRIBUTE

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

Themes for Oct/Nov Issue:

1. Use small and slow solutions
2. Use and value diversity

Please send contributions to enews@permaculturewest.org.au by Sept 25th for the next issue.

DJILBA

The Noongar people of the SW Coast of WA recognised six seasons. DJILBA (Aug/Sept) was the season of conception and brought with it the second rains filling waterholes lakes and rivers. Roots were collected and milkmaids, grey cottonheads and coral vine are all flowering.

Hello WA!

Firstly on behalf of Permaculture in WA please accept our heartfelt thanks for your support this past financial year. It has been a great rebuilding year for PermacultureWest, from some very slow years and under 30 members, we have grown to a vibrant, well supported, 100 plus strong association. With the Reskilling Event, Royal Show Strawbale and Backyard, Balingup Field Day, National Permaculture Day, and formation of the Northern and Fremantle Local Permaculture groups there has been a lot happening.

Permablitz support has grown from strength to strength. Yes, there are 350 plus of you and while we are still gathering the design and facilitation support to make these blitz's a monthly event, supporting local group blitz's, Blitzer's homes and selecting larger community blitz's is high on the to do list for 2012.

There is so much energy and interest in food security, home food production, low energy technology, community gardens and local groups and a public shift in conscious to consider what is ethical, sustainable and local. This is certainly a refreshing change from the many years of mining boom and natural and human exploitation in WA. With skyrocketing home prices and the need for everyone to work full time, there has seemed no time for self, family and ecological worth growth activities and values.

Memberships expired for everyone on June 30th, so we would whole heartedly like to encourage you and those you know to join/renew your \$30 membership.

PermacultureWest Committee 2010-2011

PermacultureWest — now on YouTube and Flickr!

Check out and upload videos and photos of local permaculture events on PermacultureWest's newest video and photo sharing sites.

Videos at **PermacultureWest YouTube** channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PermacultureWest>

Photo sharing at the **PermacultureWest Flickr** site:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/permaculturewest/>

Thanks to the amazing PermacultureWest techies Jason and Shaun (and Sue for the vids) for making this happen!

Chameleon tail image in the header was taken from Michael Taylor's Weblog (<http://patternizer.wordpress.com/patterns/natural-patterns/>). He is a mathematical physicist from Liverpool with a craze for patterns.

"All my life patterns have led me... Once I believed function came before form. It's simpler now. Beauty follows pattern and pattern follows math."

A note on this issues themes:

Design from patterns to details

By stepping back, we can observe patterns in nature and society. These can form the backbone of our designs, with the details filled in as we go.



The patterns found in the natural world are a source of inspiration for permaculture. 'Pattern thinking' can be used in a wide variety of situations, unlike specific techniques which can only be used in particular situations. Permaculture aims to help you think about the overall pattern for a project by using a variety of design methods. The principles themselves are all about helping to do this. Its about looking at the 'big picture' first.

Integrate rather than segregate

By putting the right things in the right place, relationships develop between those things and how they work together to support each other.



One of the most important insights from ecology is that the relationships between things are as important as the things themselves. A healthy vibrant ecosystem is a mass of connections and relationships. That's what we are trying to create with a permaculture system. **Permaculture seeks to integrate elements together so that the needs of one are supplied by another.**

Text taken from: <http://permacultureprinciples.com/>
<http://www.permaculture.org.uk>

PermacultureWest Membership Drive

Memberships expired for everyone on June 30th, so we would whole heartedly like to encourage you and those you know to join/renew your \$30 membership. It's a low cost but the combined benefit this allows PermacultureWest to provide the community of WA can be truly life changing for many people and areas. You can't put a price on the benefits we are bringing to and the growth of local community development, local food security, low energy decent re-skilling and statewide permaculture skill and support network.

Please take the time to renew. We offer bank transfer, cheques/money orders, and will be available at Royal Agricultural Show in the Permie Backyard in the Landcare Area this year for cash payments and at other locations that can be found in events and calendar.

Membership fees and donations enable us to offer:

- You a great way to make a financial contribution toward social change, and building a better environment and future.
- Newsletters and regular email updates on relevant WA issues and events.
- Involvement and engagement with the Permaculture community. Permaculture brings together sustainability sciences, ethics, environmental principles and just plain common sense into one overall guide for living.
- Local permaculture and gardening groups, Permablitz and other skill development workshops and groups.
- Development of and support to WA future Seed Saver Collective.
- An avenue to volunteering your expertise to be the change you wish to see in others.

To join, renew your membership with the PermacultureWest or donate to support our many community building endeavours please download and fill out the Word document. Or download and print the PDF document, fill it out, then scan/photograph. Email completed membership forms to treasurer@permaculturewest.org.au or post to our PO Box (details on the form). If all this sounds too hard then keep an eye on our meetings and events and come visit us and do it in person.

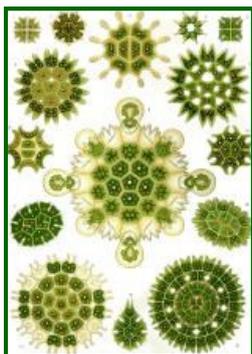
Time and skill rich but cash poor? Please let us know, we are all in favour of membership in lieu of services rendered and should be able to come up with something that suits both parties.

Please remember to check the volunteer roles on our various teams, much self worth and growth is available from engagement with the great people of permaculture. All positions start out mentored and can remain a shared role if required. We are a volunteer organisation so please look at your priorities and find a way to give back to the community and yourself.



ERNST HAECKEL AND PATTERNS FOR PATHS IN PERMACULTURE

Extract from Harry Wykmans weblog, Perennial Ideas at Peacetree Permaculture
<http://perennialideas.ptpc.com.au/weblog/ernst-haeckel-and-patterns-paths-permaculture>



The use of natural patterns in permaculture was brought to the front of my mind when recently I re-encountered the beautiful drawings of Ernst Haeckel after they had been released into the public domain. Haeckel's drawings of diatoms, jellyfish and other fascinating organisms are intended to provoke us to consider questions of order in nature by their astounding symmetries. I was struck by how many of them possess variations on the classic "keyhole" pattern suggested by Bill Mollison for garden access. One panel in particular could almost bear the title "Meditations on the 'Keyhole Pattern'". These drawings provoke the questions which must be asked of all patterns if they are to be useful in design — why are they like that? To what problem are they a solution? By what force have they been shaped?

