

What happens when you offer a group of residents in a social housing facility some funding to improve their environment and improve sustainability?

If the residents of 99-101 Coleman and 1-3 Vincent Streets are any example, you get lots of good ideas, some real hard thinking about what might be best and some great communication. A small group of the residents – lead by Tracey and including Paula and Eunice – have talked with others in the block to take a whole range of ideas, from water tanks to irrigation, from gardens to composting and begin to turn them into a real proposal that everyone can endorse and share.

While there is still more to do to fine tune the ideas and come up with a final costed proposal, these residents and their neighbours are doing a great job of working out what is needed, what is possible and what is sustainable.

The discussion has been enthusiastic and added to people's understanding of what a sustainable garden might look like and why the current gardens are a challenge to maintain. Most people are sharing their ideas and Henryka from Housing NSW, who is a keen gardener in her private life, also added lots of ideas and thoughts.

Currently quotes and prices are being sought and the group is determined to make the best use possible with the funds that are available.



Residents from 99-101 Coleman Street and 1-3 Vincent Street discussing their project idea

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for Coleman & Vincent Street residents is at 2.30pm on

Wednesday 25 March 2009

We will hear more from Housing NSW about maintenance issues, and to discuss how else you might behave in a way that helps the environment and perhaps gives you a little mote money in your pocket.

Funding available for not-for-profit community organisations

The NSW Government under the Public Facilities has funding of up to \$40,000 for not-for-profit community organisations to undertake simple, low-cost water and energy saving upgrades in the facilities they use. For more information about the Public Facilities Program call the Environment Line on 1300 361 967 or email ccf@environment.nsw.gov.au.



Holroyd CityFest is one of Holroyd City Councils main events and a highlight of the Western Sydney festival circuit. Community focused and with an emphasis on entertainment, the CityFest is an opportunity for residents, community groups, businesses and manufacturers within Holroyd to come together to showcase their products, services, talents and interests.

In 2009 CityFest will be held from Friday 17 April to Friday 24 April. For more information on the events throughout the week, go to www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au or contact Council on 9840 9840.

What's happening at Walpole Street?

Five residents went on a tour last month to some of the community gardens in the western Sydney area. The tour provided these residents with an idea of what the new garden at Walpole Street will look like and they were able to ask questions about the running and maintenance of the gardens.

On the topic of the garden, approval has been obtained from Council for the removal of two trees to let in more sunlight for growing vegetables. Quotes have been obtained for the removal of the trees and installation of the rainwater tank.

Once the trees are removed, work can begin on the construction of the garden.

Keep an eye on how you can get involved in constructing and planting the garden.

The Flower Streets Group

Since 2001, over 200 Sustainability Street communities have emerged throughout Australia. One of the first groups to come together under the program in the Holroyd City Council area was The Flower Streets in Greystanes. Since 2006, these residents have come together to create a healthier, safer and more environmentally friendly neighbourhood.

The group, originally facilitated by a Sustainability Street Mentor from Holroyd City Council, has met monthly sharing ideas on saving energy and water at home, setting up a worm farm or compost bin, establishing native gardens and no dig gardens, keeping chooks and many more topics

Since their 'official' graduation from the program in 2007, the group has continued to meet discussing ways that they can make this area a better place to live.

If you would like to know more about this group, visit some of the members of the group at Holroyd City Council's Environment Stall at the City Fest Parade on 18 April 2009.

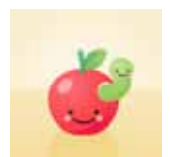
All about composting

Composting is nature's own recycling system. It breaks plant matter down into its original form and then returns that valuable nourishment to the soil.

Creating a compost bin and/or a worm farm is a great way to use organic (food waste) and garden waste and turn it in to free compost and fertiliser for your garden. Compost bins and worm farms may reduce the amount of waste your household disposes to landfill by up to 70%.

Compost bins and worm farms are available for purchase from Council.

For details contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 9840-9840.



For more information about the Sustainability Street program contact Holroyd City Council on 9840 9981.