

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA



Newsletter Winter 2025

Welcome

Hooray! We finally made it!

Welcome to our first newsletter in a while - now quarterly and from a new Permaculture Tasmania Committee!

We have been working hard to re-establish Permaculture Tasmania as an active, vibrant group that serves the community. So, as President, let me take a few moments to personally thank our volunteer committee for all of the work which they have done and all of the hours and energy they have put in to make the organisation viable and successful. A heartfelt Thank You to Tania Brookes, Bruce Jackson, Dianne Anderson, Karen Hewitt, Suzi Read, Will Hu, Sam Nobes and Loretta Leary for all of your tireless work.

From re-establishing the website, to manning stalls at markets and festivals, to sourcing membership benefits for us all, to making cakes to welcome our community at The Gathering ; these jobs have all been done by volunteers, dedicated to spreading the ethos of permaculture living:

- Earth Care
- People care
- Fair Share

I hope you find these newsletters to be a great source of information, inspiration, validation, communication and conversation.

Let me know if there is something or someone that you would like us to add to or change in the newsletters; this is a huge learning journey for us and we are so happy that you have decided to join us along the way.



John Kane
President
Permaculture Tasmania
permaculturetasmania@gmail.com



Got an idea, suggestion or story that you would like us to cover?
Email us @
permaculturetasmania@gmail.com

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA

Events

Sustainable Living Tasmania: Big Day of Circular Living Ideas

Hobart 22nd March 2025



Launceston Harvest Market Launceston,, 3rd May 2025



EcoFest Tasmania: Random Acts of Green

Ulverstone 5-6 April 2025



PERMACULTURE TASMANIA

You are cordially invited to **THE GATHERING**

Come along and meet the Permaculture Tasmania Committee and other like minded permies!



Have a chat and a cuppa.
Swap or gather some surplus crops.
Collect some seeds for your garden.
Meet new people.
Share ideas.
Get advice.
Bring your friends and family.
Enjoy the day!



WHERE: EVANDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE
18 High Street, Evandale

WHEN: SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2025

TICKETS: **Eventbrite**

COST: FREE

TIME: 1 - 3pm

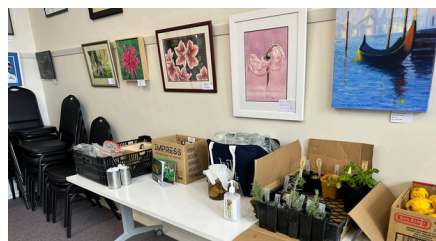
Door prizes to be won



The Gathering

Evandale, 22nd June 2025

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA



The Gathering

Evandale, 22nd June 2025



Upcoming Permaculture- aligned Events (near & far)

TASMANIAN NATURE FESTIVAL

Sat 18th Oct

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Kingston, Lutruwita

f @TasmanianNatureFestival



3rd - 7th October 2025

Australian Permaculture Convergence

Gangurung
Kangaroo Valley
New South Wales

Friday 3rd Oct. 3pm — Arrival Day. Evening Event

Saturday 4th Oct. — Program Day

Sunday 5th Oct — Program Day — POWER DOWN!

Monday 6th Oct — Program Day

Tuesday 7th Oct — Departure Day

Smithton Sustainable Living Hub

Hub activities this month include **produce swap meets** on July 12 and July 26,



Permaculture
Tasmania AGM
14th September
Evandale and
online



Permie Profile : Straw House Deloraine with Patrick Casey

Q: Why did you choose to build a high performance home over a standard, conventionally built structure which would have been substantially cheaper and faster for a comparable size and finish level?

A: Bring in a home that is comfortable all year round without us ever having to think about turning the heating on or opening a window to ventilate just feels right. We've done the hard work up front: we insulated and made the building envelope airtight as best as we can. We prioritised design decisions for thermal comfort in the harsh Tassie winters without the need to rely on an able-bodied person to collect & chop firewood for the life of the building. We're physically able to do that now, but we may not be in the future. We also want to spend that time doing other things, putting our energy elsewhere.

