

## Welcome to the Aldinga Arts EcoVillage

The Aldinga Arts [EcoVillage](#) (AAEV) is a unique intentional community at Aldinga in the southern suburban fringe of Adelaide, South Australia. While formally constituted under the Australian Community Titles Act (Community Corporation 21109 Inc.), it also exemplifies the leading edge of exploration into new lifestyles for a more humane, sustainable future.

We acknowledge the indigenous Kurna people, the traditional owners of our land, whose name for this place – Aldinga – means “hunting place for meat”. We salute the indigenous philosophy – *people belong to the land*, in contrast to the European philosophy that land belongs to people – recognizing that the traditional philosophy has much of value to teach us as we seek a more sustainable way to live in community.

Historically, the Village concept has emerged from the interweaving of several distinct strands. An artists' village was conceived by Vivienne Newcombe, Barbara Powell-Weise and fellow artists who believed in the creative power of working together and sharing facilities. They were joined by architect and development organizer, John Maitland, and subsequently by a Permaculture group led by Steve Poole. All of these founders were believers in the power of working together to improve the social and environmental aspects of our Australian suburban lifestyle.

Out of this background has come our collective vision for a real ‘village’ – a true ‘community’ of all age groups and at human scale – characterized by **“caring for the earth; caring for people, and working creatively together.”**

Our Village is about people and for people. The participation and inputs of residents working together are what makes it work. There are many ways in which you will be able to contribute – through, for example, arts and cultural activities, community building, developing and maintaining common lands (including a small farm), looking after Village service infrastructure, managing our community farmland, being involved in community governance, and a host of other tasks aimed at supporting each other and nurturing our environment.

We invite you to become involved – we need you to be involved – in ways that nurture your own talents, support your creative development as a community member, and allow the community to benefit from your skills and experience. We encourage you to join our interest and activity groups, and to get involved in projects such as our Village Markets that promote ‘hand-made, grown, and recycled’ goods. And if you are not a “joiner” or “groupie”, that’s OK too. There are plenty of valuable tasks that can be done behind the scenes or on an individual basis. The important thing is to find something fulfilling for YOU that contributes to our collective Village lifestyle.

When you join our Community, you can request a “Village Buddy” – one of our Village residents who will be designated as your special contact to answer questions, provide information, and help to introduce you to other residents and Community members. Your ‘Buddy’ will be there for you as long as you need their help – when you first buy a Lot, through the planning and building process, and when you move into the Village yourself. If you can’t find the answers you need below, then why not contact the Community Development Coordinator and request a Buddy.

### **Dead Slow = Live Kids!**

Our roads are for people first – including children’s games – and for cars only secondarily.

Please ensure that you and all your visitors observe our

**25-km-per-hour speed limit.**

### ***Frequently asked questions:***

#### **Where can I get copies of the Community By-laws and Scheme Description?**

It is a legal requirement that these documents, together with minutes of the last two Annual General Meetings (AGMs), are provided to you by the vendor or their agent at the time you purchase. Please request them if they have not been provided. You can also access them on the Community website at: [www.aaev.net/about/by-laws\\_etc/index.html](http://www.aaev.net/about/by-laws_etc/index.html). If you have a problem, contact the Communications Coordinator.

## Why do I pay Community levies as well as full Council rates?

All land within the total community scheme is private property collectively owned by community members and, as such, is not maintained by our local (Onkaparinga) Council. We are responsible for funding all development and maintenance work within this property – a complex task covering: community governance, and the use and maintenance of roads, street lighting, communications infrastructure, landscapes, fencing, and a small-scale sewage treatment plant with its associated effluent irrigation infrastructure. There is some reciprocal benefit, however, as individually we do not pay a water supply charge, sewerage levy or the Murray River levy. In paying Council rates, we are contributing to the upkeep and our own use of local public amenities, roads, and other infrastructure outside our private community property in the normal way.

## How is the Community run and what is the governance structure?

Community governance and management have a mix of external and internal components. Similar to conventional Strata-Title developments, we have an external professional Body-Corporate Manager (UnitCare Services) providing levy collection and professional accounting services, together with advice on application of the Community Titles Act to our needs. There are three internal statutory officers appointed under the Act from among our Community members at each AGM – Presiding Officer (i.e., Chairperson and official community signatory & representative), Secretary (prepares agendas and minutes of all official meetings), and Treasurer (oversees income and expenditure in liaison with UnitCare and coordinates annual budget preparation). Because of the complexity of our community, we have chosen to enlarge this **Management Committee (MC)** by the addition of a number of other elected **Coordinators** whose task is to coordinate activities in a range of designated responsibilities:

