

BLUE MOUNTAINS PERMACULTURE NETWORK

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NEWSLETTER SPRING 2007

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Hello

Welcome to the Spring newsletter. This is my last newsletter and so I say goodbye after 5 years of getting to know contributors, cajoling, hounding, pleading and being very grateful to all those who have continually sent in such a range of interesting and informative articles.

The newsletter is moving to a new format as a blog (see article p7) and <http://bmpermac.blogspot.com/>

There will be some settling in problems but please check it out and give your feedback.

In this newsletter Rowe Morrow has written some impressions of her trip to Brazil for IPC8, Deb Hurley has provided another comprehensive list of what to plant and there is news of many activities happening in the mountains.

Thank you to all the contributors who have made the newsletter possible over the last 5 years

All the best

Pat
BMPN

WHAT'S ON?

- Saturday 22 September **Hawkesbury EarthCare Fair** 10 - 4.00
Contact Tom Mellor fair@earthcare.org.au
- Saturday 22 September **'Korowal EnviroFest'** , at Korowal School
The focus is on raising consciousness about sustainable practices.
- Sunday 23 September - **Advanced Energy Workshop - Home & Work Environments**
Creating a Healthier, Happier Environment.
Contact BeeGreen <http://www.beegreen.com.au> to register your interest as this workshop
10am to 5pm Upper Mountains, location to be advised depending on participants.
- 2 weeks before the
2007 federal election **Walk Against Warming**
Show the Federal Government you support courageous action on climate change.
Further info 9279 2466 or mkikken@nccnsw.org.au
www.alkagainstawarming.org
- Sunday 28 October **Mid-Mountain Seedsavers 2783 Meeting**
Bullaburra Progress Association Hall, crn Noble St and Gr Western Highway, Bullaburra 10.00 - 12.00 Bring a plate to share
Contact 4759 2118 or mcrun@hermes.net.au to indicate numbers.
- November **Workshop - Earth building for the garden.** Please contact
BeeGreen <http://www.beegreen.com.au> to register your interest as this workshop may run at a number of locations
- 8 & 9 September **SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY**
The national Sustainable House Day event aims to demonstrate how good design can virtually eliminate the need for heating and cooling and thus save money and the environment. It's a great opportunity to see houses utilising rather than exploiting nature's natural energies and to talk to homeowners, architects and designers who have created sustainable living environments, often on modest budgets.
Contact the local coordinator, Rob Kemp robkemp@tpg.com.au
phone 9864 8797 or 9296 1561.

Thursday, 15 November

Shelter NSW presents a conference on
Climate change. How does it involve low-income households?
Wilkinson Building, 148 City Road, Darlington, Sydney. 9.00 to 4.30
Program and registration form online at
www.shelternsw.org.au/docs/fly07sem-about.html
or contact Flora at phone: 9267 5733, fax: 9267 5001, or email:
flora@shelternsw.org.au

March 20 - 24 2008

Australian Permaculture Convergence APC 9
*"Yesterday's Achievements, Today's Challenges and
Tomorrow's Aspirations"*
Permaculture North presents APC9.
Glengarry Training Centre, North Turramurra
www.apc9.org.au

Actions and ideas from IPC8

By Rowe Morrow

1. A PERMACULTURE THINK TANK

In preparation for IPC8 Scandinavian permaculturists, primarily teachers, from Norway, Sweden and Denmark held a live-in weekend in March this year to discuss what they thought were the issues of most importance to them, and to bring that thinking as papers, to Brazil. They seemed to be the only group at the conference which concentrated on climate change and what it would mean for their countries and, they also looked at early permaculture ideas to see how they had weathered and where they felt they should be going with permaculture in the future.