Q: What did you do to prepare for building your own home?

A: We attended a strawbale building course, got hold of all the strawbale books we could find, visited as many owner-built open houses as we could, and picked their brains. We volunteered on other people's natural builds to learn what to do and what not to do.

Q: Looking at the permaculture principles, which ones influenced your process of buying land, designing and building your home, and establishing a homestead?

A: Catch and store energy. We choose a north-facing sloping block to grow food. The house is situated the same way. Every room is designed to receive the sun. We created an airtight envelope for keeping energy inside the building. Everything in this project is essentially centred around the sun's energy. We also built our house mainly of straw & timber, which are all grown through photosynthesis. Also, Observe and Interact. We log rainfall, and have realised that we're well below the long term average rainfall. This may be a trend for the future. Integrate, don't segregate: we're working to accommodate all the wildlife and marsupials. We also observe wildlife movements and habits, and can plan our landscape accordingly.





Q: Any setbacks? How did you overcome them?

A: When people unexpectedly let us down—said they'd be available and then weren't. Trying not to panic, you know you've got a lot of pressure to keep on the timeline you want to follow. Do you furiously ring round to heaps of people, or just calmly ask?

Q: So you chose the calm and flexible approach?

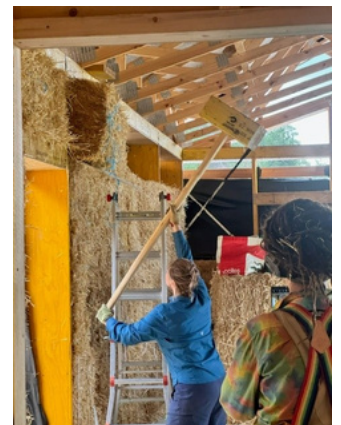
A: (Laughs) No.

Q: What are some positive aspects of the experience so far?

A: Seeing the structure rise up out of the ground and then being inside it, surrounded by it, has been so rewarding. So has the continuous learning experience.

Q: Do you have advice for others seeking to buy land and build their home?

A: When looking at land, consider Yeoman's scale of permanence. This refers to how difficult and how much time it takes to change something on your land. For example, the climate is very difficult and takes a long time to change, whereas the soil is relatively easy and quick to change. Other examples are topography and orientation. For home building, I would start small with your design and focus on what's really important for you.



PERMACULTURE TASMANIA



Our Committee



John Kane

Role: President

Location: Golden Valley

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

Listening to Morag Gamble's wonderful interviews with permaculture people around the world was what really got me fired up. I've been wanting to build a permaculture homestead for years, and my partner and I are making progress.

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

Creatively use and respond to change creatively. Change is the only constant in these times. Change is an opportunity for growth and renewal, and I actively pursue it.

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to help many more Tasmanians learn about the wonderful opportunities that permaculture offers, driving positive change in individuals, our communities and our planet.

What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

I've lived in 9 US states or territories, 2 Australian states, Japan and Thailand.



Tania Brookes

Role: committee member and Life Member of PT.

Location: Limilnati country

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

The ethics of permaculture align with my indigenous worldview

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

All of them. I take a holistic view which extends to the principles as they are all interconnected. The same is true of my outlook on life.

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

I simply couldn't sit idle and watch the organisation go into recess. Community is connection!

What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

My best conversations are with trees. 'Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua, ko au' – 'I am the land and the land is me'.



Bruce Jackson

Role: Treasurer

Location: Eastern Shore, Hobart not far from Eastlands

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

Interest in sustainable agricultural systems.

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

Produce no waste. I enjoy finding alternative uses for things, and if that fails, Gumtree, the worm farm, compost bin, biochar production, recycling bin, and scrap metal yard can play a part

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

Permaculture Tasmania was about to fold up, I thought it such a shame as Permaculture had originated here. My aim is to be a competent Treasurer.

What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

I spent 4 years in Zimbabwe just after independence.

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA



Suzi Read

Role: Public Officer/ Social Media.

