

SKILLS FOR COMMUNITY SELF RELIANCE

at Jakkalskloof Permaculture Farm & Ecovillage
near Swellendam, Western Cape

*Short Course: Fri eve (6pm) 16 July – Sunday afternoon (1pm) 18 July
and
Workshop: Monday 19th (9am) July to Saturday 24 July (4pm)*

The Jakkalskloof Permaculture farming community invites you to share and learn about the skills needed for community self reliance. This is a 2 day introductory weekend (could be attended separately), followed by a 6 day workshop on:

The principles, practices and successful models of land based community self-reliance around the world, with relevance to the South African context. This highly participatory course teaches relevant social, economic, land use skills and food security systems necessary for developing and living in a self reliant, resilient intentional community.

Presented and facilitated by:

Robina McCurdy, an international educator in sustainability, from the Tui Community in New Zealand. Robina has worked in South Africa over several years, including pioneering several enduring projects in this country.

WHO would benefit from this learning experience?

This course and workshop is for anyone who is interested in ecovillages and intentional communities, and especially those who:

- are ready for a lifestyle change,
- want to further their understanding of ecovillage and community,
- want to apply their learning's to a new or existing settlement,
- are permaculture practitioners (or trainees) and want to extend their work into the field of community design,
- are community development workers or community leaders working in rural areas or suburban neighbourhoods which have a strong community building intention.

This workshop is as relevant for people working within their own land-based projects as for people interested in the new community initiative happening on this particular piece of land.

Teaching and facilitation methodology includes:

- Lots of experiential activities to share concepts and develop practical outcomes,
- Slideshow and PowerPoint presentations,
- Action Learning processes,

- Observation, dialogue, listening, questioning and case stories,
- Simulations/role plays to develop deeper perspectives
- Interchanging indoor and outdoor locations
- Great networking and lots of fun!

TYPICAL DAY: Being winter, the day will start at 9h00 and lunch will be at 13h00. The afternoon session will start at 14h00 and end at 17h30 with dinner served at 18h30. There will be a morning and afternoon tea break and some social activities on a few nights. Other nights will be free.

PROGRAMME

Week-end Course

Friday eve 16 July: social connection & group building; introduction (and participants input) to programme content and outcomes.

Sat 17 & Sun 18 July

Meeting the Challenges of the Times: Global & Local Perspectives

'The Great Unraveling' - current global patterns (eg food situation, trade, climate, oil, economy), how these impact on South Africa and this particular bioregion. Introduction to David Holmgren's (Permaculture co-founder) 4 current/future response scenarios, and working with these to shape community planning. Evidence of intentional communities and ecovillages as a sustainable solution to ecological decline. Principles, practices and successful models of sustainable land-based communities around the planet, their application to the South African context and this Swellendam ecovillage initiative.

6 day workshop

Monday 19 July

Relationship with Land & Nature

Deepening our familiarity with the land and the bio-region it resides with. Land use design from a 'deep ecology' perspective - how the character of a particular area of land influences human settlement design and culture. Mapping the natural resources of the land, regeneration for biodiversity and abundant 'wild harvest'. Developing a local seasonal cycles calendar as a planning device. Ascertaining 'carrying capacity' of the land for food production, including domestic animals.

Tues 20 July

'Community Glue'

Principles of sustainable community. Typical stages of ecovillage formation and development. Clarifying and activating common purpose. 13 practical social issues influencing the success or failure of a community. A range of approaches to governance and legal structures, labour and time management. Dealing with the fundamental 'human ecology' issues of rights, power, conflict, ownership, race, gender and freedom. Balancing resource sharing and private ownership. Group Process Skills – compassionate and effective communication, conflict resolution, meeting facilitation and decision making processes.

Wed 21 July

Food Security

Identifying primary food production areas. Design and management for common land for food production - as well as and individual properties within an (and specifically this) ecovillage. Designing for a particular group's intentional scale of food self reliance. 'Surplus share' – potential commercial crops and value-added products. Developing local seasonal calendar (stage 2).

Thurs 22 July

Finance, Business & Livelihood

Formal and informal currency continuum. The interface between internal (within ecovillage) & external financial systems. Financial considerations for ecovillage entry and exit – recommendations and cautions. Timing, stages, cycles of establishing community owned and operated businesses. Some successful models and pitfalls. Strategic planning for one or more actual potential businesses.

Fri 23 July: Infrastructure Development (to support all of the above)

Physical design integration of residential homes, agricultural buildings, access ways, dams and water systems etc from the perspectives of:

- (a) Optimizing social-cultural sustainability
 - (b) Sustainable land use to meet self-reliance goals
 - (c) Settlement density
 - (d) Efficiency, cost effectiveness, wise energy use, technical quality etc.
- (NB: residency size being 30 - 40 people minimum (10 to 15 dwelling units).

Sat 24 July: Integration

Weaving together all themes covered, and bringing forward work done during the week into a strategic development plan of self reliance (but not independent of local communities) for Jakkalskloof permaculture farm & ecovillage - which addresses issues, challenges, opportunities and viable solutions.

