

Permaculture Design Certificate Course

This is an internationally-recognised modular Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) course, plus additional optional practical workshops.

Overview

Location: Matakana

Date: 5th April - 1st November 2025

Venues: The course will be held at various locations in and around Matakana & Warkworth and will also include inspiring field visits to permaculture sites in the area.

Course Structure:

The modular Permaculture Design Course takes place over 7 months from April to November 2025 with 12 full days of course time: 9 Saturdays (knowledge days) and a choice of 3 or more Sundays (practical workshop days).

Course Details

To fulfil the requirements (content and hours) to be awarded a Permaculture Design Certificate, participants need to attend:

- 9 Saturday knowledge days
- plus at least 3 Sunday practical workshop days.



| Week | Date | Theory: Topics |
|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Week 1 | Sat, 5 Apr 25 | Philosophy / Ethics / Principles / Sectors / Zones |
| Week 2 | Sat, 3 May 25 | Ecology & Climate |
| Week 3 | Sat, 31 May 25 | Water management & Earthworks |
| Week 4 | Sat, 28 June 25 | Soils/ Composting /Growing your own Food |
| Week 5 | Sat, 2 Aug 25 | Trees / Forestry / Forest Gardens / Guilds |
| Week 6 | Sat, 30 Aug 25 | Produce No Waste / Social Structures / Economics / Design for Catastrophe |
| Week 7 | Sat, 20 Sep 25 | Permaculture Design Process / Animal Integration |
| Week 8 | Sat, 11 Oct 25 | Appropriate Technology / Ecological Building /Urban Permaculture |
| Week 9 | Sat, 1 Nov 25 | Design Presentations |
| | | Practical: Topics |
| | Sun, 6 Apr 25 | Seasonal Gardening & Seed-Saving |
| | Sun, 4 May 25 | Pruning (Option 1) |
| | Sun, 1 June 25 | Forest Gardens / Planting / Hügelkultur |
| | Sun, 22 June 25 | Pruning (Option 2) |
| | Sun, 29 June 25 | Deep Ecology & Inner Resilience |
| | Sun, 3 Aug 25 | Composting, Plant Propagation, Grafting |
| | Sun, 31 Aug 2 | Mushroom Growing |
| | Sun, 21 Sep 25 | Field Trip to Permaculture Properties |
| | Sun, 12 Oct 25 | Ecological Building Techniques |

Theory Workshop Details

Ethics & Principles, Sectors & Zones

Date: 5 April 2025

The course begins with the philosophy and history of permaculture – the big picture. We will cover why it is important to work with nature and not against. We move from there to a detailed analysis of the three ethics of permaculture (Earth Care, People, Fair Share) followed by the principles of permaculture design. We conclude the day with looking at Sector Analysis (the energies that come onto your site – sun, wind, water) and zones.

Tutor: Guenther Andraschko

Ecology & Climate

Date: 3 May 2025

We start with looking at ecological principles, then move on to patterns. Patterns are everywhere in nature and observing and mimicking nature's patterns can help us in our designs. We then look at climate regions of the world, temperate, dry, humid, tropical, and global weather patterns, then hone in on bioregional climate zones in NZ. Emphasis will be on understanding climate responsive design, micro-climates, shelter, shade, and sun traps. We finish the day by looking at design methodology, reading maps, overlays, using software like Sketch Up and triangulation. This is where we get out and measure up a site, gather information about the land, do levels and contours.

Tutor: Guenther Andraschko

Water Management & Earthworks

Date: 31 May 2025

Water is the most important resource that is available for us to capture and utilise. We cover a wide range of strategies across a variety of different climatic conditions for the efficient capture, storage, and use of water. We'll do a site walk looking at water in the landscape to get an understanding of how water functions within the landscape.

Tutor: Carl Pickens & Guenther Andraschko

Soils, Composting, Growing Your Own Food

Date: 28 June 2025

The magic of soils: starting with life in the soil and going on to identifying the different soil types you may be working with and how to enhance or remediate them. We cover 6 ways to make compost: hot or cold compost, worm compost, bokashi, surface composting and compost toilets, as well as biochar. We'll cover the basics of home gardening – from designing your garden to understanding pH, seasonal plantings, plant needs, companion planting, crop rotation and seed saving.