- **Works Maintenance:** maintaining roads, communications infrastructure, streetlights, common-property buildings, and common-land landscapes, etc.,
- **Natural Environment** (developing and maintaining the landscape within the Village),
- **Building Development** (ensuring that homes built in the Village conform to requirements in the By-laws, are compatible with their neighbourhood, and are as environmentally efficient as possible),
- **Communication** (keeping everyone informed of contacts, activities and news),
- **Community Development** (working on the social capital or “glue” that will help bring the community together over time, including shared community buildings and infrastructure),
- **Farm** (developing the production and business systems of our farm area),
- **Arts and Culture** (using the artistic and creative skills of members in a range of collaborative activities), and
- **Governance** (developing the systems and processes needed for collective decision making and smooth running of the community)

**Economic Development** is another area which, although not currently part of our management structure, will become increasingly relevant as more people build and move into the Village.

When you become a Community member, you will be given access to the names and contact details of current MC members and Coordinators so that you can contact them for more information in their activity areas.

Once you are a Community member, we would like you to consider joining one or more of these action and discussion groups. They are informal “teams”, “circles” or “forums” rather than formal committees, and are designed to allow anyone with an interest in a particular topic area to contribute their ideas and skills. The Community will benefit, of course, but it is also a great way to meet and interact with fellow community members. Contact the relevant Coordinator(s) to express your interest and find out the current details of meetings.

Apart from the above governance and management structure, the Village is also spatially divided into five residential ‘neighbourhoods’ (groups of closely arranged Lots). Each of these neighbourhoods has a **Neighbourhood Group Coordinator (NGC)**, a volunteer whose job is to help organise collaborative planning and maintenance of common land in the neighbourhood, and keep neighbours in contact with each other. When you join the Community, the Natural Environment Coordinator or Communications Coordinator can give you contact details for your NGC.

## How do I find out about Community events and meetings?

All official General Meetings of the Community are advertised by postal mail and email two weeks in advance - so please ensure that both our Secretary and Communications Coordinator always have

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your current mailing and e-mailing addresses. Documents for General Meetings are also web-posted for convenience on the "GM Information" page of the "Members Only" section of the Community website at: [http://www.aev.net/page146/gm\\_materials/index.html](http://www.aev.net/page146/gm_materials/index.html). (Once you hold title to your lot, you can request login details for this section.)

Remember, it is *your* responsibility to advise the Body Corporate Manager, UnitCare Services, phone: 8364 0022 or email: [mail@unitcare.com.au](mailto:mail@unitcare.com.au), of a change of address for receipt of levy notices and other official notices.

An electronic Community News service is also in operation to advise of social events, workshops, arts and culture activities, working bees, etc. Go to the Village website at: [www.aev.net](http://www.aev.net) and click on "News" in the menu at the right of the page, or go directly to: [www.aev.net/news/index.html](http://www.aev.net/news/index.html). Postings are made twice per week, on Monday and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to have each new batch of news delivered to your email address by an 'RSS Feed' service, click the link just below the menu on the News page to subscribe. If you have problems or would like more detailed instructions, contact the Communications Coordinator.

Current events and activities are also listed on the website in a "Village Calendar" accessible from the main menu, or you can go directly to: [www.aev.net/calendar/index.html](http://www.aev.net/calendar/index.html). Be patient – the page may take 30 seconds or so to load the calendar from a separate website.

If you live in the Village and do not have email, you can read the news on the Village noticeboard (next to the mailboxes just off the north-east corner of the main parking area). A hard copy of each news bulletin is posted on the day it is emailed to subscribers.

If you don't use email or the Internet and don't have access to the Village noticeboard, you can receive postal notifications by private arrangement (e.g. by the allocation of an "Email Buddy" to print messages out for you). Please advise the Secretary and Communications Coordinator if you do not have access to email or the noticeboard.

### How do I access the Village website?

The Village website is at [www.aev.net](http://www.aev.net). Most pages are publicly accessible, but there is a password protected section for private information – such as our Community Directory of phone and email contacts, financial information, minutes of meetings – and other confidential Community documents. Once you have completed the purchase of a property, or have moved into the Village as official tenant of a lot-owner who can verify your tenancy, contact the Communications Coordinator for a Username and Password to access the "Members Only" section.

### Where can I find information about designing and building my home?

Before you start planning your new home, read the By-laws relevant to designing a home, and locate all the necessary service points for your lot (stormwater, sewerage, gas pipes, electrical and communications boxes). If you have problems locating these services, you will need to view a copy of the site plan – contact Andy Coe at 4 Hakea Walk (Lot 53) on 8557 6268 for access (or if he is not available, John Heij at 14 Hakea Walk (Lot 63) on 8556 6892).