LOGISTICS and REGISTRATION

Cost: We are adopting the "Freewheeling" example and so registration is being offered on a 3-tier Fee Option basis. This system places complete trust in you, the Registrant, to determine which range you prefer based on your own situation and affordability. The cost is inclusive of food, tuition, and educational materials. We encourage people who are unable to meet this fee, to seek personal scholarship money from those who could gain benefit (indirectly or directly) from them attending this course.

Fee Option	Week-end course	6 day workshop	Both events
Full Fee	1100	3600	4500
Part fee	950	2900	3700
Subsidized fee	850	2600	3400

Food: Generally organic vegetarian lunch, teas and dinner will be provided.

Accommodation options: The cost of accommodation is NOT included in the course fee.

Option 1 Camp at the farm [very basic] at R 60 per person per night. bring your own tent.

Option 2 Limited shared accommodation at our neighbour's farm. R 100 per night.

Option 3 Book your own B&B or hotel in Swellendam only 12 km away. Just Google Swellendam B&B

To register: Complete the form on our website

<http://xhabbofarmcommunity.co.za/> and pay a non refundable deposit of R 400 [balance to be paid by 25th June] to:

Xhabbo Farm Trust account at FNB Swellendam, Branch No. 250655, Account Number 62191648561. Please give your name as the reference.

The workshop will be limited to the first 25 participants to register and pay their total fee.

For queries or further information contact:

John Raimondo at: Mobile Phone 082-441 7827 or email raimondoATtelkomsa.net

Robina McCurdy: *Resume re ECOVILLAGE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT*



Robina has been working in the field of community development in NZ and overseas for the past 25 years, with the inclusion of permaculture (ecological land use design). One of her focuses has been the facilitation of new ecovillages, and assisting schools, rural communities and suburban neighbourhoods to move towards self-reliance. This work has involved the training of community leaders as 'cultural change agents'.

Robina is a founder-trustee of 'Earthcare Education Aotearoa' - a non-profit institute committed to the ethics and practices of sustainability at all levels. She is also a founder-member of 26 year old Tui Land Trust, an intentional community in rural Aotearoa/New Zealand. Tui is dedicated to personal development, living lightly on the earth, working with the rhythms of nature, creating sustainable small village culture, generating ethical livelihoods, using appropriate technology and serving as a centre for holistic education and healing. More on Tui can be found in Robina's chapter in 'Creating Harmony: Conflict Resolution in Community', published by Gaia Trust and Permanent Publications (Britain).

For the lifespan of Tui, Robina has been involved in broader community development, permaculture design and teaching, gardening and orchard work, environmental education resources publication and participatory processes of decision-making. She has run many workshops on permaculture, earth attunement, organics and community development.

Robina's work with Permaculture design and food growing in schools in NZ, Australia and South Africa, crystallized in S.E.E.D. (School Environmental Education & Development) which she piloted in the Cape Flats informal settlement area, outside of Cape town in 1999. SEED focuses on community development through the transformation of school grounds into food-producing, nature-enhanced learning environments. Formally under Abalimi Bezekhaya, SEED is now a fully-fledged nationally applied, yet locally operated programme.

For the past 17 years, Robina has worked globally in the community-village context, in impoverished and privileged conditions, offering many introductory and advanced level workshops/trainings. She has also done tailored site-based facilitation/education work with existing communities and ecovillages (often in some form of crisis, or at a 're-invention' stage) in: Australia (Jalanbarg Eco-village, Crystal Waters Eco-village, Carters Rd City) NZ (Heartwood Trust, Earthsong Eco-neighbourhood, Riverside City, Valley Farm Eco-village), Canada (O.U.R. Eco-village) and USA (Sahale's 'Good-Enough' Community, Tierra Learning Centre City) and

Brazil (Fundacio Gaia, leaders from the Landless Movement). In 1999, she worked alongside Robert Gilman (Context Institute, USA and co-founder of Global Ecovillage Network) in the transformation of governance structures at Findhorn Foundation, Scotland. She was also a presenter there at two different conferences: the 'Global Ecovillage' and the 'Ecovillages & Sustainable Communities'. She has taught two composite Permaculture/ Ecovillage design courses at Otamatea Ecovillage in NZ and Kuthumba Ecovillage, South Africa, and a 1 month long 'Design for Sustainable Community' course in Golden Bay, NZ.

In 1995 and 96, at Tlholego Village, rural NW Province, South Africa, Robina facilitated Permaculture projects, garden design & management, designing a 'lelapa' (village homestead) biological systems and conducting PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) surveys with villagers to determine their needs as a future ecovillage.

Robina's competence with sustainable social systems has taken her to some politically tough situations. In 1998 she led an ecovillage workshop-consultancy in Hogsback, South Africa, facilitating the process of land access through the then new government's land redistribution system, between the local council and the Xhosa farm labouring community; and later that year with a new ecovillage ('Burdation') in County Monahan, Ireland (where the contentious border of Southern & Northern Ireland went through their land) facilitating core values agreements; sensitive cultural, environmental, economic and political issues; in depth site analysis; eventuating resulting in an integrated land and social design to present for local authority permission and EU funding.

Human capacity building is Robina's special skill – inspiring, guiding and offering specific tools and techniques for people to access their gifts, develop their potential, build their resourcefulness, and live their dreams! In 2008, Robina's vast experience culminated in the publication of her community facilitation manual, 'Grounding Vision, Empowering Culture'.