They brought papers to hand out, but didn't present them in sessions and this is a summary of their ideas. I've added some information given to me in informal chats by Tony Andersen, one of the permaculture 'elders' who is weathering extremely well with good food and whisky. I have them as computer documents and could send the full manuscripts to anyone who requests them. They were prompted by the following:

"In 1984 Bill Mollison said that permaculturists had ten years to make a difference. This was Plan A. Given the stunning decline of the planet's ecological equilibrium in the last few years most would consider it ludicrous to suggest that we have. However there are more than a few who feel strongly that perhaps we may claim to have set the stage to make a difference."

– Ali Sharif, www.ipc8.org, Director's Blog, 2006.

They looked at Bill Mollison's Plan A and then a Plan B in terms of the rate of environmental deterioration. Plan A they felt was now out of date and that Plan B needed to be implemented as fast as possible. Plan B focuses on working together and locally in powerful ways. Plan B stresses the urgent need for repair and regeneration not simply of conservation present systems. It is almost a fourth ethic - repair, renew, regenerate water, soils, food and energy, now. The Nordic group focussed on the Oeresund region.

Plan B they state is for permaculture as conditions became more critical - for whatever reasons, drought, peak oil, climate change - choose your disaster. Plan B entails consciously targeting neighbourhoods and groups as the units of strength, not individuals, and then through permaculture design work on the issues. This has implications for courses and how we teach them. It centres in on localisation (call it bioregionalism perhaps) and direct action through groups. Perhaps the climate change groups being formed in many places in Australia are vehicles for this. Restitution of landscape is fundamental.

I took this idea a bit further. It occurred to me that eco-centres and eco-villages could focus as local centres of knowledge and skills. For example, they do not need to have the seedbank but they need to know where the local seeds, and other such critical information and skills, can be found. They would function as emergency centres in the case of disasters.

Tony told me that in Scandinavia, the Danes, in particular are looking at floating villages, perhaps boat villages with floating gardens and, tall buildings plugged deeply into bedrock as the other main living units for their populations.

Also, in their "10,000 trees paper, they propose that the 10,000 trees planted per person message is primarily for coastal areas which are likely to be inundated permanently, however they also see it as a global strategy - see the last edition of the Permaculture Activist on climate change.. Huge littoral forests would be planted to mitigate the force of wind and waves breaking over coastal lowlands.

This is a type of disaster planning which is pro-active for a defined region and not difficult to implement..

Some of these ideas are to be taken to the European Community and to the UN where Tony will make representation next year.

Importance of Think Tanks:

1. Local permaculture Think-tanks look at the bigger regional picture and permaculture theory and practice to see how it meets future needs, and then develops plans that can be put to local, state or federal governments. It would be good if each state or regional could do this for IPC9. Is it possible? Who are our thinkers?
2. They come with ideas for special treatment of areas such as low coastal zones. For example, I realised that every country, not land-bound needs littoral permaculture plans, as we need the riverine plans and this should be part of our permaculture thinking and, of course, it is just as important as water harvesting on a huge scale in dry or drought areas. The mass movement of people from their homes should i think be avoided as much as possible.

What do you think?

1. Should we hold think tanks and then present the results at APC9?
2. What are the local regions Australia of Australia and the south Pacific which would need regional permaculture plans - and if restoration is to start - what should it be?
3. Where do we feed in our findings?
4. How does this information affect our teaching curriculum?

IPC8 - 2. Who came - surprises and expectation: was it just a junket?

IPC8 was a stimulating mix of people. It worked well because of the people balance. There were a few oldies and I found myself among the "permaculture elders" and was treated with great respect which was so good I felt quite sad to be home and not selected to be as an honourable icon.

The importance of the older people, who included Tony Andersen and Declan Kennedy, were that they carried the international permaculture memory - who was there and what was accomplished and Bill and Davis's contributions. Robyn Francis was an important part of this discussion. They spoke, often informally in small gatherings, the story of permaculture as it was first taught internationally by Bill and later David, then the teams and individuals from Australia and USA particularly - where they went and the impact of this teaching. They remember what was discussed in the IPC fora over the years.

