

Eco village offers a healthier way to live

Good for the environment ...better for your pocket

by Allira Preece

PLANS for the Camden Haven Eco Village (CHEV), an excellent example of sustainable living in the district are well advanced.

The project has been designed by local architectural firm Ian Bailey and Associates Pty Ltd along with his partner Annie Georgeson.

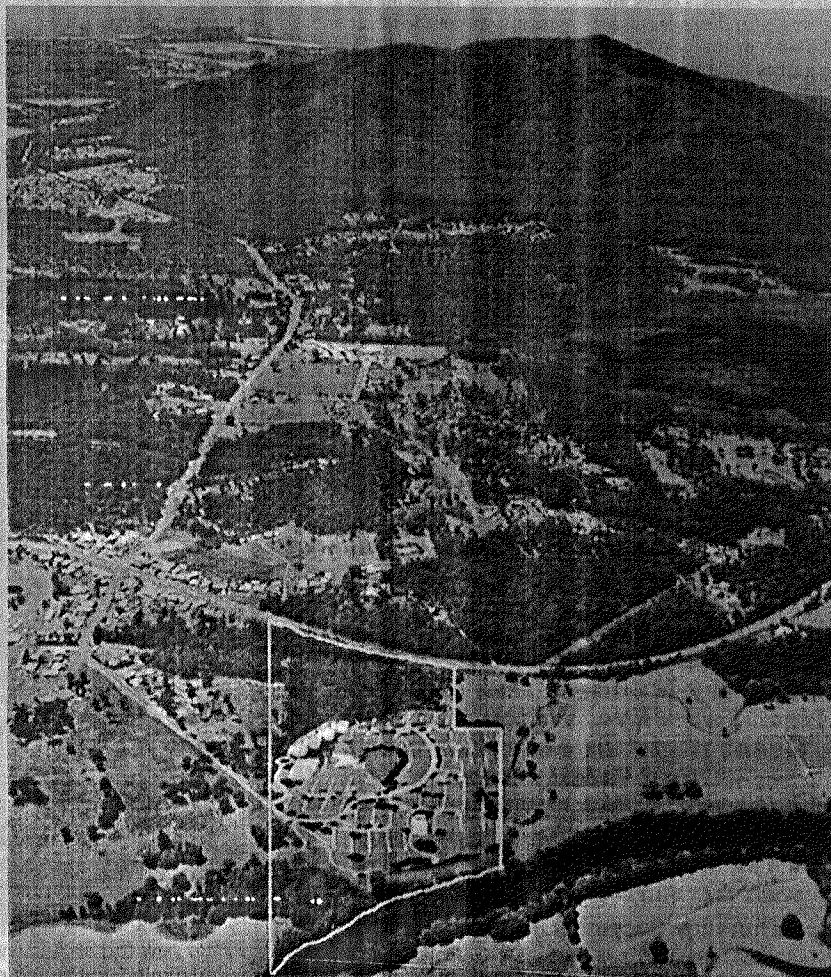
The Village will provide many sustainable living benefits for the tenants of its 64 residential dwellings, who will have access to a 25 metre solar heated lap pool, tennis courts, a community centre, bicycle and walking paths, fresh organically grown fruit, vegetables and free range eggs.

Annie said the CHEV subdivision was aimed squarely at the mainstream market and would be situated adjacent to Kew.

"You don't have to be alternative in your thinking, nor do you have to sacrifice any of the comforts of a conventional dwelling," she said.

"Good design, in itself, does not have to cost more. The basic planning and design of the subdivision itself achieves a lot of the sustainable outcomes, and there are simple guidelines for the design, colours and materials for the dwellings.

"Correct orientation of a house does not cost more money, nor does the correct positioning of windows and doors to achieve effective cross ventilation," she continued.



Aerial shot of the proposed Camden Haven Eco Village at Kew

Ian said the project also aimed to cut greenhouse emissions by at least 50 per cent.

"It has national significance, it is not just to be an excellent addition to the local scene, but has the potential to have the Camden Haven leading the way," he said.

"It doesn't matter whether you're a climate change convert or a climate change sceptic; what we're doing here is just plain common sense. It's a better, healthier way to live, it's good for the environment, and you save money."

He said the village would also be used as an educational tool for students and the community.

"This will allow students to make brief visits to study the sustainable systems in place, collect and collate data, and assist in publishing the results annually," he said.

"The community centre building, to be located on the edge of the small Central Park Lake, will be able to host workshops at intervals, where presentations can be made and information disseminated to groups.

"These groups could

consultants maintain this will be the most holistic example of sustainable development of this type in Australia."

Infrastructure for the project is expected to be underway within the next 12 months.

For more information visit www.camden-havenecovillage.com.au