



# PEACE VALLEY

Australian Bush Retreat

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<https://www.facebook.com/peacevalleyau/>

Peace Valley is a residential retreat which provides space to reconnect with ourselves, each other and nature in a way which honours all peoples and all of nature. Visitors experience simple off grid community living in tents in the bush, experiential learning of permaculture gardening and bush regeneration work, with facilitated activities from 'The Work that Reconnects', 'Dragon Dreaming' and 'Theory U'. It is a mix of inner and outer ecosystem regeneration. How we are informs the quality of what we do. Mindfulness and meditation are integrated into the daily routine.

The Peace Valley camp is situated within Bindarrabi Community, a newly forming ecovillage on the New South Wales/Queensland border inland from the Gold Coast and Byron Bay on the Australian eastern seaboard, approximately 2.5 hours drive south of Brisbane. It's bordered by Koreelah Creek and the Koreelah National Park. This is an area of outstanding beauty with a variety of ecosystems including remnant cloud forest, Hoop Pine forest, Eucalyptus and open grassland.

Our vision includes education of youth to empower them as future leaders, integrating wisdom from indigenous and western modalities alongside permaculture gardening and ecosystem restoration work. We are working with the Githabul Family, the stewards and custodians of the land where the project is situated. An important part of our vision is to shift from the current financial paradigm and Peace Valley is therefore run using 'Gift Economy' making it accessible to everyone no matter what their personal financial situation.

Currently Peace Valley is at the end of it's pilot phase, having built a working camp, support networks, media presence and a small permaculture garden. We work with the Cambanoora Gorge Management Group and Killarney Bushcare doing small scale bush restoration works around the Cambanoora Gorge and Killarney. Also as part of our contract with Bindarrabi Community we work 6 hours a week caring for their gardens and orchards and assisting with removal of invasive weeds. We hold various events including: 'Community Living', 'Bush Tucker and Weaving' and 'Nature Connection and Meditation' among others.

Stage two of the vision is to set up a larger space, with permanent facilities which would include ecosystem repair on a larger scale. This will include planting a wildlife corridor between two national parks, establishing permaculture and edible forest gardens, repair of riparian areas, integrating indigenous knowledge with current western knowledge and offer workshops and seminars. Governance will be inclusive and non hierarchical using the circle way and Sociocracy for decision making.

Stage three is to create many Peace Valley projects throughout the western world. They will be near big cities, providing space for people to experience living the new story of sharing and harmony, of stewardship, of empowerment, of ecosystem repair, both inner and outer!

Joy Foley is both founder and facilitator. Her life experience includes creating organic gardens, off grid living, nature connection, yoga and mediation. In Germany, she assisted in initiating a food cooperative and alternative community, and lived plastic free for a year. She has completed facilitator training with the Pachamama Alliance and Applied Ecovillage Living (AEL) at Findhorn Community in Scotland. She speaks English, German and a little Italian.



The Peace Valley project was originally inspired by Sadhana Forest in Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India and Findhorn Community in Scotland.