There were many, many young Brazilians who would break into dance at the tap of a drum. They were thrilled with the conference and many, after the Conference, hitched and begged rides and turned up at Perenopolis for the convergence. Their chief qualities were huge enthusiasm for permaculture and curiosity to talk to others - from other countries and to make contact with the "permaculture seniors" to find out about the history and present directions of permaculture. They were dedicated and fun and fired up to change the world.

Daily you could see older participants giving time and consideration to younger ones who often said they didn't know where to start. In hindsight, it would have been valuable to offer pairing older permies with younger ones as a type of mentoring.. A few younger ones said they hadn't dared to approach some of the more celebrated seniors. They didn't want to invent the wheel - they wanted to start -immediately. They wanted to know how to start teaching, and where, whether to work in the city or rural areas, and all the issues that perplex new permies.

The permies from India, Nepal, Cambodia and African countries had a similar approach. They are dedicated and very serious about permaculture as being absolutely fundamental to present and future survival of their farmers. Narsanna asked us at the Conference, in some anguish, what we can do about the growing numbers of the world's landless poor? (in his case India's) I think it is a reflection of our lack of real experience of this that we had no answers for him. The world's landless poor people are likely to become a much bigger problem as countries become more urban than rural. This question seriously exercises me and I'd be glad to talk with others who have thought about it. This group of participants spoke often about their gratitude in being able to attend IPC8. They dug out people they had wanted to speak with. They asked questions and gave compelling presentations on their work in their own countries. For many participants it was a superb opportunity to exchange experiences and evaluate themselves and their programs with others in the same situation.

Those of you who contributed to the bursaries for these participants - it broke their isolation, helped professional exchange and centred them as doing probably the most valuable work of all the participants.

The Africans and the Asians had, as we had coincidentally done in Viet Nam and Cambodia, made it a condition of permaculture courses that each participant return home and teach one or more others. They often need only small funds to do big and effective work. Narsanna is one of these.

The participants from USA, Australia and Europe were, on the whole, more concerned with certification. They want permaculture as mainstream and to share knowledge and research worldwide. They presented different ways of conferring diplomas and other recognition. They spoke for Gaia University, the Chaordic Institute and TAFE and university level grades and their equivalence. They had the ecovillage and the ecocentres. I'd like to write about this later - especially the process set out by the Nordic Papers.

Of critical importance was the accomplishments of permaculture in Cuba. We were all thrilled and inspired by what the Cubans took on from the small team from Australia. The Cubans were proud, others convinced and the rest of us probably all wanted results like that.

Cuba will probably host an National permaculture conference next year and invite people from tropical wet and dry regions, and it will be especially important for towns and cities in the tropics. Robin Francis is following this.

Importance of a cultural mix

1. The young are anxious to talk to and to learn from their elders? How can we facilitate this more where we live?
2. Should we focus on extending our influence throughout our neighbourhoods and councils - should a condition of learning permaculture be to teach others on return home? What would happen if our farmers did this?
3. How can we support our permaculture colleagues better in African and Asian continents?
4. What are our biggest successes from the viewpoint of impact?

What other questions occurred to you about "who came"?

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Changing Nature of the Newsletter

The newsletter is moving to a new format on a blog. So go to <http://bmpermac.blogspot.com/> and have a look at what is there so far.

Spring Newsletter 2007

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter 2007 for the Blue Mountains Permaculture Network. Here we have some of the articles that have already made it into the new format. To read the articles, just use the links below:

[Working Bee - Space Invaders](#) - Pete Sharman

[Working Bee - Bed building and weeding](#) - Maryanne Bell

[Of Course You Couldn't Feed the World with Permaculture!](#) - Maryanne Bell

[Creating a Kitchen Garden at School](#) - Lizzie Connor

You may also notice on the left keywords. You can use these to find previous articles that contain these words. Just click on the word and the article/s will appear on your screen.

Finally, you will notice at the end of each article there is a link called comments. You can leave your comments or questions on the article and the author will (hopefully) reply. Other people may also reply. These will be moderated, and comments should relate to the article they are posted against.

