

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING:

RONALD MACDONALD HOUSE

The Lions Permaculture Garden at Ronald MacDonald House has been officially opened. Work is continuing on maintaining and further developing the garden and informative signage. Staff at the House are very pleased and supportive and say that the abundance of life in the garden is uplifting. People staying at RMH are not necessarily caught up in the excitement as they are more focussed on their seriously ill child, but as it grows the garden will be more and more inviting as a place to relax.



ECO FIESTA



Queens Gardens saluted World Environment Day (Friday June 5) in style with lots of stalls and lots of visitors.

Our stall looked great and attracted a lot of people looking for plants. Our wicking milk bottle pots were of interest to many and were a great way to showcase how to upcycle an item that most households use and throw away. The children's activity organised by Ebony Russell was very popular – thanks Ebony ☺ We sold most of our plants and together with the raffle managed to raise just over \$600.

All in all it was a very successful day.

A big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who came along on the day and helped out as well as those who helped out on our potting up day in April, we couldn't have done it without you so THANK YOU.

WENDY SEABROOK 2 DAY WORKSHOP

We had eleven participants take part in the workshop over the weekend of July 4/5. Wendy took everyone through her process of designing a food forest step by step.

"It was a great help to learn how to design a (edible) garden and how to structure the process" - Thijs Krugers

"Fantastic and inspiring workshop. Lots of new ways of thinking about food gardens with practical ideas I can take into my own garden" – Mary Anne Anderson

"I liked the mix of theory and practical in learning how to design an edible food forest/garden and now have some practical steps to create one wherever I'm living"



Bronwyn Gilchrist

"I had read about the importance of site analysis previously but there seemed to be an overwhelming number of things to take into consideration. Wendy took us through it step by step. It was a huge mind-shift for me to understand that thinking about goals for a site

comes after analysing the realities of what you have to work with" – Lynn Saunders

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

The garden is looking very good since we've been watering more regularly (this also means it's now in need of a good weeding). Our friend the fat green tree frog still lives inside one of the wicking beds, poking his head out when we fill it.

We had a good turnout for the garden tour we held on May 23rd for new and interested members. We harvested eggplant, galangal, chilli, arrowroot, aibika, betel leaf and rocket to take home.

We've recycled some silt traps made of coconut husk from a construction site to add some very dense compost between the beds. We've also recently planted a breadfruit tree to replace our yearly corn (starchy crop), as well as fig, soursop, and macadamia trees. In the coming months we're expecting crops of red pawpaw, carambola (star fruit), star apple, capsicum and beans, plus all the perennials. There's still opportunity for more group members to share the group's plot or take responsibility for a little section of their own, so feel free to get in contact if you want to get involved.

info@permaculturetownsville.org

WHATS COMING UP:

SATURDAY 18TH JULY, 8.30am
Committee/Steering group
meeting

Community Garden, Railway Estate
Corner of Pascoe st x Robertson st
Wear long sleeves (insects).

SUNDAY, 2ND AUGUST
PERMABLITZ

62 Paxton Street, North Ward

What is Permablitz?

Kirsty Newton says in PIP Magazine
<https://www.pipmagazine.com.au>

"Permablitz originated in Melbourne, was founded by Dan Palmer and evolved into a network of designers and groups that coordinated permablitzes locally (in Melbourne)Permablitzes are based on volunteers; designers offer their work and the design at no charge; participants offer to sweat it out for a day. Hosts organise materials. After volunteering at three permablitzes, participants become eligible for their own"

Here are some links for anyone interested in knowing more.

Permablitz Melbourne

<http://www.permablitz.net>

Permablitz Wollongong

<https://permablitzthegong.wordpress.com>

Strictly speaking the events in Townsville are probably Permabees rather than Permablitzes as we have not had the input of fully qualified designers, but the eligibility after participating three times still applies. We have been aiming to work on someone's property every second month.

The next event being planned will be in August. Locations for one or two more events this year have not been decided.