Tutor: Judy Keats & Guenther Andraschko

Trees, Forestry, Forest Gardens, Guilds

Date: 2 August 2025

In this module we study trees and their energy transactions, forestry and establishing forest gardens, otherwise known as food forests. You'll develop an understanding of how trees benefit each other, their symbiotic relationships and how to develop guilds, or families of plants. We'll also look at designing shelter belts, living fences and look at the importance of tree-centered food production.

Tutors: Guenther Andraschko & Judy Keats

Community Resilience, Economics, Produce No Waste, Design for Catastrophe

Date: 30 August 2025

Today is about social permaculture. Invisible structures (social, legal, financial) are the glue that joins all the elements. In this session we look at different legal structures, decision making, land tenure and intentional communities. We'll discuss economics and alternative (complementary) currencies and give examples of how these can build community resilience. Climate change and energy descent are big issues and we'll look at the benefits of re-localising our economies and activities, creating strong communities. We discuss food miles and the ethical choices we can make every day. We'll also examine the waste problem and look at how to minimise waste in our lives and work towards a circular economy.

Tutors: Trish Allen & Guenther Andraschko

Permaculture Design Process & Animal Integration

Date: 20 September 2025

We'll start with the design process then move into the role of animals and poultry in a permaculture system, and how to care for them. We'll look at sustainable farming of animals vs industrial farming. What animals are appropriate for your permaculture design? What do they need/produce? We'll go on a site walk looking at how animals farmed regeneratively improve soil.

Tutors: Jakeb Herron & Guenther Andraschko

Appropriate Technology, Ecological Building & Urban Permaculture

Date: 11 October 2025

Appropriate technologies are sustainable, require fewer natural resources and produce less pollution. We'll look at examples of the most energy efficient and appropriate technologies we can use. We'll explore building with natural materials and passive and active solar gain. We'll also look at how to capture, store and use water around the house and how to deal with your black- and grey-water. We'll then move on to urban permaculture, growing food in cities close to where people live, from suburban sections to apartments, community gardens and crop swaps. We'll do a design exercise - designing an urban garden/food producing system.

Tutor: Guenther Andraschko

Design Project Presentation

During the course you will be assisted to choose a design project that you can apply all your permaculture learnings to. It could be designing your own home/land/place of residence, a social permaculture design (e.g. a community garden or waste minimisation project) or a personal design of something in your life based on the permaculture principles. On the last day you will present your project to the class.



Practical Workshop Details

The practical workshops are varied and can be selected according to your specific interests.

Seasonal Gardening & Seed Saving

Date: 6 April 2025

You will learn regenerative growing practices and planning skills to get the most from your gardens year-round. Topics will include soil fertility, crop planning, poly-crop design and succession planting. In the seed saving segment you will learn how to identify ripe seed for collection and methods for processing and storing.

Tutor: Judy Keats

Pruning (Option 1)

Date: 4 May 2025

Learn the basics of fruit tree pruning and tree training for beauty, health, increased production, and ease of harvest. Both timing your pruning work right for the trees and caring for your tools will maximise the results of your efforts. Judy will demonstrate on a range of fruit trees including apple, pear, feijoa, citrus, plum, grape and peach.

Tutor: Judy Keats

Forest Gardens, Planting, Hügelskultur

Date: 1 June 2025

In this workshop we will focus on the form and function of a multi-layered forest garden system, and how to design for our present and future needs. Best practice for planting will be covered and common management practices including building Hügels (mounds) from carbon heavy resources.

Tutor: Judy Keats

Pruning (Option 2)

Date: 22 June 2025

You will learn the basics of fruit tree pruning: shaping and pruning for tree health and ease of harvest, when to prune which trees, tools and their care, and much more! Tim will demonstrate on a range of fruit trees including apple, pear, feijoa, plum, grape, peach and more.

Tutor: Tim Croft

Deep Ecology & Inner Resilience

Date: 29 June 2025

This experiential workshop offers a space to connect, express our concerns, grow our inner resilience, sense of purpose and agency to act on behalf of Earth with clarity and direction. Drawing on the work of well-known environmentalists Joanna Macy (The Work that Reconnects), John Seed and Arne Naess, together with practices informed by Peter Levine's nervous system healing approaches, this interactive workshop incorporates experiential practices that help us to connect more deeply to nature – including ourselves (Zone 00). This is a powerful workshop experience with like-minded participants.

