



Second Term

Seed Update

2010

www.seed.org.za

Full Steam Ahead!

It feels like the year is at a gallop - I can't believe we are already half way through 2010. This year SEED staff feels like they have really found their groove, I feel privileged to work with such committed, passionate, amazing people. SEED has started running Saturday Sessions for the public. This Saturday we spent a day exploring Food Gardening the Permaculture Way with 10 participants. We hope that participation in these courses will continue to grow. As we face these uncertain times of financial, food and energy crisis we really believe that it is a good strategy for people to build sustainability and food security at home. Please see the website for details and check out our slick new on-line booking system.

SEED has won a coveted Impumelelo Award for Innovation in Sustainability. All projects are thoroughly evaluated and the findings are used to lobby government and to influence policy. Check out the link <http://www.impumelelo.org.za/awards/2010>

The Applied Permaculture Course in August is already starting to fill up. The course runs from 9-27 August and builds Permaculture professionals. Interested participants should book soon. This can be done online.

In the News

ROCKLANDS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

A fantastic Holistic Goal Setting process was held with Stakeholders at Rocklands on Friday 29 May. The process was ably facilitated by Lindsay Dozoretz and worked towards a common vision and action plans for the growth of Rocklands Outdoor Classroom. We aim to set up an education centre of international standard that will house trainings and serve as an abundance centre and demonstration site for practical sustainability application. The next step is a Design Process on 11 June. Watch this space!

Designing for Abundance off the presses.

Garden Africa sponsored the writing of this book, which delivers the outcomes of Social Science (Geography) through a schools Permaculture design process. We are finding this resource valuable in that it makes sure everyone is on board and the vision is clear. It is great to have a practical and relevant way to deliver Geography assessment standards. Testimony from teachers is that the book works well as a learning program that delivers a meaningful number of Assessment Standards in one go. vBook is available online to order or download.

Research of SEEDs work - an area we would like to grow

Mr. Pagamiso Madonci, Maths and Science teacher from Good Hope is using his experience with Seed as a subject for his honors course. The thesis describes how Permaculture practice benefits science learners in an outdoor environment. Research like this is invaluable in catching the evidence of learning - and how the Outdoor Classroom brings to life the delivery of the curriculum.

THE ORGANIC CLASSROOM PROGRAMME

We are now working with 26 schools nationally, with new nodes growing in Limpopo and the Klein Karoo. The program is proving its transformation potential in that it is generic enough to hold the process and flexible enough to adapt to the site-specific nature of different school environments. We are receiving many requests from schools around the country and are currently planning to grow this program further.

CAPE FLATS , Green Beginnings

Green beginnings schools have been moving at a fast pace.

The Outdoor Classrooms are in and this year they are waterproof. Teachers are on board, our lessons are full and exciting and the gardens we are planting are abundant. We have planted indigenous windbreaks, food forests, potato trenches, banana pits, herb strips, mulch banks and large shade trees and these are all benefitting from the beautiful rain we are experiencing. We are now looking forward to rain tanks, well points and food gardens. Bood and Yoli are ably facilitating four schools each and the schools are benefitting from the weekly visits.



CAPE FLATS , Green Business

Second term is steaming along - we are continuing lessons on water, medicinal plants and building fertility and building worm farms, liquid manures while we prepare beds for planting. The Permaculture systems are establishing - helped along by the rain, teachers are making good use of these systems for teaching.

The Rocklands Community Market on 15 May provided a real platform for learners to sell their wares. Hillside Primary sold their first big lettuce crop and other schools produced and sold miracle cream as well as fresh culinary herbs.



CAPE FLATS , Green Achievers

These six schools are on a firmer footing in terms of garden sustainability - most of them now have community gardeners who profit share in the gardens. The Heinz Park gardener, Pastor February sold SEED 400 essential Permaculture plants last month and has kick started a small enterprise at the school. West End's garden implementation has tripled since the last visit. Imperial Primary is focusing on Liquid manure production on a 1000 liter scale and will be able to boost their own fertility as well as supply the public. Caravelle Primary is working with women pensioners, who are attending short nursery courses at Rocklands. And finally Hugeneut Primary's award winning Rainbow worker is now partnered with a community member to boost their small but intensive system. We are realizing that true sustainability lies in building strong community participation in gardens and that small enterprise development ensures this link.

KLEIN KAROO, Ladismith

We have kicked off the new Klein Karoo node at Zoar EK Primary school in the historic mission town of Zoar. The Permaculture training centre at Berg en Dal is 20 km from them, and facilitators will be drawn from the Project members. We plan to completely transform the old school grounds linked to exciting curriculum-based lessons. This is an exciting Dryland project that comes with some water challenges, but would be a lovely model in this traditionally agricultural community.

KWA ZULU, Nottingham Road

The very excited learners from Grade 4, 5 & 6 of Nottingham Road Combined School have been busy brainstorming business ideas and working out costings so that they can start to utilise their garden produce. So far the Grade 4's have prepared echinacea seeds for sale and are also busy making herbal bath salts. The Grade 5's have been learning how to harvest sustainably and have gathered lavender, wilde als, lemon verbena and brown sage which is drying for use in various products. The Grade 6's are researching how to make creams and oils and will begin to produce and get ready to market their products locally in the Spar and various shops in the area. The learners are loving this whole process and it'll be exciting to see how many different items they come up with to sell and which will be their main 'product lines'.



GAUTENG, Johannesburg

FIVE DAY WORKSHOP 29TH MARCH-1ST APRIL

Tina de Waal and Lindsay Dozoretz facilitated a five day Teachers for Permaculture Education workshop in Johannesburg in the Easter holidays. We got a chance to trial the newly edited course manual – which is wonderful. The course was calm and thorough with teachers really getting to grips with the core concepts we were teaching. We, once again, realize the power of teaching from an established garden system – this really makes teaching so much easier.

Here are some quotes from the educators:

"If this course can be rolled out in schools so that Permaculture can become a global effort in saving and restoring the plants and soils of the planet".

"It would make lessons easy for me, when I teach with good natural resources and teaching aids."

"Perfect setting! Exceptional facilitators, very hands on well-versed and friendly. The venue is perfect for practical experience and hands on training. Conducive to active learning."

LIMPOPO, Makhado

Santam have sponsored the beginning of the Limpopo node.

We facilitated a Five day course in September 2007 and have been in communication with Maghovani Primary ever since.

Maghovani is in the Vhembe districts outside Makhado. The programme is being run in partnership with the Lesheba Trust and their facilitator development and sees us mentoring two Community Facilitators. The design for this site is exciting because we are working in an area that was forest – we are looking at exciting productive forest systems and Venda-style outdoor classroom. Tina de Waal and Lindsay Dozoretz are supporting the school with 8 intense workshops that focus on education as well as key Permaculture systems and Rita and Rudzane work with the school in the time between. We look forward to transformation and thriving outdoor classrooms.



seed

transforming learning through permaculture

Schools Environmental Education and Development