

Best Community Impact Project

Wanaka RetroSuburbia Rollout Community Project

Sharing the skills and knowledge to retrofit our houses and lifestyles to reflect the changing world we live in.

What is it?

The “Wanaka Retro Suburbia Rollout Community Project ” aims to transform our homes and gardens into productive and resilient spaces. This is a bottom-up, household, street and local community response to the climate change and post virus world we all inhabit together. After decades of consumption-based culture, the RetroSuburbia Rollout Project is a chance to change, to downshift and to show local Wanaka residents -how to retrofit their everyday homes, to redesign their gardens in inspiring and easily achievable ways.

Following the principles outlined in David Holmgren’s book “Retrosurbia”, the project encourages locals to do the day-to-day better, in our kitchens, our bathrooms, our bedrooms, our garages, our backyards, our rooftops, our gardens... anywhere.

How does it work?

The project shares knowledge and resources to introduce concepts, projects, and practical solutions to the community.

The project involves:

- +collaboration with local groups eg Wastebusters, QLDC, ONE sustainability summit to be executed to achieve maximum results
- +local free workshops for the community i.e backyard food growing, permaculture principles, chooks and household self-reliance
- + initiatives to help novices find their feet to spread retrosuburban behaviours and designs through their networks and neighbourhoods
- +development of neighbourhood networks to enable educators to connect to community and grown the ideas eg bookclubs, meet ups
- +sharing of knowledge in a way that makes sense in our community (to be developed)
- + Encouragement and support for householders leading kitchen table and backyard centred activities, skill sharing, small scale neighbourhood sharing
- +Empowering people to make positive changes in their lives and communities

Why now?

Times are uncertain and people need to connect with their communities, develop resilience and self sufficiency in their neighbourhoods. I love the fact that this project helps build community around Wanaka whilst modelling the kind of world we want to live in, where the Permaculture lens is more mainstream.

Will it be something we could showcase to tourists/visitors to our town? 100% yes. Wanaka is already embracing opportunities to show how much we care for our region, environment and the planet. This is an important part of future tourism. This is a project that tells another story about who we are as a region and what matters to the locals that reside here. Being more self sufficient, growing our own backyard food takes caring for our environment to a local level.

Who am I and am I suitable for this project ?

I am a 46 Year old Wanaka local with years of global experience as an event manager, community manager, property manager and office manager. I am also a sustainable beekeeper, have managed an organic macadamia farm and plumeria nursery and have been selling and educating around New Zealand on the social enterprise menstrual cup " My Cup" . I have the maturity, passion, energy and experience to manage this ambitious project. I am confident it could effect real change in Wanaka as this are plenty of like minded organisations to collaborate with to ensure we achieve our clear goals.

Final words:

This project would help show local Wanaka communities how to downshift and retrofit their homes, gardens, communities and, above all, themselves to be more self-organised, sustainable and resilient into an uncertain future. It promises a challenging but exciting mix of satisfying work, a more meaningful way of living and hope for the next generation.

I would love the opportunity to implement this project in our local Wanaka neighbourhoods. I am chomping at the bit to prepare a proper business plan, budget, timeline and scope to execute in collaboration with Wastebusters, QLDC, Retrosuburbia (Australia), ONE to name a few.

Thanks for taking the time and making the effort to read this proposal and consider my idea

Best

Sarah