Contact the Building Development Coordinator for up-to-date information on Village building requirements, the development approval process, and the names of architects and designers who have recognized credentials for work in the Village. There is also a set of the relevant documents posted on the Community website. Click on "Building" in the main menu, then "BDC Documents" or use the following link: [www.aev.net/management/bdc/bdc\\_documents/index.html](http://www.aev.net/management/bdc/bdc_documents/index.html). The small amount of time invested in getting familiar with these materials before you start will ensure the process goes smoothly and you don't have to revise your plans later.

Once you have preliminary / sketch plans, please talk to all your immediate neighbours (including owners of adjacent vacant lots) to make sure there will be no serious objections to your design theme. You are strongly encouraged to take your initial concept plan to a meeting of the Building Development Committee (BDC) for preliminary advice and approval before things get expensive! Contact the Building Development Coordinator about an appropriate meeting time. If it appears there may be objections from a neighbour to your design concept, please work through the issue with the Building Development Committee in the first instance. When your plans are passed by the Building Development Committee, you will be required to purchase a water meter from the Community (via the BDC Coordinator), which your plumber can then install as your building project commences.

## **Is there a way to contact my immediate neighbours and find out more about planning for the neighbourhood around my lot?**

Talk to the Communications Coordinator or your Neighbourhood Group Coordinator who maintain contact lists for everyone in your neighbourhood. Your Neighbourhood Group Coordinator can also provide information on current planning activities for development in your area. If you want to develop and look after plantings on common land around the edges of your lot (and we encourage you to do so), you will need to discuss your ideas with your immediate neighbours and Neighbourhood Group Coordinator to ensure they agree. The next step is to make a development application to the Natural Environment Committee (NEC) using the form available from the Natural Environment Coordinator or the NEC section of the Community website. Click on "Landscape Design" in the main menu, then "NEC Documents", or use the following link: [www.aev.net/management/nec/nec\\_documents/index.html](http://www.aev.net/management/nec/nec_documents/index.html). The NEC Coordinator can answer queries about this process.

## **Where can I get information about appropriate plants and landscaping?**

Firstly, contact your Neighbourhood Group Coordinator who has a folder of information about plants, landscaping and the Permaculture philosophy of the Village. Also check the Native plants page of the website at: [http://www.aev.net/management/nec/native\\_plants/index.html](http://www.aev.net/management/nec/native_plants/index.html)

And the "Native Plants at AAEV" e-book at:

[http://www.aev.net/management/nec/nec\\_documents/files/Indigenous%20plants%20at%20AAEV.pdf](http://www.aev.net/management/nec/nec_documents/files/Indigenous%20plants%20at%20AAEV.pdf)

There is also a set of 'Vegetation Guidelines', available in the NEC section of the Community website. Click "Landscape Design" in the main menu and then "NEC Documents" or use the following link: [www.aev.net/management/nec/nec\\_documents/index.html](http://www.aev.net/management/nec/nec_documents/index.html).

Your Neighbourhood Group Coordinator also has a hard-copy document that lists plants suitable for planting in the Village and also those species to avoid as they could become weeds. Plants generally encouraged in the Village are edible, useful, or locally indigenous to Aldinga. The Community reference Library (currently stored at 14 Hakea Walk) has additional useful gardening information

## **Is there a telephone and email directory for Community members?**

A continuously updated HTML Community telephone / email directory, together with a periodically updated, printer-friendly, PDF version, are posted in the "Members Only" section of the Community website. When you become a Community member, you can request login details for the "Members Only" section from the Communications Coordinator. To ensure we have the most current possible information, please send the phone number(s) and email address(es) of all individuals associated with your Lot, who you would like listed in the Directory, to the Communications Coordinator along with any instructions about details you would like withheld from the version available generally to other Community Members. Even if you do not want an email address or phone number publicly listed, it is important that we do have all possible contacts in our private database in case there is a need to contact you specifically and/or urgently.

To access the continuously updated HTML Directory, click "Members Only" in the main menu and then "Directory" or use the following link: <http://www.aev.net/page146/directory/index.html>.

If you want to print out a directory to keep by the phone, use the printer-friendly PDF directory (updated approximately monthly). Click "Members Only" in the main menu and then "Documents" or use the following link: [http://www.aev.net/page146/private\\_documents/index.html](http://www.aev.net/page146/private_documents/index.html). The PDF Directory will be among the top few documents on the list.

If you need a Directory containing listings by Lot Numbers, contact the Communications Coordinator.

