



City of Whitehorse Permaculture Blitz Competition CONDITIONS OF ENTRY 2015

What is permaculture?

Permaculture is a design system which helps integrate people (and their needs, habits, skills, desires, money and time) and place (the physical limitations and potentials of a site such as a backyard) in ecologically harmonious systems providing a good portion of the needs of people living there (with things like water, vegetables, fruit, and eggs). Permaculture systems work more like natural systems such as forests than industrial agriculture, requiring no artificial inputs and producing no waste.

What is a 'Permablitz'?

Permablitz (noun): An informal gathering involving a day on which a group of at least two people come together to achieve the following:

- Create or add to edible gardens where someone lives;
- Share skills related to permaculture and sustainable living;
- Build community networks; and
- Have fun.

Permablitzes are free events, open to the public, where you learn a lot, share food, get some exercise and have a wonderful time.

Anyone can attend a permablitz. Skill level and even physical capacity aren't problems at all. First time gardeners welcome. Just come and contribute anyway you are able.

The working team of volunteers will carry out tasks such as weeding, planting fruit trees, digging paths and swales, making vegetable beds with no-dig methods or implementing greywater systems. You'll be shown what to do on the day and will be working with others. There will also be short workshops relating to the activities carried out throughout the day.

Each permablitz is part of a longer process including a pre-blitz design visit or visits by permaculture designers, prior organisation of materials needed for the blitz, and in many cases, after-the-blitz follow up visits to see how people are going with their new gardens.

For further information, please visit www.permablitz.net.

Important Details

Entry forms must be completed and returned, along with a current photo of your garden, by **5pm, Monday 9 February 2015**.

The Whitehorse Permaculture Blitz garden makeover will take place on Sunday 22 March 2015, between 10am and 4pm. This date is non-negotiable, and the host property and host must be available for the Whitehorse Permaculture Blitz to take place on this date.

Some preparation of the host's garden may need to take place prior to the event date. No ongoing works will take place after the event date. Section(s) of the garden may be 'blitzed', not necessarily the entire garden, depending on the size of the selected property and on depending on what work can be carried out within the materials budget of \$1,000.

Preference will be given to people who have attended or can attend a 'Permablitz' as part of the work team at another person's home or location, prior to the Whitehorse Permaculture Blitz, so that the winner knows what to expect for their own garden makeover.

The winner must agree to allowing The Desert Echo Team (ABN: 88 528 267 494) to undertake the following:

- Make a visit to the property one month prior to the event to put together the permaculture plan and conduct a soil chemistry test;
- Facilitate the event on the event day, including co-ordinating the Working Bee Team to carry out works on the property; and
- Carry-out workshops throughout the day on the property.

Whilst every effort will be made to ensure the safety of the property, Whitehorse City Council and The Desert Echo will not accept responsibility for damage or loss on the day of the event.

Entries

The Whitehorse Permaculture Blitz Competition is open to any shared space, such as a school (kindergarten, primary or secondary) or neighbourhood/community house or other shared space within the City of Whitehorse.

By signing the entry form each entrant shall indemnify the City of Whitehorse and its servants and agents and The Desert Echo. for any loss, demands, damages, expenses, claims, actions and suits brought for and arising out of or in any way connected to the Sustainable Living Week Event - Whitehorse Permaculture Blitz.

Prize

The Major Prize includes a permaculture design consultancy & garden makeover by The Desert Echo, Melbourne's urban permaculture design specialists. The design consultancy will include:

1. The Desert Echo sitting down with ideally everyone who manages the site, to discuss what the winner would like out of the site (e.g., how much and what kinds of food) and what elements would be included in the design, which might include:
 - Herb gardens supplying food, flavour, tea and medicine;
 - Diverse and productive organic vegetable and fruit gardens;
 - Compost bays and worm farms;
 - Poultry systems;
 - Orchards and food forests;
 - Maximum efficiency watering systems including tanks;
 - Fertility-enhancing tree, plant and animal systems;

- No-dig and raised garden beds using natural contours to full advantage;
 - Beautiful and functional mandala and keyhole gardens;
 - Ponds for growing water plants and attracting helpful creatures and birds into your garden;
 - Wastewater treatment and utilisation systems (e.g., Greywater mulch pits where biologically filtered grey water irrigates fruit tree crops); and
 - Native bird habitat.
2. Walk around your property, observing and assessing the characteristics of the site (e.g. Sun, wind, slope, soil and existing vegetation).
 3. Come up with a concept design and rough pencil sketch based on our site analysis and the design brief.
 4. Make a basic design diagram that is to scale and that lays out the basic concept design.
 5. Send a brief 3 page follow-up report by email the brief design explanation, basic recommendations (water systems, animal systems, weed removal etc), basic plant lists and locations, basic explanation of permaculture principles embedded in design.
 6. The Desert Echo will then facilitate the garden makeover on the date specified above with a Working Bee Team of volunteers of City of Whitehorse residents. Materials will be provided up to the value of \$1,000.

Judging

Judges' decision is final.

No correspondence will be entered into.

The panel reserves the right to reject entries based on meeting the selection criteria, or entries that are deemed offensive or unsafe.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

For more information contact Council's Sustainability Team on:

PHONE	(03) 9262 6333
EMAIL	green@whitehorse.vic.gov.au
WEB	www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Permaculture.html