We hope the Summer Edition will be completely in this format. **And we would like your feedback, just use the comments option at the end of this article and tell us what you think. Do you have any suggestions for improvement? What do you like / dislike about the new format ?**

You might like to submit an article for publication? Easy to do ! Email bmpermac@inet.net.au as before and send your draft in.

The Edit Team will work on it and it will appear here in the Summer Edition.

Happy reading

Celeste, Maryanne, Pete, Lizzie and Sue G.

Working Bees

Working bees are held on the third Sunday of the month from 10.30 - 12.30 with light lunch following. Contact the person who is having the working bee.

September 16	Lizzie Connor	4782 9380
October 21	Sue Girard	4782 5810
November 18	Susan Ambler	4782 6564

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Mid Mountains Seed Savers - 2783 by John McNaull

August 2007

Proceedings

- Cakestall raised \$240!! Many thanks to those who provided cakes and who staffed the stall to sell the cakes and seeds and talk about seedsaving. Meeting agreed that we should use the money to pay for this years SSN membership and use the remainder to buy seedsaving books to send to village in Uganda (see Julie's contribution below)
- Discussion about new garden book from SSN - also send printed copy to Uganda. Also find sponsorship to print copies for local schools.
- Julie spoke of her links to a village in Uganda that is trying to establish a seedsaving project. The meeting wished them well and agreed that we should send a gift of seedsaving books to the village. We would also love to hear about what plants they grow and how they grow them, as we are a worldwide community of gardeners.
- Liz spoke about the 'Kitchen Garden in Every Home project' being run by Cittaslow Katoomba. It is planned to use seeds saved by MMSS in the project.
- A suggestion by Debbie, and agreed by the meeting was that we didn't have enough time at the meetings!!! Too many seeds and too much to talk about! It was proposed that the meeting times be extended to run between 9am and 2pm, and to allocate different parts of the meeting to discussions and seedsaving and packing. Anyone is welcome to attend for as long as they can. (note that cost of hall would increase from \$12 at present to \$27.50)
- Seeds saved - scarlet runner beans, parsley, pumpkin 'potymaron', hyacinth beans, cos lettuce, bell chillies,
- Seedlings - rhubarb, yacon, pepino, oregano, NZ yams

Also, as discussed at meeting, can anyone please indicate if they are able to help staff stall at the Korowal Envirofest on Saturday 22 September.

Next meeting October 28. Just bring a plate to share and make a gold coin donation to hall hire. Please contact Loret or John on 4759 2118 or email mcrun@hermes.net.au

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT

Blue Mountains Permaculture Network members Michael Galvin, John McNaull, Lizzie Connor and Sue Girard have become members of a subcommittee of Cittaslow conducting a project called "A Kitchen Garden in Every Blue Mountains Home".

The project also involves representatives of several government services, eg BMCC (Geoffrey Smith) and Western Area Health Services (Karen McCavana) and other community groups, eg Blue Mountains Community Gardens (Supapon).

Our overall target group is people who have hardly (or never) gardened before, and the aim is to encourage them to try growing some of their own vegetables and fruit. We are planning on a three-year timetable for the project, beginning with a planter box containing a few fast and easy growing annuals, and eventually expanding to include no-dig garden beds with easy-grow perennial vegetables and fruit.

The first step is running two free pilot "First Summer" workshops at this year's Festival of Joy in the Community Gardens on October 20.