Are you eligible? Do you have an idea for a project? Then get in touch –
info@permaculturetownsville.org

SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER
AGM and FUN DAY

Stay tuned!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH-25TH Permaculture Design Certificate course, Townsville

Do you want to gain your Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) but haven't had the time or finances to attend a two week course? Does your job or children make it hard to attend a residential PDC? In an effort to make the PDC more accessible Community Permaculture Services has developed a 50% face-to-face 50% external syllabus. The face-to-face section to be held on THE WEEKENDS OF 10-11, 17-18, AND 24-25 OCTOBER 2015. Participants with children are WELCOME to attend, and there will be someone to look after them and keep them amused with a number of permie games and exercises.

The first weekend is devoted to practical sessions, and participants will learn some basic building skills. We will construct a shadehouse from old trampolines, a decent sized worm farm that won't dry out in our climate, and build seating from coircrete rendered sand bags. The children will be taught how to make cheap portable wicking gardens and how to plant seeds.

The second week will focus on the permaculture ethics and design principles. This is 'the heart and soul' of permaculture. On the third weekend we will be covering how to design and the main permaculture design methods. Participants will commence their main design exercise during the second weekend and add to it over the next few months. The external section of the course will run from October to mid-January and consists of a number of exercises, many of which will assist in completing the main design. Participants will be provided with the main permaculture text, 'Permaculture: A Designers Manual' (Mollison 1988), as well as over forty A3 mind-maps, the Mollison's Permaculture Ethics and Principles card set and an 8Gb usb stick packed with permaculture films and information. Participants will be expected to spend a minimum of three (3) hours per week for twelve (12) weeks on the external exercises and design work. Upon successful completion of the course participants will be awarded a Permaculture Design Certificate, recognised in over 100 countries around the world.

Course Teacher: The course teacher Brett Pritchard has been a professional Permaculture Design Consultant since 1990 and an accredited Permaculture Design Certificate teacher since 1993, and has extensive practical permaculture experience

over a wide range of climatic zones. In addition to a Diploma of Permaculture Design in Education and Community Services Brett also has a Bachelor of Natural Environments and Wilderness Studies (UTAS). He was awarded the Permaculture Community Services Award in 1992 for his work pioneering permaculture in Malaysia. He has been based in the dry tropics since 2005 and is currently developing a 3-acre dry tropics permaculture demonstration site at Alligator Creek, just south of Townsville, with the help of two goats and a miniature pig. He has been the Education Officer for Permaculture Townsville Inc. since 2012 and is the initiator of the council funded Neighbourhood Garden Project, as well as the developer of the organic low maintenance BioWicked urban food growing system. He is currently involved in establishing alley crop trials in Borneo and assisting with the establishment of a permaculture training centre in Bhutan, and in October is assisting with a Green Warrior PDC in the Philippines. Brett also has a Blue Card for working with children and a current Red Cross Certificate.

DATES: Saturday 10, Sunday 11, Saturday 17, Sunday 18, Saturday 24, and Sunday 25 October 2015.

TIMES: 9:00am till 5:00pm (2 half hour breaks and an hour for lunch from 12:30-1:30)

COST: Full Cost \$990, Concession \$750 (Permaculture Townsville Inc. members, Lions Club members, unemployed, single parents, disability or senior pensioners, students, etc.).

CONTACT: Message Brett Pritchard or email <drytropics@gmail.com> for a registration form.

NOTE: THE CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO TWELVE (12) STUDENTS ONLY. This is to allow more student input and also allow for one-on-one advice. A deposit of \$250 is required to book your place on the course, with the remainder to be paid by October 10.

**SUNDAY, 11TH OCTOBER
INTERNATIONAL
PERMACULTURE
LONDON, 2015**

**Conference 8-9th September
Convergence 10-16th September**

<https://ipcuk.events/>

From Pip Magazine HQ

With the winter solstice behind us, the days are lengthening and although we are heading into the depths of winter there is a feeling of heading into the light.

You'll be glad to know [Pip Magazine](#) is growing like a good little pippy should. We're getting more subscribers every day and we're spreading our reach around the country. Issue 4 is starting to get laid out ready for print and it's going to be a great issue. We are increasing page numbers and we have some great features this issue. I can't wait to share them with you.

If you haven't already subscribed, do so now and be among the first to receive the next issue in your letter box.

Whatever climate you are in, I hope winter is treating you well.

Keep warm
Robyn