

Annual Report - December 2012  
Wentworthville Community Garden  
Chairman S355 Committee

This year has been one of consolidation for the Wentworthville Community Garden with members elected to the S355 Committee for the community garden within the Finlayson's Creek Linear Park Network overseeing the progress and development of the garden with direct accountability to the Holroyd City Council and its officers. This year has seen us develop a better understanding of the S355 structure and build closer and more productive relationships within Council. The recent Council elections resulted in a change of mayor and elected representatives in the North Ward. We thank Vasee Rajadurai for his interest and commitment to the garden development. Since the election we have been pleased to have Lisa Lake a North Ward Councillor attend our scheduled meetings.

I am of the view that your S355 committee have accepted all the challenges of the last year and have responded in ways that have met the expectations of Council, have adequately fulfilled the role of a S355 committee. They have taken decisions that are entirely in accordance with the guiding principles that have been established for our S355 committee at all times acting with the best interest of the long term future of the garden foremost in the decision making process.

We continue to use the business model, meeting protocol and reporting framework that was established last year. Meeting activity and outcomes are reported to Council in the required time frames. This approach is designed to meet the requirements of the Holroyd Council in providing appropriate structure and reporting rigour and applying the Council – Ethical values to ensure that appropriate governance is applied to our decision making and reporting process. We have again sought to make the garden facility available to the council for use in achieving environmental objectives.

We enjoyed another successful Open Day under the leadership of our new Open day Planning Team. Thank you for your support of this major fund raising event. The Team will be commencing planning work for the 2013 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 drivers for development are the Garden Management Plan and the 12 month activity plan to which you have contributed.

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 Committee have made an application for a State government grant to support the water capture and recycling facility associated with the lapidary club. The recently constructed walkway between the tennis court and lapidary club and the provision of an electricity supply to the site by the Holroyd Council have been welcome additions to the amenity of the garden.

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. It has been a privilege to serve with them for the past 2 years

Paul Hardman  
6 December 2012

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