

Permaculture

in New Zealand

Winter 2012 Newsletter

Australasian Permaculture Convergence a Resounding Success

Over 500 people from all over Australasia converged in Turangi on 11 April for 4 days of presentations, workshops, networking, good food, music, poetry and fun! A number of internationally-known figures presented in person or by video link, including Albert Bates, author of *The Biochar Solution*, Nicole Foss, co-author of *The Automatic Earth*, David Holmgren, co-founder of permaculture, Charles Eisenstein, author of *Sacred Economics* and seedsavers Jude and Michel Fanton from Australia, to name a few. A major theme of the event was economics, the monetary system and alternative exchange mechanisms, but a wide range of other topics from eco-villages to fermentation, and hempology to deep ecology were covered.

To quote Crispin Caldicott in his article in the July/August issue of *Organic NZ*: "Put 450 permaculturists in a small school with wall-to-wall lectures on everything from compost loos to new currencies, and you have the makings of a new approach to sustainability. In fact there was revolution in the air - nothing as banal and obvious as tossing out the government, just the rich, green pasture of fertile thought. Creativity was the byword under the glorious Indian summer sunshine of the APC11, and it seemed to permeate every corner".



In this newsletter we present three perspectives of the convergence: one from Alice Bulmer of Hamilton, one from Floyd Driver of Kaiwaka and one from 10 year old Ayla Driver from Kaiwaka.

APC 11 – Turangi, April 2012

“May you live in interesting times!”

by Alice Bulmer

This April New Zealand hosted the Australasian Permaculture Convergence for the first time. It was great to be there in Turangi, alongside more than 500 other permaculturists. The sun was shining (after a classic marae welcome in the pouring rain). And yet, I felt a sense of looming crisis, of impending disaster – environmental, political, economic. Most of the speakers addressed this. We do indeed live in challenging times, and one of the things I like so much about permaculture is that it gives us frameworks and tools for working with stormy weather (literal and metaphorical) – for paddling the waka without capsizing it; for navigating, rather than just clambering into a lifeboat and hoping for the best.

Permaculture is realistic, but it's also optimistic.

On the very first afternoon, David Holmgren made this point, in his pre-recorded speech: With permaculture tools, we can do for good what corporations are doing for ill – understanding the crises and taking



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Albert Bates

author of *The Biochar Solution* and keynote speaker at APC11, blogs about his experiences in New Zealand at the Convergence.

Check out Albert's blog at peaksurfer.blogspot.com

Go to his blog archive and choose his April 2012 blogs:

- Cubashima

- Haka

- In The Land of the Long White Cloud.

Watch the haka performed by the Hirangi Marae kitchen staff at our farewell lunch.

advantage of them. We can creatively use change, rather than just aiming to survive it.

I'm not denying reality, but I do find it stressful to think about impending global disasters. Hence, Nicole Foss's unflinching gaze on the economic situation freaked me out. I had watched her on YouTube and read some of her writing, so I wasn't completely unprepared. But after listening to Nicole's keynote speech, I just wanted to go and hide in a cupboard. Luckily, I went to Inna Alex's Deep Ecology workshop instead, which turned out to be exactly what I needed.

I calmed down and rediscovered a sense of connection with myself, with the world and with the other people in the room. And my permie optimism returned. Later, people asked me to explain what Deep Ecology is about. Here's my take on it: it's about working with, rather than repressing or denying, the pain we feel about the terrible things going on in the world.

One speaker who had already faced disaster with presence and resourcefulness was Japanese permaculturist Toru Sakawa. He described, with calm dignity and a remarkable degree of good humour, his experiences following the recent tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster in his home province. It was a presentation that brought up more strong emotions for me. I particularly loved Toru's description of his philosophy: "I want to change with joy, not for fear."

There were plenty of permaculture "names" I recognised from both sides of the Tasman.

Probably the biggest "name" from the United States was veteran permaculturist/ entrepreneur/ creative thinker/ whatever Albert Bates, who gave us plenty of food for thought with his lively talk on biochar as a solution (the solution?) for global warming, and a bunch of other sessions on eco-villages, entrepreneurship, etc.

Another keynote speaker I was interested to hear was Charles Eisenstein, whose writing I know from the internet. His video-conference talk about sacred economics and the gift economy was marred by internet connection problems, but despite this I found him very articulate in "real time", even more so than in his written work, which tends towards the wordy. If we believe in permaculture, we must work to change the money system, he said cheerfully. "Permaculture can't thrive in the money system we have today."

