



South Hobart Sustainable Community growing our community together

Annual Report June 2012 - July 2013

We are a collection of like-minded South Hobart locals.

We are concerned about the environment, climate change and peak oil.

We want to empower residents and businesses to lead a more sustainable lifestyle and develop a strong sense of community.

We want to work together and share what we learn along the way.

We feel that the most effective change at the moment can happen at the community level, and that the future will bring greater reliance on local resources and local people.

We remain optimistic and aim for a fun, friendly and fulfilling place to live.

www.southhobart.org

South Hobart Sustainable Community, ARBN IA10232, c/o 336 Elizabeth St Hobart 7000, incorporated March 2010, founded 2009.

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South Hobart Sustainable Community Architect Group Report *helping you bring great ideas to life*

The SHSC is a collection of sub groups that concentrate their efforts in areas of common interest. A facilitating group, called the Architects Group, provides support and transition leadership to the smaller sub-groups. The Group includes all the office bearers and representatives of each of the subgroups and manages the promotion, communication and administrative functions of SHSC.

The year has seen amazing success, thanks to all our members. A community garden has been established in South Hobart, regular local gatherings and workshops have been held on a range of subjects, a mural for the community has been installed and \$21,000 of funding has been spent on community engagement and research on the Hobart Rivulet. These projects will continue into the future and many more ideas wait on the sidelines. Some ideas for future projects are listed below and if you are interested in these or other projects in South Hobart please contact the SHSC.

Ideas for 2014

- *Seasonal Community Celebrations - Spring Blossom Festival, Summer Picnic in the Park, Autumn Harvest Festival and a mid-winter's lantern parade. These could be the shared memories that our children carry with them. Connecting with friends and neighbours to celebrate the seasons and what is so special about living in South Hobart - all year around!*
- *Foraging from the Footpath - Imagine if our street trees offered fresh fruit and nuts to the hungry passer-by. Cities around the world have begun planting public spaces with edible trees and shrubs. Members of our community could adopt-a-tree to ensure that they are looked after and that the fruit doesn't go to waste. A walk down Macquarie street for breakfast, anyone?*
- *Adopt a Waterway Hobart Rivulet - There is fantastic potential to do more weed eradication, or native tree planting (as part of National Tree Day) and other work to understand and improve the health of the Rivulet. Are you interested in coordinating some Rivulet based activities?*
- *Community solar or wind farms – Imagine a suburb that produces power through community solar or wind farms (such as on the roof of the badminton centre).*
- *A south Hobart food market – A local food market would be a wonderful way to gather the community and inspire people to grow, shop and share locally.*
- *Waste not want not – Are you interested in encouraging South Hobart locals to compost or buy a kerbside Food and Green Collection Service. Are you interested in helping people understand what wastes can be recycled. Are you interested in changing the attitudes of local businesses and the community towards waste? Community involvement in waste is needed.*
- *Community Share - Imagine having a ute, trailer or wagon available to borrow. Car shares can reduce the need for a second car and can make moving house, collecting compost or going on a family holiday so much easier. Tool Share or food swaps could also be useful in the community.*

AGM

The SHSC held their 2011/12 AGM on Tues the 21st Aug at the Primary School Hall. There were numerous speakers and plenty of cheery company, mulled wine and cake. Speakers covered our Rivulet's health, how we are going to measure and improve it and what residents can do to be part of this exciting community project. A quorum was present, plus more and the resolution for audit exemption was unanimously passed. The minutes of the AGM are available on our website.

South Hobart Sustainable Community Newsletter

The membership of the SHSC has been kept well-informed throughout the year with a monthly email newsletter. Information about the activities of each of the sub-groups is compiled by the secretary and emailed to our ~350 members. Articles from third parties that are relevant to sustainability or social activities in and around South Hobart are also included in the newsletter. A Facebook page for SHSC was set up recently and has been well-subscribed, with over 50 members so far, and a lively thread of posts. Updates are also regularly posted on the SHSC website, www.southhobart.org.

Food Growers Group Report

*enthusiastic backyard veggie gardeners
sharing ideas, seeds, plants, food, and more!*

Growers gatherings

The Food Growers Group organises a monthly Growers Gathering for those interested in growing food gardens, everyone is welcome. They meet at a host's garden, and tour the garden with questions and casual information exchange. Participants bring and swap their excess produce, seeds, seedlings and plants, and bring food to share for dinner in the summer, and afternoon tea in the winter. The Gatherings have worked well to create local community belonging. They've been well attended over the years, attracting a great diversity of local residents.

