

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Annual Show and Tell



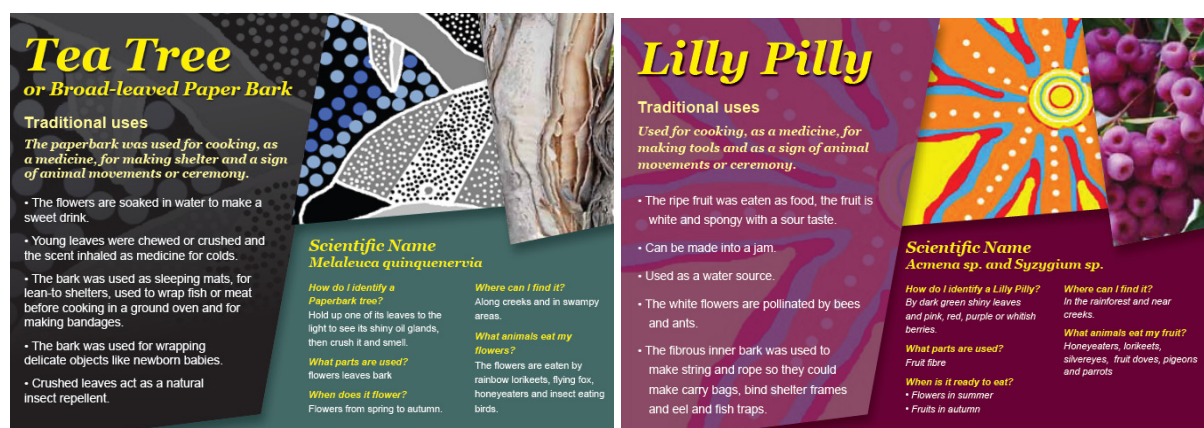
Sunday 27 October 2013

Belmont Sustainable Neighbourhood Group – Sandy Benson

Sandy is the only active member at present, and has been working with Belmont Primary School to create an Indigenous bush tucker garden with a Council grant.

The garden is almost completed, and the kids have been involved in planning and constructing the gardens and native plantings. It will include interpretive signage (see examples below) detailing traditional uses and ecological values of the plant species there, and prompts students to find different things in the garden. They are also including an 'insect motel' to demonstrate habitat requirements of different insects.

Already the garden is proving to be a significant educational resource. Students have been observing native animals and habitat in the school grounds, to see what is living there. It is also helping to improve cultural awareness and diversity at the school. There is a high Aboriginal population at the school – a great opportunity for them to connect to country, and to provide a space for elders to come and talk with Aboriginal students. The project has created good partnerships between the school, Mens Shed and the Neighbourhood Centre. The Mens Shed are building seating so that the area can be used as an outdoor classroom.



Interpretive signage to be installed at the garden

Charlestown East Sustainable Neighbourhood Group – Jean McGarry

Jean is only current member. Council is currently assisting to re-establish the group in the greater Charlestown area, by running a film screening at the Charlestown Pool. (Previous 2 or 3(?) attempts to run this event have been rained out!)

Cooranbong Sustainable Neighbourhood Group – Avril Lockton

The Cooranbong SNG runs bi-monthly activities such as local field trips and expert talks. They are generally very popular and well attended. The recent picnic in the park to celebrate the 20th birthday of Cooranbong Park was not so well attended (it was October long weekend on a Sunday). They are lucky to be close to Dora Creek with its valuable riparian area and healthy wildlife, and also Avondale College with lots of local experts to draw upon. The most popular activities are the 'walks in the park'.

They have also run rainwater tank maintenance workshops, and will probably run biannually. Suggest looking up local water tank suppliers / installers to do a presentation on how to maintain your water tanks.

Also lucky to have John Duffy (Cooranbong Printing) who does graphic design and printing for them.



'A Walk in the Park' Field Trip

Climate Ready Dora Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group – Norbert Lica

SQUID (constructed wetland) just installed with Landcare and Council. They had a big planting on National Tree Day, and have established a Landcare Group there. Just need some rain to help it grow. Hoping to install some interpretive signage in future.