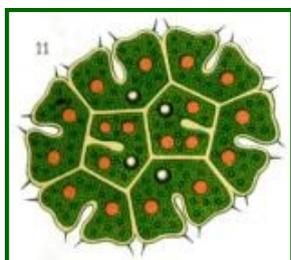
The patterns of the natural world play a prominent part in the design practice of Permaculture. Too often though natural patterns and shapes (spirals, curves, waves, branches etc.) are used as if they were magical — as if "naturalness" was a sufficient condition for their use in design. This use of pattern can serve an aesthetic purpose but in what other ways are natural patterns useful to designers? I would like to briefly explore a different approach to patterns through looking at the keyhole path.



I would like to begin this exploration with a quote from Mollison on the application of patterns. He writes:

"There are two aspects to patterning: the perception of the pattern that already exists and how these function, and the imposition of pattern on sites in order to achieve some specific ends."

Bill Mollison, *The Permaculture Designers' Manual*, p. 95



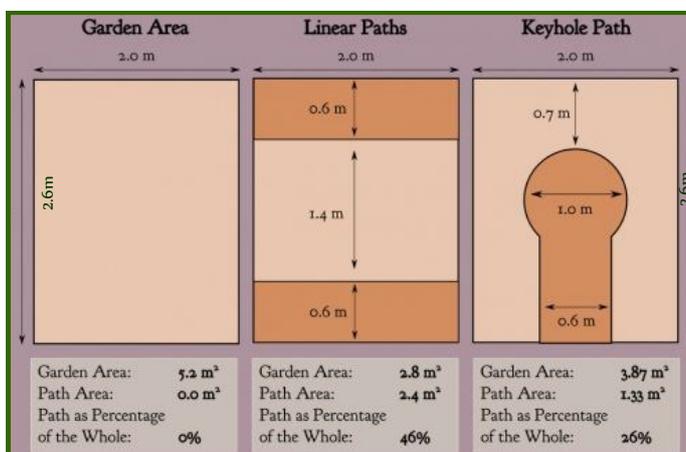
Haeckel's drawings inspire thoughts of both these approaches — They remind me of the keyhole, a form of pattern imposition 'to achieve some specific ends'. If you were to place a tree in their centre, some of Haeckel's drawings would be a ready representation of a guild planting in a forest garden with ideal access. I am also provoked to think of what forces and conditions influenced the particular organisms to possess these shapes. For now though I will leave reflections on this latter approach for a slightly more geometrical approach to the question of what problem keyholes solve.

A Geometrical Meditation on the Keyhole

What is a keyhole path? A keyhole path is a solution to the design problem of access. It is perhaps best described by comparing it with another similar design solution to the problem of access — the linear path. Let's assume that we need access for a person only, not a wheelbarrow, and so set path width at 60cm. Let's also assume that an adult can reach about 70cm into a garden bed while kneeling on the path and that the garden bed has a length of 2 m. Given these assumptions, a maximum garden bed width of 1.4 m (70cm reach from each side) can exist between two paths 60cm wide. This makes for a total area of 5.2 m². The linear paths occupy 46% of this space. By contrast, a keyhole bed with a 1m diameter circle at its extremity takes up only 26% of the available space while still allowing full access to the garden bed.

Keyhole paths mimic the natural pattern which occurs, for example, in the human lung and many other places where folds or 'crenulations' are the solution to the need for increased surface area. An increase in surface area increases the capacity for exchange across a boundary. A keyhole allows for a high degree of edge between path and garden while keeping the space required for the path small. In our comparison, the edge between path and garden is approximately the same for the linear and the keyhole path but the keyhole occupies 20% less space.

In short, a keyhole provides access while minimising path space (ie. maximising garden space) and creating a large surface area between path and garden. A keyhole is also an end node for a branching pattern but that is a story for another day. In the mean time, have a look at Ernst Haeckel's pretty pictures on wikimedia and lift your hands the god of the public domain.



Follow the keyhole discussion that flowed from this weblog on the Peacetree Permaculture website.

References: The Encyclopedia of Life: Pediastrum and Wikimedia: Beautiful Haeckel drawings from Kunstformen der Nature

Challenges in Understanding Ecosystems: seeing patterns and integrating connections

The Understandings of Consequence Project, Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Lessons to Infuse into Ecosystems Units to Enable Deeper Understanding
<http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/smg/Website/UCP/resources.html>

Research shows that students have difficulty understanding certain ecosystems concepts because they don't reason about causality in the same ways that scientists do. So even if students are taught accurate information, they tend to structure the information differently and end up distorting it. Experience alone does not help students understand how to structure the concept, some the difficulties are outlined below.. These include learning to understand different patterns of causality as well as a set of related supporting causal concepts.

Understanding Different Patterns of Causality

Understanding ecosystem relationships as scientists do involves reasoning about forms of cause and effect that most are unfamiliar with. Students typically reason using simple linear cause and effect, where one thing directly makes another thing happen. However, understanding ecosystems involves more complex patterns of causality, such as domino, cyclic, and two-way patterns of causality.

Domino Causality. In a domino pattern, a triggering event initiates a domino of effects that in turn act as causes to precipitate further effects. Domino causality is important for understanding the process of energy flow in food webs and the important link from the sun to green plants as the source of that energy. It offers a means to think about the far reach of certain events within an ecosystem, such as when the producers die out and have no replacements.

Cyclic Causality. In a cyclic pattern, a cause precipitates an effect that in turn has an effect on the initial cause. For instance, in ecosystems, plants grow and then die. Decomposers decay them and release nutrients within the plant back into the soil affecting the growth of other plants.

