

# PERMACULTURE DESIGN CERTIFICATE course

## MATAKANA 5th April - 1st November 2025

Internationally recognised modular **Permaculture Design Certificate** (PDC) course plus additional optional practical workshops.

The modular PDC takes place over 7 months with 12 full days of course time:

**9 Saturdays and a choice of 3 or more Sundays**, from April to November 2025.

The course content covers a range of essential permaculture themes during the Theory Days and supplementary Practical Workshop days over one Saturday and Sunday respectively.

Topics and schedule are outlined below:

<b>Matakana PDC 2025</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Theory</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Sat, 5 Apr 25	Philosophy / Ethics / Principles / Sectors / Zones
2	Sat, 3 May 25	Ecology & Climate
3	Sat, 31 May 25	Water management & Earthworks
4	Sat, 28 Jun 25	Soils/ Composting /Growing your own Food
5	Sat, 2 Aug 25	Trees / Forestry / Forest Gardens / Guilds
6	Sat, 30 Aug 25	Produce No Waste / Social Structures / Economics / Design for Catastrophe
7	Sat, 20 Sep 25	Design Process / Animal Integration
8	Sat, 11 Oct 25	Appropriate Technology / Ecological Building /Urban
9	Sat, 1 Nov 25	Design Presentations
	<b>Practical</b>	
1	Sun, 6 Apr 25	Seasonal Gardening & Seed-Saving
2	Sun, 4 May 25	Pruning
3	Sun, 1 Jun 25	Forest Gardens / Planting / Hügelkultur
4	Sun, 22 Jun 25	Pruning
5	Sun, 29 Jun 25	Zone 00 - Inner Resilience
6	Sun, 3 Aug 25	Composting, Plant Propagation, Grafting
7	Sun, 10 Aug 25	Forest Gardens / Planting / Hügelkultur
8	Sun, 31 Aug 25	Mushroom Growing
9	Sun, 21 Sep 25	Field trip to Permaculture properties
10	Sun, 12 Oct 25	Ecological building techniques

To fulfill the requirements (content and hours) to be awarded a **Permaculture Design Certificate**, participants should attend all **9 Saturday theory-based** sessions and at least **3 Sunday practical** workshops.

## **Venues**

The courses 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 costs**

**Earlybird if paid before 17. February 2025**

**\$1450**

**Course cost after 17. February 2025**

**\$1650**

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

## **Individual Workshops**

**\$155 each or \$135** for 3 workshops or more

Individual theory or practical workshops can be attended.

Anyone is welcome to attend.

Payable in advance.

## **Scholarships**

There are scholarships up to \$500 available from the [Earthskin Trust](#) if you need financial support to participate in the workshop.

Click [here](#) to apply

## **Payments**

I understand that:

Payment in full, or a non refundable deposit of \$300 will secure my place for the full **PDC**.

Payment in full prior to **individual workshop days** will secure my place.

## **Please pay to**

Guenther Andraschko

03-0187-0057399-000

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

## **Cancellation policy**

\$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.

## **Date & 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.

## **Enrolment & Enquiries:**

Enrolment form: [click here](#)

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

For more information visit: [www.resilientliving.nz](http://www.resilientliving.nz)

## **Theory Workshop Details:**

### **Ethics & Principles, Sectors & Zones - 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 - 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 - 31 May 2025**

Water is the most important resource that is available for us to capture and utilize. 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 and get an understanding of how water functions within the landscape.

**Tutor:** Carl Pickens & Guenther Andraschko

### **Soils, Composting, Growing your own food - 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 - 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

### **Produce No Waste, Social Structures, Economics, Design for Catastrophe -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

### **Design Process & Animal Integration - 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 do a site walk looking at how animals farmed regeneratively improve soil. In the last session we'll look at designing and planning for disasters and community resilience.

**Tutors:** Jakeb Herron & Guenther Andraschko

### **Appropriate Technology, Ecological Building & Urban Permaculture - 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 / Wind Up**

During the course you will be assisted to choose a design project that you can apply all your 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. You will spend quite a bit of time working on it and on the last day you will present it to the class.

## **Practical Workshop Details:**

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

### **Seasonal Gardening & Seed Saving - 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 A - 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, Hügelkultur - 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 2 - 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

### **Zone 00 - Inner Resilience - 29 June 2025**

This interactive workshop is based on Joanna Macy's "The Work That Reconnects" which aims to re-establish our connection to our own true nature, to each other and the earth in the interconnected web of life. Taking you through a spiral of practices on a deeply personal journey, we flow through four stages of gratitude, grief, presence and finally looking to the future; using creativity, reflection and interpersonal connection exercises to be fully present with what is happening in the world.

