

Locals recognised for their contribution

Local households, schools and community groups have been commended for their outstanding commitment to the environment as part of the 2011 Whitehorse Sustainability Awards.

Winners of the 2011 awards were announced recently as part of Council's popular Sustainable Living Week.

The Overall Whitehorse Sustainability Award went to the Quartel family in Box Hill North for their commitment to sustainable living, environmentally-friendly garden and community engagement practices.

The Quartel's garden is a major feature of its street, with raised vegetable beds, a fish pond converted from an old bath tub, a chicken run, native front garden and a 15,000-litre water tank.

Whitehorse Mayor Councillor Ben Stennett said Council was delighted to recognise the effort and innovation shown by all of the entrants who are making a difference saving energy and water and reducing their ecological footprint.

"With entrants including households that utilise natural light to decrease their energy consumption; schools that have introduced ponds and natural bushlands for students to connect with nature; and community groups that have funded their own feasibility study for the construction of bike paths in Whitehorse, a large number of residents are sending a clear message – they care about protecting our environment," Cr Stennett said.

"Congratulations to the award winners, as well as all the entrants, who have used innovative and practical sustainable techniques to make a positive impact on our community."



Winners of the 2011 Whitehorse Sustainability Awards.



SUSTAINABLE GARDEN AWARD

(Prize \$300 EcoMad voucher); and **OVERALL WHITEHORSE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD** (Prize \$500 Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre gift card)

WINNER: Quartel residence, Box Hill North

The Quartel residence has added character to the streetscape by practising permaculture principles. Highlights of the garden include raised vegetable beds; 15,000-litre water tank to water the garden; fish pond made out of an old bath tub; chicken run and native front garden. The Quartel garden was PermaBlitzed in June 2010. Since then, a group of students and teachers have visited the garden to generate school kitchen garden ideas, demonstrating the family's community involvement and importance of knowledge-sharing.

COMMENDATIONS: Challinor and Yeo residences



SUSTAINABLE HOME AWARD

(Prize: \$300 Organic Angels online voucher)

WINNER: Alexander residence, Vermont

The Alexander residence includes strong passive solar design elements as well as water and energy efficiencies, such as water tanks, solar panels and solar hot water systems. Built 30 years ago, the use of natural lighting and the thermal properties would have been considered ahead of their time and subsequent retrofits have only enhanced the sustainability of this home.

Commendations: Challinor and Laffin residences

on to sustainability



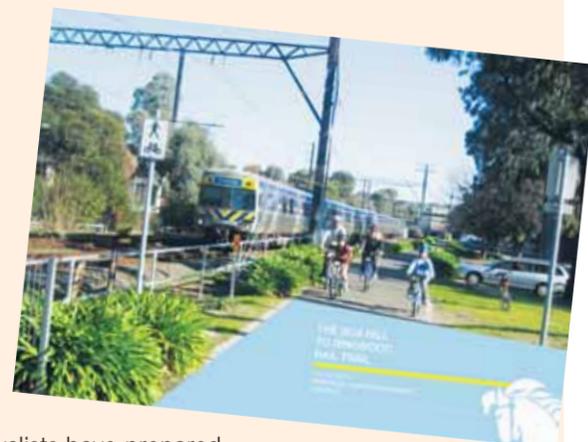
Cr Ben Stennett with the Quartel family in their sustainable garden.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (ADVOCACY AWARD)

(Prize: Sustainability Assessment from Green Box Studio and two-year subscriptions from *Green* and *Treadlie* magazines, total value \$495)

WINNER: Whitehorse Cyclists Advocacy Group

Members of the Whitehorse Cyclists have prepared and published a feasibility study into the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail linking the two Central Activity Districts. Prepared on a voluntary basis, the quality document presents a strong case to provide a safe east-west cycling route that can bring environmental and health benefits. The group has promoted the study to all levels of government, schools and the community. The state government has made an election promise to allocate \$5 million to construct this bicycle trail.



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD) (Prize: \$400 Enviro Group gift voucher)



WINNER: Vermont Gardening Playgroup

The Vermont Gardening Playgroup aims to promote an awareness of sustainability and a love for gardening for children and their families. The playgroup operates from the Vermont Uniting Community Centre and equips families with the knowledge, skills and space

to grow their own organic produce. Families from diverse backgrounds are linked with the playgroup's successful organic garden that was started from scratch. The playgroup also uses recycled materials sourced from op shops, donations and the Recycled Art Truck to build play toys.

COMMENDATION: Jeffrey Street Association

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL AWARD

(Prize: \$300 Very Edible Gardens voucher)

WINNER: Antonio Park Primary School

Antonio Park Primary School has been involved in sustainability for almost 15 years. The school is an accredited Five-star Sustainable School with a large water tank, solar panels, frog pond and natural bushland where students connect with the outdoors in the 'Nature's Classroom'. Whitehorse's first Walking School Bus was established at the school in 2004. Student and parent involvement is very high, including participation in the school's new animal program.

COMMENDATION: St James Primary School



MAYOR'S SUSTAINABLE CHOICE AWARD

(Prize: \$300 Bunnings Warehouse gift card)

Winner: St Alfred's Anglican Church

St Alfred's Anglican Church is a community that strives towards sustainable living. The innovative church building was designed by BHY Architects and constructed using environmentally-friendly materials and by recycling older building materials. Leading edge design features include a solar chimney and ducted air cooled from a ground tunnel that maximises passive heating and cooling as well as solar hydronic heating and hot water. The church also has a 100,000-litre underground water tank, with collected rainwater helping to cool the building, flush toilets and irrigate the garden. Excess water is used to water the adjacent tennis club's clay courts.