Money was a very, very big theme at this Convergence. As well as Nicole Foss and Charles Eisenstein, there was a feast of Open Space presentations on alternative approaches to money and currency – often three at the same time slot. Probably most of New Zealand's best-known local currency activists were represented, including Laurence Boomerts, Deirdre Kent, Bryan Innes and Helen Dew. The well-stocked bookshop was run by the Living Economies Trust.

At another plenary session, Susan Krumdieck, a mechanical engineering lecturer at Canterbury University, took us into a completely different headspace: she described her discipline, transition engineering, where engineering skills and technology interface with global environmental challenges. She described a project undertaken with Dunedin City Council, analysing the city's resilience in a lower energy future. One initial challenge the team had to get round was that for the council, the very idea of using less oil was impossible – therefore they didn't want to look at how to plan for it.

Meanwhile, outside the halls and classrooms of Te Kura o Hirangi, there was an irrepressible sense of fun bursting out. Turangi in April is a beautiful place, with vivid autumn colours and mountains on the horizon. Musicians were jamming in corners; kids were running in the sunshine; people were riding around on electric bikes. The Hirangi Marae very capably hosted more than 500 people, with warm hospitality and delicious meals. Much credit and gratitude to Jo Pearsall, Bryan Innes, Permaculture Aotearoa, and the many others whose hard work and determination made this amazing event possible. And thanks, Jo, for the great fiddling session in the bar on Saturday evening!



Toru Sakawa

Toru Sakawa's

keynote speech at APC11 was one of the highlights of the convergence. His speech can be watched on-line on the Permaculture Research Institute's website, www.permaculture.org.au. Search for Toru Sakawa on this website.

Toru spoke of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan and their permaculture emergency response to it.



Floyd Driver writes:

I chose to attend the APC11 convergence at the last moment after coming into some money, otherwise the week would have been spent planting trees. My two children (aged 10 and 11) had to come with me as their mum was working (hence the money). This family factor was going to make the event very expensive. I thought it was a bit pricey for your average struggling permaculturalist, but knew the increase in numbers and the level of main speakers made the price necessary to ensure the event's viability.

It wasn't going to be a normal national Hui.... though my reasons for going were pretty much the same as all previous years that I've attended – to catch up with the Permacultural Whanau. My purpose wasn't to hear about the response to the Japanese earthquake, Systems theory, or bio-char. I didn't even look at the key speakers listing. I wanted to meet Finn and Nandor's new babies. I wanted to hear how Karma was feeling about her implementation of Teraquaculture on her family plot and what was next for the Tui community. I wanted to be with like-minded peers. I didn't know all this at the time of course, I just knew that I wanted to go!

My sincerest congratulations go out to all the organisers and participants of the APC11 as I found myself pleasantly surprised by several things:

- The acceptance of, and assistance with children. Big ups to the volunteers. They made a big difference to my involvement in the whole event.
- The variety of issues covered by the program, though there was a lot of talks on economics, this was clearly a big area of interest.
- The quality of the key speakers
- The amount of Australians – though a little sad not to have Bill or Geoff from the Permaculture Research Institute, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with the Robins and meet our Ozy comrades.
- The ability of 500 people to adapt their needs to the space available.

And the list could go on.... but my biggest ups go to Jo Pearsall and Bryan Innes who have held the vision of this event ever since I met them in 2002.

I look forward to 2013 Hui in Taranaki.

Floyd Driver



The Convergence by Ayla Driver aged 10

I am nervous and shy like someone on their first day of school. Still I am not sure if I will have any friends. A gust of wind rushes against my face as we arrive. Slowly, my brother and I walk into the crowd of happy children running about in the game-filled room.... and these were my thoughts:

“Drawing... cards... no, twister?”

“Hello.” I turned straight away and there in front of me could be my first friend. Oh! It was Sequoia. I immediately recognised her from yesterday when Dad had come to the school to 'register'. I replied with a simple short “Hi.” She shot back a question, “Want to come draw?”... so my first goal, choose something to do, was complete. Even though someone else had directed me with their offer, I was definitely keen on that.

As you have probably imagined, a couple of minutes later I had drawn a really awesome picture, so I thoughtfully gave it to my Dad. Then I had the best games of Twister.

