

How does a Sustainability Street Village form and develop?

... *the storyboard* ...

well ... y'know, sometimes it takes 6 months, even eighteen months, or more, and many Sustainability Street Approach (SSA) Villages remain connected and friends 2, 3 or 5 years later. From such simple beginnings! Actually, this is because, getting together and saving the Earth, locally, is so simple!! And so rewarding! Indeed, eventually, the actual "Sustainability Street Program", can shift from becoming something "a community does", to being, "something a community is"! On one hand, the SSA is "simple, basic training" in sustainable living around the home and the neighbourhood ... on the other hand, and this is the key, it can become whatever "the imagination and energy" of a local community cares to dream up and achieve. There are six facets which make the SSA unique in Australia and a first in the World ...



www.sustainabilitystreet.org.au

SUSTAINABILITY ST.
IT'S A VILLAGE OUT THERE

The Sustainability Street Approach is a response to the two greatest challenges in all of human history ... how to get on better with each other and with all the other species and the giant natural systems which give us life on Earth.

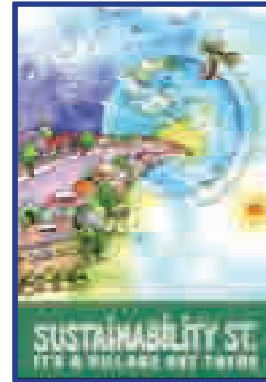
- ❑ *The SSA is much more than yet another 101 tips to save the world, though it does include this information, but in a fun, prioritised, empowering, cut through way allowing us to move beyond being patronised - as tips and info so can do. The SSA promotes conserving smarter - not harder!*
- ❑ *The SSA is about the waste, water and energy which are propping up our "un-sustainable" lives. One can never know too much about these three areas of daily focussed effort. They are the core of the SSA Course of Study, within the context of the preciousness of bio-diversity and with a major spotlight on our indirect, embedded consumption, which is so often the majority!!*
- ❑ *The SSA is absolutely not a top down "delivery" of all the answers - it is more about "learning how to learn", and ... to keep on learning and discovering ways to live in harmony with the Earth, for the rest of our lives. It's also about connecting with friends and neighbours! Together we do better and we can be more prepared because, indeed, many environmental challenges and opportunities have not even occurred yet.*
- ❑ *The SSA is about the "CommUniversity" - we are all learners and teachers. On top of the basic course in waste, water and energy, in all of our communities there is already great depth and diversity of knowledge and experience about how to live sustainably.*
- ❑ *The SSA is driven by "Dynamic Capacity Building" and "Deep Sustainability". DCB and DS are unique and thoroughly empowering notions located within the SSA ... because a Sustainability Street Village is totally defined by and then thrives according to its participants. The DCB and the DS are like training wheels - they promote a visceral, values based and transformative engagement with ecological sustainability, our celebration of nature and they foster the social richness of neighbourhood relationships. And there are personal benefits too - medical research indicates that re-establishing a basic level of social connectedness in our communities is among the best possible choices for health and wellbeing ... and can add ten healthy years to lifespan.*
- ❑ *The SSA is, above all, fuelled by optimism! Glorious, wonderful, nourishing and energising optimism ... and the amazing ideas and initiatives which optimism fosters!*



The Sustainability Street Journey ... over 200 grassroots Sustainability Street Villages have emerged since 2002 in WA, Vic, SA & NSW.



People are invited to go back and talk to friends, neighbours, family about submitting an **expression of interest** in becoming an SSA Village. Nothing onerous, check out the first one ever "written" in 2002, above.



The manual outlines the Sustainability Street philosophy & pedagogy, the 8 session course in waste, water and energy & insights and ideas for community building.

When your group is formed, session one of the "course" is about sharing, planning and setting up your local **CommUniversity**



Many local SSA Villages have had a Sustainability St. **street sign** erected - sense of place and sense of pride.



The rest of the course involves a thorough, creative study of solutions for waste, water and energy - each spanning two sessions to enable time between to measure results. **How low can we go?!**



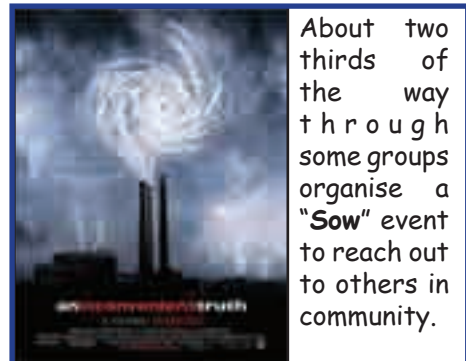
The SSA "cut through" eco-learning shortcuts like **GaBaToiLaKi** - instant understanding of where to target water saving effort; or waste, energy



The SSA is also about **Deep Sustainability**, ie passion for the Earth, a set of environmental principles and ebullient optimism.



Mulch, Grow, Harvest, Sow - or learn, do, celebrate, teach others! Groups become Beacon Communities for others to admire and emulate.



About two thirds of the way through some groups organise a "Sow" event to reach out to others in community.



Or embark on a project - Sustainability Street parties, welcome packs, websites or gardens like the famous East Keilor food bowl above.



New aspects of the SSA include the Southern Cross of Optimism and the **eco-fingerprint** - appraised and endorsed by Dr. David Suzuki.



And then ... **GRADUATION!** Is this the end? or the beginning of a lifetime of discovering new ways to build community for ecological sustainability.