

Taking Care

Eric Pearson has been appointed as the onsite Caretaker for The Ecovillage community. Eric, his wife Melissa and their 2 bright and bubbly children Jordie (6) and Kirra (4) are the owners of Lot 116 and will not only enjoy living the lifestyle that the village offers but Eric will be an integral part of making that lifestyle run smoothly.



With a background as crew and management on million dollar yachts, Eric is well and truly used to keeping things running on course. Both Eric and Melissa have excellent credentials in expertise but it is their life experiences with people and nature that really are their greatest asset.

Eric hails from South Africa and has learnt from his history that all people are deserving of listening to and recognition and he has brought this into his life. He is highly motivated and committed to Ecovillage life as the place where his children can enjoy a wholesome and meaningful youth, adolescence and growth. Eric will be the fulltime Caretaker Manager on site. The role of Caretaker Manager is defined within the Disclosure Statement in your contract documentation. Take time to study this so that you can support Eric in this exciting position within our community.

Together The Pearsons embody what The Ecovillage is all about – aware and conscious people who join with their neighbours to live together with nature in beauty, harmony and integrity.

Going Organic

Organic farming uses innovative, non-chemical techniques for farming in harmony with the environment and providing nutrient rich, healthy soils from which healthy produce is grown. Farming organically is the smart way for keeping farming sustainable - improving soil, encouraging wildlife and woodlands, keeping pollutants out of the land, air and waterways, preventing disease, and benefiting our health and way of life.

The primary goal of organic agriculture is to optimize the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, plants, animals and people. Organic food tastes better, meat is free of hormones and chemicals and animals go through life without the treatment of synthetic growth hormones or drugs.

Ordinarily, requirements are for englobo land parcels to comply with regulations in order to reach organic certification. However recent liaisons with Australia's Organic regulatory bodies: The Biological Farmers Org. (BFA) & Australian Certified Organic (ACO) have indicated that due to its nature, certain areas within The Ecovillage could make application for future 'Organic' status.

As well as the obvious health advantages to residents from observing organic gardening practices within The Ecovillage, there is the benefit that excess produce that is sold could enjoy the status derived from organic certification. Greenways, agricultural plots, and other common areas designated for food production could be incorporated into a future program to gradually become organic over the course of time. This could be an EVE goal or simply a whole community project for the future.

In the meantime, come and watch The Power of Community (see below New Resources), visit totallyorganic.net.au for local delivered organic produce or start growing your own right now.

New Resources in the Int. Centre

- The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil DVD
- Australian Gardening Calendar Book
- ReNew: subscription issues Mag
- The Green Gardener Book
- Earth Garden: subscription Mag
- Termites & Borers Book
- GMagazine: new subscription Mag

Come and browse the reference library at the Interpretive Centre over a cup of tea.

Saving the World – take that extra step

- Sign the ACF's (acfonline.org.au/default.asp?section_id=25) petition to stop John Howard taking the nuclear power path
- Join GECKO: numbers in environmental groups boosts their power & volunteering makes you feel great & achieves heaps (Ph: 55341412)
- When buying anything, support sustainable technologies
- Make personal goals - ie: plant 1 tree / week or walk to work
- Buy only local produce – more environmental damage is done by the transportation of food than any other product
- Inspire someone: share your enthusiasm and knowledge of the Earth's fragility – they may be the next activist
- Use www.sensis.com.au as your search page – for every search conducted, sensis donates \$\$\$s to Greening Aust.



The Terraces Turn

Sealed plans and documentation emerged from Council on Monday 15th January 07. This set in place the sequence of steps such as finalisation of legal documentation for community management statements for the Valley Terraces Subsidiary Body Corporate and subsequent lodgement with the Titles Office for registration of titles on Terraces lots to allow settlement. In fact, we heard on Wednesday that the titles were issuing that afternoon. Exciting stuff indeed.