Several other projects currently in various stages of development include garden sharing, tool/skill sharing and working bees. Occasionally the Group organises specific meetings and practical sessions on gardening issues, such as Permaculture for the home garden, apple cider making and pruning fruit trees.

The gatherings have so much goodness - meeting lovely local people who also like to grow food, sharing knowledge and finding out about gardening in the area, sharing extras seeds, seedlings and produce and eating of good food!

Community Garden

The SHSC has a strong history of supporting people working towards greater local and community food production. After three years of hard work by the SHSC, submitting grant applications, engaging in community consultation and undertaking an Expression of Interest process, 106 Cascade Road was allocated by the Hobart City Council for the South Hobart community garden. The parcel of land is in a central location, with easy access, car parking and a sunny aspect. Other community organisations support the location of the garden.

A celebration was held on Sunday 16 June 2013 to officially 'warm' the site. Over 80 people attended the event to drink mulled wine, eat cake, listen to live music and to hear in detail how the land would be transformed from a grassy plot to a productive garden. Since then the garden has burst forward from concept into reality!

Here are the highlights from the last 12 months:

- *The signing of a lease for the land from Hobart City Council for 5 years.*
- *A fun and friendly site warming that included delicious food and drinks, tree planting, funky music and lots of great company.*
- *A fencing workshop that helped build a wildlife proof fence for the garden while passing on fencing skills and knowledge.*
- *Sponsoring and planting of fruit trees and personal garden plots.*

- *A successful grant application through Hobart City Council's Dr Edward Hall Grants program, providing funding for a part time project manager to assist with the gardens development through working bees and educational workshops.*
- *Monthly working bees that have been well attended and lots of fun!*

With all these great things happening we're happy to say that the community garden has been brought to life and we are eagerly awaiting a summer full of community garden fun and some great workshops co-ordinated by our project manager, including; Food Forests, Mycopermaculture, Urban Bushcraft, Earth Building and more!

Adopt a Waterway Group Report

building an understanding of the health of our beautiful rivulet

The Hobart Rivulet is an important element of our suburb and holds great significance for many people whether they be interested in natural or cultural heritage, river health, flora and fauna, stormwater management, recreation, and so much more.

The aims of SHSC for the Hobart Rivulet are to provide a vehicle for community engagement in preserving and enhancing the ecological values of the Rivulet and its environs by:

- Working cooperatively with the South Hobart Primary School to support the CSIRO's Scientists in Schools programme to improve the level of understanding of catchment management, waterways and developing an ongoing programme.
- Gathering and assessing information on the ecology of the Rivulet and its immediate environs, focussing on biological and chemical properties of the water and weed management.
- Working cooperatively with local and State government, land owners and the community in the interests of the Rivulet and its environs;
- Promoting public awareness of the values of the Rivulet and its environs and how each of us can engage further with this wonderful resource on our doorstep;
- Obtaining funds and supporting members in obtaining funds for the above purposes; and
- Working with Supporting organisations including DPIPWE, NRM South, the Derwent Estuary Program, Hobart City Council, the University of Tasmania, Greening Australia, the Understory Network, Bushcare, CSIRO Education, Sustainable Living Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania and the South Hobart Primary School, amongst others.

The Adopt a Waterway Group (also otherwise known as Friends of Hobart Rivulet) was formed as a subgroup of the SHSC and in 2012/13, the group was awarded two grants, with a total value of \$21 000 to conduct analysis, education and community engagement focusing on river health and inspiring the community. The grants obtained were a Commonwealth Community Action Grant and a NRM Naturally Inspired Grant. Due to the scale of the project and insurance issues these grants were managed through Sustainable Living Tasmania for the SHSC. All objectives of both grants were achieved on time, these are outlined below:

- *In Spring 2012 and Autumn 2013 baseline biological sampling was undertaken along the Hobart Rivulet. Water quality analysis was also conducted and both sets of data have been shared with the State Government and the Hobart City Council. The results indicate that there is a marked change in river health immediately below the McRobies Gully outflow to the extent that biological communities are severely compromised. Nitrogen and Phosphorus levels are higher in the catchment below the Cascade Brewery. No elevated heavy metal concentrations were detected at any of the 5 locations. Minor chromium was detected below the old tannery site and it is suspected that remobilisation of sediments during turbulent storm events may result in higher total metal counts.*
- *Educational sessions were provided to the community and to South Hobart Primary School children. An extensive river health science kit including microscopes was purchased for the primary schools ongoing use.*
- *A Community Forum was held in August including keynote speakers Jill Hickie, Senior Park Planner from Hobart City Council, providing an outline of the Councils Hobart Rivulet Park Strategic Master Plan 2011 and Ursula Taylor, Derwent Estuary Programme describing how the rivulet influences the bigger picture of the health of the Derwent Estuary.*
- *Educational material also involved a short film segment with ABC Gardening Australia on how we impact on our waterways.*
- *A large amount of weed clearing was conducted along a tributary of Guy Fawkes Rivulet and a section of clearing immediately adjacent to the start of the new Cascades walking track has occurred as part of the project.*
- *A sign has been created and will be installed shortly to demonstrate what a healthy rivulet would look like and it is hoped that some picnic tables can be installed to use as a meeting point.*
- *Further community education is warranted on 'healthy stormwater' as we traced a number of large paint spills and detergents being washed into the rivulet from businesses in South Hobart.*
- *Further environmental flow work will be warranted once Cascade Brewery begins to exercise their 1ML water licence extraction entitlement placing further stresses on our rivulet. The monitoring site immediately downstream from the extraction point was in excellent condition.*

More information can be found on our website:

- http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/video/video_index_May2013.htm (choose 'A rivulet runs through it')
- <http://www.southhobart.org/hobart-rivulet>
- Case Study – Hobart Rivulet, a natural playground?
- South Hobart Rivulet Native Species List.docx

Community Group Report

*identifying priorities and opportunities
to encourage and sustain positive neighbourhood change*

Community mural

The Community Building Group organized a large community mural on the wall of the Badminton Centre. The project involved a long preparatory period, in which the community was consulted, artist chosen, funding secured, appropriate government approvals secured, and practical matters organised.

Major partners in this project were Hobart City Council and Tasmanian Community Fund. Other Sponsors included Dulux, Southern Tasmanian Badminton Association, Steeline, Sustainable Living Tasmania, Tascaf, C3 Church, Plants of Tasmania Nursery, Clennetts Mitre 10, South Hobart Progress Association, The Paint Shop, Fragments and Winning Post Productions.

The artwork by Ann Holt was installed by members of the South Hobart community early in 2013, and launched on the 10 of February 2013. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Damon Thomas said “What has been achieved is a really wonderful result. Rather than being painted directly onto the side of the building this public art installation consists of floating panels which are fixed to the side wall of the building. The artist and people of South Hobart deserve to take all the credit for a stunning community asset.”

The design incorporates background landscape with a series of silhouetted figurative elements. The landscape is based on a panoramic view, from Mt Wellington to the ocean, as viewed from a vantage point high up on the hills of South Hobart. It references the enduring quality of landscape in the changing flow of a place. The series of silhouetted figures tell the narrative: some history of South Hobart in the form of a series of icons which make reference to events spanning from the days of the traditional owners, through to today, and making reference to possible futures. At the ‘future’ end, the design incorporates material from community workshops we held. This material points to some shared values in the area, and invokes contemplation of our shared future.

Carbon Reduction Fund Group Report

working together to reduce our household energy consumption

The Carbon Reduction Fund was established in 2010 using the funds from the \$100 contribution from Rezeko (the Solar PV provider) for each system that it installed through the South Hobart Bulk Purchase in 2010. The Carbon Reduction Fund offers grants and funds for projects that aim to reduce carbon emissions in South Hobart and the nearby community. A Carbon Reduction Fund Committee manages the Fund. This year the Committee made the decision to provide \$4500 to the South Hobart Community Garden (further to the initial \$1650 committed to the orchard in 2010) which would contribute to the creation of a building within the garden. An annual contribution of about \$250 was also allocated to defray meeting costs, covering expenses such as hall and projector hire, refreshments, etc.

Treasurers Report

income and expenditure, July 1 2012-June 30 2013

Income		\$ 550	
		\$ 500 Christian Church donation (Mural)	
		\$50 HEM payment	
		*\$21000	
Expenditure		\$4,703	
Purchase		\$2625	Pay electrician for electricity monitor installs 2011
		\$58	Annual Government fees
		\$1500	Annette J (Mural artist)
		\$20	Bendigo token purchase
		\$500	Mural scaffolding hire
	Net Cash Flow	-\$4,153	
Bank balance	At start	\$19,523	\$14,716.68
			\$4,806.05
		-\$4,153	
Bank balance	At end	\$15,370	Solar \$13,059
			Architects \$711
			Garden \$1,600

* Funding to the value of \$21 000 for the Adopt a Waterways project was granted to the South Hobart Sustainable Community and distributed through Sustainable Living Tasmania who have the appropriate insurances for the work undertaken. The work for the project was undertaken by SHSC members and the public.