



SUSTAINABILITY ST. IT'S A VILLAGE OUT THERE



newsletter - nov 2007 edition

TOC

WELCOME	1
HOT TOPICS.....	1
top 10 ways to build community.....	1
water	1
the street signs	3
GRAVITY.....	3
BUDGEWOI.....	3
WADALBA.....	4
NEXT MEETINGS	4

welcome



Welcome to the first Wyong Shire Sustainability Street Newsletter.

Wyong Shire Council will be producing this newsletter on a bimonthly basis to let you know what's been going on within your group and others. We also hope in encourages and motivates you to continue the excellent work you have been doing and to spread the word.

Looking at the happenings and stories from the latest series of meetings a big congratulations to all is in order.

Everyone has been doing a fantastic job at bringing life to Sustainability Street in their respective streets and the shire as a whole. From sharing with friends and neighbours in the street about sustainable living, to media releases in Council's 'Shire Wide', and learning new ways of reducing water.

hot topics

top 10 ways to build community



1. The importance of building community
2. Say g'day to strangers
3. Get involved with your local shops and services
4. The importance of family
5. Join/organise a local club/group
6. Play sport and head outdoors
7. Get involved in local politics
8. Make sure to involve older and younger people in your community
9. Get involved with your neighbours
10. Get involved in or run a local event

Communities Online!

www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au

Practical tools and resources for community groups. Tips on getting organised and getting funds.

Also

www.ourcommunity.com.au



water

More than 70% of the surface of the planet is water and less than 1% of that is drinkable. It is estimated that within the next 20 years some 73% of the world's population will not have access to fresh drinkable water.

In a country like ours it's important to learn how to save water. There are many things we can do to save water at school and around our homes and communities. On the Central Coast residential areas are the biggest water users, followed by government, commercial business, industry and large manufacturers.



Garden = 30%
Bathroom = 25%
Toilet = 20%

Focusing on these three along gives us power over 75% of our water consumption. Anything else is a bonus



WATER SAVING TIPS

IN THE GARDEN

- Plan carefully with drought tolerant plants and or natives relevant to the area and soil. Check out Sustainable Gardening Australia – www.environs.org.au
- Mulch, it prevents 70% of

evaporation and reduces weeds which compete for water.

- Reduce lawns as they are water hungry and don't water it in summer, it will recover.
- Install a rainwater tank.
- Use grey water collected from your shower or washing machine to water plants. Check the type of detergent you are using – you may have to change.

IN THE BATHROOM

- AAA, Low flow shower roses.
- Short showers for three minutes. Between 10 and 20 litres per minute can flow down the drain.
- Don't shave in the shower – you waist more water.

THE TOILET

- Half flush – full flush is 6 litres.
- Install a rainwater tanks and connect it to you toilet.

As per the Water Conservation Campaign in California USA,

“If its yellow, let it mellow! If its brown , flush it down!”

THE LAUNDRY

- Full load
- Wear clothes for longer – have an outfit for after you have a shower at night and wear it for days.
- Front loading washing machines use less water.

THE KITCHEN

- Dripping taps are a huge water waster. Five drips per minute can add up to 5 litres per hour.
- Have a full load before turning the dishwasher on.
- Have a full sink before washing up.

MADE A DIFFERENCE YET?

Your water bill will give a comparison of daily water use against the same time last year. You can use this information to check your progress.

Another audit is to list the actions you've taken to reduce consumption using the water tips above.



If you want to go even further you could get a Green Plumber to fully audit your home, checking all appliances and recommending reduction measures.

For detailed auditing information including how to calculate your "Ecological Footprint", see the Sustainaclopedia –

www.sustainabilitystreet.org.au

the street signs

Great news! The Sustainability Street Signs will be installed within next few weeks. You will be notified of the unveiling date.

gravity

Proudly sponsored by Mars Food Australia.

Gravity Youth Centre is moving swiftly down the Sustainability Street path. To date the group consists of 8 – 10 young people who are very passionate about the environment and their local area with many others that pop in from time to time. The group has been setup to allow young people to come along when they can and is encouraging young people to be inclusive of others.

