



## SLHD cleared by ICAC

The Independent Commission Against Corruption cleared Sydney Local Health District of any wrongdoing in the handling of the Yaralla Estate earlier this month.

The investigation was called after complaints regarding the eviction of horses agisted at the historic Yaralla Estate. A parliamentary Select Committee conducted an inquiry last year and referred the matter to ICAC. ICAC found that:

- Concerns expressed by inquiry participants about improper relationships between Blue Visions Management Pty Ltd and members of the Liberal Party were without foundation;
- There was no evidence that Conrad Consulting and Capital Pty Ltd received excessive remuneration for its work concerning the Yaralla Estate;
- Concerns expressed by the Select Committee in the Yaralla Report about improper relationships between Conrad Consulting and Capital Pty Ltd and members of the Liberal Party were without foundation.
- There was no corruption prevention issues identified.

ICAC said "there was no credible evidence to support the concerns raised about the engagement of Blue Visions Management Pty Ltd by Sydney Local Health District. On the contrary, the concerns are inconsistent with the facts as established by the Commission's investigations".

The District's Chief Executive Dr Teresa Anderson said: "This comes as no surprise to me or anyone at Sydney Local Health District as we conducted ourselves with propriety at all times throughout the management of this situation. We pride ourselves on transparency, honesty and integrity."

## Enrich your senses

A community garden will be built at Yaralla Estate featuring edible fruits and vegetables, and sensory plants to enrich the lives of those living around the estate, and elderly residents engaged in the Inner West Neighbourhood Aid program.

Organisers of the program put forward a proposal to Sydney Local Health District's Yaralla Community Advisory Committee to build a garden promoting healthy living and good nutrition in a peaceful, nurturing environment.

Research has shown that elderly people and those living with a disability often have a lack of nutrition in their diets as well as limited abilities to stay active and involved in the community.

The community garden will provide regular supported outings to the garden for Inner West Neighbourhood Aid clients to encourage them to participate in gardening, harvesting and cooking with harvested produce.

Inner West Neighbourhood Aid supports a diverse cultural community so it will be possible to showcase these cultures through various, plants, recipes and guest speakers.

The garden will include: raised garden beds; a pergola; water tanks; a sensory garden with a mandala, fruit trees and a native corner. There will also be a food preparation and covered seating area, a barbecue and a garden shed in addition to paths. The gardens will ideally be fenced to prevent vandalism, unleashed dogs and unaccompanied children entering the area.



Netting will also be used over garden beds to control possums, birds and rodents.

The garden will use organic methods to provide health food with all plants cultivated without using synthetic chemicals.

The garden will also showcase an interactive sensory garden, an inclusive for all members of the community to enjoy nature. The plants selected will provide experiences for seeing, smelling, hearing, touching and tasting.

The Inner West Neighbourhood Aid group hopes to hold about 12 garden visits a year, host six guest speakers and increase the biodiversity of the site.

OCTOBER 2014

# Yaralla Estate UPDATE

## Health day another success

Sydney Local Health District's second Yaralla Estate Open Day, held in August, proved a hit, despite the rain, with visitors engaging in fun family activities and gathering important information on maintaining health and wellbeing from our many stalls.

The District's Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson, said the inaugural event had received a fantastic response and was impressed to see the community return again this year.

"I firmly believe that the better people understand the health care services that are available to them, the healthier they will be in the long term," she said.

This year's event featured 25 stalls, hospital radio, a barbecue, a teddy bears' clinic, a jumping castle, face painting and colouring-in, interactive CPR sessions; and sessions on hand hygiene.

Visitors were also able to review the draft Yaralla Estate Management Plan, recently developed by the Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee.

The Canada Bay Heritage Society will hold an open day on October 26, where visitors can view the historic estate and hear about Thomas Walker, his daughter, Dame Eadith and the roles they played in the history and heritage of the area.

For more information go to <http://www.concordheritage.asn.au/yaralla-open-day-0>