Two-Way Causality. In a two-way pattern, one event or relationship has mutual, and often simultaneous, effects. Each component has an effect on the other, so each acts as both an effect and a cause. For instance, two-way causality can be seen in symbiotic relationships where an event or action (such as a bee pollinating a flower) results in effects on both organisms (the bee and the flower). It differs from a cyclic model in that the focus is on how one event (a bee pollinating a flower) or relationship (a tick sucking blood from a dog) has mutual, and typically simultaneous, effects (bee gets nectar and flower gets pollinated or tick gets nourishment and dog is weakened). Some two-way relationships might also involve cyclic causality if viewed over the long-term relationship.

A tendency towards simple linear causal reasoning makes it unlikely that students will notice these more complex causal patterns on their own. Often they miss the connectedness within systems, noticing direct, but not extended domino patterns. Similarly, they tend to break cyclic patterns apart into linear patterns, thus missing essential parts of the relationship. They can miss two-way causality, by focusing only on one side of the equation and not noticing the other side, or focusing on individual organisms rather than at a population level.

Understanding Related Causal Concepts

Recognizing the causal patterns outlined above is complicated by a set of related concepts that can be hard to grasp. Outlined below these include indirect effects, time delays, non-obvious causes, reasoning about populations, reasoning about balance and flux, and applying particular causal patterns.

Indirect effects. Ecosystems are characterized by connectedness, and in ecosystems, causes often have many indirect effects. Students tend to focus on direct effects to the exclusion of indirect effects. This reinforces a simple linear causal model and can cause students to miss extended food chain or food web relationships.

Time delays. There are often significant time delays between causes and effects in ecosystems. This can make it difficult to trace an effect back to its cause, or even to see the pattern of causality involved. For example, time delays make it harder to recognize indirect, extended effects in domino patterns. Students might realize that the first set of effects is related to a cause. However, the further along an effect is on the domino, (i.e., the further the effect is removed in time and space from its cause), the harder it is to notice the effect and to realize that it is connected to the precipitating event. It is common for natural systems to have checks and balances that dampen effects, slowing the appearance of obvious effects. So for instance, the environment may be able to absorb a certain amount of pollution before any obvious effects appear, but eventually there will be enough accumulation that the effects become dramatic.

- Non-obvious causes.** Ecosystems also involve non-obvious causes—ones that are hard to detect with the naked eye. Non-obvious causes can make it difficult to recognize that certain causal patterns exist. For instance, recognizing the cyclic model in decay involves recognizing tiny microbes as the primary decomposers. (It also involves dealing with the time delay in nutrient recycling). This requires an understanding of the nature of decay and the role of microbes as decomposers and recyclers of carbon, nitrogen, and minerals.
- Reasoning about populations.** Understanding ecosystem dynamics involves reasoning about what will happen to populations of organisms. A population refers to all the members of a species that live in a particular location. Reasoning about populations is hard for students. When analysing food chains, they typically think of *the* predator eating *the* particular animal as prey, not the population of predators preying on the population of prey. Reasoning about individuals often leads to feeling sorry for the prey. This makes it hard to see the food web relationships in terms of checks and balances.
- It can also make it hard to see particular causal patterns. For instance, recognizing some two-way patterns involves switching one's focus between individuals and populations, as in the following example. Mice provide energy for owls, while owls might help to maintain population size levels in the mice that can be supported by the available resources. So when an individual mouse is eaten, it does not benefit the individual. However, the mouse population, as viewed from an outside perspective, might be better off. On the other hand, the individual owl and the population of owls benefit.

Causal patterns – the details of six causal patterns

http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/smg/Website/UCP/causal/causal_types.html

There are many different types of causal patterns in the world. Below are six patterns that are embedded in many science concepts and elsewhere in the world. Causality in the real world seldom falls into one neat pattern or another. The patterns often work together or different parts of a system entail different patterns—making the causality even more complex!



Linear



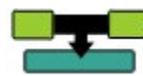
Domino



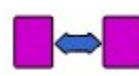
Cyclic



Spiralling



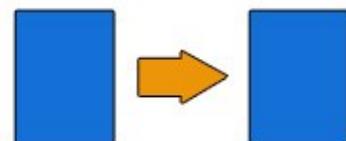
Relational



Mutual

Linear Causality

- Cause precedes effect; sequential pattern
- Direct link between cause and effect
- Has a clear beginning and a clear ending
- Effect can be traced back to one cause
- One cause and one effect; additional causes or effects turn this pattern into domino causality
- **Examples include:** Saying something thoughtless and your friend gets mad, Blowing out a candle and Stubbing your toe!



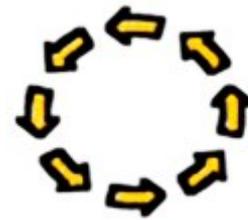
Domino Causality

- Sequential unfolding of effects over time
- An extended linear pattern that results in direct and indirect effects
- Typically has a clear beginning and a clear ending
- Can be branching where there is more than one effect of a cause (and these may go on to have multiple effects and so on.). Branching forms can be traced back to "stem" causes
- Anticipating outcomes involves deciding how far to trace effects. Short-sightedness can lead to unintended effects
- Examples include: Rube Goldberg machines, A really big snow storm that leads to traffic snarls, school closings, etc., When the alarm clock doesn't go off!