“Ohhh – what's that?” I thought. I realised that my tummy had rumbled. Ha ha ha, I guess I was pretty hungry. After a delicious feast we headed to our rented bach. I slipped into bed and quietly snoozed.

In the morning we had another fabulous feast, but of course breakfast. On the second day I made loads more friends. So far I had Sequoia, her little brother Leaf, and Griffon. Soon I made friends with Kaira, and Pirmia. Yay.

Over the week we learned some tricks from a couple of circus performers, and on the last night there was a big performance. It was thrilling to watch.

For me Permaculture is all about playing hard-out and making loads of friends! What a great conference to be a part of.

By Ayla Driver, age 10.



Permaculture in New Zealand (PiNZ) AGM & Election of Officers

The AGM took place on Sunday 14 April and the Council members elected were:



Sarah Adams,
Chairperson



Trish Allen,
Secretary



Jocelyn Winters,
Treasurer

Committee Members



Nandor Tanczos



Cheryl Noble



Floyd Driver



Betsy Kettle



Daniel Strype



Wendy Palmer



Richard Grevers, Webmaster

PiNZ Hui 2013

We are delighted to announce that Taranaki has agreed to host next year's hui. Watch this space for place and date.

Update from Tui Community

Margaret Kwok, June 2012

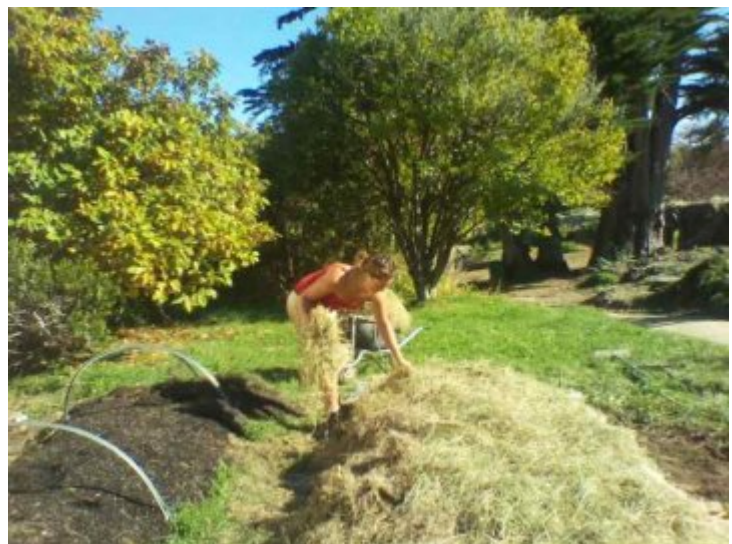
Wow what a busy season it has been! I have moved back to Tui with my family, and am involved in all sorts of marvelous projects. Many a nice moment has come along reflecting on APC 11 and planting seeds for future collaborations.

News from Tui

Many of you will have heard that Tui Community was strongly affected by major flooding last December and we lost our main 1-acre community garden under a metre or more of granite sand. Lots has been patched together, there is still lots to do. We hugely appreciated the wonderful Perma- team that Gary Williams initiated.

Now we are preparing for the next lot of major flood protection work, and looking at how that interfaces with other aspects of the land and long term planning. We have a lots of big land work to do coming this spring.

I am pleased to be part of planning designing and putting in our new community garden. Phase one will be, terrace gardens with sand bag construction. We are looking for about 3 experienced and motivated wwoofers who would like to stay at Tui, mid August and September to help, and if you are in the area we will have some working bees too. It's exciting to be planning something new amidst the piles of sand and debris. Various garden beds have already been put in including, planting veges in the flowerbeds next to the community house, and adding new beds over areas of lawn. I am enjoying the sense of edible landscaping and good zoning practice!



Making sheet mulch garden outside Tui community house

And of course we ran Earthcare Education Aotearoa's annual PDC at Tui, with a great team again, Robina, Gary, Inna, myself and our wonderful assistants, Tommash and Alimah. We sent another lot of enthusiastic permaculturists off into the world to cultivate change!

Spotlight on the Human Sphere

Nandor Tanczos and Ngahuia Murphy (Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Ruapani ki Waikaremoana) have teamed up to develop a PDC module covering 'Tikanga Maori for Permaculturalists' and 'Social Permaculture'. The module ideally takes two days but is usually run over a single day. It will be part of the Hamilton modular PDC in 2013 (see hamiltonpermaculture.org.nz for details) and will also be offered as a stand alone workshop if there is sufficient interest.