Flood ready project with SES – included doorknocking and engaging with neighbours. Looking at having a street party / gathering, to assist residents to meet each other and increase their preparedness for local flooding and other emergencies.

Dudley Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

The Dudley Mural project is now complete, and has created not only a stunning mural, but significant community pride and connection. This year they have also held a couple of very successful 'Super Street Sale' events, a historic walk along the Dudley Spur Line, and have made headway in securing land for a community garden.

Some upcoming events and projects the group is working on include:

- Another suburb wide Super Street Sale
- Shared pathway project to link Dudley to the Fernleigh Track
- Community garden
- Sensory walk with Dudley Primary School and Awabakal Environmental Education Centre



Launch of the Dudley Mural in March 2013

LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

Currently working to research, design, produce and distribute a 'Responsible Cat Care' brochure, and have applied for funding in the most recent round of Council's Environmental Sustainability Grants.

Morisset and Peninsula Sustainable Neighbourhood Group – John Hegarty

Sometimes have difficulty getting people to their meetings, but can sometimes up to 20 attending. They are currently focussing on a social event for their next meeting to see if that makes it more attractive for people.

Joy Edmonds passed away this year – a great loss for the group and wider community. She originated the 'Fresh Food Revolution' project, which is currently thriving – including workshops and other educational activities at the Yunung Community Garden.

Other projects the group is involved with include:

- art2264 – a local project at the Morisset PCYC run by Margrete, running monthly activities for young people

- St John Vianneys Swale project and lots of projects running at the school
- Gardening for seniors workshops and balcony gardening workshops being run.
Contact: treefrogpermaculture@gmail.com
- Peninsula Bulletin – monthly community newsletter
- Meeting with state RSL representative next week – they are interested in some of the group's ideas
- 23 November – Wellbeing Day being run by Aboriginal group in Morisset
- Colleen runs a local group for new residents on the Peninsula – they have become key volunteers in the local community

Pelican Area (Blacksmiths, Pelican and Marks Point) Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

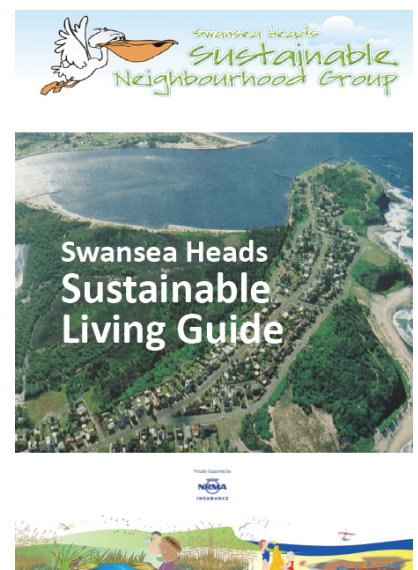
Pelican Area SNG members are launching their group and SNAP in November with Eco Angels Clean Ups at 3 different sites. Their SNAP details a range of projects to protect and maintain their local environment, cycleways and community assets.

Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Group – Ross Woods

The group was successful in receiving a \$5000 grant through NRMA community grants program

(<http://www.communitygrantsprogram.com.au/home>), which enabled them to:

- Develop their own website at www.swanseaheads.org
- Develop and undertake household energy audits by doorknocking local residents. The methodology and results of their energy audits are included in the Sustainable Living Booklet (below). The doorknocking was a good way to generate some interest in the group
- Develop and distribute the Swansea Heads Sustainable Living booklet, that includes great information about the ecology and history of Swansea Heads, along with tips for sustainable living. You can view and download the Sustainable Living Booklet here:
<http://www.swanseaheads.org/swansea-heads-sustainable-living-guide-booklet.html>



Also from previous financial year – as part of TAFE project to complete BAG IT screening. Also helped to encourage local businesses to donate lucky door prizes, and then they stopped using plastic in their store.

Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group – Nico Marcar

(Thanks Nico for providing this detailed report):

Chairs Report TASNG

What an exciting year it has been!

I was honoured to have been elected Chair of the TASNG in 2012. Our many achievements are due to the hard work of our committee and team leaders. Special thanks to John Gill for the rigour and enthusiasm he has shown as Secretary, and to Steve Dewar for representing TASNG at the Alliance meetings. Thanks also to Tony and Trish Stephens, who stepped down from their team leader positions this year and to Era Wellmore for maintaining our financial records; Era has stepped down due to health reasons and Trish has taken over her role.

We have continued to work closely with the Sustainability Alliance (thanks to Rachelle and other staff) to consolidate our group, organise our teams and advertise our activities through the LMCC website and pamphlets. We also maintain an excellent working relationship with the Coal Point Progress Association (CPPA), thanks to Suzanne Pritchard and others, and the Toronto Tidy Towns Association, thanks to Kelly Hoare and Lynn Pascoe.

There are currently four teams operating:

1. Recycling and Waste Management (Steve Dewar leader)
2. Cycling and Pedestrian (Nico Marcar leader)
3. Landcare (Robyn Gill leader); this team is closely linked with the CPPA landcare project.
4. Community Gardens (Michelle Teear and Burgoine Bea); this group is now more closely aligned with the Toronto Senior Citizens Association, however, we maintain a close association.

The TASNG has been successful in obtaining two major community grants this year.

A grant of \$2000 from LMCC has funded a Fire Retardant Garden Project at the Toronto Fire Station, with enthusiastic support from the firefighters! Thanks to Lois Simpson for her initiative and successful grant submission. The opening of the project and the first activity was held on 22 September and about 20 people attended, including the Major and a West Ward Councillor.

A grant of \$8000 was received from the Combined Clubs and presented by the Toronto Worker's Club for 'The Tossers Can Be Binners' project which aims to minimise littering near Woolworths and Aldi and surrounds through the installation of bins, recycling facilities and signs. Thanks to Steve Dewar for his initiative and continued efforts to execute this project and maintain links with Tidy Towns on related grants. A clean up morning and base line survey were held on 21 September with support from the EcoAngels. A further \$4000 has now also been received from the KAB campaign via Toronto Tidy Towns.

We have also been very proactive with submissions lodged on to LMCC for the Lake Macquarie Draft Footpath Strategy and the Toronto Streetscape Master Plan. Steve Dewar has played a key role here. Issues of most concern were the need to urgently consider extension of the footpath along Brighton Ave and alternative options to the removal of the fig trees in The Boulevard, Toronto. We believe that our submission along with others that were received was instrumental in Council initiating a second round of public consultation for the Master Plan and the second community meeting that ensued. Council has also agreed to a meeting next week to discuss our submission.

We look forward to a fulfilling year to come and once thank the Alliance and Council for terrific support, including assistance with grant applications and website hosting and technical support.



Lois Simpson and representatives from the Toronto Fire Station.

Trees in Newcastle have great Fact Sheet about Fire Retardant Plants – available to download here (topic 13): <http://www.treesinnewcastle.org.au/page19335/TIN-Topics.aspx>

Valentine Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

Much of the Valentine SNG's work in the last 12 months has focussed on advocating for improved local infrastructure, and has been successful in gaining improved footpaths – especially in the vicinity of Valentine Public School. The group have been active in developing submissions to Council's Cycleways and Footpath Strategies.

The group have also developed a project idea around 'Graffiti Grappling', to assist local residents to minimise the incidence of graffiti. The project would include developing some education materials about how best to report graffiti on public or private property, and to assist residents to remove graffiti from private property. The group are seeking funding for this project idea from a variety of sources.

Currently also looking at undertaking a project to improve the amenity of Valentine shops and Allambee Park precinct.

Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

Community garden at school. Have been waiting for Mens Shed to erect a shed at the garden site. Also waiting for school to finish construction of their new buildings, so that gardeners can gain access. Looking forward to more productivity in the garden this year now that those things are sorted out.