The group meets every Monday afternoon for 2 hours and are known as the Garden Grubs.

The group came up with the fantastic idea of using the Gravity graffiti wall to advertise the program, this was very successful with the artwork staying on the wall for 6 weeks (see photo).

Following a brainstorming session to kick start the group the young people decided they wanted to firstly look at Energy. An energy audit of the youth centre was undertaken and steps will be taken to encourage all users of the centre to reduce their energy consumption.

The group has discussed what they would like their project to be and decided on a healing garden and second stage a food forest. Four important themes were decided on for the project before we began with ideas:

- ⊕ Commitment
- ⊕ Team Work
- ⊕ Garden needs to be a safe place
- ⊕ Garden needs to be a happy place

The healing garden will represent an area where young people can go and reflex and relax. This garden will take the shape of a boat to represent moving forward in life.

As part of the project an outdoor learning area is beginning to take shape with a large paved area being converted into an area the young people can sit surrounded by native shrubs to learn about sustainability.

The food forest will be something that the group moves towards mid 2008 and will incorporate a herb spiral, veggie patches and fruit trees. The idea of the food forest is to provide fresh food for the young people that use the Gravity Youth Centre and also for the kitchen at the centre to use during cooking classes.

The next topic the Gravity Garden Grubs is Waste!!



budgewoi

When Wyong Council sought tenders for groups to become a Sustainability Street participant one of the most exciting groups to apply was the Budgewoi Beach Dunecare group. The group have been operating as volunteer environmentalists to maintain and restore the delicate natural ecosystem of the dunes along Budgewoi Beach for over 15 years.



Their exciting proposal is in East Budgewoi where there are two major stands of broad leaf paper bark (*melaleuca quinquinervia*) forests. Their approach is to enhance the natural assets (fauna, flora, water & energy conservation) of the area by working with local residents, local government, and visitors to the area. As the group leader, Phil Heaton said,

“This is a great tool (Sustainability Street) to bring all parties together to aid in preservation of the area’s natural assets and advance sustainability concepts.”

The group has met with Wyong Council Mentors three times since August 2007. Both organisations met to map out the direction and timetabling for the ongoing project; have been involved in inspiring and creative discussions on water use and diversity for natural plant propagation; have decided on an excellent position for the Sustainability Street Sign on a local, busy intersection and will be holding the second set of discussions and community information sessions on energy conservation and cost saving on Tuesday 27th November 2007.

Wyong Council and the Budgewoi Dunecare Group have created a synergy for long lasting and mutually beneficial involvement that will not only dramatically improve the biosphere of the area but continue to cement and build the very strong and passionate local community.

wadalba

The set up of this group has been quite slow as numbers have been limited. Wyong Council has decided to launch the Sustainability Street program in conjunction with a community artwork unveiling in order to attract a broader community interest. The intent of the group is to focus on native gardens within the Wadalba area. Gardens will be selected and assessed for their suitability to be converted to a native garden.

Information sessions will be provided to inform residents about plant selection relevant to the local area.

Throughout the project it will also be possible for residents to join in the fun and learn from the Sustainability Street experience, nourishing a positive and supportive community culture at a local level.

The community breakfast launch will be on Saturday morning December 8th at the Wadalba Community Centre.

next meetings

BUDGEWOI

When:	Tue 27 th November 2007
Where:	MacKenzies Reserve Pavillion
Time:	1:00 – 4:00
Council Contact	Kevan Smith or Cassandra Aitken on 4350 5555

GRAVITY – GARDEN GRUBS

When:	Every Monday
Where:	Gravity Youth Centre
Time:	3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Council Contact	Rachel Steel on 02 4394 0291

WADALBA

When:	Fri 16 th November 2007
Where:	Wadalba Community Centre
Time:	12 noon - 1:00 PM
Council Contact	Karen Douglas – 4350 5145 Dawn Brown – 4350 5386