

Let's Be Frank

Frank McGrath has something really special about him. Frank loves EVERYTHING about plants and, though he himself is native to Ireland, he has fallen head over heels for Australia's native species.

Frank joined the team early last year and soon became an integral part of the maintenance, planting and revegetation programmes over the site. His love of the bush is apparent in his fostering of endemics (must be locals) and his knowledge and keen abilities. Frank's had a hand in the design and planting of the riparian zone (creek corridor) with beautification of this area and bank stabilisation in mind.

Frank hails from County Cork in Ireland but moved to Australia in 2000. He met an Australian girl (Louise) that took his heart and he now has a beautiful wife and little 5 year old boy Robbie – the apple of his eye.

We value Frank's commitment and hard work in helping to make this wonderful land that we will inhabit look so beautiful in the past months. We also love his wit and Irish humour and exuberance around our workspaces. Don't hesitate to give Frank a thank you pat on the back if you see him digging or planting on site during your visits.



More Awards More Fun

Who wouldn't want to be living in **Queensland's Best Small Residential Subdivision** or **Queensland's Best Ecologically Sustainable Development**??

These two awards were added to the existing (and growing) collection in the Interpretive Centre.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia's Queensland Chapter recognised the outstanding contribution The Ecovillage at Currumbin has made to the industry and the environment.

The judges deem that Landmatters have taken a holistic approach to designing their projects – integrating environment, residential and community. The UDIA Suncorp Queensland Awards for Excellence operate strictly on a peer-judging platform, with panels of independent industry representatives allocated to each category. They also acknowledged the courage to lead the way in what they perceive to be the future of the industry.



The Ecovillage recently also won the "GC Business Award for Manufacturing and Construction" recognising innovation and creativity.

Historical Shed Gets a Name

in makeshift accommodation and huts. Social life consisted of many a group gathering on the flat ground.

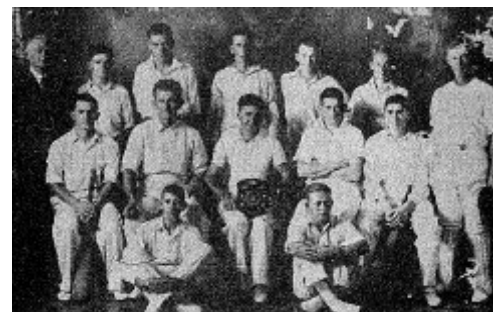
Somebody produced a bat and ball one day and the game of cricket was played under very primitive circumstances indeed. This became a regular fixture and it was not long before a suggestion was put forward to form a club. Ken McKenzie, the owner of the property, provided materials for a new concrete wicket, purchased some necessary gear and a club was formed and named after the property – thus began "The Kenilworth Cricket Club".

Dances were held in the farm barn to raise money for the club and attendances were around 60 or 70 people. The dances also raised money for St John's Ambulance and the Red Cross. The timber floors of the barn were teak and found to be a little rough for dancing so a local who was an expert at using an adze, trimmed the high spots and an almost perfect dance floor resulted. It was always the job of Jim and Alex McKenzie (sons of Ken) to drag a corn bag containing sawdust and kerosene across the floor to give it a good shine for the dances. On dance nights, the barn was elaborately decorated with the leaves of Piggabeen Palm trees. The music was played by a man calling himself 'Banjo Patterson'.

Teams came from far and wide to play and the players from Piggabeen district walked over 2 mountains and brought lanterns with them to show them the way home after the dance that night! The match was played and a 5 gallon keg of beer was consumed.

Landmatters have decided to call the remaining Historical Shed that was given some rebuild last year "The Kenilworth Cricket Club" in memory of some cultural significance on the site. There is a full booklet on the history of the Club in the reference library.