Location: Northern Midlands

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

Having left WA for a lifestyle change in Tasmania, myself and family were looking to grow more food, have open spaces and minimise waste. This is when I found permaculture and loved not only the community but the ethics connected to the lifestyle. We have only just moved to 1.5acre property and will now be able start applying those principles to build an orchard and grow our own veggies.

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

It has to be to observe and interact as that's where I'm currently at in my journey. Standing back and watching the world around me, how the birds are coming in and using the garden spaces, to how the water collects around our land. All of this will help us understand the land around us before we do anything.

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

After 23yrs volunteering in an emergency service in WA, I was looking for a way I could use my time and give back to the community. That is when Heather Gaia Thorpe came into my life and helped guide my permaculture connection and encouraged me to join the committee. I hope that I can share my journey and encourage others.

What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

I love animals, rescuing animals and caring for them. Since moving into the house a few weeks ago we have grown our fluff-family already to 6 chickens and 2 lambs, much to the dismay of our Aussie Shepherd Oakley.

Karen Hewitt

Role: Committee member and the Local Group Representative (Transition Tamar)

Location: Tamar Valley

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

At first I loved the symbiosis that Permaculture had with the natural world, and also how it was welcoming to everyone regardless of their current skillset in regards to the sliding scale of self-sufficiency; but the more I came to know about it, the more it absolutely inspired me with the possibilities for total systemic social change - and that's what stuck.

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

Value the Margins. We are not just talking hedgerows and the biodiversity they foster, we are promoting and listening to those who have historically been repressed, oppressed or ignored. A society is only as good as how it treats its most vulnerable.

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

As Transition Tamar is a Local Group of Permaculture Tasmania, we need someone to sit on the Permaculture Tasmania Committee to be that point of connection between the two entities, and ensure communication and accountability; as Convenor of TT it is probably easiest for me to perform this role. Permaculture Tasmania supported us to get going and to meet some of our startup and ongoing costs, so there is a debt of gratitude there too. And it also would have been a real shame if the organisation had folded and left the home of permaculture without a permaculture-related networking body. On a personal note, when my daughter and I relocated here, we turned to the local Tamar Valley Permaculture Tasmania group to find our tribe, and met some wonderful people and made some lasting connections - so it's a bit like paying that forward as well. From a TT point of view, we want to work in close connection with our revitalised "parent" body (the initial committee sprang from a PT bookgroup), to jointly realise our vision for Launceston and the Tamar Valley region to become a connected & resilient community through sustainable living, localised food production, circular economy and regenerative development. It doesn't hurt that in the process we get to talk a lot about growing lovely veggies in local community too

What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

Apart from the obvious food gardening, I am endlessly fascinated with our world and how everything came to be organised like it is (the sooner we can understand that, the sooner we can change those bits that don't work for everyone).

I am still not growing straight carrots - despite being awarded a 2020 partial PT scholarship to enable me to do so by taking my PDC with the amazing Jo Dean - but I have come round to the fact that straight or kinky (like they tend to grow on my rocky site despite raised beds), carrots taste the same.



PERMACULTURE TASMANIA



Dianne Anderson

Role: Membership Officer

Location: Launceston

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

I got interested in permaculture back in the 80s through Grass Roots Magazine and I sort of dabbled with it at home. When I moved to Tasmania and finally had some land, I became a lot more interested through Urban Farming Tasmania. That put me in contact with other permies. So my approach was through an urban farming lens and one of my friends became a permaculture teacher. In 2020 when I went back to Melbourne, I broke my shoulder and was stuck with lock downs, so I did an extended PDC whilst I was there.

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

Fair share because I am all about access; that everyone gets an equitable opportunity to participate and to learn. I'm also an advocate for equity and equality and intersectionalism. I want to break down the barriers.