Tutors: Guenther Andraschko & Avril Hamlin

Mushroom Growing

Date: 31 August 2025

Discover the simple joys of growing your own mushrooms – including oyster, shitake and King Stropharia mushrooms. Learn which mediums and substrates work best, and how to ensure you have an abundant supply of fresh organic mushrooms at home! On the day you will be inoculating your very own log with shiitake or oyster mushroom spores to take home with you.

Tutor: Guenther Andraschko

Earth-Building

Date: 12 October 2025

Guenther imparts 30-years of earth building experience as he guides you through an adobe in-situ build which is a cement stabilised mudbrick, a great malleable material, ideally used for garden walls or where walls are exposed to the elements. Stephen Moller will join as a guest tutor to share his experience with earth plastering.

Tutors: Guenther Andraschko / Stephen Moller

Composting, Plant Propagation, Grafting

Date: 3 August 2025

We will explore different composting methods and hone in on hot composting. We will compile a heap from accumulated materials and inoculate it with beneficial anaerobic microbes to ensure the development of fungal networks and sequestration of carbon. We will also learn how to grow plants from seed, root division and cuttings. Best timing for these practices will be covered, plant species suited to the season, and how to care for your transplants once in your garden.

Tutors: Guenther Andraschko & Judy Keats

Field Trip to Permaculture Properties in the Matakana Region

Date: 21 September 2025

Get inspired by how others have applied the principles of permaculture design to create resilient lifestyles, homes, abundant gardens and orchards. We will visit various permaculture properties in the Matakana area, including examples of timber and straw-bale eco-houses, solar & water systems, edible landscapes, integrated chickens and animals, composting systems including compost toilets, worm farms and ponds. A beautifully-prepared lunch is included in the workshop price.

Tutors: Guenther Andraschko



Course Fees

Early Bird Fee: \$1450

*Must be paid in full before 17th Feb 2025

Full Course Fee: \$1650

Additional practical workshops are \$95 when attending the full PDC.

*Please enquire about payment plans.

Individual Workshops (when not attending the full PDC):

\$155 each or \$135 for 3 workshops or more. Individual knowledge or practical workshop days can be attended. Anyone is welcome to attend. Payable in advance before workshop commencement date.

Scholarships:

If you need financial support to participate in the full Permaculture Design Course, the Earthskin Trust offers scholarships up to \$500. Click [here](#) to apply.

How to Secure Your Spot

Step 1: Enrol using the Enrolment Form [here](#)

Bank Account Details:

Name: Matakana Permaculture Workshops
Number: 03-0187-0057399-000

*Please put your name as the reference when making your payment

Step 2: Transfer \$300 Deposit

A non-refundable deposit of \$300 is required to secure your place, with the remainder of the payment due 4 weeks before the start of the course ie by Friday 7 th March 2025.

Questions?

Please contact us:

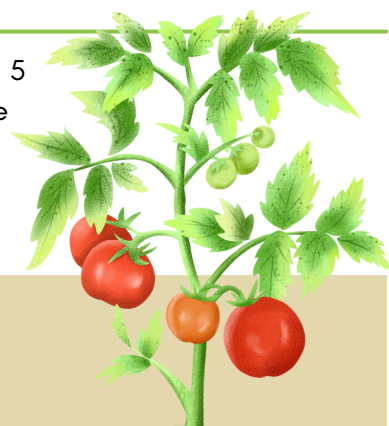
Email: info@resilientliving.nz
Phone: 021 300 408

Date and Venue Changes

We will do our best to keep the scheduled dates, but in case of unforeseen circumstances we may have to change some dates or venues.

Cancellation Policy

The \$300 deposit is non-refundable. No additional cancellation fee if cancelled more than 5 weeks before the course/workshop starts. A 20% administration fee will be withheld on the full course/workshop fee if cancelled between 2 & 4 weeks before the course/workshop commences. No refund if cancelled within the last 2 weeks before the course/workshop starts.



www.resilientliving.nz

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