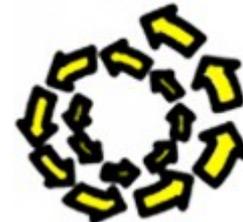
Cyclic Causality

- One thing impacts another which in turn impacts the first thing (or alternatively impacts something else which then impacts something else and so on, but eventually impacts the first thing)
- Involves a repeating pattern
- Involves feedback loops
- May be sequential or may be simultaneous
- Typically no clear beginning or ending (Sometimes you can look back in time to a beginning but often that results in the classic 'which came first, the chicken or the egg' problem.)
- Examples include: A home heating thermostat and the water cycle



Spiralling Causality

- One thing impacts another which in turn impacts the first thing (or alternatively impacts something else which then impacts something else and so on, but eventually impacts the first thing) with amplification or de-amplification of effects
- Involves feedback loops
- It is sequential as each event is a reaction to the one before it
- Often a clear beginning and ending
- It is difficult to anticipate outcomes of later feedback loops during earlier feedback loops
- Examples include: Road rage, The Cold War



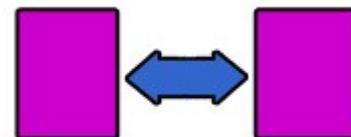
Relational Causality

- Two things work in relation to each other to cause an outcome
- It often involves two variables in comparison to each other
- There may be a relationship of balance, equivalence, similarity or there may be a relationship of difference
- If one thing changes, so does the relationship, therefore so does the outcome
- If two things change but keep the same relationship, the outcome doesn't change
- Examples include: How a pulley works, Air pressure pushing on the inside and outside of something, A balance scale, Siblings are always the same amount older or younger



Mutual Causality

- Two things impact each other
- The impact can be positive for both, negative for both, or positive for one and negative for the other
- The causes and effects are often simultaneous, but can be sequential
- May be event-based or may be a relationship over time (such as the moss and the algae in lichen)
- Examples include: Bartering with someone for something you both need, An algae eater fish which eats algae and the tank gets clean, A parasite on a dog (causes go both ways even if the effects are not both good)



The teaching of causal patterns can relate to "systems-thinking?"

Analysing any particular system is likely to include multiple forms of the causal patterns introduced above. The most commonly taught curricula for systems-thinking comes from Peter Senge's work and has been developed by affiliates of the Creative Learning Exchange (CLE). This work introduces "archetypes" for thinking about systems dynamics. For instance, "The Tragedy of the Commons" describes what happens when everyone wants to use a resource such that what made the resource desirable (the beauty of a beach, for instance) is undermined by overuse. This work also introduces the concepts of "stock" and "flow," (commonly known as "bathtub dynamics") within systems. The causal patterns taught here could be used to describe the types of causality acting within systems. For instance, one could think about "the Tragedy of the Commons" as resulting from distributed causality with intention at one level and an emergent outcome at a different level.

Causal Patterns can easily be applied to science but really they are everywhere!

Causal Patterns can be taught in social studies to consider the escalating causality in conflict, literature to consider patterns of interaction between characters, and health class to think about how chance in the relationship between cause and effect influences the risks people take. There are many instances across the curriculum where the concepts and the causal vocabulary can be helpful.

Planning for Catastrophe

Warwick Rowell

This is the first of a series of articles that will appear in e-news from time to time. It may in time be compiled into a magazine. You are invited to contribute your own essays on the topic as well.

What is a catastrophe? Various dictionaries were consulted:

A serious event that prevents normal functioning of a person/family/group/city/nation...

An event subverting the system of things.

A sudden and widespread disaster.

What is a cataclysm:

any sudden and violent change in the earth's surface caused by flooding, earthquake or some other process.

Violent upheaval especially of a social, military or political kind.

- **From Wikipedia:** *Small changes in certain parameters of a nonlinear system can cause equilibria to appear or disappear, or to change from attracting to repelling and vice versa, leading to large and sudden changes of the behaviour of the system.*
- The **butterfly effect** is a metaphor that encapsulates the concept of *sensitive dependence on initial conditions* in chaos theory; namely, a small change at one place in a complex system can have large effects elsewhere. Although this may appear to be an esoteric and unusual behavior, it is exhibited by very simple systems: for example, a ball placed at the crest of a hill might roll into any of several valleys depending on slight differences in initial position.
- Catastrophic rather than gradual change in geomorphology: a Flood event can have a great impact on the course of a river over the next millennia even.

When I first thought of this topic for an issue of the magazine, back in July 2010, I thought I might have some trouble convincing you of its immediate relevance to you. Since then we have had a huge number of catastrophes playing out before us: floods, earthquakes, social revolutions, cyclones, flash floods, droughts, food riots, shipwrecks, bank collapses, and sovereign debt. Few readers will have been directly involved in any of these major disruptions, I hope, but we have all probably wondered how we would have coped. This series of articles (and maybe an issue of the Permaculture magazine in due course) is about answering the question "How we might have coped better, if we had been faced with those situations?".

Let's start by getting a whole heap of issues out of the way by saying that a very careful application of the Principle of Sector Analysis could help us minimise or even avoid a lot of these issues. Finding a spot that is not prone to earthquakes, floods, droughts, etc, and live there is not a trite suggestion. One of the main principles of Permaculture is about Placement – how elements of a system are placed with respect to each other to make the system more sustainable.

A Permaculturist's starting point has got to be where we place ourselves and our families and so our homes. For far too many of us, this is not something we think about in depth. Work dictates, followed by family, then probably some special interest that we can meet best by living near ... the pub, the bowling club, good soil, the sea, school, ... I am sure you can come up with many variations on that theme. Having the choice to live where you want is a very rare privilege. Perhaps we haven't given that choice the seriousness it deserves.

As a result of reading this, and seeing the negative impacts of others' decisions so graphically over the last few months, you may start a long process of working out where is the best place for your family to live, and then shift there. This is a long term approach.

What we hope to cover here is the short term stuff; "I am here now and this catastrophe is a possibility, what can I do to minimise its impacts?". Answering this question needs some skull sweat: you need to identify possible originators of catastrophes where you live, and then assess the size of their potential impact on you and your family.

The following sheet is something that was first used at a PAWA quiz night around 1990 (also features in the Dec2010 issue). Work your way through the sheet, and identify your most important issue. People that night found that water contamination was the biggest catastrophe they faced. As a result, Mary Prout sourced 100 litre food grade

quality plastic drums that were otherwise thrown away, and a number of us started rotating 300 or 400l from a dark cool corner. Now there is a rapidly expanding industry providing us with rain water tanks that fit under our eaves.

In future articles, in no particular order, we will provide some suggestions as to what you might do to minimise the impacts of various catastrophes on you and yours. If you identify an issue or a possible action that is not covered, feel free to email me, and give that issue some priority, update the list, solicit ideas from others, and generally add to what could become a valuable resource for PAWA members.

