

## Media Release - Greener Gardens

Today, we are all becoming more aware of the environmental impact of our actions. The resources, materials and chemicals that we use throughout our daily lives affect both our health and the footprint that we leave on the world.

One business making a positive difference environmentally is Mornington Peninsula landscape design and construction company Ecoscapes, managed and staffed by the Archer family (and a handful of like-minded friends).

Ecoscapes has recently become the first business in Victoria to undergo and pass the Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) Environmentally Certified Landscape Industry Professionals (ECLIPs) program, and they couldn't be happier!

Aaron Archer from Ecoscapes explains: "We were already extremely environmentally conscious, the challenge is to make customers aware that we are fair-dinkum in a time where everyone from car companies to banks are shouting green".

"All our contemporary Australian landscapes that we have designed and constructed have a long-term sustainability focus". Ecoscapes have, over their six and a half year history, developed some incredible landscapes, with a strong emphasis on the amazing texture, form and colour of plants indigenous to the area in which they are working.

"We look not only at plant selection and on-going maintenance, but also the additional products we choose to employ in a landscape. For instance, we try to utilise as many found or reclaimed materials as we can, and avoid products that may have been sourced from unsustainable origins" Archer said.

In that, and a number of other criteria, Ecoscapes and Sustainable Gardening Australia's ECLIPs program was a perfect fit.

Sustainable Gardening Australia launched the ECLIPs program in early 2008, the first of its kind anywhere in Australia.

Developed with the assistance of the Landscape Industry Association of Victoria (LIAV), the University of Melbourne, the Melbourne Zoo, the Royal Botanical Gardens and numerous councils, the ECLIPs program provides landscape industry professionals with the tools needed to become more sustainable, and homeowners, councils and businesses with the opportunity to find environmentally certified landscape professionals for all their design, construction and garden maintenance needs.

Mary Trigger, CEO of Sustainable Gardening Australia explains. "Like all of us, landscape professionals have had to adapt to meet the new pressures and requirements placed onto us by both our clients and regulatory bodies when it comes to the environment."

"But it's not all gloom and doom, there are huge opportunities for those among us, like Ecoscapes, who are able to incorporate sustainable practices into our everyday activities. Ian, Aaron, Naomi and all at Ecoscapes should be congratulated on their commitment to the environment, and SGA look forward to working with such a visionary business for a long time to come" Ms. Trigger said.

Sustainable Gardening Australia is a non-government, not for profit organisation dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the natural Australian environment by promoting the benefits of sustainable horticultural practices. SGA do this through community education programs, liaison with local and state governments, national events and through our SGA garden centre and landscape professionals' environmental certification programs.

*For more information or high resolution pics, contact Helen Tuton on (03) 9850 8165, [helen@sgaonline.org.au](mailto:helen@sgaonline.org.au), and for more information on SGA and its other programs, [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)*