



Introduction to Permabees

What is a Permabee?

A Permabee is a Permaculture-based gathering involving a day (or sometimes half a day) on which a group of people come together to achieve the following:

- create or add to edible gardens
- share and learn skills related to permaculture and sustainable living
- build a permaculture community
- have fun and socialise with a diverse range of permaculture practitioners

Permabees are always free for members, with free workshops and shared food, where you get some exercise and have a good time.

How to become a host?

Permabees runs on reciprocity, and in order to qualify to have a Permabee at your place, you usually need to come to at least two Permabees for other people first, although there can be exceptions in some cases (e.g. where the host is a community based organisation).

If you want to be a Permabee host, you must have completed a Permaculture Course – either an Introduction to Permaculture Course or a PDC (Permaculture Design Course). This (hopefully) ensures that you will have a good plan based on Permaculture principles.

To make your Permabee a success, it is good to have at least 2-3 permaculture projects for the day so that attendees can choose the activities that interest them the most.

You don't have to host a full day, you can also host a mini Permabee – e.g. we can help you build a small space garden, a verge garden or a vertical garden.

What happens on the day of a Permabee?

Every Permabee is different. But at each event, you can expect to be welcomed by friendly Permies with a cup of tea, coffee and sometimes mysterious drinks like Kombucha and Water Kefir.

At the start of the Permabee, there will be a safety talk and an introductory circle in which the design for the day and the ideas behind are explained and then we get to work. You are shown what to do and you'll be working with others, and there will be short workshops along the way, so that you can learn new skills. There are sometimes heavy tasks like sheet-mulching, planting fruit trees, digging paths and swales, making vegetable beds with no-dig methods or implementing greywater systems. But for those of you who are limited in what you can do, there are also easier tasks like weeding, watering, keeping drinks up to the workers or helping with food preparation.

The host will provide a shared lunch. By about four o'clock, we'll wrap up and thank everyone. Usually, by then, quite a transformation has taken place!



How to get involved?

All members are welcome to come to a Permabee. Never picked up a shovel? No worries! We especially welcome first-time gardeners, so skill level and physical ability aren't problems at all. Just come and contribute any way you are able. The only thing we ask is that you come with an open mind, positive attitude and a fun spirit.

All Permabee events will be listed on the PSN Website, PSN Facebook Page and PSN Newsletter.

As Permabees are usually held on private properties and you are provided with lunch, you'll need to register for the event as there is a limit to how many people each host can accommodate. If the event is full, please put your name on the waitlist in case anyone cancels.

On the day, make sure you dress for the weather, wear covered shoes (steel-capped boots if you have some) and bring a water bottle and gloves. Feel free to bring a few gardening tools (shovel, hoe, pruning tools are always useful) and if you like, some food to share (this is optional as the host always provides lunch and snacks). The host may put out some extra requests for things like newspaper, cardboard or seedlings. But it's fine just to bring yourself too!

Need more information?

Contact the garden team: garden@permaculturenorth.org.au

Happy Gardening Fellow Permies!