Tikanga Maori for Permaculturalists

People involved in permaculture can gain a deeper insight into their practice and unique place here in Aotearoa by learning about and embracing Māori cultural philosophies. For over a thousand years Māori, like other Indigenous societies around the world, developed philosophies and practices based on maintaining a correct relationship with the natural environment.

A central feature of Māori belief systems is the concepts whakapapa and whanaungatanga. Māori believe that all things on earth and in the multiverse are intrinsically interconnected and we trace that connection carefully through whakapapa. Whakapapa, translated as genealogy, actually derives from the word to layer, and denotes a network of relationships and interconnections across the web of life. Te ao Māori, the Māori world, is holistic and cyclic. We do not categorise and separate the different life forms into a hierarchical relationship with humans at the top of the food chain. Rather humans are the teina, the youngest in creation, with all other living creatures and forces our tuakana, our elders. This familial relationship requires an on-going series of obligations.

Kaitiakitanga provides an Indigenous model of earth care based on the belief that we belong to the earth rather than that the earth 'belongs' to us. The land is the source of our cultural, spiritual, and physical identity as Māori, epitomized in many of our proverbs such as:

‘Ko te whenua ko au, ko au te whenua’ (I am the land and the land is me).

Our cosmological connection to the earth continues to be affirmed in our birth, blood, and funerary rites, rites that give meaning to the name that we carry today; Tangata Whenua, People of the Land.

In Tikanga Māori for Permaculturalists participants learn about customary earth care practices such as rāhui (a system of resource regeneration) and utu (the law of balance and reciprocity) alongside Māori spatial and temporal observations of patterns. Examples include traditional navigational techniques that mapped star paths, the patterns of migratory birds, wind and tidal currents and the significance of the lunar almanac which dictated crop cycles and the harvesting of food from the gardens, forests, rivers and sea. A traditional incantation that recites the movement of fantails, the nesting patterns of the kiwi, the flight path of the native bat, the stars, moon, and seas is used to demonstrate how the signs and patterns in the natural world were carefully observed and responded to.

This course also examines the pōwhiri ceremony as an embodied expression of Māori metaphysics and breaks down the different elements of the pōwhiri so it can be understood and experienced at a deeper level. These explanations are part of a session on cultural safety and competency, equipping Pākehā to engage in Māori contexts in an informed way. Included in this session is an examination of the differences between Te Tiriti o Waitangi, known as the Māori version, and The Treaty of Waitangi with a critical discussion on the on-going political plight of Māori as the Indigenous People of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

A list of resources is supplied for participants to further their knowledge regarding different aspects of te ao Māori.

Social Permaculture

Permaculturists are used to doing sector analyses – understanding the



directional energy flows into a site in terms of noise, wind, sun or water. We are sometimes not so used to analysing the social energies that affect us, even though they have the potential to be at least as significant. Hostile political decisions can destroy our best efforts while well designed social integration can unleash new synergies and momentum for our projects.

Permaculture design principles offer a powerful framework to analyse and understand social energy. Once we start to identify the different forms of social energy that exist – both energy flows and embodied energy – then we can begin to think about the design principles in new and interesting ways.

If we take the principle to “catch and store energy” for example, there are numerous social applications. Of course as with physical energies it requires an understanding of timing, pattern and technique. We can only catch rainwater if we have effective storage systems in place, in the winter when it is raining. Similarly if we think about volunteer labour as a form of social energy, we need to think about when it is most readily available – over which part of a day, the weekly cycle, the annual seasons and over the different stages of a person's lifetime. We need to think about how it can be stored: by embodying it as knowledge in another person, or as a physical or social structure or system, or we can store it in the form of favours and barter credit.

The challenge in this exercise is to avoid opting for the most obvious examples and so miss some of the more subtle lessons. For example if we take the principle of “use edges and value the marginal”, one social application is around valuing those at the margins of society where innovation and creativity often takes place. This is an important point, but if we explore further we can also see that there is not one society and not one edge. Society is made up of a number of sub-groups, each with its own centre and periphery. In spreading new or important ideas across the population it is those people who act as connectors between different sub-groups, who sit at the edges and link them, who can help to move ideas swiftly across social boundaries.

