

Galifrey Permaculture Project

Name of Project: Galifrey Permaculture Project
Location of Project: Braidwood, New South Wales, Australia
Project Start Date: August 2004
Expected Completion Date: Ongoing

Project Concept: To develop a commercial (profitable and large scale) sustainable permaculture farm in a dry temperate climate and to have a permaculture demonstration site

Detailed Project Description:

Our 250 acre property is outside Braidwood on the southern tablelands of NSW, near the Great Dividing Range and Shoalhaven River, and between Canberra and the coast. We have established a commercial scale alpaca herd and are adding pomegranates and other orchard/timber crops on a commercial scale, as well as establishing permaculture food production for ourselves and our community in Zones 1 and 2.

Half of our property has been dedicated to regrowth forest, which covers the ridges and several level 1 creeks that start on the ridge and flow into the Shoalhaven. The other half was cleared prior to our move here and has had some pasture improvement in the past (fertiliser and phalaris grass establishment).

Our climate is temperate, with snow sometimes, many frosty nights, and hot dry summers. In the past, rainfall patterns have been steady throughout the year, totalling 600mm annually. We have had a number of years of drought, but in 2010 we received over 1000mm of rain. Our project aims are to:

1. Maintain and improve our stocking capacity for our commercial alpaca herd and other large food animals: Improve our pastures providing more food (trees and grasses) and more intensive grazing and paddock rotation for our alpaca herd and small beef cattle herd, as well as wind breaks and shelter belts – involves fencing into smaller paddocks, yeoman's ploughing to improve water holding capacity of soil, building dams, water reticulation from header tanks to water troughs by pumping up from the dams, application of organic fertilisers, reseeding pastures (direct drill or spreading), and planting of wind breaks and shelter belts in paddocks, laneways, and around dams.
2. Develop a commercial orchard and timber crop, specialising in pomegranates: Establish laneways and fencing to keep stock out; acquire plant-stock and propagate plants; prepare planting areas (deep rip or holes, water, organic fertiliser) and acquire/make mulching material; make provision for watering plants; plant trees (with tree-guards); mulch; water until established
3. Provide food, firewood, and other materials for ourselves and our community: Develop Zone 1 vegetable garden with fruit trees; Develop Zone 2 orchards with poultry management and grow food for poultry species (and provide safe housing); Develop food forest; Build relationships with local agricultural coop and various friends and neighbours to sell surplus or share in produce (and the work!); Clear current deadfall in forest for firewood for heating
4. Retrofit our home for energy efficiency: insulate walls and seal windows to decrease need for heating; plant windbreaks around house paddock (Zones 1 and 2); build pergolas and structural windbreaks; add solar panels and wind turbine to generate power and to put back into the grid

5. Revegetate creeks and waterways, and add biodiversity to regrowth forest: fence off creeks and gullies and provide water troughs in other paddocks for animals, prepare for tree planting (deep rip), acquire/ propagate suitable local species, plant and mulch and put tree guards in, water until established; identify other suitable local species and acquire or propagate tubestock, replant throughout forest.
6. Develop permaculture teaching materials to run local permaculture tours and site visits
7. Assist others in designing their permaculture projects, building on local experience

Project Duration & Schedule:

Short term – Continue water reticulation project and tree planting for fodder, windbreaks and shelter belts

Medium term – site second header tanks on slope above dam and connect pipes to all water troughs; apply organic fertiliser to remainder of paddocks and reseed with multi-species grasses/ herbs/ forbs mix; do second pass of Yeoman's plough; propagate for tree belts and orchards; add to food forest ecosystem; develop materials for permaculture courses

Long term – complete all planting; insulate home; energy production on site; run permaculture courses/workshops/site visits; design permaculture projects for others

Project Needs:

All resources are supplied by the property and the owners. Time & good rainfall are also needed, & no bushfires!



Female Alpaca Herd June 2007



Amethyst Dam June 2007



Cattle Herd June 2007



Geese (Chinese and Tufted Italian) and Ducks (Aylesburys and Muscovies) June 2007



Zone 1 Garden February 2007



Zone 1 Vege Garden June 2007 Chicken Flock at work



Zone 1 Vege Garden and Orchard - in the making



Zone 1 Garden December 2007



Orchard Zone 2 June 2007



Zone 2 Vege Garden June 2007



Snow - June 2007



Yeoman's Ploughing (after application of organic fertiliser) September 2007



One of our worst paddocks, photo taken winter 2009 - showing results following burn-off, organic fertiliser, yeoman's ploughing & pasture improvement.



October 2005 Zone 3 and 4



December 2010 Zone 3 and 4