

## about Permaculture

Permaculture was devised by Australians Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in the 1970s, and is practised around the world in urban, suburban and rural areas. It's about designing and creating sustainable household, local and regional systems where humans and nature live in positive relationship to each other.

It covers subjects as diverse as:

- energy (reducing fossil-fuel and water wastage, using renewables like wind or solar, and lower-emission transport modes)
  - growing food at home (which saves water, energy in transport, refrigeration and packaging, and promotes fresh, in-season eating)
  - buying fresh and local produce
  - reducing waste by refusing unnecessary packaging, and re-using materials
  - architecture (homes, buildings, solar orientation, insulation, re-used materials)
  - animal husbandry (in the suburbs, keeping chickens or guinea pigs to work in the garden)
  - forestry (growing trees to capture carbon)
  - finance (considering the best use of limited resources, sharing, swapping, bulk buying, recycling)
  - biodiversity (growing a range of rare or old-fashioned varieties of fruits, vegies, herbs and nuts, keeping old-fashioned breeds of chook)
- ... this is not an exhaustive list.

Many of the principles of permaculture are already being practised in our local suburbs, in households, schools, community gardens, and through schemes such as 'Sustainability Street'.



front garden hen and chick, Burwood

Interested in learning more about permaculture and how to practise it at your place?

Look up our website

<http://www.permaculturemelbourne.org.au/>



If you're in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, please contact David Coote (Convener, Eastern Suburbs Permaculture Group) at [dehvidc1@yahoo.com](mailto:dehvidc1@yahoo.com)



## Eastern Suburbs Permaculture Group

Eastern Suburbs Permaculture Group, part of the wider Permaculture Melbourne (Incorporated), is an active and enthusiastic local group promoting sustainable living, with an emphasis on producing food locally, reducing energy use, and sharing.



'mandala' permaculture front garden, Box Hill South



visit to ESPG member's garden, Box Hill South

**We welcome new members and hope to see permaculture in the suburbs grow to embrace and benefit more and more people from all walks of life.**



productive large backyard, Camberwell



backyard chickens, Box Hill South



bee pollinating apple blossom

## Eastern Suburbs Permaculture Group

**ESPG meets once a month to discuss, share and learn about all aspects of sustainable living. Our meetings often feature a guest speaker or video on hot topics as diverse as organic food growing, food preservation, worm composting, bee-keeping in the suburbs, ethical investment, peak oil, climate change, and more. We tour members' gardens, which can include fruit trees, vegies, chooks, recycled materials, rain/greywater use, worm farms, or solar hot water systems; we share a meal, which often includes home-grown seasonal produce; and we share knowledge, ideas, books, garden equipment, seeds and seedlings.**

**Between meetings, members keep in touch via an on-line forum, group visits to plant nurseries and permaculture properties, and help each other in our gardens.**

**Our group has great fun, yet we recognise the urgent need for a U-turn in the way we all live and consume, given that there are clearly limits to 'growth' on our fragile planet.**

**Permaculture is possible, whether you live in a small unit or on a larger block.**



productive use of small garden, Camberwell



garden edged with used bricks, Box Hill South