

# Investigating nature strip gardens as potential avenues for transformative change

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# Nature Strip Gardening

The practise of growing ornamental, edible or indigenous plants on the nature strip

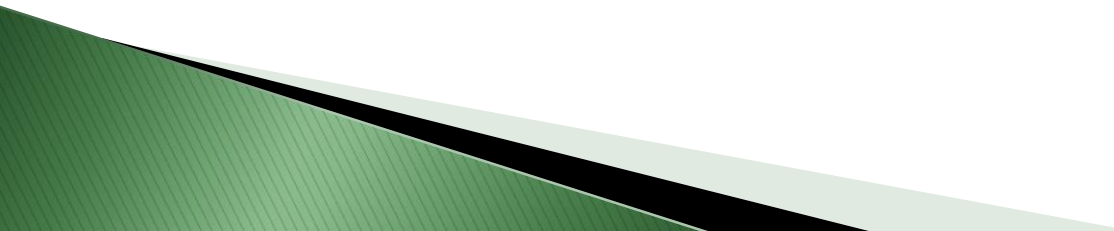




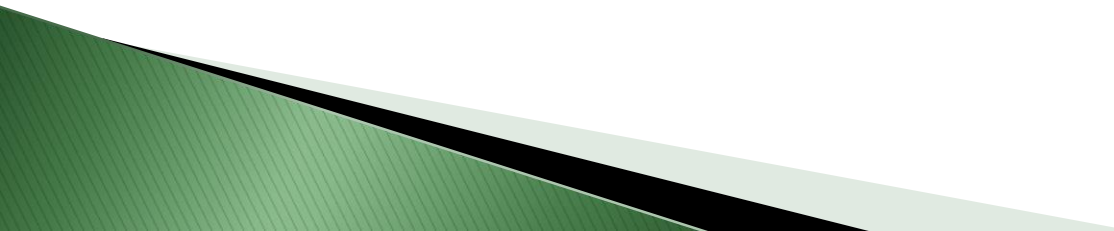




# What is transformative change?

- ▶ Change at the system level.
  - ▶ May involve change to norms, values and lifestyles
  - ▶ Often used to refer to change that addresses social justice issues, including climate change
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# Why Investigate NSG as potential places of transformative change?

- ▶ Are green environments
  - ▶ When managed collectively are a type of community garden
  - ▶ Are used by transitional towns
  - ▶ Some people in environmental organisations have them
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# What transformative change might nature strips bring about?

Localized food production – increased quality and freshness of food

Increased quality of green environments

Reduced usage of fossil fuel – adapting to and reducing the affects of climate change

Increased ecological consciousness





# Transformative Change Processes

Over 40 actions/ processes identified in the literature as bringing about transformative change

*Identify practices that reduce wellbeing or are unsustainable. (Reimer, 2010)*

*Changing policy (Evans et al, 2007)*

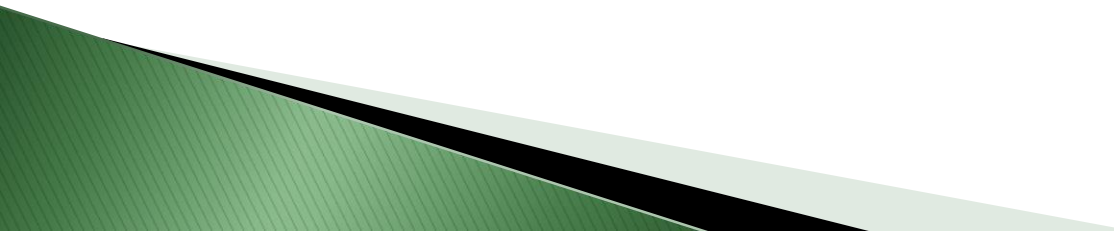
*Envisioning a future free from exploitation enabled by equity and power sharing (Nelson & Prilleltensky 2010)*

# Transformative Change as a three part process


Can be grouped as

- ethical awareness
- social justice practices
- a sense of vision for a just and sustainable future

# Research objectives

- ▶ To explore how people came about having a nature strip garden, what it means to them and what the difficulties were
  - ▶ To explore transformative change in nature strip gardeners as a three part process of ethical awareness, social justice practices and a sense of vision for the future
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# Methodology

- ▶ Letterboxed and emailed members of a local food network
  - ▶ Interviewed 8 nature strip gardeners in the Northern suburbs of Melbourne
  - ▶ Used an open ended questions base on a three part process of transformative change with prompts from a social justice scale
  - ▶ Deductive qualitative analysis used codes developed from the literature
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*SUMMARY OF RESULTS*

*Awareness*

*Social Justice Practices*

*A sense of vision for the future*

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Framing issues in power

Sharing and acquiring competencies

A greater experience of power and control in life

Linking inequity to wellbeing and environmental care

Formal groups assist advocacy for policy change

Personal and collective transformation

Leverage of government

Changing Policy

Consciousness raising

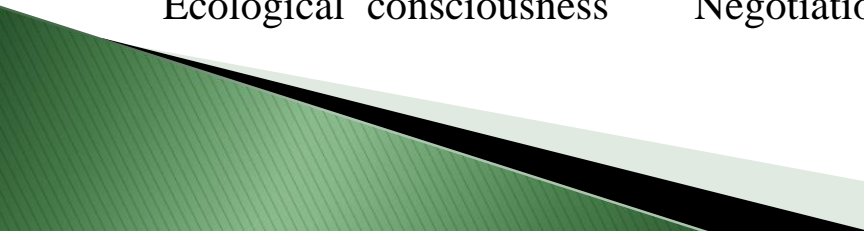
Resistance

Food justice and food security

Ecological consciousness

Negotiation

Indigenous flora widely planted in the suburbs





**“There is  
always free  
food in the  
street for  
those who  
need it.”**

Michael's interview