

Luke's Story.

As a child, Luke enjoyed exploring our natural environment. This was encouraged by his parents, and he would go camping and go on bush walks regularly, with his father, where he had wonderful encounters with nature. School was a struggle, but with persistence, got through to complete year 12 when he acquired a Landscape gardening apprenticeship which he went on to complete and stayed with it for another 4 years. Having spent most of his life so far in suburban situations, he decided to visit a friend who lived rurally and loved it.

Luke spent the next 5-6 years living in the Sunshine Coast hinterland where he volunteered for Landcare, learning as much as he could about the native trees, care for them, farm forestry, and, getting involved at a committee level.

During this time, he also visited Zimbabwe for 12 months where he worked on the Save Valley Conservancy, <http://savevalleyconservancy.org/> managing an eco tourism photographic safari operation for his Uncle. The Conservancy's primary objective was to save animals being affected by drought in the early to mid nineties and to develop a Black Rhino breeding program. The best and only program at the time on the largest privately owned game conservancy in the world. An amazing experience working with the big 5.

In the late 90's, it was recommended to Luke by a dear friend that he should do a Permaculture course which he did with Bill Mollison at Tagari Farm in northern NSW. The course gave Luke life purpose and within 2-3 months of completing the course, he was invited by Geoff Lawton to be a member of a team to assist in the establishment of the Permaculture Research Institute, <http://permacultureaustralia.org.au/> which at the time was at Tagari Farm. He was involved in this process for about 3 and a half years before a break was required.

Luke then went on bit of a soul searching adventure and with an enormous amount a assistance from a very dedicated friend, having experiences with nature spirits, soul journeys and experiences of life with synchronicity in it, came out the other end with a very different way of viewing the world (a name changing experience), from his yobbo, sometimes naughty, suburban upbringing, and went back to the sunshine coast hinterland.

In limbo for a few months, he was invited by a friend to come to Mackay to help out on a property which he accepted and has been in the region ever since.

In 2005 he assisted with the establishment of the Mackay Community Garden Inc., as a not for profit organization, to take on the management of the Mackay Community Garden, where he is still involved in Permaculture education, volunteering and assisting the coordination of activities on the site. He has supervised Work for the Dole programs and been employed by Qld. Gov. Community services as a Youth worker for Youth Justice. His workshops include; 72 hour Permaculture Design Certificate courses, Introduction to Permaculture, Composting and Basic home food gardening for the tropics as the main 4 topics amongst others more specific which include his love for Bamboo.

Whilst dedicated to the success of Mackay Community Garden, he also involved himself with the ACFCGN (Australian city farm and community garden network.) for a few years, production of the

Wintermoon Folk music festival, <http://www.wintermoonfestival.com/>, the Wintermoon Spring Festival events and is now also involved with assisting the production of the Happy Daze and Mushroom Valley Festival events. <http://www.mushroomvalley.com.au/>

During this time, his life took another leap forward when he met Harmony through the Community Garden and Wintermoon festival. They first met in about 2006 and got together in 2011. Just in time for 2012.

Please read our Yarrabah experience as our coming together of histories.

Thanks