



December 2010

Cook Community Garden blooms after makeover



Celebrations in October launched the new-look Cook Community Garden, upgraded under the care of 12 local residents in a Waterloo Learning, Employment, Enterprise Action Group landscaping project.

But there was more involved for the participants than creating a beautiful garden.

The 12 local residents have emerged from this and two other landscaping projects as graduates of a 10-week TAFE NSW Outreach course. All have since been offered work with Housing NSW gardening contractors in Sydney.

Victor is a keen gardener at the renewed Cook garden. "Gardening is much easier here," said Victor, than in his native Moscow.

"I'm grateful to the organisers for their generosity and kindness. Thank you so much."

The partners behind the landscaping projects were: South Sydney Youth Services, The Factory Community Centre, UNSW Community Development Project, Ultimo TAFE Outreach, Redfern Waterloo Authority, Housing NSW, MTC Work Solutions, Redfern Police and the City of Sydney.

Better security for Waterloo Green

Residents in the six high-rise buildings in Waterloo Green will soon see major changes that address their concerns about security, nuisance, vandalism and illegal activities. The work, to be completed soon, is part of the \$12 million Waterloo Green Neighbourhood Project.

The construction of a Neighbourhood Link office in each foyer is almost completed. The offices will operate 24 hours a day with either Neighbourhood Link staff (8.00 am to 4.00 pm weekdays) or security personnel on duty.

"Housing NSW will also improve security by setting up 24-hour closed circuit TV monitoring and introducing a

better photo identification system," said Housing NSW General Manager for Central Sydney, Kathy Roil.

"These improvements will make sure that only tenants, their carers and guests and contractors can access the buildings, which will reduce scope for criminal or anti-social behaviour in the corridors and stairwells."

Under the new security arrangements, visitors and contractors to the buildings must use an intercom connected to the Neighbourhood Link office to identify the tenant they wish to visit before they can enter the building. They will also have to show their ID on request and sign a visitors' book.

Residents learn about urban design



More than 120 Redfern and Waterloo residents took up the Housing NSW invitation to join two *Places and Spaces for People* bus trips around the inner city to look at the latest trends in housing design and urban spaces.

Housing NSW provided language and cultural support for Aboriginal, Russian and Chinese participants.

"The bus trips have been really popular with residents keen to find out what's possible for the future planning of their neighbourhoods," said Bernie Coates, Housing NSW Director, Community Building.

"This will give residents more confidence about contributing their ideas to the planning discussions that will soon be underway in Redfern Waterloo."



A Fair Repairs team on the job

On the job with Fair Repairs

The Neighbourhood Repairs Service is open for business with 20 social housing residents already on the job with Fair Repairs in inner Sydney.

"Housing NSW has partnered with Fair Business and Spotless to establish the Neighbourhood Repairs Service — a three-year employment and training initiative for social housing residents in the inner city," said Kathy Roil, Housing NSW General Manager, Central Sydney.

According to Marc Manion from Fair Business, the success of the program can be seen on the streets.

"Local residents doing real work in their communities is a great result. The teams have been busy working on Housing NSW properties on a huge variety of jobs such as graffiti removal, cleaning and maintenance tasks."

Fair Repairs will be recruiting again around March - April 2011.

New staff

Welcome to two new staff members on the Waterloo Client Service Team, Senior Client Service Officers Michelle Bogatyrov and Wali Chowdhury.

Safety in Action

The Waterloo Safety Action Group has produced a new fridge magnet, with the phone numbers for emergency services. You can pick them up at the Outreach office in Gilmore (55 Morehead St, Redfern) or at the Factory (67 Raglan St, Waterloo).

Baseline survey winners

Mahesh Tamrakar
Semeyon Rybak
Mohammend Basjarahil

Congratulations!