



Annual Report

2010-2011

June 2011

Admin Group 2010 - 2011

Joint Coordinators	Michelle Maher Celeste Salter (resigned July 2010) Pat Rayner from October 2010
Secretary	Maryanne Bell (resigned March 2011)
Treasurer	Pete Sharman
Admin Group	Sue Girard Greg Wood Franklin Scarf Kat Szuminska Celeste Salter
Wiserearth administrator:	Celeste Salter
BMP Yahoo list moderator :	Pat Rayner, Celeste Salter
Web manager:	Pat Rayner

Joint Coordinators report

1 PBM

The objectives of Permaculture - Blue Mountains are to:

- Incorporate Permaculture ethics and design principles when planning and implementing projects and activities.
- Develop projects and activities to promote sustainability using the design principles of Permaculture
- Support strategies for food, energy and water security in the Blue Mountains.
- Build connections and partnerships with individuals and other groups across the greater Blue Mountains and beyond to promote sustainable living.
- Support the creation of a community garden in each village.
- Care for people, care for earth and share surplus.
- Conduct ourselves in a way that is open, ethical and accountable.

Our members are drawn from the Blue Mountains Community and surrounding regions and are involved in teaching, design, community activism, local government and many other professions.

Members of PBM meet regularly to consider a range of activities that deal with Permaculture including wider issues such as sustainability and social responsibility. Individual members also conducted workshops and courses throughout the community on a wide range of Permaculture topics.

The PBM website Wiserearth and Yahoo list provide information share for those interested and working in Permaculture and related areas.

PBM became incorporated in June 2010. Many thanks to Kat Szuminska for her work on this. Since Incorporation, PBM has developed into a credible organisation with 63 members. We host regular events in the Blue Mountains to stimulate debate about Permaculture and sustainability.



2 Report on activities in 2010-2011

2.1 Advocacy

PBM provided a seven-page submission to the Blue Mountains City Council on the proposed community gardens policy in April 2011. The submission identified several areas where the council had referred to Permaculture in its documentation, in particular the LEP documents, and suggested over 20 key recommendations to improve the proposed community policy. Although very few of these were adopted in the final document, PBM was pleased that the council adopted its first community gardens policy. It is recommended that the future PBM committee follow up on recommendations to Council in the upcoming LEP review. Many thanks go to Kat Szuminska and Celeste Salter for finalising and sending the document, on the behalf PBM. This submission is available on the website. www.permaculturebluemountains.net

In addition, articles have appeared in the Blue Mountains Gazette reporting on the outcome of the regular Sustainability Talks program as well as on the results of National Permaculture Day in the Blue Mountains.

2.2 Sustainability Talks

PBM held a regular series of Sustainability Talks. Topics for these talks were as follows:

- Phillip Dolan – Chips with That! on biofuels and how to use straight vegetable oil as a fuel
- Will Smith - Perfecting the Art of Aerobic Composting
- Craig Laurendet - Construction using recycled materials
- Rosemary Morrow - The Restorative Power of Permaculture
- Victoria Walker - From Lilianfels to Laos
- Pat Rayner - Food Security
- Jasmine Payget – Permaculture in East Timor



In addition field trips were organised to specific sites such as Purple Pear Farm and Cheriras Community Orchard (formerly the Cloud Farm).

2.3 National Permaculture Day

In 2010 PBM celebrated NPD with 2 open gardens and a workshop at Blue Mountains Organic Community Garden. In 2011 PBM hosted 8 events for National Permaculture Day with open gardens from Glenbrook to Mount Tomah, workshops at Norman Lindsay Gallery Falconbridge on composting and Blue Mountains Organic Community Garden at Katoomba with tours and Community Exchange Trading Day.

2.4 Presentation by David Holmgren

A stand alone talk was given by David Holmgren on Disaster Resilient Communities and Landscapes to an enthusiastic audience of around 70 people.



2.5 Working Bees

PBM held a series of regular working bees, where the garden of a PBM member is selected and all members are invited to attend. Eight working bees were held in 2010-2011 and a number were accompanied by a specialist talk on subjects ranging from irrigation and seed raising through to composting techniques.



2.6 Presentations

Members of PBM have made presentations at different forums including the following:

- Maryanne Bell and Michelle Maher spoke to the students completing a PDC conducted by Milkwood Permaculture
- Sue Girard spoke to Leura Garden Club,
- Pat Rayner gave a presentation on Permaculture in our garden to the Blackheath and District Horticultural Society
- Victoria Walker spoke at the Community Fair in Blackheath to celebrate the Food Co-op 30th birthday.
- Pat Rayner spoke about Permaculture on BluFM

2.7 Participation in Community Events

PBM was represented at several community events with information stall being an excellent way to meet new people and talk about Permaculture. This year stalls were held at the Food Co-op 30th birthday Fair at Blackheath and the I Love Lawson festival.

3 Networking

PBM has developed a number of strategic networking alliances including Mid Mountains Community Gardens, Blue Mountains Community Exchange System, Transition Blue Mountains, Permaculture Sydney West and Blue Mountains Slow Food.

PBM members worked with Sydney Permaculture groups on the Permaculture display at the 2011 Royal Easter Show.

The BMP-List email list, Wiserearth and the website continue to link people, promote events, to disseminate ideas and to provide a forum for discussion.

PBM is one of the top 30 groups that is accessed or looked at in WiserEarth - that is not only our members but others interested in Permaculture anywhere in the world.

The BMP-List email list has 145 members.

This year the website is being updated with new pages and a new look. This will continue in 2011-2012 with a new banner.

PBM INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2010-11

Income

Opening balance		\$679.40
Membership	\$ 705.00	
Sustainability talks	\$ 330.00	
Ho Mi sales	\$ 559.50	
National Permaculture Day	\$ 157.90	
D. Holmgren talk	\$1,510.15	

\$3,262.55 \$3,941.95

Expenditure

Lawson room hire	\$ 150.00
Printing	\$ 531.70
Gifts	\$ 179.50
Purchase Ho Mis	\$ 576.50
Advertising	\$ 159.70
Food and beverage - D. Holmgren talk	\$ 49.35
Lawson Public Hall hire	\$ 114.40
Fee and fare to D. Holmgren	\$1,025.00
Banner	\$ 43.05
Renewal of domain name	\$ 39.90
Postage	\$ 00.24

\$2,893.10

Final Balance

\$1,048.85

4 Acknowledgements

PBM is grateful for the ongoing support of many individuals and organizations.

Thanks to

- Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre
- Blue Mountains City Council
- Mid Mountains Community Centre
- PBM volunteers who have given generously of their time, skills and work this year.