In this sense, social permaculture is not only about our internal organisation – “how to nurture effective and creative groups” as some have put it. This is an important element of it but in our opinion it is also about how we can organise politically and create an effective voice to advocate for our projects and for permaculture as a whole. Politics is an important and powerful form of social energy and we would be as unwise to ignore the prevailing politics as we would be to ignore a prevailing wind. As with physical energies, good design allows to both use existing conditions as well as change them.

Experimenting with a Zeer

by Richard Grevers

A Zeer is a sun/wind powered refrigeration device which has been around for 30 centuries or so. It is also known as a zeer pot or a pot-in-pot evaporator.

When we moved to an off-grid house recently, there were problems with the water line to our pelton wheel, and inefficient 1980s-technology lights, leaving no power to run our (5.5 star) efficient refrigerator. Although our relatively humid climate in the Pouakai Range was less than ideal, I decided to experiment with a zeer pot.

Materials:

- * Two pots, one of which will fit inside the other. The outer one must be porous (unglazed) - the inner one may be glazed on the inside. I used a pair of traditional flower-pot shaped terracotta pots purchased from the Warehouse some years ago - but I couldn't see anything similar when looking for a slightly larger inner pot.

- * Sand

- * Cloth (a large teatowel)

- * Water (salt water may be used if the inner pot is glazed).

- * Clay, putty or cork.

Method:

- 1) Bung up any drain holes in the pots using cork, clay, putty etc. (I used some blue-tac which was laying around)

- 2) Fill the bottom of the larger pot with sand so that the smaller pot will sit more or less level with the top.

- 3) Position the small pot centrally within the large pot.

- 4) Fill the gap between the pots with sand.

- 5) Pour in enough water to dampen all the sand. Note that if you use too much water, liquefaction will occur and the inner pot will float. (You can pre-dampen the sand but it makes it harder to fill the side spaces).

- 6) Position pot where sun and wind can drive evaporation.

- 7) Put something to keep cool inside the small pot.

- 8) Cover with a damp cloth. Re-wet the cloth as necessary.

Observations: Because our refrigerator is some distance from the kitchen, we thought the zeer pot might be a permanent solution for storing the most-needed chillables such as milk, butter and some fruit, so we tried it in the kitchen next to a northwest-facing window. We found that the pot really needs to be outside in order to work. We achieved a 12°C temperature differential with the pot sitting on a sunny windowsill, but this vanished at night and on cloudy days.

Clearly the pot needed to be outside where ambient temperatures were more akin to a refrigerator at night and bad-weather days. Rain and humidity decrease the rate of evaporation. To put it out on our deck would have made access more difficult, and would have necessitated using some sort of heavy lid at night (to keep the possums out!) and when it rained

(to keep the contents dry) making the pot rather high-maintenance.

Still, the zeer pot would be excellent for summer off-grid working bees, or for holidaying at the beach (where the sand and water are already provided!) and a good conversation starter about how we can become less dependent upon electricity and modern technology.



Rainbow Valley Farm for Sale

The iconic permaculture property in Matakana, Rainbow Valley Farm, is for sale. Owners Cedric Hockey and Wiki Walker, who purchased the farm from Trish Allen in November 2010, will be returning to the South Island for personal reasons. Anyone interested contact: Janeen Binsted at Harcourts, www.harcourts.co.nz, Listing No. WW3598.



The Dig Day Out: A day in the life of a garden

By Alice Bulmer

On a sunny February afternoon, as strains of festive jazz music drifted across the Hamilton Gardens, a big black hearse pulled up alongside the Sustainable Backyard. A crowd of people watched as men in dark suits carefully unloaded three coffins.

But this wasn't a mass funeral – it was the grand finale of the Dig Day Out, an event organised by the Hamilton Permaculture Trust as part of the annual Hamilton Gardens Festival. The setting was the Sustainable Backyard, a showcase working permaculture home garden founded by the Hamilton Permaculture Trust. Now in its twelfth year, it's one of the best-loved features of Hamilton Gardens, with its chickens, bees, worm bins, pond, flourishing garden beds and fruit trees capturing the attention of visitors of all ages. The Sustainable Backyard is unique internationally as a permaculture garden within a public gardens setting, according to researcher Erin Martea of Cornell University, who spent time in Hamilton last year as part of an international study project.

The theme of this year's Sustainable Backyard event was "A day in the life of a garden". It started first thing in the morning, with a hands-on workshop to create new garden beds using double-dig and no-dig methods, led by Cheryl Noble, manager of the Permaculture Trust and Wintec horticulture tutors Beatriz Hardy and Dennis Travaglia. Next up, Dennis was joined by Chris Fairley of the Permaculture Trust (one of the garden's original founders), for a session on how to look after garden tools.

