

Village Well

The Watershed and its works

Nearing completion now in time for settlement is the Water Reclamation Plant which has become affectionately known as 'The Watershed'. As residents, it's important to know what this area contains and what the infrastructure does. Some of the equipment is out of sight underground whilst others are clearly visible.

The primary treatment tanks have been placed underground for collection of solid waste. Also inground are the textile filter pods and these are the next natural bio-logic treatment of waste water nutrients. The large pond next to the Watershed is for transferred buffer storage. The pond is sealed with a membrane to keep birds and the like from fouling the now treated recycled water. As needed, water is drawn from the buffer tank through the Watershed 'polishing' equipment such as the first microfiltration unit and then a finishing ultraviolet light sterilisation unit. Out comes the safe, clean Class A+ recycled water for toilet flushing and general yard and garden usage.

At your home, designated external tap(s) are installed with appropriate signage and internal plumbing will allow for reticulation to toilet cisterns. We are currently investigating the potential for using the recycled water in washing machines.

Ultimately, the recycled water will be stored in a Highlands ridge reservoir where it will reticulate at full mains pressure to your home. It will also feed to a comprehensive irrigation system for water to greenways and much of the Creek Ecohamlets and Valley Terraces common areas. If you have any queries on the system and its works, contact Cath Elliott at the Interpretive Centre.

The Watershed itself is a strawbale construction, which can be seen from the few 'portholes' located in the walls. The louvre windows, roller and sliding doors and many other components are recycled building materials. A 4kW solar system is installed providing the power for pumps etc and tanks to the exterior make the building also self sufficient in water. The interior, due to the thermal mass and insulating effect of the strawbale is a comfortable temperature both in the hot weather and now for winter's chilly days. The exciting news: there is extra area in the Watershed for community meeting area and mezzanine storage for community use – the first community space.



Consider Recycling...



Re-use and recycling of building materials is a very sustainable outcome, cost effective and sometimes can result in purchase of a unique one-off item. There are a few options for sourcing of recycled materials and the rewards can be quite astounding.

Those able to be emailed will have recently heard from Cath with the offer of a whole kitchen for sale. Landmatters have, in their own quest for recycled materials for buildings requiring construction, found various contacts in the demolition and salvaged goods industry. We may from time to time offer goods that fit the codes and are good value via an email. Emails will include dimensions, photographs and other relevant information needed for you to make a decision about whether the items fit your criteria and design. Please advise Cath if you do not want to receive these emails.

Also, Filippa Araki advised of an online site offering free (yes, free) goods. The site, Gold_Coast_Freecycle@yahoo.com is a marketplace for goods no longer needed by people who want to see them used again – these often include building materials such as the ones Filippa recently found - cedar colonial windows.

So if you've got some time and want some bargains and stories, recycled building materials may represent an interesting twist to your home. Note, for anything found, it is advisable to have building advice as to the cost for changes / alterations / installation prior to purchase.

Community Members Wanted



★ Community development is well and truly off to a great start in The Ecovillage. With the online group and Coffee Connect as well as regular resident visitation to the Interpretive Centre and some social functions on the side, community members are really getting to know each other – all this before we've even moved in!

★ With settlement now only a matter of days away, we can all start to dream a little of the soul of this place – its people. Whether you're a gregarious, outgoing social butterfly wanting to be well and truly involved in community activities or enjoy your life in your own comfy cocoon and space – the Ecovillage offers a chance to be a big or small part of the growing group that will make up our neighbourhood.

★ Groups can now form to assist in community title, social (walking / cycling club, pot lucks etc), water supply and recycling, Bushcare and regen, fauna, carpooling, IT / Intranet and communications, maintenance and grounds, productivity, recycling, nursery, building / VDP to name but a few – if you can think of something that isn't here that has relevance now just let us know.

★ If you have an expertise or a penchant to learn or just want to become involved in YOUR community in this way, put your hand up, let's get the ball rolling. Landmatters have a Group Formation Pack with guidelines to assist in the creation of groups and easy running of them. This pack has been compiled from some great psychology techniques and documents and notes on community growth from all sectors. There is certainly some interesting material and it should be great fun.



Kerry will handle any enquiries or volunteering – contact her to let her know of your interest.



Don't forget the Ecovillage Yahoo group operating online. There have been some great topics discussed such as energy and water efficient washing machines, environmentally friendly cleaning products and others. There's been good participation and ideas from lots of neighbours so if you haven't already registered, do it soon and don't miss out. Ask Michelle Close for an invitation to join.

Also, Filippa Araki is assisting Landmatters with research to find the best value product for our very own Community Portal. Should anyone have expertise in this field and some time on their hands, it would be invaluable to have further community input into this future communication tool.

Queries & Quandaries

Moving into the phases of house design, construction & body corporate, the following staff and consultants with expertise in these fields are provided.

Martin remains in his sales role so please, be mindful of his time and use these contacts to assist you in these next stages:-



Design, building, VDP Products etc
Cath Elliott
Appointments: 55987377
cathe@theecovillage.com.au



Legal, contract administration
any other queries
Michelle Close
55987355
michellec@theecovillage.com.au



Body corporate Community Management
Mike Ryall
Ernst Body Corporate
55 192900 goldcoast@ebcm.com.au

RECYCLING CENTRE STARTS SOON

The construction of the RRR (Reduce, Reuse Recycle) Ranch will begin within the month.

Plans are on display in the Interpretive Centre of this innovative and functional building - itself a work of recycling being an ex-Telstra shed.

See the creative ideas such as recycled car glass for windows, airplane flaps for awnings and even a fuselage of an aeroplane as a feature!

The construction will be staged to fit in with the growth and needs of the emerging community and the building design reflects these stages.

If you've got any great ideas – bring them along.