## **How do I send out a notice to Community members or Village residents?**

If you want to circulate a notice or item of potential general interest to Community members in our twice-weekly news, send it by email (or in legible written hardcopy) to the Communications Coordinator along with any specific request as to how you would like it handled. Please keep any attachments (posters, documents, etc) to the minimum possible file size in consideration of Community members who have a dial-up modem or are on a limited download plan for internet access.

## How can I provide fellow members with other items of interest?

A quarterly community Magazine, *Community Life*, is issued in electronic format and also posted on the website. A short version is printed out in hardcopy for visitors and promotional purposes. Any items of potential interest can be sent in to the Magazine Editor electronically or in hard copy for possible inclusion. Pictures are welcome. The Editor's contact details are listed under [Community Contacts](#).

## Am I expected to participate?

Buying into our Community – with its statutory requirement that you participate in collaborative management through our General Meetings – means that you are already giving up the more anonymous lifestyle of traditional suburbs for greater level of local involvement. Without the participation of its members, genuine 'community' is not possible. In addition, managing the governance and common lands of a whole Village involves far more labour than we could pay for with standard wages while still keeping Community levies affordable for all. We would like you to take responsibility for a **fair share**, considering your individual circumstances. As a minimum, we rely on you to keep your Lot and a modest proportion of the common land immediately around it (e.g., mounds, parking bays and roadsides) tidy and weed free. We hope you will, as time permits, also want to participate in working bees, tree-planting days, and helping with organisation and governance through our various activity groups and committees, or on an individual basis. Many hands do indeed make light work – and we are confident you will find working together an increasingly enjoyable experience as we get to know each other.

## What maintenance am I expected to do on my vacant lot?

The maintenance of your vacant lot before you build is your responsibility. We ask you to please keep it tidy and mown to about 10-15 cm height. This is not just aesthetics – tall, flowering weeds can spread seeds into common land and neighbours' gardens (making more work for everyone), and will become a fire hazard when they dry out in early summer. **If you don't slash your lot to the required height before the cut-off dates (currently 20 September, 30 October and 30 November) our Community landscape maintenance team will carry out the required slashing and bill you \$50 per slash per lot.** Consult the Natural Environment Coordinator about how to organise the slashing if you do not wish to do it yourself. Dates for required slashing may change from time to time depending on rainfall and weed growth in any given season, but they are normally advertised in the Village News well before the cut-off times.

There are alternative creative options for maintaining your lot – e.g., if a resident neighbour would like to mow it for payment, cultivate it for veggies, keep chooks on it, etc. Why not check around or enquire through our news service.

Remember you cannot place *any built structure* on your lot (including a garden shed) without first receiving permission from the Building Development Committee.

## ***Useful information for when you move into the Village***

### Getting a phone connected

Two tasks are involved (see: the [Community Contacts](#) sheet under "Other Community Contacts"):

(1.) First you will need to have your new home connected to the nearest roadside communications pit. To discuss current options for contracting this task, which can be done during the final stages of building, contact John Heij at 14 Hakea Walk (Lot 63) on 8556 6892 (or if he is not available, Andy Coe at 4 Hakea Walk (Lot 53) on 8557 6268). *[A television aerial connection can be done at the same time – see below.]*

(2.) When you are ready to have the actual phone service installed, contact Telstra to make an application and to schedule the connection of your new line to the Village communications system through the MDF (Main Distribution Frame) in 'Lorenzin Hall' (the mural-painted "donga" at the south end of Market St). **Note that the connection address is 173 Port Road and the billing address is your own street address.** As Lorenzin Hall and the interior MDF room are normally locked, you will need to contact John Heij (see above) to ensure access for the Telstra technician. Please advise the connection appointment in advance to ensure the keys will be available.

## Your television aerial

The Village has a central MATV Television aerial system to avoid the unsightliness of an aerial on every roof. When moving in, or shortly beforehand, contact John Heij on 8556 6892 to discuss current contracting options for connecting your home to the aerial point in the nearest communications pit. *[Your telephone connection can be done at the same time – see (1.) above.]* Note that the Village has only an 'analogue' (as opposed to 'digital') aerial system at this time. If your television set is a 'digital' model, you will need to adapt the signal. You can discuss this with your connection contractor.

## Domestic garbage and recycling

Because our entire Village site is private property, the Council waste-collection trucks currently collect bins on Port Road, not from our internal roadsides, although we are hoping to initiate collection from the "Recycling Compound" behind the two main water tanks near the main entrance.

