

# 2006 - The Year Climate Change Made It to the Big Time!

The latest issue of Greenpeace's Making Waves calls it "the year climate change went mainstream" and there's no doubt that most politicians struggled with their current policies and began to review. Some great things were achieved in the name of the environment last year - here's some milestones:

1. The SA election became the country's first climate change election. The re-elected Govt. legislated for a renewable energy target of 20% by 2014 & also introduced legislation promising to slash the state's greenhouse pollution by 60% by 2050.
  2. Sydney & Newcastle Councils publicly call for Just Transitions for coal workers and a clean energy future for the Hunter Valley.
  3. Hundreds of climate action groups spring up around the country demanding action from their local leaders on the matter.
  4. The combined impact of the movie 'An Inconvenient Truth', the Stern Report with its economic impacts of climate change, Australia's drought conditions and the work off thousands of activists sees the issue move from the margins to the mainstream.
  5. In September, Victoria legislates a renewable energy target of 10% by 2016 - up from 4%.
  6. In November, NSW promises to legislate a renewable energy target of 10% by 2010 and 15% by 2020.
  7. Climate change becomes a key issue in the Vic election. The re-elected Govt. promises to introduce legislation slashing the state's greenhouse pollution by 60% by 2050.
  8. Both the SA and Vic Governments promise to introduce a solar feed-in law, paying a premium to households that generate solar electricity.
  9. The Walk against Warming sees Australia's biggest ever climate change protest with over 100,000 people rallying nationally.
  10. Channel Seven's Sunrise campaign is successful in forcing the Federal Government to extend the solar rebate programme.
  11. A Newpoll released in November finds that 91% of Australians believe that the Federal Government should change Australia's energy system from coal to renewable energy.
- Thanks to 'Making Waves' and Greenpeace for this information

2007 will be an exciting year with a Federal election in the wings.

Be sure to do whatever YOU can to keep the momentum going in this successful campaign for the most important issue on earth



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# Our First National Award

This week saw The Ecovillage recognised by the Urban Development Institute of Australia National Awards for Excellence. These industry awards showcase what is perceived to be Australia's best developments in categories ranging from residential subdivisions to Urban planning to Master Planning and Environmental Excellence.

Prestigious and highly sought after in the development industry, the UDIA Awards for Excellence are one of the most respected and valued industry awards programs. The Awards have been developed specifically by and for the development industry to recognise excellence and innovation in one of the our critical industry groups.

With global climate change the absolute in current affairs, the Environmental Excellence award is much coveted and all state's nominated finalists for consideration.

Qld's UDIA Chapter last year implemented the EnviroDevelopment programme - a sustainability rating system for developers and their product. It recognises the following components of development: ecosystems, waste, energy, materials, water and community. The Ecovillage was the first project to achieve accreditation in all 6 categories.

Qld is seen as the leading state in sustainability in the development industry and our little patch of heaven certainly contributes in a major way to this reputation.



Colin Bear in Perth to accept the award from sponsor

# The RRR Build Begins



Construction began this week on the Recycling Centre - the community building that will be one of the most important centres in the village.

Taking care of waste, home to the Caretaker Manager's office, storing community's shared ownership items, housing libraries and workshops, the RRR is definitely set to be a social hub for us.

As heavy rain fell, footings were poured with a truck that resembled something from a science fiction movie. The team worked hard and fast as the machine pumped at a rate so fast it emptied a truck in around 3 minutes.

Once the slab is finished, the ex-Telstra shed being recycled will begin its reconstruction.

For those of you who have not viewed the architectural plans and perspectives, a folder will be available in the Interpretive Centre showing just what you can expect the RRR Ranch to look like.



**The library now has a dvd copy of Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth' and Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11.**

**Both are not to be missed, if you haven't yet seen them - do yourself a favour.**

Let's Hear it for...

# The Terraces



In a major milestone for the project 31 lots of the Valley Terraces settled in one day. Further settlements have filtered through in the ensuing weeks and we now happy to call most of you are 'owners' and not 'buyers'.

Civil works continue in the precinct to finalise laneways, landscaping infrastructure and the last of the drainage works as well as some services placement. It's all getting very exciting now however because we can actually see a date soon that the contractors will leave the site.

It took Denis and Clare Johnston only 3 days post-settlement to organise their builder to begin their dream eco-home. They now are regular visitors to site checking on progress and supervising their building process in many ways. Special arrangements and inductions were made for access purposes to Lot 222 to enable these building works to begin and there are strict limitations.

We thank all Valley Terraces owners for their patience in these final stages of construction and the difficulties this brings with access to their lots. We still need to consider the machinery and staff of McIlwain doing their job with as much efficiency and safety as possible so please continue to arrange specific appointments with the sales office should you or your consultants need to visit your site. Alternatively, you may limit your visits to Sundays, sign in and take a stroll over yourself.

