PEACE VALLEY

Australian Bush Retreat

Bindarrabi
1189 White Swamp Rd
Koreelah
NSW 2476

peacevalleyau@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/peacevalleyau/

BECOME A PEACE VALLEY SPONSOR

The Peace Valley project is at a crucial point in it's development. A working pilot camp has been established and vital connections to both local and international groups now point to expansion into the next phase with lots of potential for further growth.

So far the project has been funded from the personal savings of Joy Foley, the founder, these funds are coming to an end. Now to move through this tipping point regular funding of background costs to a total of $1200AU monthly is needed for the next 12 months. This will allow time for Joy to build on the work done so far and prepare for the next phase.

Become actively involved in the creation and further expansion of this project by becoming a regular sponsor! Be part of the movement building a more beautiful world at this important time in history!

What is Peace Valley?

Peace Valley provides residential retreat space where we can 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, experiential learning of permaculture gardening and bush work, with facilitated activities from 'The Work that Reconnects' 'Dragon Dreaming' and 'Theory U'. It is situated within Bindarrabi community, a newly forming ecovillage and runs on a Gift Economy basis. Only by embodying a way of living which honours all will we shift out of the current paradigm and heal ourselves and our world. Peace Valley aims to be a living example of this embodiment in action.

Achievements so far:

Physical

- Memorandum of Agreement with Bindarrabi Community to develop the Peace Valley pilot project on their common land.
- Construction of a physical camp with working solar power, rain water collection system, composting toilet, satellite internet connection and office and store areas.
- A small permaculture garden has been developed which is self reproducing after just 2 years.
- Accommodation in a canvas tent or Yurt has been provided, with access to bell tents
- An edible forest garden of native Australian trees has been planted
- Internet and social media presence including a website, Instagram and Facebook have been established
- Events from two to seven day duration with a diverse range of themes from Community Living to Weaving to Meditation Solo Retreat to Tree Planting

- Routine work with Killarney Bushcare tending local regeneration projects
- Establishment of a small native tree nursery grown from locally collected seed
- Work with Bindarrabi Community to control and remove non native invasive weed species
- Visitor/volunteers have visited for a few days to a few months at a time

Social

- Local connections to **Killarney Bushcare**, the **Githabul Rangers** and the **Cambanoora Gorge Management Group** have been established
- Exploration of a partnership or collaborative business relationship between **Elders of the Githabul Family** around healing of Country and people is underway.
- Joy attended **'Water Yarning - Tidings, Flows and Sorrows'** building on the connection with First Nations People and is currently part of discussions around a **Peace Gathering** for autumn 2020 and creating a legal document, a joint declaration from both First Nations and European descent Australians, around Water rights, sovereignty and use to be presented to the Australian Government at every level. The Peace Gathering is being led by Uncle Kev Buzzacott, Elder of Arabunna Country, south Lake Eyre, South Australia
- Peace Valley is one of the projects being supported by **'Walking the Land'** an initiative that came out of the CCC19 conference in Scotland
- Peace Valley is currently in the process of becoming an **Ecosystem Restoration Camp** (ERC). This will over time bring visitor/volunteers and funding
- Peace Valley is part of **'Mindfulness Without Borders'** a project initiated through U Lab - Societal Change, The Presencing Institute at MIT in America
- **GAIA University** have said Peace Valley could host their learning programmes
- Peace Valley is hoping to host further events with **TreeSisters** focussing on 'The Inner Journey' a programme of empowerment for women - discussions are underway
- Joy Foley is a facilitator of **'The Work That Reconnects'**(WTR) from Joanna Macy and is currently part of a larger Australian WTR network looking at ways of bringing this critical work to the public
- Peace Valley and **Global Climate Corps** are working together to provide an education programme for 'Leadership in Times of Crisis' as we head toward more turbulent times politically, socially and environmentally - the pilot is planned for spring 2020

The Next Stage

- Put in larger capacity water storage - for capture of rain water from the roof of up to 50000 litres. This will provide water for the tree and plant nursery, gardens and for human uses
- Improve camp infrastructure bringing it up to international standards with capacity for regularly accommodating 15 visitor/volunteers
- A Crowd Funding campaign is being prepared for further accommodation options
- In association with 'Mindfulness without Borders' a small research project is being developed to monitor health benefits of daily meditation and mindfulness practices within a bush/wilderness setting
- An on site project partner is being sought to lead bush regeneration activities of visitor/volunteers, to assist in maintenance and upkeep of the camp and it's day to day running
- Two further partners are desired, one to assist with funding and the other with social media and outreach
- Exploration of appropriate legal structures going forward is being undertaken

The Vision

To access land at the Head and develop a large scale restoration project which focuses not only on external ecosystem restoration but also on our own inner restoration. Healing the headwaters of the Murray Darling water system would have huge symbolic significance. It would be the

perfect place to heal the water, heal our relationship to the land, heal our relationship to each other and to all of life.

This would include:

Working in partnership and consultation with the Githabul Family and their Elders
Building a wildlife corridor between Main Range National Park and Koreelah National Park
Repairing the waterways, the riparian areas, cooling and cleaning the water
Creating permaculture gardens and edible forest gardens including native Bush Tucker
Starting a community of visitor/volunteers who work on the land, share daily living activities and learn together
Community structures to be of natural building materials, off grid and self sustainable
Meditation and Mindfulness would be incorporated as an integral part of daily activities
A multi cultural learning centre integrating indigenous knowledge and the best of sustainable western practices, accessible to all, would be created including experiential learning as well as specific learning events
Gift Economy will be the exchange mechanism, shifting awareness around value and money and promote a return to the idea of reciprocity as previously practiced by many non European cultures worldwide. Thus allowing this experience to be open to everyone regardless of financial situation

Please consider becoming a regular sponsor to allow this project to grow from the above robust foundations into it's larger vision.

How to become a Sponsor

Donations can be made directly to the Peace Valley Account:

Account Name: J M FOLEY PEACEVALLEYAU

Bankcode/BSB Number: 633-000

Account Number: 159717073

BIC/Swift code: BENDAU3B

Bank Name and Address: Bendigo Bank, High Street, Boonah 4310, Queensland, Australia.