By noon the adobe pizza oven was ready to go and crowds feasted on wood-fired pizza, washed down with herb tea. The smoke from the pizza oven drifted up to the beehive on top of the pergola, and drowsy bees swirled around the garden as beekeeper Marcia Meehan talked about her favourite creatures and why caring for them is so important. Veteran horticulturalist and organics teacher Peter Downard also focused on caring for insects as well as soil life in his discussion on keeping a garden healthy. When you see insects in your garden, they're telling you something, he said. A garden is a living, breathing system. "The more we treat our soils as living systems, and the more we learn to listen to what our plants and insects are telling us, the better we do."



And then it was time for eco-funerals director Philip Woolerton, who arrived complete with hearse and coffins.

He told us that most New Zealand funeral businesses are owned by international corporations – so from a permaculture point of view, make sure your undertaker is at least locally owned. Also, according to Philip, New Zealand has a far higher rate of the toxic practice of embalming (90%) than the rest of the world (a mere 3.7%). His three eco-friendly caskets were made of (respectively) recycled cardboard, New Zealand willow, and felted wool – but that one was imported from the UK! "I've got my own, would you accept that?" asked an 80-something sitting in the front row. "Not a problem," replied the unflappable funeral director.



PiNZ Hui 2013

We are delighted to announce that Taranaki has agreed to host next year's hui. Watch this space for place and date.

Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) course at Te Moata 11-25 May 2012

by Wendy Palmer

Te Moata is a stunning 800 acre “sanctuary for nature and people” just north of Tairua. Our delightful, widely experienced and knowledgeable teachers, Trish Allen and Daniel Tohill, are both seasoned permies. The sponge-like students came from around the North Island, Belgium, Mauritius, USA and Japan and ranged in age from 21 to 58. On the first day we agreed on the culture, vision and purpose of the course.

In class we learnt so much from Trish and Daniel. We drew up designs in groups and/or individually for a range of actual properties,

watched DVDs, got valuable handouts, kept the fire burning, made more music, stretched with Sarah, asked questions, shared experiences, huddled in the cushioned area then ate again!



I have not laughed so much in a long time; the humour was infectious! AND the musical talent was fantastic, impulsive, creative and pretty tricky. We had guitars, ukelele, banjo (Daniel even played oriental music on it), drums, tambourine, maracas and some lovely voices. Colby's exuberant dancing must also be mentioned.

We made a pizza oven, 200 litres of fermented biofertiliser, mudbricks (Daniel's recipes), compost bins and compost. Our group was so awesome with great humour, co-operation, caring and willingness to get stuck in. I just love them all!!



Each morning after breakfast we “checked in” in the sanctuary for a short meditation and a round with the talking. Then it was class or outdoor project time from 9am and most nights we finished about 9pm. Full-on!! As Te Moata is “off the grid” we used a generator when we needed the projector on and Telecom T-sticks work there for the NET.



On the middle Friday we had a day off. Tairua Library has free WiFi so a few of us used that before going to a café, timing the tide right for Hot Water Beach to have a soak in the sand, checking out gorgeous Moko art gallery and Whitianga or going for a strenuous hike to a far hut (where Raleigh made sushi) and lots else.

Dave and Jessie manage Te Moata. Dave ran the practical side of things and Jessie was the chef - she had a great crew to help.

Dave showed us the exceptionally effective Australian designed Glockemann pump that is being installed in the stream (just down from the “Goddess Pool” where I had a cold dip).



We visited Edita's amazing organic property next door and sang a thank you to her to the tune of “Amazing Grace” for the huge, varied cakes she baked for our waistlines. We also went to Carol's place for the pruning and grafting lesson with Murray Jones, and visited Dom and Janettes' inspirational organic market garden.

Trish's knowledge and expertise is greatly varied and shared so gleefully. I am glad Trish is happy in her new home, still a vibrant member of her community and gad-about all over the place following her passion and spreading “the word”. Dan, amidst his own diversity, is a banjo picking water man and bee lover. His design briefs, from clients near and far, are personally and carefully considered for each project. Site analysis tips included Dan making a frame and having us measure and examine contours on the slope nearby.



I particularly like the jar method for simply assessing crude soil composition.

Our creative response to energy descent is our immediate challenge. One hand-out reads, “make a graceful and ethical descent”.

