



# VISIONS OF AN ANCIENT WISDOM

## NSCF PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE



Day	Topic	Content	Learning Outcomes
1	Introduction to Permaculture	Course outline What is permaculture History & Global context Ethics & Design Principles Ecology of Permaculture	Participants get to know each other and are shown the course programme. Participants get to articulate their own goals for the course Understand the major environmental challenges and appreciate their own context so that we can learn from and work with nature for a resilient, regenerative and abundant future. Learn the Ethics that form the foundation of Permaculture and the 12 design principles and examples of how they can be applied within design, ecology and lives
2	Climate, Sectors, Zones & Patterns	Climate & Sectors Micro-climates Patterns of intent Functioning connections Patterns in Nature	Understanding of the earth's climatic systems and the effect of local and microclimate modifiers, both natural and manmade Ability to place something in the landscape based on its needs and the management required Learn to value the connections between elements for a stable, resilient system Develop an understanding of patterns in nature and exploring options for patterns in design
3	Design Process	The Design Process People analysis & Goal articulation Site Analysis & Scale of Permanence Based mapping & Scale Site analysis & Individual design project	Learn to use an ecological design process, analysing people context and goals, Construct a base map to scale Analyse the site using the scale of permanence and how to apply it to design Learn to map using Trilateration and extension with offsets Learn to read the landscape and apply patterns in design
4	Water in Permaculture	Global distribution of water, water issues and functions in design Strategies to catch it, slow it, spread it, sink it, store it Swales, terraces, contour systems & keyline® Water efficient irrigation	Appreciate the properties of water that make it essential for life Ability to select suitable strategies for water management to reduce runoff & improve infiltration Calculate water catchments including roof runoff and identify opportunities for conservation and recycling Water use in plants and foods, Efficient use of water in the garden Watering and irrigation systems, Re-using grey water and water recycling, Design for water re-use
5	Soils	Basics of soil, role in our environment, components & biota, Plant nutrients, Soil food web, soil sampling and PH. Dealing with soil problems, compost – methods & compost teas 5 ingredients of soil	Understanding of soils as a complex physical, chemical & biological system Implications of PH, soil samples and testing soil properties Develop strategies & methodologies to maintain and restore healthy soil Hands on experience in composting and a range of soil treatments The 5 ingredients of building soil
6	Day off for Design	Day off to work on base map and overlays	
7	Tree & Forest Ecology	Trees and their energy transactions Site factors and considerations Design strategies, stacking and succession Polycultures and guilds Creating wildlife habitat	How to use design principles for forest ecology to design productive orchards, forest gardens and food forests. Design for succession, food production, shade, microclimates, windbreaks, fodder trees, erosion control & habitat Practical understanding of integrated management and the design of polycultures
8	Cultivated Ecology	Principles of edible landscape design, functions and production Vegetable garden design & zonation, companion planting, crop rotation, mulches and maximising space Intercropping strategies	Learn to look through the lens of the 4-element design analysis Ability to research and design intensive vegetable gardens using design principles and strategies Appreciate the importance of crop rotation and diversity in a vegetable garden Understand the different advantages of both annual and perennial production
9	Animals in Design	Integrated animal systems & strategies Permaculture approach to ecosystem services and how to create permaculture animal systems Bees, poultry Grazing systems and management, wildlife	Consider the ethical implications of animals in a permaculture system Appreciation of the importance of bees and design bee friendly environments Learn the role of animals in human welfare and ecosystem services Knowledge of design for permaculture animal systems Designing for wildlife
10	Group Design Day	Applying the design process from goal articulation to schematic design for a school, community garden or organisation	A deeper appreciation of the ecological design process and how it can be applied within a limited time frame
11	Social permaculture & building a local permaculture community	What is social permaculture & Socio-metrics Applying Ethics and Design principles to community life Re-localisation & Transition People care Building & maintaining effective groups	Understand the scope of social permaculture Have explored how permaculture principles, ethics and ideas can relate to social systems Understand localisation and bioregionalism and why they are important Are inspired by examples of communities and projects from around the world and in SEQ Have reflected on caring for self and have steps for doing this better Have some tools and references for working effectively in groups and understand considerations needed for working in groups.
12	Work on Design & Creating a resilient garden	Working on your designs  Role of pests and disease in ecology Strategies based on management and design, cultivation, habitat and biological controls	Time spent with peers and educators exploring possibilities with your individual design  An ability to design an integrated system to reduce weed issues, attract natural pest predators and develop a strategic approach to control
13	Sustainable housing & Appropriate Technology		Efficient housing design for your environment, Passive heating and cooling, New designs and retrofitting existing houses, Selecting appropriate materials and considerations Integrating garden design around the house Overview of appropriate technologies including active solar and wind, PV systems, solar HW, Energy efficiency in the home, Government incentives, Stand-alone vs grid-interactive, Waste management including composting toilets, Fuel selection
14	Design your Life & Propagation & seeds: Politics and how to save them	Holistic Context, goals and lifestyle Inner-landscape	Participants will gain an introduction to Holistic Context and how to use it as a personal decision-making process Explore the 3 mistakes and how we can avoid them and build a daily statement of purpose, starting where you are and looking to the quality of life you want
15	Day off for Design	Day off to finish and finalise designs	
16	Design Presentations Revision, evaluation & where to from here	Presentations of Participants designs Reflect on the course and the goals of the participants. Exploring worldview. Permaculture buy-in Where to from here	Participants will present their designs, showing how the ethics and Design Principles have guided them to create a design to meet human needs while enhancing ecosystem health Participants will pause and reflect on what they have achieved and what they have learned Revisit the ethics and design principles with new eyes and explore people's worldview Look at examples and explore where to from here

