

## JOHN 'JOHNNY' BARBER

### PERMACULTURE BACKGROUND

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After a nine year career in Information Technology and studies in art and design my life goals have become focused on the practical implementation of ecological sustainability and awareness of the wider discourse influencing its form and progression. Permaculture and Integral, in particular, have been fundamental theories and practices influencing my understanding of this critical endeavour.

My practical experience in Permaculture has been developed through my long term commitment as a voluntary worker at the Drylands Permaculture Research Farm in Geraldton, Western Australia. Since 1996, I have assisted in the development and operation of the farm's commercial and not-for-profit permaculture enterprises.

A Post-Graduate Diploma in Ecological Sustainable Development completed externally through Murdoch University, provided me with a solid understanding of policy and ethics as applied to sustainability. Local studies in land management and work in areas of commercial landscaping, natural area conservation, vocational training and tutoring indigenous university students provided me with the means to ground and communicate this theoretical knowledge.

Education and work experience as a Management Trainee at the Permaforest Trust in New South Wales in 2005 extended my knowledge of Permaculture into subtropical climates and communal living. It was here that I was also introduced to Integral as a framework for considering how we come to understand the world in which we live and learn; and how we can act to improve the well-being of ourselves, and that of all others.

My interest is predominately in the application Permaculture and Integral practice in dryland climates and 'western-industrial' cultures where I have had most life experience; and where believe I can utilise my abilities to best effect.

### RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS

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- Certificate IV Permaculture, Hortus Australia, through Recognised Prior Learning. Drylands Permaculture Nursery, Geraldton WA with Julie Firth and Permaforest Trust, Barkers Vale NSW with Tim Winton, 2005.
- Certificate IV in Train and Assess, Progressive Training, Geraldton, WA 2008.
- BA Policy Studies (Ecological Sustainable Development), Murdoch University WA, External, 2003.
- Permaculture Design Certificate with principle teachers Claire Everett and Dave Coleman, Bridgetown WA 2004.
- BSc (Computer Science), Murdoch University, Perth WA 1991.

**Drylands Permaculture Research Farm and Nursery, October 1996 – to date, Geraldton, WA**

Proprietor/Teacher: Julie Firth

***Associate and Leading Hand***

Volunteer assisting in the development of the education centre and day-to-day operation of the Permaculture property and commercial enterprises. Duties included propagation and plant care of local native and permaculture plants in the commercial nursery, animal husbandry, food production and processing, dryland Permaculture design and technical documentation, property maintenance and construction, operation of heirloom seed business, administration, marketing, development of business strategies and education programme.

**Vegetation-Community Mapping and GIS, 2008 to 2009, Golden Grove Mines**

Supervisor: Julie Firth, Yilgarn Traders

***Environmental Mapping Field Worker***

Subcontracted to Yilgarn Traders to provide technical assistance in data collection and identification of vegetation communities in Yalgoo-Paynes Find area for Golden Grove Mining through the year. Surveys conducted in vehicle and foot with species, community structure, classification and geographical positioning recorded together with hand held GPS. Points and information collated and mapped with MapInfo, Mapmaker and GPS Utility software. Data tables for reports developed in Office Suite software.

**Landscape Design and Implementation, 2008-2009, Golden Grove Mining Camp**

Supervisor: Julie Firth, Yilgarn Traders

***Trades Assistant***

Subcontracted to Yilgarn Traders to assist in the propagation of selected local native species, costing, design and implementation of reticulated mining camp gardens. Work undertaken through all seasons and within strict OH&S requirements.

**Permaforest Trust, July 2005-December 2005, Barkers Vale, NSW**

Supervisor/Teacher: Tim Winton.

***Trainee Manager – Diploma Student***

Parallel studies in Permaculture and management training in the daily operations and development of the Permaforest Trust, a sustainable education centre for a community of live –in students in rural northern NSW.

As part of the management team, I was responsible for supporting the vocational training of Certificate IV students and supervising work exchange activities in particular the operation and development of the commercial organic garden.

**Greening Australia WA, July 2003 - October 2004, Geraldton, WA**

***Greencorps Team Leader***

Employed for projects in Environmental Education, Irwin School Restoration (two months job share) and Nanson foreshore restoration. This position facilitated six-month completion of accredited training and on-the-job work experience for teams of ten 17 to 20 year olds on environmental and heritage projects in the Northern Agricultural region. The job was strongly focused on achieving real conservation outcomes, and the beneficial exchange between Greencorps participants and project partners that included landowners, community groups, government departments and local councils.

**Edith Cowan University, February 2002 – July 2003, Geraldton, WA**

***Tutor (Casual)***

**Kurongkurl Katitjin campus**

Tutored indigenous Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) students in the following subjects - Contextualising Indigenous Organisations Aboriginal Perspectives on the Environment, Community Development, Sociology of Indigenous Health and Mediating the Land – Mabo and Native Title.

**Greenough Regional Prison**

Tutored Indigenous University Orientation Course (IUOC) and BSS subjects to two individual prisoners at the prison educational centre in - Indigenous Histories and Land, Journeys in Writing and Professional Services: Indigenous Organisations.

**Indigenous Affairs Dept., 1994 – 1996, Perth, WA**

***Systems Administration and User Support***

Contracted to provide user support and training, network administration and administration duties. Information Systems consisted of Windows NT Wide Area Network and local area networks in WA regional offices running predominately Microsoft office suite of applications.

Assigned ongoing tasks to support and assist staff in the effective use of information systems, to troubleshoot and maintain the networks of desktop and laptop computers, maintain data back up, design and operation of internal MS Access databases, application installation and instruction to staff at all levels of the organization.

**Department of Aboriginal Sites, 1987 -1994, West Perth, WA**

***Information Technology Officer/Systems Administration***

Placed initially as a trainee and then subsequently as a contracted consultant to support and help develop the information and administrative systems of the department including Heritage/Site Register, Correspondence Files, processing of Freedom of Information requests.

## EDUCATION

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Progressive Training, Geraldton, Australia, 2008

*Certificate IV in Train and Assess Adults*

- Completed the update to Cert. IV in Adult Workplace Training to meet Vocational Training standards in Australia.

Permaculture International Limited/Hortus Australia, 2006

*Certificate IV in Permaculture*

- Completed through recognised prior learning of work and study undertaken at the Drylands Permaculture Research Farm in Geraldton WA together with formal studies with the Permaforest Trust, in Barkers Vale NSW where I was a management trainee.

Hortus Australia, 2006

*Certificate IV in Adult Workplace Training*

- As part of Course Orientation Workshop and Creative Adult Learning Facilitation Workshop in the effective delivery of vocational training and assessment with emphasis on Permaculture and environmental education.

Murdoch University, 2003.

Perth, WA

*Bachelor of Policy Studies (Ecological Sustainable Development), External*

- A postgraduate degree course that covered the arguments and mechanisms, in particular the policy instruments, to help realise the transformation to ecologically sustainable societies and economies.

Murdoch University, 1991.

Perth, WA

*Bachelor of Science (Computer Science)*

- Completed during my period of employment as Information Technology Officer in indigenous affairs, the degree concentrated on application and systems software development, computer systems architecture and data communication.

Permaculture Assoc. of WA, 2004.

Bridgetown, WA

*Permaculture Design Certificate*

- A ten-day course introducing the practical application of Permaculture design principles to realise enduring 'life-centred' human settlements and societies. Such human patterns' function in beneficial relationship with and applied appreciation of patterns located in natural ecological systems.