Some GST calculations, other formal developer details to disclose to your legal representatives and notices can then be forwarded to your solicitors. Given the above process, and If all goes according to plan, it is expected that settlement will occur early in February.

We have issued a number of notices to Terraces purchasers recently outlining the settlement process so we will not elaborate here, but should you have any queries regarding the procedure, please contact our office or your legal representative. It is imperative that you have your finances ready for settlement to occur so be sure to confirm with your lending institution (should you have one) that your arrangements are current.

First Body Corporate Meeting

Soon after settlement, the Subsidiary Body Corporate for the Valley Terraces will hold it's inaugural General Meeting. Notification will arrive in the mail as to the time and place for this to occur. Now is the time to contemplate your involvement in the Committee at this exciting formation stage of the community. The committee is elected at this first meeting for an annual term. The Creek Ecohamlets Body Corporate managed to get a full committee in its first meeting – a team of residents dedicated to involvement in the Ecovillage's first steps (see Village Well Sept / Oct 06).

Please note: access to the Terraces area whilst the last stages of civil works are occurring is still highly restricted. You may only gain access via an appointment with staff of the Interpretive Centre.

CATH & CHRIS
HAD A BABY GIRL
"YANI" on 15 Jan

"as a matter of fact..."

- latest research shows that 41% of people who adopt sustainability do so because of concern for future generations compared with the year 2000 when 29% said they were motivated by worry
- men know more about the environment but women actually do more about it
- if all sources of draughts in a standard home were added together, the resulting gap would equal a hole measuring 1.5m x 1m
- Australians are the greatest per capita water users in the world
- every ton of recycled office paper saves 380 gallons of oil
- despite the damage we have caused the environment most of it is reversible. We can restore habitats and return species to them; clean rivers; renovate buildings; replenish the topsoil, replant forests
- one in every four purchases from a chemist shop will have come from a tropical forest
- One ton of carbon dioxide that is released in the air can be prevented by replacing every 75 watt light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs.

Houses in the Village

Many of Queensland's most sustainable homes have now begun construction in the Creek Ecohamlets.

Jurgen Wernick's home – with a few finishing touches needed has Dot and Alf Shepherd caretaking.

Dot and Alf's home on Lot 105 is under construction with the prototype feature of inground concrete tanks providing not only water storage but also the thermal mass.

We've all seen the fully recycled buildings that grace Filippa, Kosuke and Taiji's lot. The barracks are being worked on feverishly to transform them into the Japanese themed sustainable pavilions that will be the Araki's home.

On Lot 104 Chantal Tulliez has footings in and can be seen keeping constant watch on progress. Chantal has done a great job with her design and the process through the VDP.

Jim Davies has begun construction in earnest on Lot 103 and has recently installed the hydraulic flooring element – worth a look. This Rob King designed home is a beautiful design and, as you can see from the balsa wood model in the Interpretive Centre, Rob's knowledge of the Codes and sustainable design is evident.

Pete & Jan Taplins home is cutting a very cute shape with decks now fixed and the internal rock generating so much attention. A visit to the Taplins really shows how good orientation will keep a home comfortably ventilated and shaded in these summer months.

Ian, Sascha and Olive's place is gaining momentum and is so interesting with many sustainable design elements clearly spotted. This large home is a good example of perspective, proportion and separation of spaces.

Vincent and Berniece have poured footings, taken delivery of tanks and even have a toilet on site!! They have both worked very hard to achieve their present stage. Their rammed earth component will be great to watch for. The footings are like mushrooms that have popped out of the soil.

Carol D'Anvers, also a Derrin Derrin resident, has now begun her journey – Carol's regular trips to site are a great indication of her enthusiasm utilising the services of Will Collins has shown good outcome with design. This house features the first 'suspended' slab on site.



Pete & Jan's Cottage with great deck



Lot 105 featuring inground water tanks



Ian, Sascha's & Olive's takes shape

New Machine for Community

Purchase by Landmatters of a new mower has Eric Pearson all a 'twitter'. The Scag has arrived – an incredibly manoeuvrable mowing machine.

