



Passionate about the environment

promotional feature

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Seagrove on Phillip Island is an estate with a conscience offering a greener lifestyle by the coast



Lisa Wangman, Urban Landcare Coordinator, is passionate about Phillip Island's environment. Her role sees her providing personalised advice and free indigenous plants to residents of Seagrove in Cowes.

Located only 700m from the beach, Seagrove is a new residential estate featuring high conservation significance eucalypt woodland, a network of three landscaped parks, extensive wetland habitat, extra-wide landscaped streets, and diverse birdlife. The development has achieved a number of environmental firsts for the region, including energy-efficient street lighting, underground gas, and a computer designed wetland that naturally cleans stormwater. In 2007, it was recognised for Environmental Excellence in the prestigious Urban Development Institute of Australia Awards.

"Urban Landcare has an agreement with Seagrove to provide each resident a year's complimentary membership," explains Lisa. "This includes a free site visit: I give garden advice about anything from weed control, species selection, landscaping and design ideas to garden sustainability and water-wise plantings." Residents also receive a voucher for 30 indigenous plants from the local 'Barb Martin Bushbank'.

"I generally recommend indigenous plants because they are adapted to local climate conditions and rainfall," says Lisa. There is usually an indigenous substitute for most plants, such as Clematis instead of Bridal Creeper, which can 'escape' from gardens and become a problem weed. Environmental weeds such as Bridal Creeper are not permitted to be grown at Seagrove.

"It's a really good thing to see that a developer has taken things a step further for the environment," says Lisa. "Seagrove is a real model for the future."

Urban Landcare

Established in 2003, Urban Landcare is a program of the established Landcare movement that addresses issues of sustainable living relevant to an urban membership. For more information, contact Lisa Wangman on 5952 3329 or 0409 366 914 or l.wangman@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Seagrove facts

- A 23 million litre, computer designed wetland works in concert with smaller "rain gardens" located in every street to make stormwater up to twenty times cleaner before it reaches Western Port.
- Over 800m of existing overhead powerlines were replaced with underground power to improve views and allow trees space to grow.
- Seagrove's 35,000m² of landscaped open space includes over 130m of elevated boardwalks as well as extensive walking and cycle paths.
- Over 50,000 native plants and trees have been planted at Seagrove.
- 4,500 litre rain water tanks in every home save over 10 million litres of clean drinking water each year.
- An underground LPG network reduces greenhouse emissions by 3,000 tonnes annually by reducing demand on conventionally generated electricity.
- Energy-efficient street lights powered by accredited green energy reduce energy consumption by 48% and greenhouse emissions to zero.
- The barbecues in Seagrove Park are powered by six solar panels on the roof of the picnic shelter. ☑

For a copy of Seagrove's complimentary sixteen page environmental guide, call 1800 61 61 06 or visit www.seagrove.com.au

