

A CELEBRATION OF SUSTAINABILITY IN WHITEHORSE

SUSTAINABLE LIVING WEEK 2013 WAS CELEBRATED ACROSS THE WHITEHORSE COMMUNITY WITH GREAT SUCCESS.

More than 700 people attended a variety of workshops and seminars as part of the seventh annual event based on the theme 'Save Money and Live More Sustainably'. Eight community groups, four libraries and 23 schools also actively participated in Sustainable Living Week.

The week was launched by acclaimed environmentalist Rob Gell who discussed the 10 hot sustainability topics identified at the Rio +20 Earth Summit 2012 and ways to lessen our impact on the environment.

This was followed by a series of informative workshops where members of the community learned how to keep chooks happy, create sustainable buildings and renovations, set up their own compost bin or worm farm, grow fruit trees at home and discover the benefits of solar panels.

The Very Edible Gardens team hosted a Permaculture Blitz at St John's Anglican Church in Queen Street, Blackburn, where a bare plot of land was transformed into a series of raised vegetable beds, aromatic herb strips and a shady seating area for future workshops.

Winners were announced for the Whitehorse Sustainability Awards, Built Environment Awards and the Discarded Recycled Art Competition.

In other events, the community learned about the sustainability achievements of Melbourne Zoo at the Business Lunch, witnessed the amazing processes at the Eastern Treatment Plant and were saddened, but also inspired, by activists trying to keep tonnes of plastics

out of our oceans in the movie screening of *Plasticized: An Ocean Catastrophe*.

Whitehorse City Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in Sustainable Living Week 2013.



Sustainable Living Week

Make a difference:
At home. At work.
In your community.



Winners of the Sustainability Awards 2013. Prizes were awarded at the Whitehorse Sustainability Awards night held at Box Hill Community Arts Centre as part of Sustainable Living Week 2013.

PERMACULTURE BLITZ

St John's Anglican Church in Blackburn was the site of a permaculture garden makeover as part of Sustainable Living Week 2013. The Very Edible Gardens team led a series of workshops to make over the space and create a series of raised vegetable beds, aromatic herb strips and a shady seating area for future workshops.

SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2013: RECOGNISING SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENTS IN WHITEHORSE

Residents, households, schools and businesses in Whitehorse have been recognised for their commitment to achieving and promoting sustainability through the 2013 Whitehorse Sustainability Awards. These awards provide an opportunity to showcase these activities with the hope that other organisations, businesses and individuals will be inspired to consider doing the same.

HOUSEHOLD AWARD

Winner: The Walters residence

The Walters use energy and water saving behaviour in their home and make a significant effort to monitor the environmental footprint of their home. The Walters residence is a 1929 Californian bungalow that incorporates many sustainability features such as a sub floor and roof insulation, draught sealing, double glazing, energy efficient lighting and a solar PV system. A cleverly thought out grey water and rain harvesting system incorporates a sub floor bladder tank with a monitoring system. External shading, pergola and ceiling fans keep the home cool in summer.

The outdoor area also features a vegetable garden and a worm composting system.

Commendation:
The Crawford Hall residence



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AWARD

Winner: Hewlett Packard

Hewlett Packard works hard to raise awareness and improve the sustainability of their employees and the local community. The HP Sustainability Network has initiated several innovative projects including the establishment of employee garden beds to grow herbs and vegetables, planting of on-site citrus trees and purchasing outdoor furniture made from recycled cartridges.

Commendation: The Good Guys Nunawading

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL AWARD

Winner: Kingswood College Junior School

Kingswood College Junior School in Box Hill South promotes a whole school approach to sustainability through the leadership of its upper primary students. Year 5 and 6 students take the lead in educating other students on the importance of sustainable living practices. Students model desired behaviours, audit the schools environmental performance and provide feedback to the school on what is working and what needs to be improved. The school has also established a productive vegetable garden, identified water leaks and ways to save energy through active monitoring, and worked to protect and enhance the local environment through a long-running biodiversity project in the Gardiners Creek Reserve.

Commendation:
Benwerrin Preschool



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Winner: The Avenue Neighbourhood House Refresh Program

The Avenue Neighbourhood House Refresh Program offers an educational program for young people aged 15-19 years who are at risk or already disengaged from education. The program's 'Bicycle' project allows participants to use old bikes and parts to create new bicycles so they can be ridden by students or others. This project promotes sustainable transport and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

**CULTURE
2013**

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...e winner of a free
...en created during
...eek 2013. Led by the
...am, volunteers worked
...and participated in mini
...hroughout the day to learn
...den-related topics.
...ed a series of raised
...omatic herb strips
...seating area.



**MAYOR'S SUSTAINABLE
CHOICE AWARD
Winner: David Berry**

David Berry has been a major contributor to environmental protection and education in Whitehorse for more than 20 years. Most recently, he initiated and administered the Small Grants Program 2011/12 for the Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund. Through this project, David provided grants and used his extensive local indigenous plant knowledge to assist with 10 environmentally friendly projects in the Whitehorse community.

**OVERALL WHITEHORSE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD
Winner: Patterson Avenue
Communal Food Gardening Project**

Residents in public housing have established a food garden in communal space by reusing building materials, improving the soil, minimising water use and diverting organic matter from landfill. The growing and harvesting of fresh produce has reduced food miles, improved food security and engaged residents with limited English. The group has used existing relationships and opportunities for free or low cost resources. There has been shared learning and a sense of ownership created through this project.



DISCARDED RECYCLED ART COMPETITION

**PLASTIC –
FANTASTIC ?**

Residents put discarded items of plastic to good use as they created unique artworks for Whitehorse's Discarded Recycled Art Competition.

'Plastic – Fantastic?' was the theme of the 2013 competition run by the Box Hill Community Art Centre. More than 60 entries were received for the competition which aims to promote creativity through recycling.

COMPETITION WINNERS

OPEN COMPETITION

- Major Prize: Angela Pennings – 'Surrounded' (\$500 prize)
- Best Use of Recycled Materials: Magdalene Chong – 'Ikebana and dinner bag' (\$100 Zart Art voucher)
- Most Thought Provoking Sustainability Message: Ray Jones – 'What's for Dinner?' (\$100 Enviro Shop Voucher)

CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

- 6-8 years: Severine Cherry – 'Trash Fairy' (\$50 Box Hill Community Arts Centre voucher)
- 9-12 years: Sunny Kang – 'Recycled Fish' (\$50 Box Hill Community Arts Centre voucher)

FAMILY COMPETITION

- The Hansen Family: 'Plastic Fantastic? – It's Drastic!' (\$50 Box Hill Community Arts Centre voucher)

SCHOOL COMPETITION

- Mt Pleasant Road Primary School – 'Turtle in Terror' (\$200 voucher from Whitehorse City Council for an art or sustainability project)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

- Roma McLaughlin – 'Wedding Couple' (\$50 Zart Art voucher)



'Surrounded' by Angela Pennings.

Artist statement: Each piece represents a plastic object, all useful and convenient but the consequences are weighing down on our environment. With this much plastic in our everyday lives, shouldn't we question where our rubbish is going?