By reflecting on the stories of our time, as outlined in Macy's work, we can acknowledge that we are stronger, deeper, more powerful and creative than we have been socialised to believe. Through this we are empowered to make changes to how we live on this earth and in community with each other.

**Tutors:** Guenther Andraschko & Avril Hamlin

### **Composting, Plant Propagation, Grafting, 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

### **Mushroom Growing - 31 August 2025**

Discover the simple joys of growing your own mushrooms in a host of mediums. Learn which mediums and substrates work best, and how to improvise to ensure you have an abundant supply of fresh organic mushrooms! 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

### **Field Trip to Permaculture Properties in the Matakana Region - 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. Lunch is included.

**Tutors:** Guenther Andraschko

### **Earth-Building - 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. James Andrews will join as a guest tutor to share his experience with light-earth, a method which uses clay & straw as insulation to infill a timber frame.

**Tutors:** Guenther Andraschko / Stephen Moller

## **Meet the Tutors**

**Guenther Andraschko** is a Permaculture NZ affiliated teacher. He is an experienced workshop facilitator, earth builder, permaculture and landscape designer with over 25 years' experience in designing and creating unique outdoor environments utilising permaculture ethics & principles. Guenther brings a wealth of practical knowledge and experience and enjoys supporting others to realise their own permaculture projects and aspirations.

**Judy Keats** is a regenerative permaculture educator with 14 years experience in garden design, establishment & operation. She shares her passion for holistic edible production relative to individual situations ranging from community gardens and urban plots to broad scale farms.

"Self sufficiency and community resilience can be realised when we set out on this path with intrigue, integrated systems thinking and a thirst for practical know-how".

**Trish Allen** is a Permaculture NZ affiliated teacher and holds a Diploma in Permaculture. She has over 30 years' experience as a permaculture practitioner including establishing the award-winning Rainbow Valley Farm with her late husband Joe Polaischer. The farm demonstrated permaculture in action and inspired thousands. Trish has now moved on and established a village-scale model of permaculture and shares her knowledge by teaching permaculture-related courses and workshops. She is also co-founder of Mahurangi Wastebusters which aims to divert waste from landfill and promotes a circular economy.

**Carl Pickens** is a landscape architect with over 20 years experience designing and building sustainable landscapes across New Zealand.

He operates Carl Pickens Landscapes that focuses on sustainable, regenerative, ecological and permaculture-based approaches to landscape design and development.

His training in organic horticulture and a lived permaculture background brings a depth to his work that's evident in the successful fruition of these landscapes; from design to implementation and eventual maturity.

**Stephen Moller** co-facilitates the Ecological Building workshop and is an experienced, professionally-trained lime & clay plasterer, having gained his skills in Switzerland, then worked with a company specialising in lime renders, natural paints and building biology. Stephen runs Limewave - a company specialising in beautiful, natural finishes and has extensive experience in both commercial (restaurants, office spaces etc), and private earth build projects.

**Tim Croft** "The Pruning Guy" has an extensive background in pruning including managing the pruning of vineyards and a wide range of fruit tree varieties on private land blocks.

Tim's down-to-earth, knowledgeable teaching style and humour always make his workshops a great day of learning and fun.

**Avril Hamlin** co-facilitates the Deep Ecology and Inner Resilience workshop. She is a Somatic Trauma Therapist and Ecotherapist with a passion for nature and wellbeing.

Avril has studied Ecotherapy with

The Earthbody Institute, USA and has also completed a 3-year professional Trauma Training with the International Somatic Experiencing® Trauma Institute, USA. She has also completed two PDCs, including one with Geoff Lawton.

As well as facilitating workshops, Avril is a therapist with a clinic in Auckland.

### **Recommended reading:**

**Rosemary Morrow** 'An Earth User's Guide to Permaculture'

**Bill Mollison** 'Introduction to Permaculture'

**Patrick Whitefield** 'The Earth Care Manual'

**Bill Mollison** 'A Designers Manual'

**David Holmgren** 'Permaculture Principles & Pathways Beyond Sustainability'

### **Recommended watching:**

[Permaculture The Documentary: How it started](#)