If you are not using individual wheelie bins at your home, the Recycling Compound is the place to drop off household waste. There are a number of shared wheelie bins for general household garbage (red lids, collected weekly), and non-refundable Council recycling (yellow lids, collected fortnightly). There are also depositories for refundable recycling (i.e., drink containers for deposit refund). The bins in the Recycling Compound are taken by a volunteer(s) out onto Port Rd for collection (Monday mornings). When using these wheelie bins, make sure you fill the front one first. Please rinse food off materials for recycling so they will not smell and attract flies, and compact them as much as possible. If you have questions about organization of the waste and recycling system, there is a contact listed on the Community Contacts sheet.

The recycling compound is also the place to:

1. Drop off any weather-proof household items or building and gardening materials which might potentially be re-used in any way;
2. Drop of metal with a scrap value; and
3. Fossick for wood, wire, metal, plant pots and other items that can be re-used or reincarnated to save buying a new product.

**BUT – PLEASE DON'T dump non-reusable junk or hard waste in our recycling compound – we have better things to do with our levy monies than pay for disposal.**

## Reducing waste

As our Village philosophy encompasses the principles of caring for the earth, we try to be mindful of, and to reduce wherever possible, the amount of waste we as individuals create. It does require an effort on the part of households, but we owe it to the Earth to take on this responsibility.

Much of the waste generated by households is packaging, so the avoidance of packaging in product selections is a good first step. The next step is to deliberately select packaging that is recycled, recyclable, and non-toxic in nature. David Suzuki's challenge on waste is something we could well adopt as our own goal: His weekly rubbish could fit into one milk carton! Here are some practical suggestions for reducing waste:

- Use long-lived re-usable bags, boxes or crates for shopping.
- Do your shopping at Farmers markets – e.g. the Saturday morning Willunga Farmers' Market
- Take advantage of opportunities in our semi-rural area to buy bulk fruit, veggies, honey, eggs, etc, direct from the farmers.
- Buy food and products like cleaning aids etc from bulk suppliers. There are Health Food stores in the region that offer bulk products
- Join a local food co-op (or get together with a group of neighbours as a "mini-co-op")
- Avoid packaging that cannot be recycled.
- Cut up, fold and pack down all cardboard boxes into the smallest possible volume.
- Re-use any plastic bags as many times as possible – e.g., for lunches, fridge storage, etc.
- Feed high-protein food scraps to Village chooks and compost other kitchen waste along with all your garden green waste. If you don't want to use these precious resources, a neighbour most certainly will! **Don't throw anything out than can feed chooks or feed the soil!**
- All green waste can be composted within the Village. If you don't want to compost your green waste yourself, there are neighbours who would be delighted to have it. Your Neighbourhood Group may already have a common composting area. Alternatively, you can

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place it in the general composting facility on the "village green" to the north of Lorenzin Hall (the mural-painted "donga" at the south end of Market St).

**Please consider using shared wheelie bins rather than always putting out your own individual bins.** Having a massive crowd of bins awaiting collection every Monday is not a good look for an "ECO-village"! By all means get the Council to deliver the free bins to which you are entitled. They are handy storage containers and make great 'weed digesters' etc for the garden. You might also consider donating one or two to the collection of shared bins in the recycling compound if we run short.

Finally, if you decide you really do need to put out your own individual waste bins each week, but would rather not have to drag them all the way up to Port Rd and back yourself, a Village service of taking and returning your general, recycling and green waste bins is available at \$2 per bin. Contact the Bin Bros: Wanjo de Leeuw 8556 5855 or Jarrah Nott 8557 7163 if you would like to use this service.

### Wastewater and what not to put into it

Homes within the Village do not pay the normal sewerage levy of the surrounding suburbs as their sewerage lines are connected to our own small-scale waste water treatment plant (WWTP) located on the farm area. The WWTP comprises two large open tanks for biological treatment of raw sewage, a shed housing pumping, filtration, and UV sterilization equipment, a covered holding tank for treated water before it is pumped out onto a woodlot planting further down the hill, and a covered sludge tank for the small amount of solid waste left after the biological degradation treatment.

Because the treatment of waste water involves living microbial organisms, it is essentially similar to the processes in a septic tank. The environment in the digestion tanks needs to be aerated, kept within a certain range of pH (acidity and alkalinity), and not overwhelmed with toxic chemicals that might kill the "good bugs" in the system. **Try to use low-impact cleaning products such as baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, and soft soap.** Avoid putting the following types of substances down your drains: strong acids or alkalis, chlorine bleach, germicides, 'expired' medications (antibiotics etc), and excess levels of synthetic detergents. Oxygen bleaches are generally OK in modest doses as our system uses peroxide as a finishing treatment for the water rather than chlorine. If you have to use a chlorine bleach, let the waste water stand outside for a couple of days so the chlorine gas can disperse.

