

Greener gardens

By FATIMA MRAD

THE City of Canterbury looks set to become greener in 2009, with locations being sought to develop community gardens.

Canterbury Councillor Linda Eisler says that the gardens will play an important role in bringing people together, and she has already had keen interest from locals.

"There is enthusiasm for it," Ms Eisler said. "I know there are some schools interested... Canterbury Public School already has a community garden... Children will learn the value of being in nature and in a garden."

Canterbury Council's Waste Education Officer Yolande Franklin has been educating residents on environmental matters including worm farming and composting, and is very keen to start up the gardens.

"It's a great program that Council is running in developing awareness of carbon footprints," Ms Eisler said.

The community gardens will be planted and taken care of by locals, and they may include plants, shrubs and vegetables.

"It is up to the people involved, they might be interested in [planting] native regeneration or fruit and vegetables."

Ms Eisler said she would like to see the community gardens in areas where people wouldn't otherwise have access to a garden.

"I'm thinking places where there is high density living," she said, "like Campsie where many people live in high rise flats."

Ms Eisler reflected on her own use of a garden and referred to it as her sanctuary in difficult times, saying "it's a great outlet".

"It will be a healthy way for the community to get together."