In 1922, 'The Kenilworth Farm' (now The Ecovillage) housed some 20 families of varying size using the property to grow bananas. The families lived in and around the farm



Village Well

Community Beginnings

The first settlements have occurred and the place is literally buzzing with excitement. Finally, our first residents now take ownership of their little patch of paradise and can begin living their dreams.

To celebrate this monumental milestone, the Creek Ecohamlets residents recently celebrated with Landmatters team members with some drinks at the local SLSC right on Currumbin Beach. A great view accompanied heightened enthusiasm as we met to socialise and happily move into the next stage of living with our neighbours.

Many residents of the Creek Ecohamlets and Valley Terraces are now moving through the VDP process. Ensure that your designer (or you if in that role) meets with Cath for the preliminary meeting prior to working up any detailed designs for your home. This saves time and money.

The Body Corporate has also begun to function with levies now paid by the new residents and the first committee meeting held by Landmatters representatives. The time will emerge soon when residents will form that body corporate committee and begin to manage and administer the community's wishes. All new residents should contact Michelle in the sales office (aka Moosh) to advise their willingness to participate in these early committee duties.

Access to Site

Even though a good part of ownership of the site has now been relinquished by Landmatters as part of the staged process, we continue to keep the community's interests as a priority. In rural subdivisions that are not yet at completed stage, theft is rife and, to this end, we have installed a security gate adjacent to the Interpretive Centre that enables limited access to the site after hours only by key.

Each Creek Ecohamlets resident who now owns their lot freehold is, of course, entitled to 24 hour access. The gate will be open from 6am – 6pm every day enabling builder and contractor access, however it will close outside of these hours with limited access only to lot owners – keys have been issued to all who have settled on their properties (please contact us if you have not received your key).

Please bear in mind that these security precautions are for the protection of not only individual lot owners' property as construction of homes is occurring, but also for common property, plant and equipment and other items that will inevitably be owned by the community as a whole. Note that plants, timber and other items stored on site by Landmatters have already been stolen during the course of works on site.

Valley Terraces Access

Of course, Valley Terraces residents are still strictly limited in their access due to civil works currently being undertaken. The site is covered in open excavations and is extremely dangerous to traverse. Also cattle grids are very slippery when wet. So please make an appointment to access this area.

Website Review

theecovillage.com.au website is currently under review.

We are always looking for ways to reuse, renew and revamp the website to keep it current and up to date.

Apart from some obvious changes, please contact Kerry if you have any ideas on what definitely should be incorporated in such a review.

Yahoo Review

The Ecovillage online Yahoo Group is open for residents to keep informed on a community level.

Topics such as VDP process, landscaping issues, Coffee Connect topics and social issues have been discussed recently.

To be invited to join, contact Filippa or Kerry.



a new resource at interpretive centre

ecospecifier is a knowledge base of over 1300 environmentally preferable products, materials, technologies and resources. Simply log in, search the type of product and desired outcome and watch the information materialize before your eyes.

Created to assist designers, builders, consultants and anybody researching great ecological and healthy outcomes, ecospecifier helps reduce environmental impacts and creates healthier and more productive living and working environments. Linking Nationwide product information with a powerful search engine, Ecospecifier does your materials research for you, delivering innovative solutions with a unique difference.

ecospecifier is not just a database, but a knowledgebase - a 'live' and growing, extensive resource. If you're stumped for healthy floorcoverings, furniture or kitchen building materials, ecospecifier can suggest the products you need.

Landmatters has updated their subscription to Ecospecifier to include access by all Purchasers and residents within The Ecovillage. It is now available in the Interpretive Centre on the Ecovision computer system just outside the Design Room or we can give you your very own access code to use at home.

So hop on your system to get acquainted with ecospecifier and do your research about any type of product you wish to utilise in the design / construction of your home. username: Landmatters and password: LMCV

For those with no computer at home we will have ecospecifier access on the Ecovision terminal at the Interpretive Centre. You need to book with Moosh for access.



