

Garden Competition 2012

A competition for secondary students based on planning the landscape and garden design of a new home. The competition restricts the student to a given block and an approved house that is to be built on the allotment. Refer to the site plan for Lot 17 Sedge Court Murray Bridge to undertake this task.

The task.

- To design the outside layout of the block to capitalise on the choice of plants that assist in cooling the house in summer and warming the house in winter.
- To capitalise on the use of low watering needs for the garden.
- To bring the materials that need to be purchased under a budget of AU\$2,000ⁱ – costing will need to be submitted – in kind donations are not included in \$2,000.
- To cater for the needs of the family who will occupy the new home when completedⁱⁱ.

Materials that can be considered.

- Plants, shrubs and trees suitable for Australian conditions
- Top soil and mulch available from the local garden centre
- Paving, sleepers, gravel, pebbles ...
- Roll out turf
- Irrigation and automatic watering system
- Outside furniture including barbecue and/or pizza oven
- Swings, basketball backboard ...
- Sails and/or pergola

Some suggestions.

- Use Google Earth to assess the types of plants currently growing in the area.
- Be aware of where north is in regard to the house.
- Have a full understanding of what the carbon cycle is about.
- Research the average rainfall for the past five years for the location.
- Check to see if the local council bye laws restrict or govern what type of plants, shrubs or trees can be planted in the area. Some councils also require written permission if you wish to plant on the nature strip outside the home. You might wish to check whether this applies.
- Canvas nurseries, landscape suppliers etc for in kind donations.
- Learn what the soil type is for the region. You will not be allowed on site once the building is commenced without first seeking permission from Habitat for Humanity's Construction Manager.
- Organise a sausage sizzle to help raise funds for your project.
- Write a column in your local school newsletter or local paper as to what you are attempting to do for those less fortunate than yourself.

Judges.

- Research each judge and learn what each favours in sustainable landscapes – once the competition commences (one week after the initial group meeting), you are not permitted to seek advice from them.
- Discuss with your mentor, nursery person or teacher what plants survive with little water in the area.

¹ This is the maximum allocation of cash that Habitat for Humanity has available for covering of costs for the landscape and garden. The cost of equipment like shovels, picks, wheelbarrows etc does not need to be included as they will be supplied by Habitat for Humanity at the time of creating the garden.

¹ Habitat for Humanity will inform you at the initial meeting as to what the front and back yard needs for the family are.