

# **Kurilpa Futures Youth Engagement**



**Student Ideas Forum**  
**conducted with the West End State School Student Council**  
**29 July 2015**

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*Without effective engagement with children and young people we cannot access their perspectives, understand their concerns, provide adequately for their needs, or convey our regard for them.*

*Mary Kellett, Professor of Childhood and Youth, Centre for Childhood Development and Learning, Open University, UK*

## **KURILPA VISION**

*We'd like to see our suburb grow so that visitors say "Wow! This is a beautiful place" when they view it from the free telescopes found in the roof-top gardens of tall apartment buildings.*

*In our vision for the future there is lots of open space with people walking and playing sport. There are fun things to do like water parks, a wave pool, tennis courts, and a mini golf course. There is a scooter track and sports fields for girls and guys like net ball and basket ball.*

*Along the river paths people are exercising and walking their dogs. There are better footpaths, more bike trails and less traffic. There is plenty of public transport and a school bus.*

*In the nature walks and wildlife corridors, the native fauna – birds, insects and the Kurilpa (our water rat) – all live together. There are plenty of trees and bird baths to encourage feathered visitors. The community gardens are full of bees and families growing food that's fresh and healthy.*

*From the viewing towers, you see art trails telling Aboriginal histories. There is a well-balanced view of parks, houses and apartments. There are quirky new designs and old buildings too. There are churches celebrating different religions, and shelters and food for the homeless.*

*On certain days, visitors see the open air markets, where you can buy food that comes from different cultures. There are community events like Paniyiri and the Kurilpa Derby and the school Fiesta day – all full of people sharing their multiculturalism.*

*Come down to ground level to visit art galleries, museums, theatres and cinemas. Everything is convenient and within walking distance. If you need to catch a bus, the stops are also within walking distance.*

*What you see through the roof-top telescopes is amazing but on the ground it's even better. What you feel is a relaxed place, tolerant of our wonderful differences; a place where you are always very welcome.*

*This is our vision for Kurilpa.*



## STUDENT IDEAS FORUM

Conducted with members of the West End State School Student Council 29 July 2015

### Summary

As part of **Kurilpa Futures Youth Engagement**, a model of consultation was proposed to the West End State School student community. The proposal was to consider topics relevant to the students' curriculum studies in the context of the Kurilpa development plan.

Selected from topics discussed at the Community Ideas Forum (May 2015), this model would provide a **real-life learning** opportunity for supporting curriculum-related classroom studies in local area histories and cultures, sustainability, and civics and citizenship.

Students determined their **objectives and priorities** to present to local and state governments. Students also responded to two questions: what do you like about living in west end? And what would make it better?

Students reported back to the group with **recommendations for better planning** in their suburb. Groups 1 and 3 related to green space. Group 2 related to a multicultural community and lifestyle.

Staff reported on the value of continuing this relationship **authentic and respectful consultation** and genuine access to **current knowledge and decision-making processes** for their students.



## STUDENT IDEAS FORUM

### Background

In March 2015, a discussion paper was considered by the members of Kurilpa Futures Group to engage with young people 18-25 years, children and families of the area that would be affected by the Kurilpa Master Plan and other local area developments. Subsequently, Kurilpa Futures representatives attended a live music event at the Boundary Street Night Markets (April 2015) and distributed information to locals about planning and development in the area. Kurilpa Futures was represented at the West End State School annual Fiesta event (May 2015). Based on the Community Ideas Forum (May 2015), a similar forum was proposed that would involve members of West End State School Student Council (July 2015).

### World's best practice

International best practice for engaging children and young people provides the stimulus for such activity.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) radically shifted global perceptions on the status of the child. This new focus has compelled us to find effective ways of engaging with children as active participants in all matters affecting them (Sinclair, 2004)



Effective engagement is about children guiding us into their worlds. Communicating with children and young people requires both different and similar approaches to engagement with adults.

Without effective engagement with children and young people we cannot access their perspectives, understand their concerns, provide adequately for their needs, or convey our regard for them.

*Mary Kellett, Professor of Childhood and Youth, Centre for Childhood Development and Learning, Open University, UK*

Further support is found in the multidisciplinary areas identified in the research program at the Children and Youth Research Centre (CYRC), QUT namely

- Rights and welfare of young people
- Health, wellbeing and happiness
- Child and youth cultures
- Environments for work and play.

<http://www.cyrc.qut.edu.au/>

## **Aim**

To validate the voice of children and young people, empowering them to imagine their future and make meaningful contribution to the development of their suburb and community.

## **Objectives**

1. To conduct a Student Ideas Forum
2. To include recommendations in reports to government
3. To engage this audience in ongoing conversation

## **Program**

Meetings with senior staff at West End State School resulted in an agreement to hold a forum modelled on the Community Ideas Forum (May 2015), adjusted to meet the specific needs and interests of young participants.

The program provided a real-life learning opportunity supporting curriculum-related classroom studies in Local area histories and cultures, Sustainability, and Civics and Citizenship.