Scag are in fact the largest independent producers of heavy-duty landscaping equipment, claimed by devotees that the purchase of a Scag is value-for-money with costs for maintenance and repairs over the years well below those associated with having a comparable product by a competitor – of importance to our community.



The full-length, welded steel frame is the strongest in its class, compact size allows the Scag into tight spaces, the commercial warranty provides for years of profitable service and many more features make this machine a great choice for our needs.

With the Valley Terraces areas now undergoing landscaping treatments, the Scag is simply a great all purpose machine that will see this community through many of its maintenance needs.

Nuban Mower Centre now offers Ecovillage residents a discount – 20% off all servicing of mowers. Get your discount voucher from the Interpretive Centre to take advantage of this deal.

VDP VDP VDP VDP VDP VDP

Rob Norman, our new in-house VDP Assessor, is now well equipped in his role as eco-design adviser. Rob was well and truly inducted into the role at the start of the year (Cath Elliott is now the proud Mum of baby girl – Yani) and has since met with many community members to help guide their design process and sign off on their final approvals.

With now 6 months past since settlement for most Creek Ecohamlets residents, if you have not begun the process, introduce your designer to Rob in a meeting at butter paper sketch stage to start the ball rolling soon. Some Valley Terraces purchasers have already done so with one couple achieving final approval prior to settlement!

Rob is available by appointment during business hours at the Interpretive Centre.

Turning the Tide

Information from The Australian Marine Conservation Society mag



Imagine a world where no dinner table could ever offer a tasty kedgeree. Imagine diving or snorkelling in the ocean and not seeing any fish. Imagine our children's children never experiencing this at all.

A recent study predicts that global fish stocks are set to collapse within 40 years if current fishing trends continue. The study reveals that stocks are in such rapid decline that every seafood species will have no commercially viable levels unless major efforts are taken to protect them.

Conservationists have been raising alarms for decades about many species and that around 75% of our oceans are overfished or fished to their limit and 90% of the ocean's large fish such as tuna, marlin and sharks are gone. Over 100 fishing regions around the globe were reviewed and the effects have shocked researchers. "In losing species we lose the productivity and stability of entire ecosystems and these results are beyond anything we suspected" says an expert from Halifax, Canada.

The answers, say experts, lie in protecting ecosystems by establishment of more Marine National Parks. These natural underwater biological factories are shown to recover quickly when protected.

On a personal level, awareness of threatened species' lists (amcs.org.au for a Sustainable Seafood Guide) can assist to purchase only food that is local and sustainable. Support of organisations like The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) assists this solution.

With true sustainability and the future of residents and biodiversity in mind, The Ecovillage team are currently liaising with the Department of Natural Resources (Qld) for the introduction of Native Australian Bass into our Creek Ecohamlets water features. Known also as Freshwater Perch, Bass is also on the list of endangered fish species in Australian waters. Numbers are much reduced and Bass have been severely effected by the regulation of many of the rivers in its range. In particular dams and weirs prevent breeding related up and downstream migration of bass resulting in land-locked populations unable to spawn and much smaller populations below the obstructions due to limited habitat.

It is thought that Bass would have been prolific in Currumbin Creek in earlier times, however this is no longer the case. However during the fauna survey for the EV, Bass were spotted in the creek. Bass have recently been successfully bred commercially and re-stocking of a number of land locked populations has taken place as well as extensive stocking of inland dams and reservoirs.



Australian Bass

What a great outcome for biodiversity and sustainability if this community can have its very own stock of Native Bass to harvest so close to home.

Coffee Connect Back on Track

February sees Coffee Connect return in its standard format. The interesting topic for Sunday 18th Feb is Dark Skies Policy and Lighting – How to Get it Right. Get ready for some interesting design ideas, information on the newest technology for energy efficient lighting and even perhaps somewhere to get discounted fittings. Don't miss it – this is your event! Bring chairs, a smile and a plate to share.

