



**teva** tasman ecovillage association

## **Statement of Values and Code of Conduct**

As a member of the Tasman Ecovillage Association, I commit myself to living by the values and code of conduct set out here to the best of my ability.

### **Personal Life**

I aspire to the highest standards of personal integrity, embodied in congruence of thought, word and action.

I commit to following a path of personal growth, and to supporting others on their paths. I aspire to recognise and change any of my attitudes or behaviour patterns that do not serve this aim.

I will respect diversity, and will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, belief, age, ability, or other grounds.

I undertake to learn about and practice inter-personal skills and group dynamics, including consensus decision-making, communication and mediation in order to play a constructive part in community life and the achievement of our collective vision.

I will keep agreements I have made, and not break or try to evade any laws, rules or guidelines.

I will seek balance in my life amongst work, recreation, family and intimate relationships, community and privacy, science, art and spirituality.

### **Community Life**

I undertake to cooperate with other members for the good of the whole community. I will work through and put aside personal issues for the benefit of all.

I will participate in the consensus decision-making processes of TEVA and abide by the decisions made, including those made before I became a member. I recognise that others may make decisions that affect me, and agree to respect the care, integrity and wisdom that they have put into their decision-making process.

I will cultivate mindfulness about the impact of my overt and covert behaviours on the emotional, mental and physical well-being of others, and will act to minimise any harm my behaviours might cause. I also recognise that any emotional or physical harm that I may cause to others also impacts negatively on my own being.

I am committed to the vision of a diverse community, and will work to facilitate broad participation in membership.

I agree to resolve any personal or organisational conflict promptly and peacefully, and be open to the use of mediation.

I will contribute to the community by attending meetings and participating in working bees and other events whenever possible, and with respect to my own need for privacy.

I aim to communicate clearly, openly, honestly, compassionately and lovingly with others in non-violent words and body language. I will not speak in a way that maligns or demeans others. I will talk to people rather than about them; and may seek helpful advice, but will not collude.

I am willing to listen to constructive criticism, and to offer constructive feedback in a caring manner, in order to support each other to grow.

I will foster awareness that any criticisms, irritations or appreciations that I have of others may reflect qualities in myself. I will do my best to deal with these before reflecting them to others.

In community meetings, I undertake to:

- Be on time
- Own my own truth and empower myself by using 'I' statements.
- Be aware that others may not share my reality, and not make anonymous references such as 'some people ...', 'everybody ...', 'you ...' and similar expressions
- Actively and respectfully listen to other speakers with my ears and heart, and to make eye contact with them
- Give every member of the group a chance to speak, and to express their thoughts, emotions and feelings
- Speak succinctly and to the point, without repetition or digression
- Acknowledge agreement with what has been said, and not repeat it
- Respect the confidentiality of things that are shared in the group, and avoid gossiping.

I will encourage and support development of a creative community culture rich in the arts, music, dance, celebration, food, ritual, fun, joy and laughter.

I will obey the laws of the land, and the by-laws and policies of the community.

I fully support the community's vision and goal to assist transition to a more sustainable way of life through networking with similar organisations globally, and by developing a centre of demonstration outreach and education for the wider Australian society"

## **Sustainability**

I undertake to pursue a way of living and being that minimises the impact of myself, my family and my community on the Earth and her creatures, and serves as an example of sustainability on all levels - ecological, economic, social, cultural and spiritual.

I will actively participate in the creation of physical and social systems, and a community culture that will move our village towards long-term sustainability.

I undertake to live a life of material simplicity with a richness of health, experience, spirit, diversity, culture and relationships rather than money.

I will consider the long-term future of the community, humanity and Gaia in all my decisions.

I will use resources with mindfulness, moderation, innovation and efficiency; and promote reuse, recycling, and renewable sources.

I will avoid using toxic materials and polluting chemicals.

I will use and promote organic food production and ethical, humane animal husbandry.

I will help the community to heal, steward and nurture the land on which we live, and to communicate that ethic to the wider world.

I will protect and encourage native flora and fauna in areas designated by the community. I will use native flora as far as practicable in landscaping and decorative gardening, and avoid the use of any invasive species.

## **Spirituality**

I will respect all life as sacred.

I recognise the interconnectedness, unity and synergy of all existence, and accept that humanity is an integral part of this whole.

I acknowledge the value of spirituality as a part of my personal and community life. I will encourage and support the development of a diversity of personal and community forms of ritual and spiritual practice.