You are probably aware of problems that can be caused by high levels of salt and phosphates in treated wastewater that is returned back into the environment. These substances come primarily from detergents and other cleaning aids, and some food preserving and pickling processes also produce large amounts of waste salt. Salt can build up over time in soil that is irrigated with wastewater, and blue-green algal blooms can be caused by high levels of phosphates in waste water discharged into rivers and waterways. In our Village system, where the discharge is onto land, phosphate is less of a problem as it can be taken up as a 'fertiliser' by plants. Salt, however, will potentially lower the fertility of the land over time, especially in our low rainfall zone where there is barely enough rain to wash salt through the soil, so it is best to minimize the salt level in our AAEV wastewater. There are two information sheets available on the Members Documents page of the website at: [http://www.aev.net/page146/private\\_documents/index.html](http://www.aev.net/page146/private_documents/index.html) that show the salt levels of a number of brands of detergent. While your specific brand may not be listed, comparison of the salt level with other brands on the list will show you approximately how your brand rates. Try to make low-salt selections for your own washing and cleaning.

And please, if you are dehydrating or pickling with salt (e.g., olives, cucumbers, egg plant, etc) never dispose of the waste salty water down the drain or on to land. If you absolutely *have* to pickle with salt, consider taking the spent pickling solution down to the sea where a bit more salt is not a problem! We ask that you try to find low-salt and salt-free ways to dehydrate, pickle, and preserve food. Our land will thank you for it in the future.

*[Note: You will find if you are using rainwater in the house that you need only about half the soap and detergent that you have been used to with Adelaide town supply water. Take the opportunity to cut down and do the environment a favour.]*

### Paying for back-up mains water

Once per year you will be asked to read your water meter and send the reading (number of KL used) to the responsible Community Member (normally the Treasurer). You will then be billed via the next levy notice from the Body Corporate Manager. As the residential part of the Village has only two

mains water connections, water must be paid for at the highest rate. It's a good incentive to cut down!

## Looking after your pets

Your existing pet (dog or cat) is welcome when you move into the Village but, as we are an ECO-village with the philosophy of caring for the earth and caring for people, there are some constraints on how you manage your pet, and some principles we would like you to think about. Many eco-villages ban dogs and cats altogether, but we want to work with you to ensure you do not have to get rid of a valued companion animal just to live here.

As soon as you move in, please register your dog or cat using the Pet Registration Form provided on the website at: [http://www.aev.net/management/mc\\_documents/index.html](http://www.aev.net/management/mc_documents/index.html).

Your pet must be managed in such a way that it does not harm the native birds, animals, and plants in our environment, or cause any nuisance to neighbours. This means that dogs and cats must be fully contained on your lot by rear or side fencing that is compatible with the building By-laws. If you take them outside your lot, they must be on a leash. Continual barking of dogs, particularly at night, is very distressing for your neighbours. Please ensure your dog is not left outside to bark for long periods when you are out.

Please do not allow pets to stray into neighbours' gardens where they could foul and dig in vegetable growing areas, disturb children or chooks, etc; and please 'pick up' after your pet on roadways and common land (including the Village Farm). You may love your pet and be amused by its antics but please remember that, in time, the Village will be very densely settled so there will need to be active and conscious respect for the desire of many residents to live dog- and cat-free.

If you keep chooks, ducks, geese, or other animals as part of a Permaculture production system, they must also be fully contained, either on your lot or in a designated area. (Containment will protect them from foxes too.)

While your existing dog or cat is welcome, when it dies we would like you to consider not replacing it. Why not adopt our native wildlife – there is much you can do to encourage birds, frogs and lizards. Or if you would like a domestic animal, think about a few hens or ducks that can convert your kitchen scraps to eggs and help control weeds, snails and insects in the garden, or a (caged please) rabbit or guinea pig that can deal with vegetable waste and produce nice little fertilizer pellets for the compost bin.

## Dealing with weeds and pests in your garden

The Village aim is to move as fast as possible to 'organic' gardening, avoiding the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides. We want to build healthy ecosystems with natural biological control of weeds and pests.

Because the Village is on an old farm site and heavily contaminated with several resistant weeds such as couch grass, wire-weed and horehound, there are some challenges in moving to chemical-free maintenance. If you have persistent pest or weed problems on your lot, please contact the Natural Environment Coordinator for advice before reaching for any toxic synthetic chemical. There may be better options.

## Letter boxes and mail delivery

Mail is delivered daily on weekdays to the array of mailboxes near the north-east corner of the main parking lot on Port Road.

