**Steve Burns Application**

**Designing Educational Ecosystems:**

**A Whole Systems Permaculture Teacher Training**

Dear Dave,

Because any international transfers incur fees at both ends, I haven’t sent my $50 non-refundable application fee, but hope you can review the application anyway, since you’ve already had the benefit of a 5 hr interview while driving somewhat aimlessly through country New South Wales…!

A **resume or draft resume**, ideally one that presents you *as a teacher of permaculture,* listing

experiences and skills relevant to this role, *and includes your full contact information*.

I have attached a resume that includes relevant permaculture information, as well as detailing my professional working life, which is relevant because it shows that I have been involved with accredited vocational training. I have completed training in education, psychology and NLP (neuro linguistic programming) which is relevant to my teaching ability.

**Permaculture course certificates**

Please find attached scanned copies of my certificates. I completed a PDC with David Holmgren in 2000 and was an organiser and student in the 2009 All Seasons PDC.

**Three referees**: name, phone, email, relationship to you

1. David Holmgren

(country code 61) 3 5348 3636 dh@holmgren.com

David and I have been friends since the late 1990’s, although I first heard him when he spoke at my high school in 1978. I attended his PDC in 2000. I also attended his first Advanced Design Principles workshop, hosted by James Stark and Penny Livingston-Stark, in Bolinas in 2005. In 2009 & 2010, I assisted David in the delivery of this course. David has presented on various courses organised by Ballarat Permaculture Guild and can comment on my involvement with the Guild and how it has grown over recent years, due in part to my involvement.

1. Karen Fitzpatrick (Treasurer, Ballarat Permaculture Guild)

(country code 61) 488 077 628 k.fitzpatrick@ncable.net.au

As well as being Treasurer, Karen is also the head of the Ballarat Permaculture Guild (BPG) Workshops & Events committee, of which I am a member. Between mid and late 2013, she and I also worked with another member to develop a new format for presenting our extended PDC (one day a week for 16 days across 20 weeks, at a local community house).

Karen can speak in relation to my various activities within BPG.

1. Graeme George (Earthcare Permaculture, Healesville)

(country code 61) 3 5962 5070 earthcarepc@virtual.net.au

Graeme has been a guest lecturer on all the PDC’s run by Ballarat Permaculture Guild (BPG). He has a special interest in the preservation of heirloom fruits and has also run grafting workshops for BPG. He has been the convenor of the Victorian Educators Group, which is an informal group of permaculture trainers who developed and then have continued to refine a PDC curriculum based on the internationally known 72 hour curriculum, but suited to a cool temperate climate such as ours in Victoria.

I have spoken to all of the above, who are happy to act as referees.

**Scholarship application**

I need a scholarship and can afford to pay $500 for the course.

I currently earn less than $24,000 AUD per year. Since mid-2010, I have been reducing my previous professional work as an auditor of registered technical training colleges. In that time, I have been focussing on developing my own permaculture property and creating work for myself in permaculture-related fields.

In 2011, I was employed part time by Ballarat Permaculture Guild through a state government grant which was limited to one year. In 2012 and 2013, I’ve had a very reduced income while I’ve been building a new garage/studio which includes office, library and teaching space. I passed the final building inspection on 12 Nov 2013 and am now completing final touches (e.g. lining garage ceilings, building bookcases, covering floors) which were not part of the final inspection requirements. With the new office set up, I have a base from which to make my permaculture business more professional. Apart from the grant income in 2011, previous income from running workshops, selling books or plants, etc. was a supplement to my main income. I am now in transition, looking to build that income into my main monetary support, while supplying many of my basic needs from my property. I am also using my property as a demonstration site so I can show people practical examples of permaculture; particularly berry growing, espalier techniques and, since the EFGDI, small-scale forest gardening.

In order to make best use of the travel to the US, I would like to come for a period longer than the course time, so that I can visit permaculture properties and old and new friends. I estimate that my airfare and on-ground costs will be about $4000. I cannot afford to make the trip without also generating some income. I’ve emailed Dave about this and have discussed the CSE concept. Without receiving any particular CSE information, I have contacted two of the larger permaculture groups on the east coast of Australia (Permaculture Sydney North and Permaculture Melbourne) requesting advance funding for delivering training workshops to their member subgroups. I have also contacted some permaculture friends in LA and San Francisco about offering single day workshops there.

I’ve thought about different training ‘products’ that I can offer and one that I am offering is a single day Permaculture Principles Masterclass. This is based on David Holmgren’s 2002 “Principles & Pathways” book. I attended David’s first advanced principles 4 day training in Bolinas, CA (hosted by James Stark and Penny Livingston-Stark) in 2005 and subsequently assisted David twice in the delivery of that course. I’ve asked David for his approval to develop a one day course and he has agreed. I am still developing a course structure, which I will have approved by David before delivering it.

In addition to the above, I have already delivered presentations on the use of espalier techniques, the place of potager gardens within permaculture and the role of beauty within permaculture. I could deliver these to permaculture groups in the US or Australia.