

COHOUSING -

From WOW! to HOW...

Have you ever wondered how it would be:

- To live in a safe, multi-generational neighbourhood where you are valued and feel you belong?
- To have privacy and autonomy AND really know your neighbours?
- To live lightly on the earth and not have to own and do everything yourself?



Cohousing is a form of collaborative housing in which residents actively participate in the design and operation of their own neighbourhoods. Our own local example Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood is a 32-home neighbourhood in Ranui, West Auckland, recognised internationally as a model of socially and environmentally sustainable community, and a finalist in the World Habitat Awards and UN Habitat Awards.

Presenter **Robin Allison** was the initiator and project coordinator of the entire development and construction phase of Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood. An eco-architect and Earthsong resident, Robin brings a wealth of skills and experience to inspire and assist others to develop sustainable community, either in existing suburbs or new-build.

Learn about this successful community model at three Tuesday seminars:

5 – 8 pm 24th March, 5 – 9 pm 31st March and 5 – 8 pm 7th April 2020
The Earthsong Centre, 457 Swanson Road, Ranui, Auckland

Cost: \$150.00 for 3 seminars or \$60 each for Seminars 1 & 3, and \$75 for Seminar 2

Go to www.robinallison.co.nz for more information and email robin.allison@earthsong.org.nz to register for one or all seminars

Seminar 1 24th March 2020: COHOUSING – FLOURISHING SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Living in a connected, diverse and multi-generational neighbourhood is more supportive, more sustainable, and lots more fun! This seminar will introduce the cohousing model and show many examples of how this has been applied around the world in urban, suburban and rural situations. A comprehensive site and house tour of Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood is included to demonstrate cohousing principles in action.

Seminar 2: 31st March 2020:

Part 1 - DESIGN FOR COMMUNITY - Social and Environmental issues

Physical design doesn't create community, but it can powerfully encourage or discourage community. Key aspects of designing for healthy community and environment will be explored, from macro issues of site layout and common facilities, to more subtle relationships between houses and collective spaces.

Part 2 - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE and EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING

Enormous creativity and strength are possible when empowered individuals work together for the common good. Robin will introduce the key organisational structures and agreements, including the "coloured cards" method of consensus decision-making, that have served Earthsong so well.

Seminar 3: 7th April 2020: PROJECT PLANNING

Part 1 - FROM VISION TO BUILT REALITY

Cohousing projects involve a wide range of steps, from developing a cohesive group vision, through membership processes to collaborative design, legal and financial structures and other development issues. Robin will share some key learnings and processes that help create a successful cohousing neighbourhood.

Part 2 – CREATING THE MAP

Let's play the Timeline Game! Developed specifically for cohousing groups, this game addresses all the major legal, financial, membership, site and design issues that require attention. Participants work together to create a "map" to guide progress towards a completed neighbourhood. It's enlightening and lots of fun.

These seminars are supported by the Earthsong Centre Trust www.earthsong.org.nz