I highly recommend anyone wanting to do the PDC at Te Moata with Trish and Daniel next year from 10 - 24 May 2013 to register their interest by emailing Jessie at info@temoata.org

Exciting Times for Permaculture Education in New Zealand

Margaret Kwok, June 2012

Permaculture Education with Otago Polytechnic

I am thrilled to be involved in developing permaculture in Otago Polytechnic's courses in Sustainable Practice. It is an exciting time for permaculture education in New Zealand, as we establish these courses it will enable New Zealanders and international students a chance to study permaculture and receive recognized NZQA qualifications, with access to student loans and allowances. It also offers a chance for the wealth of permaculture knowledge in New Zealand to be shared in a variety of ways.

Otago Polytechnic is offering two programmes, that incorporate permaculture. The Certificate in Sustainable Practice and Permaculture Design and the Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice, Both of these courses can be done by distance anywhere in New Zealand, with block courses at a range of locations.

Otago Polytechnic has made a significant commitment to Sustainable Practice; I was delighted to see permaculture gardens, guilds and young fruit trees all through their Dunedin "Living Campus".



The Certificate in Sustainable Practice and Permaculture Design, being launched this July is a hands-on programme where students apply principles of

strategic sustainable development and permaculture design to real projects. Students will cover the recognized Permaculture Design Certificate material and much more.

Participants will start with a six-day course at one of the partner venues, and attend two or three more block courses. This will be complimented by a range other resources, including online material and "webinar" tutorials. The programme can be studied full time over six months or part time over a year.

"People will learn big picture thinking as well as the 'how to'. And, they'll get their hands on some real projects to pick up practical experience. The programme is academically rigorous and when students complete it, they'll have a recognized Level 5 qualification applicable to many fields of work."

The first course is to be held at Turangi's Awhi Farm Centre of Sustainable Practice starting next month (23 July, 2012). In September, courses kick off in Raglan at Soulscape Eco Retreat and Tui Community Treefield Events Park in Nelson Bays. The Central Otago course takes place at the Centre for Sustainable Practice in Wanaka in March 2013.

The Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice will be offered from February next year 2013, with a permaculture focus. This will offer a more structured way to achieve the Aotearoa NZ Diploma in Permaculture, while keeping the broad project based, experiential focus.

The permaculture focus will be tailored to enable Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) graduates to expand their learning and experiences in permaculture while learning and practicing other

tools for analysis and strategic planning for sustainability.

The Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice is in its second year, and offers a dynamic, flexible, project based learning experience. The course can be done full time over one year or part time. This year we have a range of students, including small business owners, professionals in various fields, educators, community project leaders, and at least 3 permaculturists. Two of the projects being undertaken are the Hawea Food Forest, and the development of hemp farming and industry in New Zealand.

A strong learning community is created with four block courses throughout the year, tutorials, online resources, presentations, readings, videos and 'webinars'. One student says, "It's great to be part of a community of practice, and have the opportunity for real life, action focused learning, "

The entrance to the Graduate Diploma is open and individuals have interviews, with the head of school, Steve Henry. There are also opportunities to achieve Bachelors Degrees through acknowledgement of prior learning with Otago Polytechnics innovative Capable NZ department. In which case the Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice can be the final year of a Bachelors Degree. A Masters Degree programme will also be available in 2013.

If you are interested in enquiring or enrolling in either of these Otago Polytechnic programmes contact Barbara Emmitt on 0800 765 9276 or csp@op.ac.nz

Or me, margaret_earthtui@yahoo.co.nz

Or if you want to know more about the Aotearoa, NZ Diploma in Permaculture through PiNZ contact margaret_earthtui@yahoo.co.nz

Some Links:

[Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice](#)

[2012 student handbook and online resources](#)

[Centre for Sustainable Practice, Otago Polytechnic](#)

[Permaculture in Otago Polytechnic's Living Campus](#)

Or copy and paste these links and explore the Centre for Sustainable Practice and Otago Polytechnic website

<http://www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz/schools-departments/centre-for-sustainable-practice/qualifications-courses/graduate-diploma-in-sustainable-practice.html>

<http://www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz/about/sustainable-practice.html>



Graduate Diploma Students 2012 visit McRae's chicken tractors

Is it time to Rekindle the Zero Waste Flame?

by Betsy Kettle

Between 1998 and 2005 over 20 community groups started Resource Recovery Centres across New Zealand. Many of these groups were permaculture-inspired. The initiative for starting up community-based recycling was a combination of Zero Waste inspiration, available funding and willing Councils. Across the South Island and North Island resources were being re-used, repaired and recycled by community enterprises creating jobs with local resources. For its large population, Auckland was seriously under-represented.