Warwick Rowell
July 2011

Catastrophe Priority Setting:

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			

1. Add your own ideas about catastrophes that could occur for you and yours, where you are now.
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.
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
4. For each line, add these two numbers.
5. Decide which ones you need/want to take action on within the next month.
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.
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.

Sa Terreta (Our Patch)

Sue Hartley and Frank von Kann

Last winter Sue Hartley and Frank van Kann had a surprise request from Josh Byrne, of Gardening Australia fame, to come and film their front verge veggie garden. With only four days notice, a frantic whiz around tidying up, the garden all came together and looked presentable for the team from Gardening Australia. The episode was screened on July 9th this year and illustrated that miracles, along with tight camera angles, do happen.

The front verge was packed with vegetables of all types: potatoes, broad beans, kale, carrots, herbs and that won praise from Josh. Out the back we had been concentrating on the hard architecture; building paths, retaining walls and raised garden beds. At the time of filming, the vegetation was a bit scanty but not so now with three beds full of veggies and a small orchard with a healthy ground cover of clovers and lucerne that fixes nitrogen and keeps the soil covered all year round.

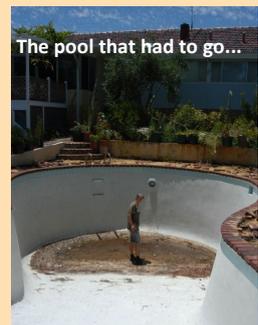
Initially, the Nedlands Council asked me to remove my verge veggie garden but I lobbied through the Sustainable Nedlands committee and won approval. Despite my victory, is still not permissible to have verge vegetable gardens so mine has become an exception. This seems to be a typically overprotective, bureaucratic response to any minor problems that may arise from vegetable gardens on verges.

From my observation, the benefits have far outweighed any problems. It has enhanced the neighbourliness of the immediate area with constant conversations taking place whenever I am out front gardening. Cars often stop and people alight to come over and ask me questions. My rubbish collector has taken to



pausing from his endless driving to share garden stories and ask advice about his garlic and take some produce. The elderly residents of the retirement home at the end of the street stop by for a chat on the way to the shops and I share stories and surplus veggies with them too. I have a bus stop over the road from me and they too enter into the discussions. It has been a wonderful way of engaging with my neighbours far and wide that I would never had any reason to have conversations with before.

When asked by the ABC's producer what my philosophy was behind the garden design I explained that I see that ecological systems work best when they are integrated. Plants function to support each other in a polycultural system rather than monocultural plantings of similar types. A garden then becomes a haven for beneficial insects and soil organisms that maintain the health of the whole ecology.



Some trees are planted to act as shade for the house and garden, as well as give a yield of

fruit. Some evergreen trees (eucalyptus rudis – red river gum) were here when I took over the site in 2000. They have remained in a poor position on the north side because they function so well as habitat for insects, native animals and birds. One has to have compromises at times just to give space for all living creatures but it is a trial in the depth of winter when it shades my orchard. I have gradually removed the exotic palms and other left overs from when it was a typical, fifties pool-side planting. We demolished the 80,000 litre concrete pool and with it the huge bills for chemicals, power and water, let alone my time cleaning it, and I have never regretted it for a moment. It has been a hard slog rebuilding the ¼ acre block and fifties house into something more sustainable. It isn't perfect, and never will be positioned as it is, but it is home and hopefully will be housing and feeding us well into the future.



Our patch (Sa Terreta) at 33 Lisle Street, Mt. Claremont is in the Open Garden scheme on the 1st and 2nd of October so you are invited to come see for yourselves how we have dealt with our site.

PERMACULTURE IN MARGARET RIVER

Jodie, Margaret River

Permaculture in Margaret River is on a roll. Thanks to Byron Joel mobilizing a group, those projects we have been quietly working on have been pushed into the public domain and projects that hadn't been thought of have been born.

Ross Brockway (and friend's) vision of a community garden is finding energy and direction. The primary focus of the "**Community Growers Group**" is providing space and support for locals wanting to grow their own food, especially those who don't have their own backyard. They are currently on the look out for land.

Permablitz Margaret River has been formed, we have linked with Permablitz Melbourne, have a growing number of members and are soon to hold our first blitz.

Fair Harvest the cool new Permaculture venue (at our place) including a big workshop space and commercial kitchen has just been given planning approvalgrand opening in the new year!

The **Margaret River Sustainability Group** (kick started by Byron) is meeting twice a month, once for a video and food night (Food Forest tomorrow night) at another great new venue "**Tingrith**" and once for a meeting at the **Organic Garden**.

Byron is helping Mitre10 become a more organic and Permaculture based nursery and is buying in loads of great plants and seeds (and starting a **Seed Savers** network).

And last but not least I'm running a **Permaculture Course** for the local High School to redevelop part of the high school. Well it's probably not last (I'm sure there's more bubbling away) but this will do for a start.

Feel free to contact me at jodie@fairharvest.com.au to find out more and check out:

Margaret River Permablitz Group -

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Permablitz-Margaret-River/189613207759934>

Margaret River Community Garden -

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100002537185358>



Community Gardens granted Water Roster Exemption

Supporting a growing community

Tania Perera, Communications Co-ordinator, Water Corporation

The Water Corporation of Western Australia recently announced that community gardens will be given an exemption from permanent watering rosters for sprinklers and temporary sprinkler restrictions.



Community Harvesting Day at the Perth Cultural Centre Urban Orchard – designed by Josh Byrne & Associates Photo credit: Josh Byrne & Associates / EPRA

This recognises the importance of community gardens as a way of bringing people together to grow fruit and vegetables, as well as share knowledge, relax and enjoy the outdoors. With almost 30 community gardens already in place around WA and many more being developed, these gardens are fast becoming common place in many suburbs.

These productive gardens need water to thrive. With sprinkler rosters in place in most parts of the State, the Water Corporation has worked closely with the garden industry and the Department of Water to develop specific scheme water and groundwater sprinkler exemptions for community gardens. These exemptions are accompanied by a set of best practice guidelines to make community gardens as waterwise as possible.

