THE PERMACULTURE TREE

“The Permaculture Tree, the elements of design. Roots are in many disciplines, an abstract world. Products lie in the real world. The germination of an idea translates into formation into product. (The five elements; wood, fire (light), earth, air, water, are organised by a tree, as information is organised by ideas).” Adapted from Mollison (1991) Introduction to Permaculture p.4.

**When designing your system you will need to draw on information from a variety of sources. The Permaculture Tree gives a clear pictorial representation of the many disciplines Permaculture aims to combine into a holistic design. Don’t be daunted though as you can start with what you already know, just like starting at the kitchen door and working your way out from there. The important message from this principle is not just to collect information but to put that knowledge into action. This is especially crucial when teaching, as actions always speak louder than words.**

**18. Demonstration is Authority Principle**

Information is the critical potential resource. It becomes a resource only when obtained and acted upon.

- **H1. Observe and interact**
  - “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”
  - By taking the time to engage with nature we can design solutions that suit our particular situation.

- **Backyard Permaculture Techniques**
  - swales
  - herb spirals
  - keyhole beds
  - wicking beds
  - banana pits
  - mulching
  - composting
  - raised beds
  - trellises
  - natural insecticides
  - organic growing

- **Local Conditions**
  - climate
  - mesoclimates
  - microclimates
  - rainfall
  - winter/summer sun
  - wind patterns
  - soil types

- **Local Sources**
  - seeds
  - plants
  - mulch
  - potting mix
  - garden supplies

- **Indigenous Knowledge**
  - species and techniques
  - sustainable land practices
  - landscape patterns
  - land ‘ownership’

- **Local Groups**

- **Life experience**

- **Books**

- **Magazines**

- **Internet**

**Books**

- Bill Mollison’s Principles <www.permaculturefundamentals.org>
- David Holmgren’s Principles, <www.permacultureprinciples.com/>
- Permaculture Australia <permacultureaustralia.org.au/>
- Permaculture Research Institute <www.permaculturenews.org/>
- Online resource reader <treeyopermacultureedu.wordpress.com/>

**In Australia the government CSIRO Publishing <www.publish.csiro.au/> is a great online source for books on a wide range of ‘permaculture-related’ topics, from agricultural science related topics to vegetable growing and garden design.**