

Issue #19

May 2009

DID YOU KNOW?

NSW households spend as much as \$32 a week on gas and electricity, on top of petrol costs, making about 160,000 balloons of carbon pollution each year.

Update from Walpole Street Merrylands

The final Walpole St Workshop was held on Wednesday 13 May 2009. Sitting in the sunshine, residents heard representatives, Jodie and Reno from Bunnings Villawood explain the next steps in setting up the water tank and establishing the garden beds.

A rainwater tank has been donated by EGR Water and other suppliers to Bunnings are coming on board with garden materials as well. Staff from Bunnings Villawood will be there on Saturday 13 June, volunteering their time to set up the tank and the garden.

The residents expressed their thanks to Jodie and Reno and then we gave some consideration to how to save energy around the home.



Residents from Walpole Street enjoying the sunshine and learning how to save energy in their home.

(cont'd overleaf)

Don't miss Walpole Streets Garden Construction



Staff from Bunnings Villawood will be at 64-70 Walpole Street on **Saturday 13 June 2009** to install the rainwater tank and construct the garden.

Residents are welcome to come and put their personal touch on the garden. We hope to see you there!

TOP Energy Efficiency Tip from Walpole Street

When you boil the kettle for a cup of tea or coffee, pour the water you don't use into a thermos. That way, it stays hot for the next time you want a cuppa. Simple!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CENTRE OPEN DAY

Energy Australia's Energy Efficiency Centre at Homebush is having an Open Day on:

**Wednesday 27 May 2009
5-8pm**



There are interactive hands-on displays, touch screens and thermal imaging to demonstrate how you can save energy, money and the environment.

For more information visit:
www.eec.energy.com.au

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

Update from Walpole Street Merrylands (cont'd)

After a short explanation of greenhouse gases and climate change (*it's like we're putting a jumper on top of a jumper on our planet so that it cannot cool itself down*), the focus turned to how to limit the greenhouse gases we each create.

We looked at energy saving ideas and devices in kitchens and bathrooms and other parts of the house. Using resources from Energy Australia, participants learnt how to reduce energy use in their daily lives. All had an idea or two to share on how to save energy – and **money**.

The workshop concluded with thanks to John and the team from St George Housing, Phil (Workshop Facilitator) and Quoc Tran, the interpreter and great educator from the Ethnic Communities Council. But of course the workshops would not have been successful without the tenants, so a BIG thank you to the participating tenants!

IF IT'S TOO GOOD TO THROW AWAY TAKE IT TO A SALVOS STORES OR THEY WILL PICK IT UP

To organise a Salvos Stores truck to come to your home and collect your quality unwanted goods please call:
13 SALVOS (13 72 58).

Without donations Salvos Stores wouldn't exist. They rely heavily on the generosity of people to donate their pre loved quality goods. So if there is something unwanted in your home and it is too good to throw away, please organise a home collection today or donate directly to your local Salvos Stores during opening hours.

For more information on what to donate to Salvos Stores visit:
www.salvosstores.com.au

Low Income Household Refit Program

The NSW Government is helping households most in need to save power and cut their power bills through the Low Income Household Refit Program. As announced in the media on Sunday, the program is now being offered to 1,000 homes in Western Sydney. Every home that signs up will get a free:

- home visit by a trained assessor to find ways to save power in your home
- power saver kit to help kick-start your savings
- power saver action plan to show you other ways to save power and money.

Who can join?

To join the Western Sydney program, individuals must meet the following four criteria:

1. live in Western Sydney
2. rent from a private landlord or own their own home*
3. have their name on the energy bills
4. be an energy utility hardship customer OR have one of the following:
 - Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
 - Centrelink Low Income Health Care Card
 - Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
 - Department of Veterans' Affairs Repatriation Health Card

* The Low Income Household Refit Program also includes a program for Housing NSW, Aboriginal Housing and Community Housing residents.

To sign up for this program, email ccf@environment.nsw.gov.au or contact 1300 361 967.