"Our aim is to continue to support activities that foster a community spirit while maintaining the waterwise principles" said Cilla de Lacy, the Water Corporation's Strategy Manager Water Efficiency. "The Corporation is pleased to be able to offer this exemption for a worthy community cause" she said.

Licensed bore owners should contact the Department of Water to discuss this exemption under the conditions of their license. To find out more about this exemption click on the 'Being Waterwise' link on the Water Corporation's website at www.watercorporation.com.au. To find your nearest community garden or for more information please visit the Community Gardens WA website at www.communitygardenswa.org.au

Terra Perma PDC 2011 – An Insight and a Message to our Sangha

Charles Otway, Tash and Tod, Terra Perma Design

It was something new for us all. It was new for Tash and Tod and myself to run our first Permaculture Design Course in June/July, and for the attendees it was a fresh outlook on life, a new purpose and a set of logical meaningful ethics and of course a whole bunch of eco-system and design-system learning and immersion.

It was amazingly rewarding to educate, workshop and facilitate the site tours and Permie personality sessions, and in summary inspire the class. Truly a worthwhile use of one's time, as often in the noble cause of doing permaculture designs for clients, even ones that are exceptionally thorough, having not done a PDC, the client may just never get it!

I recall Tod saying on the first day, this course and permaculture thereafter may change the rest of your life, and while it's been wonderful for us (facilitators), we accept no responsibility for people getting their reality flipped upside down or them getting stuck down the knowledge rabbit hole. While there was a skeptical look or two on the first day, we went back to this again at the end of week 1. Most people were blown away, certainly no more skeptics, but quite a few sleepless nights and disparaging remarks about modern day society and having to exist in it.

For me permaculture is an eye opener, not that most the material is new, is it just basic, fundamental and inter-linked enough for you to start to understand things in nature and in yourself that you have felt but perhaps not understood since a child. It's not a religious epiphany, but if you don't come out of a PDC with a totally new view on life and what things are important to you and for the world, the course missed the mark.

In the design course we are aiming to teach many things, how to think - philosophical self change, educating you enough to make the formerly hazy links, critical evaluation and how to make meaningful changes in your own mind and life. The good oil is still there, how to design life and think ecologically. Observe, research, interact, understand and design, permaculture offers so many simple, but empowering, summaries of how to get stuff done properly.

Our new PDC Grads: Sheena, Shaun, Steph, Chris, Lin, Nola, Paulie, Lockie, Kamal, Amal, Scotty, James, our two international students, Anna and Giovanni, and myself will make a change in WA or chosen locals.

Terra Perma and PermacultureWest certainly want to empower our new permie champions and support their personal and business endeavours in every way possible so keep the communications open everyone.

Terra Perma has recently become a four person team (welcoming Jason) to make for more flexible PDC facilitation, family/life balance and diversity in presenters. We are planning three PDC's in 2012 (yes three J) and many workshops on requested topics like, Rabbit husbandry, Whole Food, Garden to Plate, Perth Plants, Garden Structures and Construction. Topics have been based heavily on the feedback provided from PDC's positive and helpful feedback, we are also happy to take requests any time.

If you are a previous PDC grad and let life and society dampen your permie fire why not come back to the family and get involved and reignite, you know it's the right thing to do, and what better a time. As the ancient Chinese proverb says, the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the next best time is now. Think global, act local, and be that change! – Cheers, Charles.

Dear Permies, Dear Sangha, the little permaculture boat we launched this winter is sailing away now with all its pirates and eco-freaks, all going in different directions. I hope from the bottom of my heart that you will all keep alive the adventure, that we will all be able to connect, maybe only in spirit, with the practice of permaculture – science *and* art, which I hope you will share all over the world.

A PDC covers so much information and we didn't spare you!

About how to, and where to, and if this then that, but truly

what is also learned the most and felt the most, is what the world could be like when we all come together for a common good, to support each other unconditionally, without any thought of personal reward, just simply because we can and we should. Here too is a way to occupy the planet peacefully forever. The various technical details of "doing" and "making" will fade from memory, but this aspect of real community, the brotherhood and sisterhood of permaculture's people care, can last a lifetime, and be carried into everything you do and touch everyone you meet. From this mind-set anything can be accomplished, any problem solved, and all obstacles overcome.

As teachers we were inspired by your appetite and enthusiasm. We were indeed blessed for our first course to have such a unified and special group of people, never was the term "be one" so alive on a course. I thank you all for coming and for the support offered to us as teachers, and say simply this – be a family now, each and every one, stay in touch and build upon this sangha.

Our love to you Tod and Tash



Want to get involved?

IGA Perth Royal Show: Permie Place in Conservation and Landcare

1st October to 8th October 2011

PermacultureWest will again be setting up a foodscape backyard in the Conservation and Landcare Area. While the exact plan of action is yet confirmed, we will be having a similar permaculture display, education and backyard garden meet and greet to last year.

We would like to hear from anyone who will be free for a three hour session or two during the Perth Royal Show, running 1st October to 8th October. There are weekends and weekdays, your welcome to come on more than one day and we are certainly hoping you can. The PermacultureWest committee members will be onsite for a good deal of the time and our hardworking Tree planting champ Dwayne is also heavily involved again this year, though we don't want to wear him out quite as much J

Rostering is likely to be in three overlapping 3 hour sessions. **Volunteers offering 3 hours (one session) on a day will get a free show pass for the day**, so it's a nice way to see the show for free and offer some help and/or expertise to promote permaculture in WA at a very mainstream and influential venue. Educating and embracing the mainstream is really where the change is at, people know earthcare, people care and are becoming limits aware, they just don't know its called permaculture yet. There's our challenge.

Activities might include, taking new membership details and perhaps payments, talking about garden construction, seed saving, solar passive design, or as simple as directing people to the stall and leaflets that might answer their questions.

For those with extra confidence and commitment we will also be running short workshops each day, several per day depending on who is available. Topics could include, What is Permaculture, Permaculture Ethics and Principles, Soil Building, Plants for Food, Garden Structure Design, Solar Passive Home Discussion, General Q&A of Food Gardening, new techniques (wicking Beds etc), Water Harvesting, Community Building – Local Groups, Community Gardens and Local Living, Food Security.