Since we are doing this as BMPcN members some of you may want to help or simply check out our ideas on our blog <kitchengardenathomebm.blogspot.com>. Anyone can read it, but because it's a group-working site comments are restricted to team members. If you'd like to make a comment or become a member email Lizzie lizzieconnor@bigpond.com

SEASONAL PLANTINGS

SPRING VEGETABLES TO SOW & PLANT IN THE BLUE MTS

By Deb Hurley

Welcome again. Hope the Autumn list was useful. What weather we have been experiencing since last I wrote. June was a freezing wash out (it was great), July was dry as and the winds of August were on time. It has been pouring all night here. I was out in it covering my seedlings with plastic and broccoli boxes - they come in really handy, those boxes. Did you know a city like New York could become self sustainable, growing all it's own vegetables in and on top of it's buildings, recycling all it's waste for fuel and energy and saving and harvesting all it's water. This may be the future for cities. Buildings housing

vertical gardens, it's fascinating. Look up Radio National, it had a story on the subject last weekend (18-19th August)

SEPTEMBER SOWINGS: Artichokes, runner beans, beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbages, carrots, caulis, celery, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, onions, parsley, parsnips, peas, radishes, salsify, silverbeet, spinach, tomatoes, turnip, zucchini.

PLANT OUT: potatoes, seedlings of the above Brassica, lettuce.

WARMER AREAS: ADD chokos (I love chokos), capsicum, cucumber, eggplant, melons, pumpkins, squash, sweetcorn, zucchini.

THINGS TO DO IN SEPTEMBER: Plant, plant, plant. Test last year's seeds for viability.

Place 10-20 seeds between layers of damp paper towel. Leave them at room temp for 10 days and then count the number of seeds that have sprouted. Seed with less than 70% germination is a poor proposition and best discarded or sown thickly. If you are into more esoteric ways use a pendulum, approximately 80% of people are capable of dowsing. Prepare frost tender seedlings for the shock of the outside world popping cloches over plants. They can be made out of plastic or glass bottles or flagons. A large sheet of strong, clear plastic can be rigged up into a protective covering. Remember to plant by the moon cycles, they really work. The co-op has the Astrological Calendar and Moon Planting Guide that is an excellent resource. Turn in green manure. Consider companion planting. Mulch only lightly to begin with, as mulch can keep cool soils from warming up.

OCTOBER SOWINGS: globe artichokes, beans, beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbages, capsicums, carrots, caulis, celery, Chinese cabbages, cucumbers, cape gooseberries, herbs, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, melons, parsnips, pea, pumpkins, radish, salsify, spinach, squash, sunflowers, sweetcorn, tomatoes, zucchini.

PLANT OUT: potatoes, citrus fruits, seedlings of the above leaf and fruit crops

WARMER AREAS: ADD chokos and eggplant.

THINGS TO DO IN OCTOBER: Plant some more. Make up more manure tea, stake seedlings when you plant, sink into the ground your homemade snail trap - put a teaspoon of fresh or dried yeast and water into a wide-mouthed jar or saucer and sink it into the soil so that the top is at ground level.

NOVEMBER SOWINGS: beans, beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbages, carrots, caulis, celery, cucumbers, endive, herbs, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, marrows, parsnip, peas, pumpkin, radish, silverbeet, spinach, squash, sunflowers, sweetcorn, zucchini.

PLANT OUT: seedlings of the above.

WARMER AREAS: ADD capsicum, eggplants, melons, onions (white), tomatoes

THINGS TO DO IN NOVEMBER: Keep on planting. November is the time to plant all herbs whether in pots or in the kitchen garden, clean out the freezer for all that leftover produce, water established seedlings with liquid manure or seaweed solution once a week, if you have used black plastic for mulch to attract the warmth, now change to a lighter mulch.

Did I mention Barbara Kingsolver's latest book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, Our Year of Seasonal Eating* last time. It's a terrific read, and.....remember the above is a general guide only.

Happy gardening,

Warmest regards

Deborah
September 2007

For sale

Copper sulphate (Bluestone) for sale \$1 a 100grams minimum \$5. Have 20kg. Rush of blood to head at produce store. Can deliver.

Recipe for Bordeaux mixture ,stll regarded as best organic fungicide and bactericide. This substance needs to be used fresh and is applied to dormant trees and,,most effectively, at the time of bud opening but not yet flowering.Also used on grape vines for downey mildew and at 1/2 strength on passionfruit and citrus .