3 min – Introduction

12 mins - Panel of three speakers - each 4 minutes

- Local area history
- Biodiversity and development
- Place-making (government /governance)

5 mins - students into groups

20 mins - facilitated discussion 15 mins - report back on most popular idea/s

5 mins - Thank you



## **Speakers**

Tim Quinn, Historian and local resident; Christine Goosem, Researcher Biosecurity Qld; and Nicole Lessio, Community engagement consultant

## **Facilitator**

Belinda Macartney – Education consultant

## **FINDINGS**

### **What do you like about living in West End?**

#### Group 1

1. Markets - the diversity of stuff
2. Lots of open space - Orleigh Park (walk dogs) Davies Park (sport)
3. Quirky - design
4. Diverse culture - relaxed, tolerant
5. Food
6. Convenient, central
7. River - exercise, walk

#### Group 2

1. Kurilpa Derby
2. The people, multiculturalism
3. The relaxed community
4. Shops within walking distance
5. Community events

#### Group 3

1. The arts
2. Public transport
3. QPAC
4. Wheel of Brisbane
5. BCEC
6. Food - Mick's nuts, Aldi
7. School
8. Well balanced parks, houses, apartments, sport facilities
9. Museum
10. South Bank
11. Cinemas
12. Markets
13. Multicultural
14. Churches - different religions
15. Older buildings
16. GOMA
17. Brisbane river
18. Orleigh Park
19. Celebrations - Paniyiri, Kuripla Derby, Fiesta
20. Sporting facilities - pool, tennis courts, Davies Park
21. Restaurants - food
22. Library
23. Multiculturalism

## What would make living in West End better?

### Group 1

1. Better footpaths
2. More native vegetation - community gardens, nature, fauna, birds insects, other native animals
3. Bicycle / scooter track
4. More activities - mini golf

### Group 2

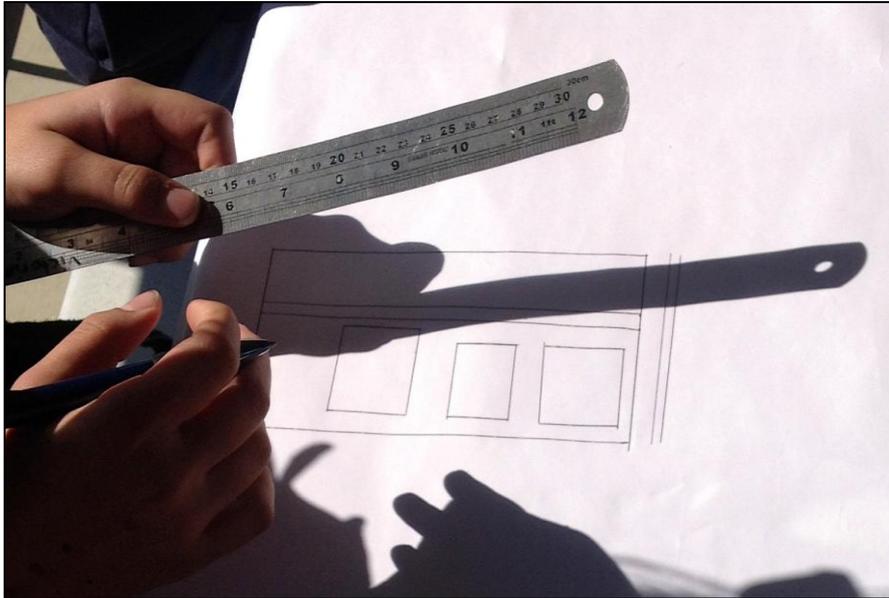
1. Help the wildlife – homes for animals
2. We need more trees – to form a wildlife corridor, Holiday activities
3. Build public telescopes on highest buildings so tourist can see all of West End /Kurilpa and see how beautiful it is
4. Access to binoculars in parks for bird watching
5. Rooftop gardens on apartments
6. More Aboriginal arts. Shelter for the homeless
7. Community events to help the homeless
8. More bike trails
9. Less traffic
10. Bus stop – within walking distance for school busses
11. Improved public transport
12. Save our environment -don't wreck the parks
13. More community events
14. No WIFI in parks and green spaces for people to enjoy nature and each other
15. More bird baths

### Group 3

1. Nature walk
2. Places for apartments and houses
3. Oval
4. Green space
5. More fun things - water park, wave pool
6. More green spaces - parks
7. Acknowledge The Arts
8. Girls and boys sports - netball, basket ball



## RECOMMENDATIONS



Students were asked to report back from their breakout groups on the most popular point covered in their discussions. Group 1 voted on the point, Group 2 provided a broader view of their discussion, and Group 3 provided one favoured point. Groups 1 and 3 related to environment. Group 2 related to community.

These recommendations reflect those more broadly proposed by the Community Ideas Forum held in May 2015. Importantly, they add the elements of *imagination* and *compassion* often missing from higher level discussions on planning and development.

### **Students recommend that a future in Kurilpa/West End should include**

1. more and better green spaces, with garden trails and places for native animals
2. a multi cultural community where different cultures are welcomed through community gatherings and events, community gardens, public viewing spots on tall buildings, and feasts for the homeless.

**In consultation with school staff it is recommended that the children** of West End should, with regard to the development of their suburb

1. be afforded ongoing authentic and respectful consultation, and
2. have access to current knowledge and decision-making processes.

## THANKS

Kurilpa Futures would like to thank Ms Judy Thompson, Principal, West End State School, her participating staff and students, and Kurilpa Futures representatives Elizabeth Cowie and Peter Griffin.

This report was compiled by members of West End State School Student Council and Kurilpa Futures and is understood to be a true and honest representation of the event.



August 2015