So if anyone has an area of expertise, a passion for informal short presentations, or qualifications and businesses with permaculture roots, please get in touch with us and we can discuss topics and timings

Kristy Lee has kindly volunteered to help co-ordinate volunteers and activities/ideas. **So please let us know, by simply contacting Charles at charles@permaculturewest.org.au your availability or any other offers or questions.**

Thanks again for your support. Cheers, PermacultureWest Team.

Hulbert Street Sustainability Fiesta: Can you help?

September 24th and 25th 2011

Can you assist with the following? (or do you know anyone who can?)

Can you Show and Tell? Do you have a passion that you want to share with others? Gardening? Bee keeping? Preserving? Sewing? Cooking? Bread making? Bike riding? Would you be willing to set up a display at the Fiesta and spend two hours sharing it at your very own stall? Maha is looking for people for the new Show and Tell area. Email her now if you can help maha.white@modal.com.au

Are you good with a video camera? Last year we collected some quantitative data about the effects of the Fiesta. This year we would love to collect some of the stories by filming people. We hope to set up a couch area where we can encourage people to sit and share their stories on film. Are you willing to do some filming and edit these stories? This would be a fantastic real life assignment for a student with a real purpose. Please get in touch with Shani on stay@thepaintedfish.com.au or on 0417 941 991 ASAP.

Do you take a great photo? Are you willing to take some photos over the weekend and share the best ones with us? Please get in touch with Shani on stay@thepaintedfish.com.au or on 0417 941 991 ASAP.

Do you want to help out generally ? If you are planning on coming to the Fiesta anyway, we guarantee you will get even more out of it if you volunteer for a two hour stint. The Fiesta could not run without our amazing helpers. Shifts available include entrance helpers, open home tour guides, Living Smart stall helpers, and resource recovery helpers. Or you could help out with the great Panic Party! Please get in touch with Shani on stay@thepaintedfish.com.au or on 0417 941 991 and tell her when you are available and /or what you would like to do.

There are also still stall spaces available and busking spots free!

What's on in the local permaculture scene

Permaculture West

For an up-to-date list Permaculture Courses and Events visit the Permaculture West website:

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

Perma blitz news: <http://permaculturewest.org.au/community/perma blitz>

Perth Green Events

For a great calendar of Green Events in Perth (including Permaculture courses!) check out:

<http://www.perthgreenevents.com>

Permaculture Design Course @ FERN lead by Brooke 'Sparkles' Murphy

10 Weeks part time, Saturdays from August 6 to October 15, 9am-4pm

\$990 or \$880 +5 volunteer hours or \$660+15 volunteer hours

Featuring internationally reknown Greg Knibbs as guest presenter and including experienced facilitation and workshops by the Fero permaculture team. For more info and bookings contact 'Sparkles' on 0406 449 369 or at sparkles@permaculturewest.org.au

Thinking Like a Mountain: A Council of All Beings Deep Ecology Workshop

Friday 19th August 6.00pm until Sunday 21st August 4.30pm

Milmeray Retreat Centre, Gidgegannup, Western Australia, \$280 Waged, \$230 Unwaged

A two-day residential workshop though which we explore and affirm our fundamental interconnectedness with each other, the Earth and all life, and so discover a hidden source of wisdom, vitality and empowerment. For more details and how to book contact Helen Fisher on 9444 7583 or climagechangewa@yahoo.com.au or Samya Jabbour on 0439 356 379 or samyajabbour@yahoo.com.au. Bookings essential.

Seed Hunter Movie Night

Friday 19th August 6.00pm for shared pizza (BYO toppings) 7.30 for movie

Curtin University of Sustainability Policy Institute, 3 Pakenham St, Fremantle

A highly entertaining documentary about a topic vital for the future of the planet: finding seeds that may help save the world from its greatest ever crisis—a global food shortage brought about by human induced climate change. For more info see: www.seedhunter.com

Karen and Sue's Introduction to Permaculture Workshops

Workshop 1: Sat 27th Aug (9am -4.30pm) and Sun 28th Aug (9.15am-4.30pm)

Workshop 2: Saturday 29th October (9am -4.30pm) and Sunday 30th October (9.15am-4.30pm)

Karen and Sue are both past convenors of PermacultureWest and have many years of hands on experience and teaching with Permaculture. For more details and how to book see the PermacultureWest website

LETS National Conference

Frid 9th Sept 6pm until Sun 11th after lunch, \$50 with accommodation or \$10/day for day attendees

Perth Hills, Anapana Ridge Conference Centre, 38 Gilchrist Road, Lesmurdie WA

Come and be part of finding out how LETS can evolve—sustainably, locally, globally and technologically. To book or enquire contact Annette Westhoff on 9293 5025 dtis@iinet.net.au or Anne Marie Sternheim 9454 7735 sterline@iinet.net.au or check out the LETS website at <http://swanhillslets.org>

Open Garden Day at Sues Permaculture Garden 'Sa Terreta'

Sat 1st and Sun 2nd October, 33 Lisle St, Mt Claremont, Entry by donation

PermacultureWest at the IGA Perth Royal Show

Sat 1st to 8th October, The Showgrounds (accessible via the Showgrounds Train station)

For details closer to the event see <http://www.perthroyalshow.com.au> and the PermacultureWest website.

Mt Athos Olive Grove and Garden Visit

Sat 10th September, St John of the Mountain Monastery, \$10/head

For details closer to the event see the PermacultureWest website or contact Stan at stan.kailis@y7mail.com

If you have an event, activity or course you would like added to our next e-news (Oct/Nov 2011) please send an email with details to enews@permaculturewest.org.au by Sept 25th.