September 15-24 sees the 3rd annual SWELL Sculpture Festival hit Currumbin Beach. With its vision to 'Get Art Out There', the panoramic Currumbin Beach comes alive with art.

This year, The Ecovillage at Currumbin is proud to be a supporter of the event as the sponsor of the Environmental Award. This award will recognise outstanding attention to the types of materials used, the embodied energy used to

create the piece, transportation costs (to the environment), longevity, functionality and recycling possibilities.

SWELL is a cultural event that Currumbin and indeed the Gold Coast can be proud of. Locally conceived and managed, the event attracts some 110,000 visitors to the beachfront to view over 50 world class and spectacularly placed pieces of art in a truly superb location.

It's a time of year when all locals can be involved in some way. Visit as a spectator, volunteer in the Smalls Gallery or on the beachfront and enjoy the ambience that occurs in local café's and shops.

Also run conjunctively with SWELL is the In the Bin Film Festival. It's just an absolutely great time to be in Currumbin. For more information visit www.swellsculpture.com.au and www.inthebin.net.au and just get out there.

TIPS **White distilled vinegar disinfects and deodorizes.** Acidic vinegar disinfects, deodorises, and dissolves hard water scale, gummy substances, and tarnish. It also pulls dirt from wood. As a fabric rinse, 1/4 cup of vinegar added to the washing machine's rinse cycle removes detergent completely from clothes, eliminating that scratchy feel. Recent research also shows that vinegar is an effective weed killer.
Lemon juice cuts grease and polishes metal. Lemon juice, also acidic, lightens stains and cuts grease. For a laundry brightener, add 1/2 cup of strained lemon juice to the rinse cycle. To remove tarnish, rub sliced lemons on brass, copper, bronze and aluminum. This work especially well with baking soda sprinkled on the lemon.

The Terrific Terraces



Exciting things indeed are happening in the Valley Terraces. McIlwaine Civil have certainly performed incredibly well despite rainfall in past weeks. The hold ups are, of course, difficult to overcome but our contractors make the most of the time that they are able to get back onto site and allow the machines to carry out their jobs. Depending on the amount of rainfall, the soils and subsoils of the Valley Terraces make it difficult for machines to return to work until substantial drying out has occurred.

These images show just what has been achieved in this area with sensitivity and great workmanship by our contractors. No go zones have been adhered to ensuring your home parcels are safe from machinery traversing.



Ponds and water features have been made and are looking just superb. The laneways have been formed with further works to occur such as gravels, sealing as works move forward. Culverts, drainage, infrastructure trenches and other necessary items are underway.

The programme, due to recent rains, has been inched back with likely tilling date sometime in November.

Bridge works have not been hindered as much because work only stops typically whilst rain is falling.



Access to the Terraces is still strictly limited until the civil contract is completed. Any inspections or visits must be made by appointment and are at the discretion of the contractor. Each visit must be fully supervised by the holder of a blue card.

Landscaping works now move from the Creek Ecohamlets to the Valley Terraces for beautification of greenways and revegetation. The Creek Corridor has had much attention and we will now focus on the Terraces as the next stage of Landmatters works.

New reference material in the IC:
Kenilworth Cricket Club History,
Native Plant Gardening with Australian Plants
ecospecifier

There's So Much More... The Highlands

As design is now finalised, marketing will soon begin in earnest for The Highlands precinct. There is a significant waiting list related to these lots and release will be made to these interested parties first.

Whilst these lots will, as the rest within the Ecovillage, enjoy freehold ownership, the Highlands includes large amounts of open space that are common property owned and to be enjoyed by all Ecovillage residents.

We have recently removed the top from the Troop Carrier so new residents who have not seen this very beautiful area can be taken to view the elevated ridgeline, beautiful tree fern groves, tributary creek systems and even ocean views among other features.

Martin's Sunday tours will now probably be taken by troopie so as to include the Terraces and Highlands as marketing will commence soon on that third stage.