Take 100gram of copper sulphate (urine containers supplied by doctors happens to hold that mass) and dissolve in 5 litres ,say, of water . Make sure completely dissolved or big trouble . Then add 100grams of Builders' Lime ,Calcium Hydroxide .to about 5litres (Not limestone, which is calcium carbonate) 100grams of lime is 13/4 of a urine container. Mix ,add 25 mls of Winter Oil for added stickiness make up to 10 litres and use within 2hours, stirring the whole time. Cover entire tree and spray trunks to prevent collar rot due to Pseudomonas bacteria.

Steven Schwarz cherimolla@yahoo.com.au

PEST REPORT

FLIES: The Good, the Bad and the just plain ugly...

By Sue Girard

There has been some discussion about predatory flies from some of our Newsletter supporters so I thought I should research the subject a little.

Flies belong to the Order of insects known as *Diptera*. This Order is characterised by some distinctive features, including the fact that members of the order look fairly similar. The order also includes mosquitoes, gnats, midges and leaf-miners.

All flies undergo a complete metamorphosis, ie from an egg, through a larva and pupa to an adult. The larvae have no true legs and are mostly referred to as maggots. The huge compound eyes of the adults are common, and although some species are wingless, most have two wings.

There are an estimated 30,000 different species of fly in Australia, in 104 families, with only around 8,000 so far scientifically described and named. So while warm summer days where annoying flies abound may seem far away in the Upper Mountains, I believe in warmer climes they are becoming active.

Whilst there are really NO bad flies because they are all just doing their thing, some are less appealing than others.

If given the chance the Blowfly *Chrysomya rufifacies*, can consume 60 per cent of a human corpse in less than a week (or so I was told by a very enthusiastic Medical Entomologist); but besides disposing of decaying flesh they also consume maggots of other fly species.

On the more appealing side, in Australia we have five types of predatory flies:

Family Syrphidae (commonly called **Hover flies**)

Family Bombylidae (commonly called **Bee flies**)

Family Tachinidae (commonly called **Tachinid flies**).

Family Asilidae (commonly called **Robber flies**)

Family Dolichopodidae (commonly called Long-legged flies)

As in all diversity, where every niche has its own special interconnectedness, not all species in these Families are "good guys". But generally it can be said they aren't pests and in fact are beneficial to a permaculture garden.

1. Members of the SYRPHIDAE Family (**Hover flies**) have a characteristic flight pattern of hovering in one spot, moving suddenly forwards or sideways, then hovering again. They are sometimes mistaken for wasps or bees because of their black and yellow striped abdomens, and some species even produce a loud buzz similar to bees. They have large heads and eyes but small or inconspicuous antennae. They have an average body-length of 1-1.5cm.

Many species perform the useful role of ridding the garden of aphids, as they lay their eggs in aphid colonies and the larvae feed on the aphids. Aphid-eating hover fly larvae are flattened, legless and

maggot-like. Most are green or brown in colour, going largely unnoticed as they crawl over foliage in search of their aphid prey. Adult flies are only able to ingest liquid foods due to their sucking and/or piercing mouthparts, and feed on flower nectar or the honeydew produced by aphids and scale insects. The nectar-feeding hover flies visit many different flowers and are likely to be important pollinators of plants.

One hover fly species (*Eristalis* sp) lay their eggs in stagnant water. These aquatic larvae have a long thin breathing tube - hence the common name, "rat-tailed maggots". These maggots become a predator of mosquito larvae.

Another hover fly species (*Microdon* sp) has a larval form that scientists originally classified as a mollusc because it looks rather like a small slug. *Microdon* larvae survive by scavenging in ant nests, mimicking the ants' chemicals in order to escape detection by their hosts.

2. Members of the BOMBYLIIDAE Family superficially resemble bees due to their long thin proboscis and their stoutly built bodies, which are covered in furry hairs. These, along with their flight habits, have earned them the common name of **bee flies**. Adults can often be seen resting on or hovering over blossoms or patches of bare ground in sunny locations. Adult bee flies feed on nectar from a wide variety of flowers and may be important plant pollinators. Although little is known of the Australian species, the larvae of bee flies are believed to parasitise the larvae of other insects and may prey on the eggs in egg-masses of grasshoppers and locusts.

