



"Our Truest Life is when we are in dreams awake"  
- Thoreau



Horseback in the Valley

# Australia

## Permaculture at Crystal Waters

Summer & January term (3 weeks)

Learn about pioneering ways of low impact, sustainable living at Crystal Waters - an award-winning Ecovillage and wildlife refuge in beautiful, subtropical Australia. Highly interactive classes in eco-building techniques are often held outdoors where you study human interaction as an ecology of organisms in a complex web of interrelationships.



Students participate in daily sustainable practices

### Field Study

- Visit rainforests home to rare flora and fauna
- Enjoy a three-day excursion to Fraser Island, a World Heritage sand island with pristine beaches
- Experience wildlife at Crystal Waters, including exotic birds, kangaroos, and wallabies
- Learn about green building techniques, renewable energy, and sustainable organic agriculture and their viability in different settings
- Become a Certified Permaculture Apprentice eligible to become a Permaculture Designer after two years of applied experience

## Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Course: Permaculture (Plant and Soil Sciences 398P)

January . . . . . January 3 - May 23 (approximate)

Summer . . . . . June 11 - July 4 (approximate)

## Crystal Waters Permaculture Village

Founded in 1987 on the subtropical east coast of Australia, Crystal Waters is an established Ecovillage and sustainable community, home to over 200 permanent residents and abundant wildlife on 640 acres of land. In 1996, it received a UN World Habitat Award for its "pioneering work in demonstrating new ways of low impact, sustainable living." Residents' "eco-homes" demonstrate a variety of styles of building, from straw bale to rammed earth, pole house to mud dome and avoid using rainforest timbers and toxic chemicals. Students are housed in a combination of bunkhouse and cabin accommodations and have use of the state-of-the-art EcoCentre which has rammed earth walls, photovoltaic power, rainwater collection, and Biolytic waste system. Crystal Waters is a living, working community that offers a safe, clean and healthy environment for students to explore exciting ideas about sustainability and discover a beautiful country.



Wildlife is abundant and integrated into the community in Crystal Waters

## Application Deadlines

(suggested, contact us for late availability)

January . . . . . November 1  
Summer . . . . . April 30

## Cost

Tuition, room & board, in-country travel . . . \$2,950  
College credit . . . . . \$335

## Lead Instructor

**Max Lindegger**, International award-winning ecovillage designer and founding member of the Global Ecovillage Network

## Course Topics

### Reading the Landscape

Land assessment for optimal use; Site planning & analysis; Observation of patterns & cycles of nature

### Water in the Landscape

Water saving, storage and management; Aquaculture; Waste water treatment and use

### Building A Healthy Soil

Basics of soil structure, texture and pH; Strategies for improving soil using green manures and intercrops; Mulching and compost; mechanical and mineral rehabilitation

### The Cultivated Ecosystem

Establishment of organic vegetable gardens; Basics of selection, establishment, & maintenance of orchards; Ecological pest management; free range poultry systems; cell grazing for cattle and sheep

### Shelter

Appropriate technologies; Energy efficient design & least toxic materials

### Community Support Systems

Urban renewal strategies; Village and community design and community economics