But that may be changing. An encyclopaedia of legislation has now put “waste minimisation” on the national agenda. Green Party member Nandor Tanczos introduced the 2008 Waste Minimisation Act that has redefined the direction that National Government must take in regards to waste. Building on this, the amalgamated Auckland Council is the first in NZ to have “disposer pays” with its adoption of its new Waste Strategy June 20th. This new Strategy is expected to be a major change driver to reduce waste in NZ’s largest city and have a flow-on effect for the rest of NZ. This, along with mandates to National Government to advocate “Product Stewardship” and “Container Deposit Legislation” may push major nation-wide, national changes. Wouldn’t it be great to have bottle deposits again?

The Auckland Community Zero Waste Alliance formed in 2010 to push the Auckland Council to adopt zero waste ideals for its amalgamated Waste Strategy. Since then it has grown to about 40 members representing all areas of the Auckland Region. It hopes to inspire communities to set up their own neighbourhood-based Resource Recovery Centres that would teach waste minimisation (composting, organic gardening, food preservation) and also be a depository for inorganic goods saving the Council millions in inorganic collection costs. The character of each neighbourhood centre would be unique but would have to have income generation in mind.

ACZWA’s next field trip is on 18 July 2012 to RCN which recycles E-waste. Membership in ACZWA is currently free. ACZWA is a member of the national Community Recycling Network. Please email Betsy Kettle at dbkettle@slingshot.co.nz to join the email list or to attend the field trip.



Permaculture Facilitator Margaret Kwok listening to Beachland’s children describe their Rubbish Sticks after a beach clean up day at the ReSource Depot.



Plan of the Beachland Maraetai Resource Depot showing recycling drop off, worm farms and permaculture garden. (1998 to 2004)

What is Zero Waste? (From: The End of Waste, Zero Waste by 2020 by the ZW NZ Trust, pg3)

- Aims to eliminate rather than manage waste
- Is a whole systems approach that aims for a massive change in the way materials flow through society with the result being no waste
- Both an end of pipe solution which encourages waste diversion through recycling and resource recovery, and a guiding design philosophy for eliminating waste at source and at all points down the supply chain
- Is a unifying concept or ‘brand’ for a basket of existing and emerging technologies aimed at the elimination of waste
- Resets the compass with new tools and new ways of thinking so that normal everyday activities contribute the answer rather than the problem
- Is a way to transform the current cost-plus waste industry whose existence is increasingly dependent on doing more and more for less and less into a value-added resource recovery industry
- Redesigns the current, one-way industrial system into a circular system modelled on Nature’s successful strategies
- Helps communities achieve a local economy that operates efficiently, sustains good jobs and provides a measure of self-sufficiency
- Maximises recycling, minimises waste, reduces consumption and ensures that products are made to be reused, repaired or recycled back into nature or the marketplace
- Is a powerful concept that enable us to challenge old ways of thinking and inspires new attitudes and behaviours—the hallmarks of a breakthrough strategy.

Website Upgrade, www.permaculture.org.nz

Permaculture in New Zealand (PiNZ) is currently upgrading its website - this is long overdue!

We apologise for the out-dated nature of the current website but we promise there are exciting things to come.

The new website will be much more inter-active and provide opportunities for members to advertise events, festivals, land for sale, land to share and much more.

We are seeking photos for the website and if you have any that demonstrate any aspect of permaculture that you would be willing to share, we would be grateful to receive them. Send to: info@permaculture.org.nz

Convergence Links and Resources

Nicole Foss - theautomaticearth.org

Albert Bates - peaksurfer.blogspot.com

Charles Eisensteing - <http://charleseisenstein.net/>

Jude & Michel Fanton - <http://www.seedsavers.net/>

Timebanking - www.timebanks.org.nz

Transition Towns - www.transitiontowns.org.nz

Living Economies - le.org.nz

Bernard Lietaer - www.lietaer.com

Convergence Film Footage soon to be available on YouTube

Many of the keynote speeches and presentations at APC11 were filmed and these will be uploaded to You-Tube soon. Keep an eye out on www.apc11.co.nz

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