

## Update from Coleman & Vincent Streets Merrylands

Twelve residents, Henryka [from Housing NSW] and Grahame spent a lively and hot afternoon talking about the Coleman and Vincent Street community and lots of other issues at the last workshop on Wednesday March 25.

We spent time talking about all the good things about living at Coleman and Vincent Streets. People said:

- The neighbours were really good. People got on well & helped each other
- The neighbourhood was quiet & friendly
- The bus service was good & they all hoped that it would not change
- Their Housing NSW unit block was very good compared with others that they knew about.

When asked what would make it better people said that more social interaction would be good. They agreed to try out a monthly get together, to do craft together and/or to share some time and a cup of tea. This would extend on the Christmas Party that is held every year. Tracey will take the lead role in making this happen and others will help.

We also talked a lot about composting - how good it was to return waste organic matter to the soil. This was an interesting discussion and people really wanted to try it at Coleman and Vincent Streets. But there was some concern about whether the maintenance of the bins would be too much for residents. This discussion led to more consideration of the Project.  
(cont'd overleaf)

## GOOD NEWS for Walpole Street and Coleman & Vincent Street Residents!



Bunnings Villawood have agreed to support the garden projects at Walpole Street and Coleman and Vincent Streets.

This is good news for the residents at Walpole Street and Coleman and Vincent Streets as it means funding provided by Housing NSW for each group to implement a community project will go further.

Staff from Bunnings are currently making arrangements with their suppliers for materials and construction/upgrade to both gardens will be getting underway shortly.

### NEXT MEETING FOR WALPOLE STREET RESIDENTS

The next meeting for Walpole Street residents is at 11.00am on:

**Wednesday 13 May 2009**



We will learn about saving energy in our home, so bring along your electricity bill. We will also meet the staff from Bunnings Villawood who will be assisting in the construction of the garden.

Mark the date in your diary  
We hope to see you there!

## Update from Coleman & Vincent Streets Merrylands (cont'd)

Tracey and her team had done a lot of work in getting some quotes from landscaping companies and thinking through what was needed. Following Tracey's presentation there was a lively discussion about what was needed; what plants residents wanted, was a vegetable garden a useful part of the project, about water tanks and composting and about how the soil could be revitalised.

It was agreed that there needed to be a meeting between the Council [Bernadette] Housing NSW [Henryka] and the residents to discuss how to finalise the Project Plan and budget. This meeting time will be confirmed soon.

This was the last of the formal workshops and all agreed that they had been useful, successful and interesting. However, should residents have ideas for more workshops that they would like Council's assistance in organising, please contact the Council on 9840 9981.

## 2009 Urban Nature Photographic Competition

Keen photographers in the Parramatta River catchment area are invited to get snapping and enter the 2009 Urban Nature Photographic Competition, to showcase the local environment and its native animals and plants.

The Photographic Competition has two categories, an Open Section, for people over the age of 18 years, and a Young People's Section, for under 18's

Further information on this initiative, entry forms and rules of the competition can be obtained by visiting [www.parramattariver.org.au](http://www.parramattariver.org.au) or by contacting Council on 9840 9643.

## The NSW Government has extended rebates.

The NSW Governments rebates for hot-water systems and rainwater tanks have been extended for two years to 30 June 2011, complementing the new Federal Government rebates.

The combination of State and Federal rebates provides NSW householders with up to \$2,800 back on climate-friendly hot water systems (that replace electric systems) and up to \$2,000 for rainwater tanks. As the new Federal insulation rebate covers the entire cost of installing ceiling insulation, the \$300 NSW insulation rebate will conclude on 30 June 2009.

For more information on the rebates available from either the NSW Government or Federal Government go to:

- [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) (for NSW Government Rebates) or
- [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au) (for Federal Government Rebates)

