

Village Well

Ecovillage Award Winning

The Ecovillage at Currumbin was named as the winner of the inaugural Environmental Protection Agency Sustainable Industries Awards in the Urban Development and Built Environment Award category this week.

The award recognises the innovative sustainability practices that have been adopted by The Ecovillage.

The Ecovillage competed against 115 entrants in the awards with three other finalists in the Built Environment category. Entries were judged by a panel of industry and Government representatives and the awards formed part of the 7th National Business Leaders Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women, Desley Boyle said "Landmatters is a leader in sustainable and eco-efficient property development, and is a great example of integrated sustainable urban development".

The Sustainability in Urban Development or the Built Environment Award, sponsored by Stewart Silver Burns and King, was awarded to Landmatters for leadership in design and development for sustainability and efficiency.

In another coup for The Ecovillage, Chris Walton was the recipient of the Ministers Award for Leadership in Business Sustainability. The award

recognises pioneering of sustainability in Queensland and, in particular Chris' passion that encourages the industry to follow his vision of development that mimics nature and enhances the natural environment.

"Landmatters have won for their residential development "The Ecovillage" and managing director Chris Walton has been recognised for his vision in making it a reality," Ms Boyle said.

Chris, in his speech acknowledged the tireless efforts of the small team associated with achieving the goals of sustainability being reached in The Ecovillage and the new community members who are the true pioneers of sustainability supporting the project and seeing this style of development and living as the future way of life. So thanks go to all purchasers as the greatest testament to success for the project yet! You can view more about the awards at www.epa.qld.gov.au.



Maxeen Bear, Dennis Lever, Col Kerry, Chris Walton, Pam Lever, Martin and Jo

contractors arrive *on* valley terraces

Mcllwain Civil have recently begun moving their site offices on site in preparation for construction works on the Valley Terraces.

Located opposite Derrin Derrin Hamlet on the Creek Ecohamlets side of the creek the facilities have been placed and are the start of a temporary crossing that will be utilised during the construction of the bridge.

Mcllwain Civil are a family business, operating since 1961 with much experience in small subdivision works and show their commitment to ESD by the employment of a fulltime Environmental Officer on site.

They are keen to win an environmental award within the construction industry with their involvement in The Ecovillage.

The construction programme for the Valley Terraces spans an 18 week period and begins on Monday 22nd May.

Works will include siting of laneways, drainage contours and swales, infrastructure trenches and installation, water retention features and removal of noxious vegetation, built infrastructure including signage etc.

Induction of Mcllwain Civil staff has been carried out by Landmatters.

This ensures that all services by Mcllwain Civil are performed in compliance with our strict 'worlds best practice' environmental codes including silt fences or erosion control devices.

We welcome the opportunity of working with Mcllwain Civil who show a commitment to excellence and are excited at the prospect of involvement in The Ecovillage.

Bridges in the village

Bridges have been springing up in the loveliest of spots in the Ecovillage. Essentially for access and pedestrian thoroughfares through hamlets and various areas and over the many swales, they also have been designed to be elements of beauty.

A meandering stroll along pathways these days will certainly include a small pedestrian causeway, a simple single arch or a rustic recycled hardwood bridge. You may have noticed a slight Japanese influence, an excitement that Chris and Kerry brought back from a trip last year – exquisite beauty in even the simplest of life's functional items.



Construction of the creek crossing bridge begins the fourth week of May for a 15 week programme. The bridge design consists of pylons poles sensitively located out of the water flow of the creek. As the bridge will be owned by the body corporate materials with longevity in mind have been duly utilised as well as some recycled materials.



The bridge is a single lane with central lay-by and incorporates shaded sitting platforms to stop and enjoy a view of the creek when using as a pedestrian. The design reflects that it is a private bridge primarily for community and not public use. It's aesthetics have been specifically created to fit the Currumbin Valley and Ecovillage rural vernacular – yet another piece of constructed 'art'.

Of course, site visits and access to the Valley Terraces will be limited throughout the bridge construction and civil construction programmes.

Creek Hamlet Greenway Workshops *Building Community*

Residents of Joolim Joolim Hamlet recently participated in the first of the Creek Ecohamlet Greenway Workshops, a Landmatters facilitated community event for hamlets to design their preferred greenway landscaping.

Groups meet with plan of the hamlet in hand and some reference materials right in the middle of the greenway. A Landmatters representative in attendance and 'How to' sheet will assist with interpretation of Landscape Code requirements and the rest is creative genius.

The 'Paradise in Your Garden' Coffee Connect outlined some of the seamless integration techniques and features that Greenways may incorporate for functional and aesthetic purposes. These may include: childrens' play equipment, additional productivity, art, water features, picnic and function areas, meditation spots, wildlife habitat, food forest, herb spiral, yoga / tai chi class grassy patch and any other thing that takes the residents' fancies.

Derrin Derrin Hamlet is next for the workshop – if you are future residents of this hamlet, please contact Michelle on 55987355 to register your availability to attend a workshop soon.

Other hamlets stay tuned for your call up.