Each home is (or will be) allocated a mailbox attached in appropriate sequence to a set of metal sculptures representing the various roads in the Village. For this system to work, your incoming mail must be addressed to you by name at your house number and street name (e.g., 4 Yacca Way, 6 Hakea Walk, etc). Mail that comes to "173 Port Road" will be put in the large Body Corporate mailbox (currently on a separate frame in front of the adjacent noticeboard). If you have given your address out as "Unit x / 173 Port Rd" you may well have to check this other mailbox until all correspondents have your correct address.

## Accessing Community tools and garden implements

Various gardening tools are available for borrowing by Village residents. There is a nominated Tool-Shed Contact who has the key to the shed and will record what you have borrowed and how long you plant to use it. Please ensure the tools are returned in good condition and your name is checked

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off in the tool register. We also request that the tools stay on site. The current Tool-Shed contact person is listed on the Community Contacts sheet.

### Community lending library

The Village has a Community Lending Library that is growing over time by donation of books and DVDs from Community members. It also receives some popular periodicals. It will eventually be housed in our Community Centre but, for the time being, the “reading for entertainment” section is housed in Lorenzin Hall (“rainbow mural donga” at the end of Market St). Watch the “Web links & Village information” section at the end of each News bulletin for library access details. Drop in and have a look. Loans are not recorded. All we ask is that you return books promptly or, if a book is inadvertently lost, you replace it with something similar

There is also a reference section of more valuable and in-demand books currently held in the entryway to the home of John and Elizabeth Heij at 14 Hakea Walk (Lot 63) with Elizabeth acting informally as checkout librarian. This section, encompassing books we need to keep track of, covers sustainable building, living and gardening, and community building. This section of the Library is open whenever Elizabeth is home. If you want to be sure, phone ahead – 8556 6892. The very simple rules of this section of the Library are displayed with the books.

### Village tours

Occasionally, walking tour groups (e.g., students, organizations, interested members of the public) are shown through the Village by the Village Tour Leader (see the Community Contacts sheet). Tours are held by appointment, and you will be notified in advance via the Village news service of any tours involving significant groups of people. Tour groups will stay on the roads unless otherwise arranged, and your privacy will be respected as much as possible. Please show a friendly and courteous attitude towards Village visitors. If you would like to bring a group on site for an official tour, please contact the Village Tour Leader. (There is normally a small charge for conducting a tour with some of the funds coming back to the Village) Of course, as a Community member, you are free to show friends and family around the Village at any time.

### Village Noticeboard and roadside directory

A Village noticeboard is located near the mailboxes at the north-east corner of the main parking area on Port Rd. It displays a hard copy of the latest email “RSS News Feed” and other items of general interest. Community members are welcome to use the noticeboard. Our postcode opens the door locks. Please post notices only on this board, not on other structures around the Village.

In time, there will also be a Village map and directory on a board in the pull-out area to the left of the cobbled rumble strip on Dianella Way inside the main Village entrance. If you have an interest in a business location listing on this map, please notify the Works Maintenance Coordinator.

### ‘Happy Hours’, Parties, Pizza gatherings, and BBQs

Social interaction and informal getting-to-know-each-other events are a good way of laying the foundation for a successful community. These are advertised in the Village RSS News Feed. There is an open invitation to all Villagers and their friends to socialize at the “Sharing Shed” and Pizza Oven area at the north end of Market St on advertised Friday evenings from 6 pm. During summer, movies are shown in the Village Amphitheatre from 8:30 pm after a shared meal. Please come along and join in any or all parts of these social sessions.

In winter, until our Sharing Shed is “winterized”, there are often in-home Village Socials or “Armchair Movies” sessions in one or more Village homes. Check the Village News for details.

Residents are welcome to use the Sharing Shed, Pizza Oven and Amphitheatre for private functions if they are free. A forward notice in the News Feed is used to check on whether your plans are likely to clash with anyone else’s. Send your “booking” at least a week in advance to the Communications Coordinator

### Neighbourhood safety

The Village is an intrinsically safe area, with many people around in a high-visibility environment and essentially any occupied house able to act as a “safe house”. We do, however, encourage you to

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collaborate with close neighbours on informal 'neighbourhood watch' activities when someone is out for long hours or away on holiday.

And if you see our Village kids in any sort of trouble, or doing something undesirable, destructive to our natural environment, or potentially dangerous, please don't be afraid to get involved. It certainly won't harm our young people to know there are a variety of caring and concerned adults watching over them – think of that now famous Hilary Clinton quote "Parents are important, but it takes a Village to bring up children".

