

AGM SPEECH BY PRESIDENT FOR 2011 - PAMELA MOSS

This is a recap of my impromptu speech at the AGM on 16 November 2010 after having been elected President of Permaculture Central Coast for 2011. I have recalled it as best I can and added some information about myself.



At the end of 2005 I attended two workshops run by Gosford Council at the Kariong Eco Garden. One was composting and the other worm farming. Vicky Gear was the teacher for both workshops. I remember Vicky referring to another of the attendees as an enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardener. I now know that that attendee was Robyn Crosland – our “Events Organiser.”

I was so inspired by Vicky’s two workshops that I asked her if she was running any others that I could attend. (I think most students feel this way about Vicky Gear’s teaching.) Vicky told me to attend Outreach at Wyong TAFE in February 2006. I attended and signed up for two of Vicky’s Wyong TAFE classes held on the same day in First Semester ‘*Gardening with Permaculture*’ and ‘*Healthy, Wealthy and Eco Wise*’. In Second Semester, I attended Vicky’s ‘*Organic Gardening Course*’ at Narara Community Centre and there met a fellow-student who is now our ‘*Crafties Organiser*’, Pauline Clarke.

We resumed classes in second term a week later than other students as Vicky was attending a Permaculture Design Course with Robyn Francis. On return to class in second term, Vicky announced that she would be attending the Permaculture Design Course at West Ryde TAFE, at the end of Semester One. Having been hooked by Vicky’s enthusiasm and commitment to everything to do with permaculture and the environment, I immediately responded by saying that I would enrol also.

Vicky and Jeanette Bunter caught the train at Wyong, myself at Lisarow, and Tamara at Umina. The four of us had an absolute ball travelling to and from West Ryde each day (I don’t think the others passengers in our carriage did!)

On our train rides towards the end of our course, we discussed the need for a Permaculture group on the Central Coast. The establishment of Permaculture Central Coast is well-documented on the PCC website under the ‘*History*’ pages.

What I would like to emphasise is that without Vicky and Keith Gear there would be NO Permaculture Central Coast. They were totally committed from the start, and having the knowledge, expertise and past experience, they established PCC as a “professional” organisation able to be handed on to those following in their footsteps. They would not say so, but I believe that they contributed financially to PCC so that it would not only be established, but also keep running in those early years. We owe the establishment of Permaculture Central Coast to Vicky and Keith Gear.

Vicky and Keith have been supported since the inception of PCC by equally dedicated, committed and hardworking Committee members: Jeanette Bunter, our outgoing President, has served on the Committee from the beginning of PCC in 2006 until November 2010. Jeanette is PCC’s longest-serving Management Committee member. Although Keith and Vicky Gear have not served on the Committee as long as Jeanette, nevertheless, even after both Keith and Vicky stood down from their official committee roles, they have continued to serve PCC behind the scenes. Keith was responsible for establishing our Newsletter and is responsible for the setting up and running of the PCC Website.

Other members serving from the beginning of PCC in 2006 in either an official Committee capacity, or other serving role - or both - have been Kelly Macindoe and Alison Heathcote.

In 2011 let us all work together to keep PCC a vital organisation and not let our hardworking founding members down.”

PAMELA'S BACKGROUND

My vegetable and fruit-growing commenced in 2004 with the growing of lettuce, spinach and potato, hence my attendance at the following courses taught by Vicky Gear: the Gosford Council-run 'Composting' and 'Worm Farm' workshops (2005; 'Gardening with Permaculture', 'Healthy, Wealthy and Eco Wise' and 'Organic Gardening' (2006). In 2006, I also attended the following courses at West Ryde TAFE structured on Bill Mollison's books: 'Permaculture Design Course' and 'Introduction to Permaculture'.



I was the first Permaculture Central Coast member to do a Permaculture Design Course with Purple Pear in Maitland in mid-2007. I completed this second Permaculture Design Course because of my limited practical experience in growing food. I gave a short member talk to PCC on the use of the Mandala Design used at the Purple Pear property, and their practical implementation of the Permaculture Design Course compared to the more academic and technical approach of the West Ryde Permaculture Design Course.



In 2009 I completed 'Advanced Design Skills' with Robyn Francis – a bridging course between the Permaculture Design Course and the Permaculture Education Certificate Courses being introduced by TAFE and the Department of Education.

From 2008 through to 2010, I completed the following courses with the Department of Primary Industries (now Department of Industry and Investment): 'Farmers' Guide to Managing Climate Risk', 'Freshcare Environmental Training' (producing food with limited chemicals), 'Soil Fertility Workshop', 'Carbon Myth Busters', 'Soil Carbon Seminar', 'Soil Health for Sustainable Farms', and 'Native Plant or Weed – Pick the Difference'.

I grow as many varieties of vegetables in season that I can. I am also learning to grow and prune (neither very successfully yet!) the following fruit trees (mostly dwarf) that I have purchased since 2007: 4 apple trees, 3 pear trees, 2 nectarine trees, 2 peach trees, 3 apricot trees, 1 almond tree, 1 cherry tree, 2 mandarin trees, 1 lemon tree, 1 lemonade tree, 1 orange tree, 1 lime tree, 1 Kaffir lime tree, 3 olive trees, 3 mulberry trees, 3 fig trees, and a couple of passionfruit vines.

I have plunged even further into food-growing by engaging Candy Alexander to install an Aquaponics system on my property. It should be up and running in early 2011.

In 2009, I was second in the Wyong Garden Competition – Permaculture Section. In 2010, I was first in the Wyong Garden Competition – Permaculture Section, and second in the Culinary Section.



Vicky 2007/08



Alison 2009



Jeanette 2010