



Above: Pete Malavisi, with children Lorenzo (11), left, Domenico (14), Leopoldo (11) and Yolanda (13) at the new house for the Busselton Community Gardens.

Adding a touch of sustainability

Peppermint Cottage relocates to Busselton Community Garden

ENVISAGING a home nestled amid the gardens, the team at Busselton Community Garden has adopted Peppermint Cottage and plans to renovate it as a sustainability model.

The garden's president Peter Malavisi said the house was donated by Ibex Capital and recently transported at the group's expense to the Busselton site almost a year earlier than expected.

Mr Malavisi said they wanted an old house so they could show the community how to live sustainably using the existing house stock.

Now that the home is sitting at the garden, the first step will be to assess its condition, including how much insulation has been fitted and the type of flooring and window treatments in place.

Their plans include installing a grey water system, a composting toilet, potentially getting solar panels and lighting and building 4m wide verandas around all sides including one overlooking the reserve behind the garden.

The house will serve as an office for the Community Garden committee and have a room for holding workshops for the community.

"We're hopeful in 12 months we will get a permit to use it," he said.

Used as a holiday home in Busselton until recently, Peppermint House is generally in good condition and Mr Malavisi hoped they'd be able to renovate it with sponsorship in the form of sustainable products that could showcase what is available.