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

The honest answer is deep indoctrination of service to the community. I haven't been able to do that a lot was a person with a disability so this gives me that

opportunity and without the committee this wasn't going to happen. This is me trying to give back to the community and also from a personal side, getting back into things that I used to be able to do easily and find new ways to be able to do that. It's part of my healing journey as well. What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

I am a dancer. I do fat chance belly dance and prime contemporary style dance with Tas Dance. I was a classically trained ballet dancer in my youth and have dabbled in other styles such as ballroom.



Sam Nobes

Role: Committee Member

Location: Eaglehawk Neck

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

I've always been involved in regenerative horticulture, organic gardening and permaculture, it's my way of life. Less destruction and more alternative ways to re-use things and go about gardening and life. Here in Tasmania we are truly blessed and I'm grateful every day to witness that.

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

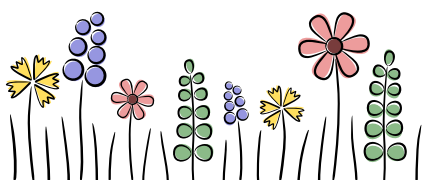
My favourite permaculture principle is working with nature. I can try and fight the elements all the time but they will always win. Better to work with what you've got than try to change what you easily can't. That doesn't mean I don't try to grow figs in the far south of Tasmania for example but they sure don't grow as well as they did in the Adelaide region!

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

My motivation to join the PT committee is to bring permaculture to a wider audience. As most of it is common sense and working with what you've got. There's no mistakes to make just gained experience. It's fun, it's educating and it's fascinating.

What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

I am very creative and whilst I can't draw I can turn my hand to most artistic things. From music to sculpture to baking sourdough breads and cooking. I often think I am a nightmare to live with as even I can't tell what I'll do next! lol!



Sam is the maker and purveyor of fine goods at Convict Sourdoughs, Jams & Preserves: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573596110176>

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA



Shuwen Will Hu, AKA Flow Will

Role: IT support and committee member

Location: Launceston

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

After completing my PDC course, I'm eager to contribute to the community and continue my permaculture journey. My goal is to inspire others to make small, achievable changes that collectively support a more sustainable planet.

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

I believe in using small and slow solutions. They're often more practical and efficient than large-scale efforts, making real-world impact more attainable.

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

It's difficult to see Permaculture Tasmania fade away, but I hope with fresh, creative approaches to organizing, it can regain its prominence. I envision more people joining, helping to shift lifestyles and making a meaningful contribution to climate change and pollution reduction.

What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

I absolutely love poultry, especially chickens! They're adorable, and I've cared for over 20 crossbreeds, including Rhode Island Red, Silkie, Sussex, and Araucana. I would love to swap fertilized eggs or chicks to increase the diversity of my flock.



Loretta Leary aka Poch Leary

Role: Secretary

Location: Golden Valley

What inspired you to get involved in permaculture?

Coming from an Egyptian/Italian background, growing food in the backyard was just a way of life. We didn't know that we were "permies" back then, we were just doing what we loved; growing food in sync with nature and protecting Mother Earth.

What's your favourite permaculture principle and why?

Principle 6; Produce No Waste is my favourite because I was brought up with the adage "Waste Not Want Not". In my previous career as a Sustainability teacher I implemented a 27 stream recycling system in a primary school of 800+ kids and provided an avenue for the local community to recycle or upcycle as well. I still adhere to this adage in my current job and at home as well.

What motivated you to join the committee, and what do you hope to achieve?

I wanted to ensure the longevity of PT and ensure that the community has ongoing access to a forum for celebrating successes and providing support in the PT community. As I establish our permaculture garden on our tiny farm in Golden Valley, I hope to utilise the expertise of the PT community and hopefully help others along in their sustainability journeys.

What's one fun fact about you or something you enjoy doing outside of permaculture?

I love making jams and have won several prizes at some of Tasmania's and Victoria's agricultural shows.