PermacultureWest

Permaculture Association of Western Australia

The Permaculture Association of Western Australia 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:

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

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 Charles at permaculturewest@gmail.com

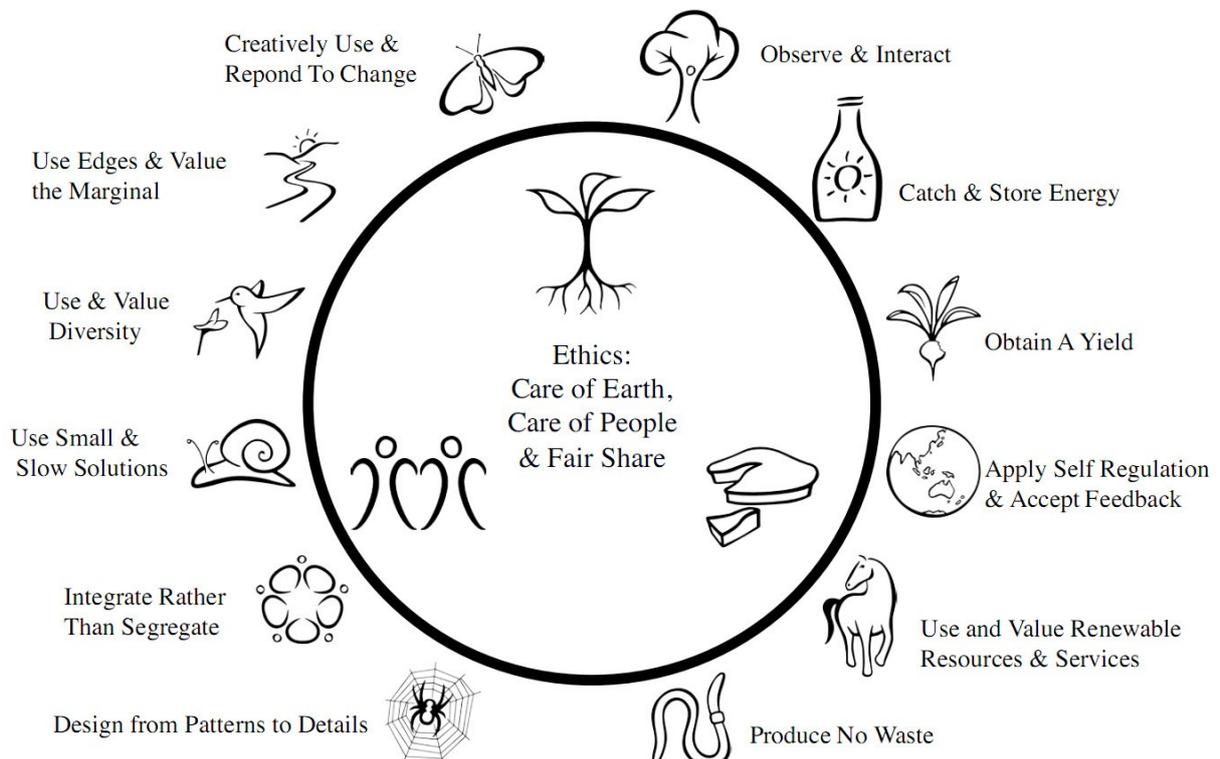
The Lockridge Group

Contact Tash at lockridgecommunitygarden@gmail.com

The Fremantle Permaculture Group

Contact Sparkles at sparklemerchant@yahoo.com

Permaculture Ethics & Design Principles





PermacultureWest

Permaculture Association of Western Australia

Earth Care, People Care, Surplus Share,
Limits Aware

PO Box 164, Innaloo, WA, 6918 Phone: 0406 449 369

Email: info@permaculturewest.org.au

Web: www.permaculturewest.org.au

Online Banking: **BSB: 633-000 Acc: 111195988**

Welcome New & Renewing Members!

Membership fees enable us to offer:

- You a financial contribution toward social change, and building a better environment and future.
- Newsletters, magazines and regular email updates on relevant WA issues and events.
- Involvement and engagement with the Permaculture community. Permaculture brings together sustainability sciences, ethics, environmental principles and just plain common sense into one overall guide for living.
- Local permaculture and gardening groups, Permablitz and other skill development workshops.
- Access to and training to be part of an effective WA Seed Saver Collective.
- An avenue to volunteering your expertise to be the change you wish to see in others.

<p>MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS</p> <p>To join, renew and support PermacultureWest please complete this registration form & send, email or hand it to us via the details above with your membership fee.</p> <p>Thank You For Your Support</p> <p>Your email address, phone & mailing address are never shared, and only a handful of dedicated volunteers have access to this list when needed.</p>	Name(s):		Date:
	Full Address:		
	Postcode:	Phone:	
	Email:		
	Membership*		
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 two years <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 annual <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 after Jan 1 st		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member <input type="checkbox"/> New Member		
Cash <input type="checkbox"/>		Cheque <input type="checkbox"/>	Bank Transfer <input type="checkbox"/>
Online Banking: BSB: 633-000 Acc: 111195988			
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____			
Stay informed by ensuring you notify us of any changes to your email, and contact details.			

*Memberships are due July 1st annually. New members joining after Jan 1st can pay a ½ year rate of \$15.

*Time/skill rich, cash poor? Please ask us about membership in lieu of services rendered options.

PLEASE CHECK THE VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND HELPFUL ROLES YOU CAN PLAY BELOW AND INDICATE WHICH ONES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH AND SUBMIT WITH MEMBERSHIP. ALL POSITIONS ARE MENTORED.

<input type="checkbox"/> Future Co-Convener and Executive Roles <input type="checkbox"/> Treasury and Memberships Team <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Communication Team <input type="checkbox"/> Decision and Policy Team <input type="checkbox"/> Permablitz Planning Team <input type="checkbox"/> Events Coordination and Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Media Communications Team <input type="checkbox"/> Social and People Care Team Your Suggestion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Enews Team <input type="checkbox"/> Stall/Booth Volunteer for Events <input type="checkbox"/> Seed Saver Team <input type="checkbox"/> Existing Seed and Plant Collector <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration Home, Garden or Farm <input type="checkbox"/> IT and Technology Integration <input type="checkbox"/> Website maintenance and Design <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer Your Suggestion:	
OFFICIAL USE ONLY:	Receipt Given and Processed By:	Member Number: