

Summer



# Australia

## Permaculture at Crystal Waters

### Study Abroad in Ecovillages

Learn ecological design in Australia, where Permaculture began. Permaculture is a system of applied design for the creation of sustainable human habitat. It is the use of ecology for designing integrated systems of food production, housing, appropriate technology, and community development.



Build skills and experience & put Permaculture into action

At Crystal Waters, an award winning ecovillage and wildlife refuge in beautiful, subtropical Australia, you achieve a deeper understanding of human interconnectedness with the natural world and facilitate positive new visions for a sustainable future. You also learn practical tools and strategies for living well and lightly in a post-Peak-Oil world.

The program culminates in an unparalleled location: **Fraser Island**, the largest sand island in the world. At this World Heritage Site, the majestic remnants of a tall rainforest grows on sand, and fully half the world's perched freshwater dune lakes are found inland from the beach and the Great Barrier Reef. The combination of shifting sand-dunes, tropical rainforests and lakes make it an exceptional place for students to experience Australia's natural beauty and efforts at ecological preservation.



### Program Highlights

- ☀ Visit rainforests home to endangered flora and fauna
- ☀ Enjoy a three-night excursion to Fraser Island, a one-of-a-kind sand island with rainforests and pristine beaches
- ☀ Experience wildlife at Crystal Waters, including rare birds, kangaroos, and wallabies
- ☀ Learn about green building techniques, renewable energy, and sustainable organic agriculture and their viability in different settings
- ☀ Create your own ecological design & become a Certified Permaculture Apprentice

### Academic Credit and 2010 Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through University of Massachusetts Amherst

Course: Permaculture (Natural Resources Conservation 398P)

Summer 2010 ..... 5/23 - 6/12 (subject to change: see website)

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.



Australia



## Crystal Waters Permaculture Village

Founded in 1987 on the subtropical east coast of Australia, Crystal Waters is an established ecovillage, 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 a Biolytic waste system.



Learning by doing at Crystal Waters.

### Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

March 15

### Cost (subject to change)

Tuition, room and board, travel insurance,  
and in-country travel . . . . . \$3,500

UMassAmherst credit . . . . . included

## 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

## Lead Faculty

**Max Lindegger**, *Mech. Eng. Design*, Gewerbeschule Luzern, Switzerland  
As the creator and director of the Oceania/Asia secretariat of the Global Eco-village Network and primary designer of the Habitat Award winning Crystal Waters Permaculture village, Lindegger is a one of the leaders of the ecovillage movement. Faculty and lecturer in areas such as Environmental Change, Ecology, Sustainability, and Permaculture. Max is also the author of publications such as *The Best of Permaculture* (Nascimanere) and a frequent contributor to journals such as *Simply Living* and the *International Permaculture Journal*. Max was recently awarded the Australian Prime Minister's Centenary Medal for distinguished achievement in the field of developing sustainable communities.