# The Great Nutgrass Fate

The first community discussion was held this month. The subject of nutgrass infestation was the catalyst for a discussion that turned from cure to solution.

In a groundbreaking milestone for the village community, the group meeting was well attended with over 40 Creek Ecohamlets and Valley Terraces owners participating. Landmatters had arranged a facilitator to assist with the group's meeting and weed experts to answer queries and give information.

Whilst much attention was given to the subject of nutgrass and weeds in particular, great groundwork was laid for communication tools for the community to building on resolution techniques and consensus outcomes. Each voice was listened to (even emailed messages), each opinion heard and an agreed approach adopted.

Regarding the Nutgrass issue: a task force was mobilised into mapping the areas of infestation and reporting on its degree of invasion. Other areas will be surveyed and investigation into solutions made so that an informed report can be made to the body corporate.

On the matter of communication and community resolution: a great outcome – good communication, support for all sides, a good amount of information and an excellent first step from which to start our journey as a community together. With each meeting that maintains these best practice skills, we lead by example and build good habits.

The minutes of the Great Nutgrass Discussion have been posted to the Yahoo website. Go to 'Files' 'Body Corporate & Community Title' to review the minutes prepared by Anthony Goodwin, secretary of the Creek Ecohamlets Body Corporate. Future reports on the task group's findings will be reported upon also.



"The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame, in diet and in the cause and prevention of disease."  
Thomas Edison

## The Bridge goes on...

Q-Bridge have left the site! How exciting – the bridge contractors have finished and all that remains to do in the way of roadworks on the bridge is the abutment work on either side of the structure.

The ex-wharf turpentine timber ballustrading has been completed and builders soon begin work soon on the seating platforms that overhang the babbling creek.

McIlwain Civil have the contract for this work and preparation has already begun with further works having been carried out awaiting what will be final completion within a week or so.

In order to test the bridge, much traffic will need to traverse – we are eagerly awaiting notification from our construction Superintendent, Jason Adams, that we can travel across the bridge.

We will inform you when this occurs so that you may participate in the first 'drive over' of the bridge once it is opened for testing and crossing. Stay tuned to the Yahoo group for more information.



Go Visiting - these sites are great!

[www.nourishedmagazine.com.au](http://www.nourishedmagazine.com.au)  
[www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/)

[www.ezinearticles.com/?Green-Travel](http://www.ezinearticles.com/?Green-Travel)  
[www.healthyeatingclub.com](http://www.healthyeatingclub.com)

# E.V.E. - time to get down & dirty again!



Pauline Behrendorff & Mali Jackson pull the weed of the day

The resounding success of the Ecovillage Earthcarers still leaves us reeling.

So many plants in the ground, so many weeds taken out. Loads of songs sung and laughs had. It was a great start to the first community group formed.

Every second week we met with a task to fulfil. It was a pleasure to be together and achieve so much.

It's about to start again for 2007 – the first EVE meeting for 2007 is set for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30am. We'll be planting and socialising. Come along and join in the work and fun. It's really rewarding.

*Give me the splendid silent sun, with all his beams full dazzling, give me juicy autumnal fruit ripe and red from the orchard, give me a field where the unnmowe'd grass grows. Give me an arbor, give me the trellised grape, give me fresh corn and wheat, and nights perfectly quiet as in high plateaus as I look up at the stars. Give me odorous at sunrise a garden of beautiful flowers where I can walk undisturbed... Give me solitude – give me nature.*  
Walt Whitman

## A New Hamlet *Nugai*

Marketing of the Courtyard Homes in the Village Centre has begun. This hamlet, known as 'Nugai' or 'Bee' in Kombumerri language consists of 5 lots ranging in size from 400– 700sqm.

Lots 141 -145 prices include architectural and VDP approved designs just waiting for a builder to start. These lots and their designs offer smaller home parcel areas and home living spaces to cater for those who do not want a big space. They also offer affordability.

Nugai offers close proximity to the Village Centre and the community recreation facilities.

Lot 142 and 143 have already sold and interest is once again strong – be sure to alert any friends or family who may have an interest in living in the Village. These lots offer one of the last chances to be here.

Don't forget to submit content for the Village Well to Kerry either by email – [kerry@theecovillage.com.au](mailto:kerry@theecovillage.com.au) or hard copy.

Bring an interesting individuality to the Village Well by contributing and giving to the community.

The Ecovillage vehicles have just started being run on Freedom Fuels Elite biodiesel.

Freedom Fuels have a great ecological philosophy and are really on track for helping the fuel industry take a turn in the right direction. They even have fuel stations that sell ONLY biodiesel!

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