

Annual Report
Wentworthville Community Garden
Chairman S355 Committee

This year has seen a change of direction for the Holroyd Community Garden involving a change in accountability and governance and a change of name. These changes have all been for the long term benefit of the garden and its members although involving some short term pain.

The formation of a S355 Committee for the community garden within the Finlaysons Creek Linear Park Network to oversee the progress and development of the garden with direct accountability to the Holroyd City Council and its officers has brought new challenges and responsibilities.

Have your Committee responded appropriately to these challenges?

I am of the view that your S355 committee have accepted the challenges and have responded in ways that have met the expectations of Council, have adequately fulfilled the role of a S355 committee and have taken decisions that are entirely in accordance with the guiding principles that have been established for a S355 committee.

In exercising our responsibilities under the S355 provisions your committee have;

1. Established a business meeting protocol which ensures all committee members are informed of the business to be discussed at the scheduled meeting and are therefore able to make informed decisions.
2. Established a newsletter and website to facilitate communication of information and committee decisions to members
3. Appointed responsible officers responsible for the various specific committee roles and reporting to each scheduled committee meeting
4. Engaged with Council in providing opportunity for the garden to be used in support of Council's environmental objectives
5. Completed the S355 Garden Management Work Plan to guide future development of the garden.

We enjoyed another successful Open Day under the capable leadership of Anne Brinson and her key functional leaders. We thank Anne and her team for their commitment to this major fund raising venture. Your committee will be commencing planning for the 2012 Open day in the near future. Please let us know if you have ideas on how we might expand and improve this major fund raising event.

The enthusiasm of your committee and their ability to work together as a team to address short and long term issues and needs of the garden and its community has been very encouraging. Ongoing maintenance and development needs of the garden are being addressed as they arise.

The facilities provided by Holroyd City Council have been well used by members of the garden community and have provided an added dimension in being able to meet together and to provide for other Council related activity. The Council constructed walkway on the western side of the canal to link Fullagar Rd and the existing path to Lane St has provided an enhanced exposure for the garden to the passing population who now use the walkway.

I continue to be encouraged by the number of new members joining the garden and their commitment to addressing the common needs of the garden on working bee days.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the S355 committee for their hard work and the exercise of their considerable range of individual talent and abilities in working for the continuing development and success of the community garden.

Paul Hardman

30 November 2011