

## **1. WESTWYCK**

- **LAUNCH OF STAGE ONE OF WESTWYCK ECOVILLAGE AND**
- **THE AWARD OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS 2010 VICTORIAN INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AWARD TO MULTIPLICITY ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS FOR WESTWYCK UNIT 4**

Launch and presentation of award plaque will take place at 10.00 am on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August in apartment #4 WestWyck, 4 / 44A Hunter St, Brunswick West.

## **2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

‘WestWyck acknowledges the Wurundjeri community as the traditional owners of this country.’

## **3. ACKNOWLEDGE OTHER SPEAKERS:**

- Mayoral representative, Councillor Alice Pryor
- Gavin Jennings, Victorian Minister for Climate Change, the Environment & Innovation
- Fiona Windsor, Judging panel representative, Australian Institute of Architects
- Tim O’Sullivan, Sioux Clarke and staff of Multiplicity, Architects and Designers
- Mike Hill / Lorna Pitt of WestWyck

## **4. ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE:**

- Kelvin Thomson, Member for Wills
- Carlo Carli, Member for Brunswick
- Mayor Jane Garrett, City of Yarra
- Carolyn Lloyd, Acting Chair VicUrban
- Anita Roper, CEO, Sustainability Victoria
- Kelly O’Shanassy, Chief Executive Officer, Environment Victoria
- Francis Pamminger, Yarra Valley Water
- Yvonne von Hartel, Peck von Hartel
- Professor Martin Mowbray, RMIT
- Professor Peter Fisher, Melbourne University
- John Lawson, EX Urban Land Authority Chair
- Margaret Pitt, Planning Panels Victoria
- **Designers, builders, landscapers & other contributors**
- Trevor Huggard, Engineer, original engineer and source of inspiration

- Greg Tainsh, Jura
- Mark Hansen, project plumber
- Brent Papadopoulos and Ruth Czermak, Sustainable Plumbing
- Leanne O'Shea, landscape architect
- Mel Ogden, landscape artist
- Peter Fenaughty, arborist
- Peter Tragardh-Daly, sustainable cabinet maker from Cantilever
- WestWyck residents, past and present
- Bryan Forby, Community Living
- **Friends who kept us sane and encouraged**
- Glenyys and Graham Romanes
- Kate Nash, WestWyck resident
- Brenda Forbath
- **Advice and inspiration**
- Tamsin O'Neill, Editor, Green Magazine
- Staff from Moreland Energy Foundation Limited
- Noel Blencowe, CERES
- Helen Millicer
- **Moreland City Council staff**
- Rob Brunton, Moreland City Council
- Jenny Merkus, Moreland City Council
- Sue Vujcevic, Moreland City Council
- Anne Gartner

## **5. APOLOGIES**

- Tony Arnel, Building Commissioner
- Tony Kelly, CEO, Yarra Valley Water
- Professor Kate Auty, CES
- Joan Carlin, Urban Ecology & Christie Walk
- Councillors, Lambros Tapinos & Jo Connellan Moreland City Council
- Pooran Desai, Bioregional Group
- Peter Mills, Mills Gorman, original architect and source of inspiration
- Michael McKenna Architecture & Interiors
- Robert van de Graaff
- Alfonso Guglielmi
- Derek Maguire
- Craig Jones, Integrated Construction Services

## **6. ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

- Peter Szental, pioneer in Australian sustainable buildings, friend and mentor who died last month after a long illness

- My inspirational talented and driven partner in this venture, the one who adds the flair and style, Lorna Pitt

## **7. WESTWYCK: Mike Hill**

- What motivated Lorna and me to become WestWyck developers?
  - inner-urban heritage-listed school building under threat
  - growing frustration at the direction being taken by urban infill, so-called urban renewal and restoration
  - histories of strong environmental commitment from both Lorna and myself
  - belief in the power of a model to influence / one good model is worth a thousand inspired presentations
- What were we trying to address?
  - unsustainable development model based on the urban myth that one block of land can fulfil most needs of a household
  - loss of public infrastructure
  - poor quality urban design
  - loss of community and social isolation and alienation
  - population growth and urban density
- What is our solution?
  - a model of a very different medium density development
  - aims to connect people together in more of a traditional 'village' environment, sharing scarce land and resources. WestWyck features shared spaces and resources like gardens and bike sheds; outdoor spaces are designed to provide a mix of privacy and interactivity
  - re-emphasising the public domain; back to the future, sharing resources, getting people back on to the streets and out of their isolated existences, reclaiming streets for people
  - smaller homes and land parcels / enhanced quality of life in the reclaimed and rebuilt public domain
  - during its construction, WestWyck supported the local economy by largely engaging local workers, professionals and tradespeople
  - key sustainability features include sustainable energy, sustainable materials use and advanced water efficiency
- Where are we up to?
  - the completed Stage One of the development comprises a housing cluster of five new town houses on the school

grounds and seven warehouse-style apartments skilfully designed into the Victorian era school building, creating twelve low environmental impact dwellings.

- application to Council for next eighteen dwellings to bring us to completion
- after this, Lorna and I retire as developers
  
- Industry interest?
  - frequent visits from developers
  - frequent presentations to development industry bodies
  - awards and recognition from UDIA, API, AIA
  - giving birth to a movement amongst real estate agents for an emphasis on sustainable housing (SHAARE)
  - support from the NAB and in particular Business Manager Leo del Ponte and a belief in the sustainable product WestWyck was delivering
  
- Public Authorities & Agencies
  - appreciate ongoing interest and support from Moreland Council, so progressive on climate change and sustainability
  - Yarra Valley Water started as a rocky relationship but has evolved with a change of leadership and greater water awareness into a solid partnership which has resulted in WestWyck receiving a reduced sewerage charge
  - Sustainability Victoria for ongoing advice and interest