And because our roads are for people and kids first and cars and trucks only secondarily, PLEASE make sure you observe the 25-km-per-hour speed limit within the Village – and do make sure your builder, visitors, clients, etc, also understand and observe this limit also. It is essential in these times of suburban alienation that we RECLAIM THE STREETS as safe, vital, people places!

## What does it mean to be an “EcoVillage”?

To help us understand and develop along our pathway as an eco-village, the following material has been adapted from the Report of the Gaia Trust, Denmark on “Eco-Villages and Sustainable Communities. These vital features of eco-villages are the basis of our own Village concept. While they are not easy to achieve, they are well worth striving for!

**Human scale:** Of such as size and proximity that face-to-face relations are possible. This applies also to neighbourhoods as well as hamlets and villages. Each is influential in community decisions, all know each other, up to about 500 people.

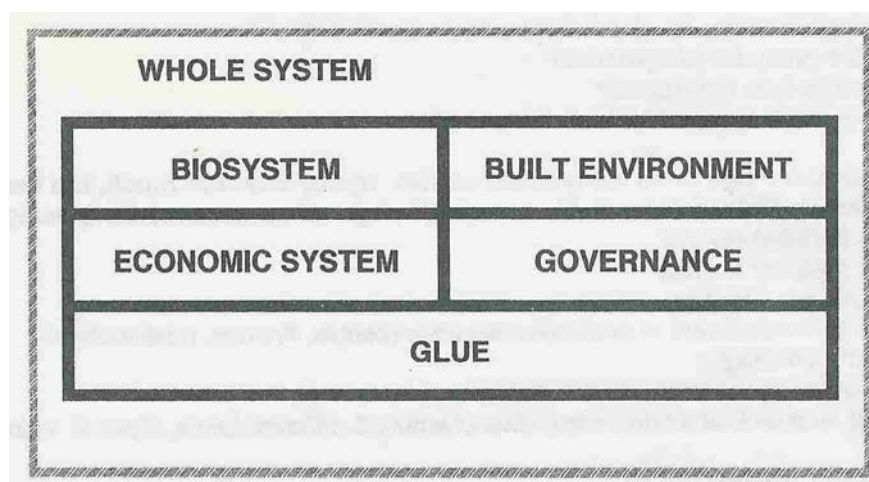
**Fully featured human settlement:** Where all the major functions of living – work, recreation, social and commerce – are present as where design caters for the full span of human age (infants to elderly) and for various physical conditions. Human-scale integration of functions; comprehensive microcosm of the whole of society. Integrated into wider society. Jobs internal approximate the number working outside. Present a potential model for the whole of society, including reliance on external regional and higher scale specialised services (e.g., hospitals).

**Human activities harmlessly integrated into the natural world:** Ecologically sensitive; design respects equality between humans and other forms of life. Cyclic use of resources, instead of linear once-through-and-dispose. Recycling, composting, use of renewables, avoiding landfill.

**Supportive of healthy human development:** Where there is a balanced and integrated developments of all aspects of human life – physical, emotional, mental and spiritual; and where both individual and community well-being are recognized and catered for; and where structures are established for community economics, community governance and satisfying social relationships. Concern for individual health plus expression in life of community as a whole.

**Sustainability Principle:** Where there is a recognition of, and commitment to, not live off accumulated natural capital or at the expense of resource-destructive activities elsewhere. Successfully continuable into the indefinite future. Profound commitment to fairness and non-exploitation – towards other parts of today’s world, and to human, non-human and all future life.

The diagram below is a hierarchy, i.e., the biosystem and built environment of the community depend on economics and governance, and the whole thing is supported by the quality of the “glue”, which is to do with shared values and vision and internal quality of relationships. The whole-system challenge includes pacing development to maintain balance among all the aspects, as well as between the whole system and the surrounding external community.



## Community Contacts – September 2009

### Official contacts:

Contact the Presiding Officer or Corporation Secretary for any matter requiring action by the Community Corporation as an official entity. Contact the Communications Coordinator to convey information to Community Members.

#### Presiding Officer

*Bradley Nott* Phone: 8557 7163 Email: [bradleynott@iinet.net.au](mailto:bradleynott@iinet.net.au)

#### Corporation Secretary

*Jane O'Connell* Phone: 8557 6078 Email: [janeoc@mac.com](mailto:janeoc@mac.com)

#### Communications Coordinator

*Elizabeth Heij* Phone: 8556 6892 Email: [elizabethh4@internode.on.net](mailto:elizabethh4@internode.on.net)

### Any problems with, or omissions from, this information?

This Welcome Pack is a 'living and evolving' document and will be reviewed and revised periodically. Please notify any errors, broken links etc, and forward any updates or suggestions to the Communications Coordinator.