Become a member here

These companies provide member benefits and discounts with more being added all the time

Southern Harvest: www.southernharvest.com.au

Pip Magazine: <https://pipmagazine.com.au/>

Our Patch Pet Food: <https://ourpatchpetfood.com.au/>

Melliodora Publishing: <https://melliodora.com/>

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA



Membership

IF YOU HAVE BEEN A PREVIOUS MEMBER:

Permaculture Tasmania recognises past members, and wants to thank you for your support. As part of the organisation's re-emergence and in line with the Permaculture Principle of People Care, we have now reinstated all previous financial members to current member status due to the two years the association was effectively in hiatus (from mid 2022 to mid 2024). Your new renewal date has been set to 1/7/2026. Please check your inboxes and junk mail folders for your notification that you are once again a current financial member. If you don't receive a notification of reinstatement and you believe it may be because of changed contact details, please email permaculturetasmania@gmail.com with your query (including name, old email address and last known membership year) and we will look into it. We also understand that your situation may have changed and you may not want take us up on our reinstatement offer – there are unsubscribe details in your notification email should you wish to remain expired.

IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER:

Welcome 😊

Being a member of Permaculture Tasmania means that you are part of a lively group of people who are getting active about solving the world's problems through learning, sharing and practising permaculture. We are the only member based permaculture Association in Tasmania and we are run entirely by a team of committed and experienced volunteers who have a passion for promoting permaculture in Tasmania.

Membership to Permaculture Tasmania costs \$20 per year for an individual or family* or \$10 for concession card holders. * this includes the spouse/defacto and dependent children living within the household of the individual paying for the PT membership.

How do I sign up?

Click [HERE](#) to sign up to a 1-year membership. Your membership will expire 1 year after purchase. Members receive an email each year to remind you of your membership expiry date with the link to renew membership if you wish to stay a member – which we hope you do!

You will receive a confirmation email within one week of payment being received, including details of our local area groups to join, social media presence and information on how to access member discounts. Please note Member Benefits are still being reinstated, and we hope to have a full listing available by the AGM in mid-September. But you can check on what has already been set up within the Member area on the website.

Your membership fees contribute to:

- Local groups, skills shares and events across the state
- Guest speakers and workshops
- Promotion of Permaculture at events and expos
- Insurance cover at workshops
- Running costs to run annual general meetings, website and insurance cover for activities.

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA



Winter Gardening

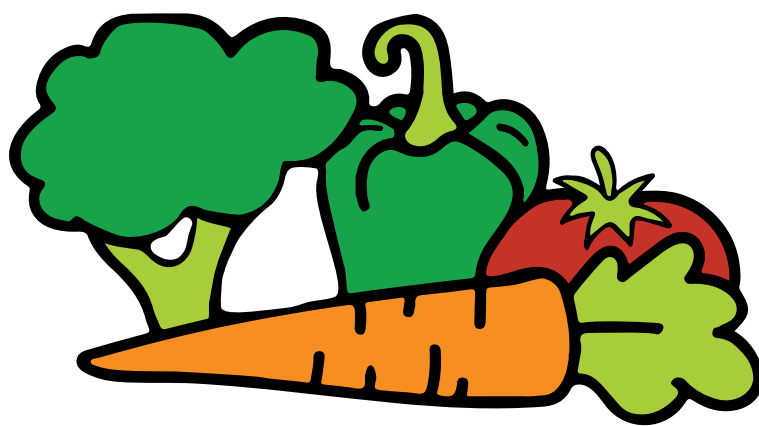
JULY

PLANT: Asparagus crowns, early potatoes, shallots, potato onions, long-keeping, salad and spring onion as small seedlings, garlic cloves, rhubarb divisions, Jerusalem and globe artichokes.

AUGUST

PLANT: Certified seed potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, shallots, potato onions, garlic cloves and oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*). Off-sets (suckers) of globe artichokes (for tasty food and brilliant flowers). Divisions of chives, rhubarb and asparagus crowns. Sturdy young seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, celery, broccoli, lettuce, onion and leeks.

SOW: Direct where they are to be grown seed of peas (including delicious snow peas), broad beans, turnips, swedes, Asian brassicas, English spinach and onions. In warm, well-drained soil or containers, sow silverbeet, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and lettuce seeds.



permaculturetasmania.org