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PERMACULTURE RESEARCH INSTITUTE SYDNEY

Farm Share

Application Form

Permaculture Research Institute Sydney (PRI Sydney) is proud to announce its new “Farm Share” project on Pumpkin Farm near St Albans, NSW.

Aim of project

The PRI Farm Share project aims to provide people with access to land, space, support, training and resources to grow food organically either on their own or with others, and thus stimulate food production and increase sustainability and resilience at both individual and community levels.

Invitation

We invite you to apply for your own 500 sqm (approx) plot to grow your own organic food. The plots are located alongside the Macdonald River in the picture perfect Macdonald Valley, just 90 minutes from Blue Mountains or two hours from Sydney CBD.

The Plots

Each farm plot of some 500 sqm will be provided with:

- ✓ A covered structure of 4m x 3m to provide shade and to include small storage areas
- ✓ A 5000 litre water tank harvesting water from the structure roof, to utilize for drinking, bathing purposes
- ✓ 3 bay compost bins to help manage your own compost
- ✓ Pumped water when required for watering

The farm plot area will be internally protected from grazing cattle in the adjoining paddock and offer unfenced access to the river. The plots are situated on a permaculture property that is also under development, and it is essential the whole site operate under permaculture ethics, principles and techniques.

Apart from your own plot, there are opportunities to get involved in a number of projects, such as developing a communal food forest, bush regeneration, assisting with the market garden and propagating, and there are ongoing courses that take place a stone’s throw away that can also help you on your way! At all times you will be surrounded by the stunning valley hills and green pastures of the Macdonald Valley.

Who we are Looking for

A diversity of plot holders who want to grow their own food organically and share the permaculture ethics (care for the earth; care of people; fair share), who respect each other and the environment, who are responsible and reasonable, who will understand and adhere to the overall farm policies.

Management

A cooperative will be formed with the allotment holders if they wish to participate in discussions and decisions concerning the allotments generally.

Overview

Training & development

Allotment holders will have an option to take up additional training to assist their needs such as growing food; soil workshops; market gardening and other workshops.

Accommodation

Allotment holders will be able to camp on their plot (max 2 nights per week) or have the option to pay to stay at the adjoining Bandusia Country Retreat or local B&Bs.

Restrictions and risks

The allotment area will be supplied with a shared composting toilet, single shower facility and hand wash station.

Allotment holders must manage water use responsibly, observe any fire bans and ensure camping is restricted to their own allotment site.

The property is surrounded by native bush and borders Yengo National Park. Allotment holders must be aware that this is a bush fire and flood prone area and native fauna, such as snakes, wombats, wallabies and birds are present throughout the area. They can also be partial to edible vegetation !

The property is reached via a river crossing that can, after heavy rainfall, become difficult to access. 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended during these times. We will advise of weather conditions by phone/email throughout the year if desired.

Back up services and support

Allotment holders can request and pay for back up support if needed with watering, fertilizing, mulching, harvesting and organic pest management.

Publicity

We seek allotment holders who would be happy to be interviewed occasionally and have their journey documented and publicised.

Investment

If selected, applicants will need to sign the allotment contract for a 1 year term, and payment for the allotment must be made in full in advance. This entitles full access to a specified allotment; on-site camping; use of individual on-site facilities such as water tank, shelter, shed and compost facilities; and, if desired, paid support services by arrangement.

Allotment policies

We welcome and expect:

Organic methods throughout

Careful use of water

Soil and land regeneration

Respect for other allotment holders

We cannot permit:

Chemical fertilizers, pesticides; herbicides or fungicides

Illegal crops

Application form

Please complete an application form for each individual applying for the allotment i.e. if you are couple, siblings etc please complete an application form for each of you **(please write in black capitals)**

FULL NAME						
GENDER	Male		Female		BIRTH DATE (dd-mm-yy)	
HOME ADDRESS - <i>please provide postcode</i>						
EMAIL						
LANDLINE				MOBILE		
EMERGENCY CONTACT - <i>please provide name, tel and email address</i>						

Please return by email, fax or post to

Penny Pyett
Permaculture Research Institute Sydney
"Bandusia"
1056 Upper Macdonald Road
Upper Macdonald NSW 2775

Ph / Fax 4568 2036
Email info@permaculture-sydneyinstitute.org.au

The next step if agreed will be a visit to the site and discussion of any needed details.

Timetable

Indication of acceptance

Preliminary work on allotments will be possible by agreement before the official opening (anticipated 1 July)

Opening of Allotments (anticipated) 1 July 2014