3. There are 542 named Australian species of Tachinid flies, making the TACHINIDAE one of the largest families of the order. They all parasitise other insects, usually the larvae of moths and butterflies, but also the larvae or adult of beetles, and the adults of bugs and grasshoppers. The larvae of this fly are well adapted to life inside their food. Tachinid flies are extremely diverse in appearance, being quite drab or brightly coloured, and some even mimic wasps.

4. Members of the ASILIDAE Family are not to be trifled with. A **robber fly** is capable of immobilizing a bee, wasp or other insect larger than itself, catching it in mid air. As with other aerial predators, robber flies have excellent vision, characterized by two conspicuous compound eyes. All robber flies have a characteristic divot on top of the head. The mouthparts of this family have been modified to a stabbing proboscis, which injects saliva containing toxic enzymes into the prey. These neurotoxins paralyse the prey and then proteolytic enzymes digest the protein in the body tissue. The fly then returns to its perch with the prey and consumes the liquidised body tissue

5. Members of the DOLICHOPODIDAE Family look less like a fly because of their long dainty legs and thin bodies. They are metallic and quite bright, with transparent wings that have interesting markings on them. The adult Dolichopodid (long-legged fly) only grows to about 6mm in length. It preys on smaller soft-bodied insects such as aphids. The larvae live in moist soil and under tree bark and are either scavengers or predators of other insect larvae.

If you want to attract some of these "good guys" into your backyard the food plants that attract them generally include *acaci*

COURSES/WORKSHOPS

GRAFTING FRUIT TREES

"Wanting to hold a session on GRAFTING FRUIT TREES . Anyone interested contact me and will try to set up a time to do grafts. I am replete with theory but have had limited success , however. People with some practical knowledge to share especially welcome"

Contact Steven Schwarz cherimolla@yahoo.com.au

Australian Permaculture Convergence APC 9 *"Yesterday's Achievements, Today's Challenges and Tomorrow's Aspirations"*

Permaculture North presents APC9 March 20th - 24th Sydney, 2008. www.apc9.org.au

On the 30th Anniversary of permaculture we celebrate thirty years of achievements, focus on today's national water challenge and plan tomorrow's future for the movement.

The event will be held at Glengarry Training Centre, North Turramurra, Sydney, situated on the edge of Ku-ring-gai National Park in Sydney's north (about fifteen km from the city). We will have the entire site to ourselves and camping and on-site accommodation will be available.

Please let us know if you would like to make a presentation of your permaculture project; or launch a book; or address the topic of yesterday's achievements; or permaculture strategies for the national water crisis; or tomorrow's options to progress ideas for the movement; or if you have other suggestions for events and discussions. We are keen to secure your involvement and participation and welcome ideas and suggestions.

One or two day tours of Sydney permaculture sites will commence 25th March after the convergence.

Please visit the APC9 website regularly for information as it progresses towards APC9. Registrations will soon be taken on line for the event. www.apc9.org.au

2008, the year of the planet, APC9 and the 30th Anniversary of Permaculture.

Penny Pyett President 2007
Inc.

president@permaculturenorth.org.au
NSW.2067.

Sharing sustainable solutions with communities.

Permaculture North
(02) 9888 2575 or 1300 887 145

"mail to:

P.O Box 1145, Chatswood.

Australian Organic Hamper Company Pty Ltd

"In an age where standardisation and homogeneity are the main driving forces in our food supply, The Australian Organic Hamper Company Pty Ltd has been set up to celebrate uniqueness, quality, variety and regional specialisation.

We have established www.organichampers.com.au not only to create a business in an area that we are passionate about, but to try to spread the knowledge and enthusiasm for clean food into new markets.

This site enables individuals or businesses to purchase gift boxes or hampers (via mail order) that contain above 95% Australian certified organic or Fairtrade products (see our purchasing policy on the site).

We also want to promote local food and help small producers around Australia get their goods to customers, particularly in an age where two large supermarket chains control over 70% of the market."

SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY 8 & 9 SEPTEMBER 2007

The national Sustainable House Day event aims to demonstrate how good design can virtually eliminate the need for heating and cooling and thus save money and the environment. It's a great opportunity to see houses utilising rather than exploiting nature's natural energies and to talk to homeowners, architects and designers who have created sustainable living environments, often on modest budgets.

As part of the national event, NSW will be showcasing 29 venues. 7 will be open on Saturday 8 September 2007 and the rest on Sunday 9 September 2007. The sustainable homes in NSW are located at:

Appin	Bensville (Central Coast)	Berowra Heights
East Kurrajong	Carss Park	Chippendale
Concord	Duffy's Forest	East Kurrajong
Elanora Heights	Fairlight (2 houses)	Five Dock
Glenhaven	Gordon	Leichhardt
Mt Annan	Mullumbimby	Newtown
Northbridge	North Manly	North Ryde
Richmond	Rooty Hill	San Isidore (Wagga Wagga area)
Springvale (Wagga Wagga area)		St Clair
Terrigal (Central Coast)	Turrumurra	Yathella (Wagga Wagga area)

Event tickets can be purchased from the first house visited for \$5 each with visits to a fourth and subsequent houses free.

For further information about the above homes please contact the local coordinator, Rob Kemp robkemp[at]tpg.com.au, phone 9864 8797 or 9296 1561.

Formerly known as Solar House Day, the name change reflects the fact that most participating houses also include water saving design features. The new and renovated homes on show all have examples of passive solar design and many also feature active solar measures such as solar hot water and solar electricity.

The 5 key issues in passive solar design are:

- * orientating the house correctly
- * gauging the appropriate levels of insulation
- * correct glazing with appropriate shading
- * correct use of thermal mass, and
- * natural ventilation

After space heating and cooling, water heating is usually the single largest ongoing use of energy. Electric hot water systems are the most inefficient of any option.

The event has been organised for the past six years by the Australian & New Zealand Sustainable Energy Society. The chair of ANZSES, Arthur Zawadski says that if more Australians adopted sustainable practices, our power demands could be met within existing resources and there would be no need for talk of nuclear power alternatives. Sustainable House day is all about encouraging and empowering people to act locally, namely at home. The need to address the issue increases daily.

The Australia-wide list of houses will be available online at www.sustainablehouseday.com within the next few days or contact the National Coordinator Julien Lacave on 02 9282 6944, julien@anzses.org

Community Bank

We have an opportunity to establish a Community Bank in Katoomba.

The motivation is to keep the flow of money in our community, and to invest the profits from the Bank into community projects.

We are at the stage of calling for pledges to purchase shares in BBK (\$500 to \$50,000).

If you are interested, we have further information and Pledge forms available, which ideally should be returned by the end of August.

Enquiries may be directed to:

Robert Stock: 4782 7070
Mark Jarvis: 0425 228 304
Jen Hall: 4782 2290

Pledge forms are available from any of the above, or send your address by return email and we will deliver one to you ASAP.

"Together, we can get our Bank"

Yours sincerely
Katoomba Community Bank Steering Committee
Janet Cahill jcahill@ncc.com.au
Anne Elliott cloudlands@hermes.net.au

Interview with David Holmgren

Energy Bulletin, a leading energy and sustainability web site, has posted an interview by the Ecological Options Network (EON) with David Holmgren. EON put it up on YouTube as a video. See it here. <http://www.energybulletin.net/32892.html>

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Contributions for the Summer Newsletter by Friday 16 November PLEASE.

To **unsubscribe** please reply with subject 'Unsubscribe'.

Disclaimer: The Editor cannot be held accountable for any content but has endeavoured to check all she can.

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