

# Going green a challenge

By ANGELA THOMPSON

WHEN Rowena Morris and Sol Buckman were growing up, there were always chickens in the backyard.

But several decades and three children later, it has been a while between eggs.

"Both our parents are quite environmentally aware ... but since having kids I've kind of forgotten it all," Mrs Morris said.

"The kids are so obsessed with playing Wii that they forget the pleasures out in the backyard and where your food comes from.

"We just got so busy and forgot to slow down the pace of life."

The Morris-Buckman household in Keiraville is one of 120 across the region readying for a green overhaul as part of Sustainable Illawarra's Super Challenge.

The initiative, launched in Wollongong this week, provides resources, incentives and workshops to families

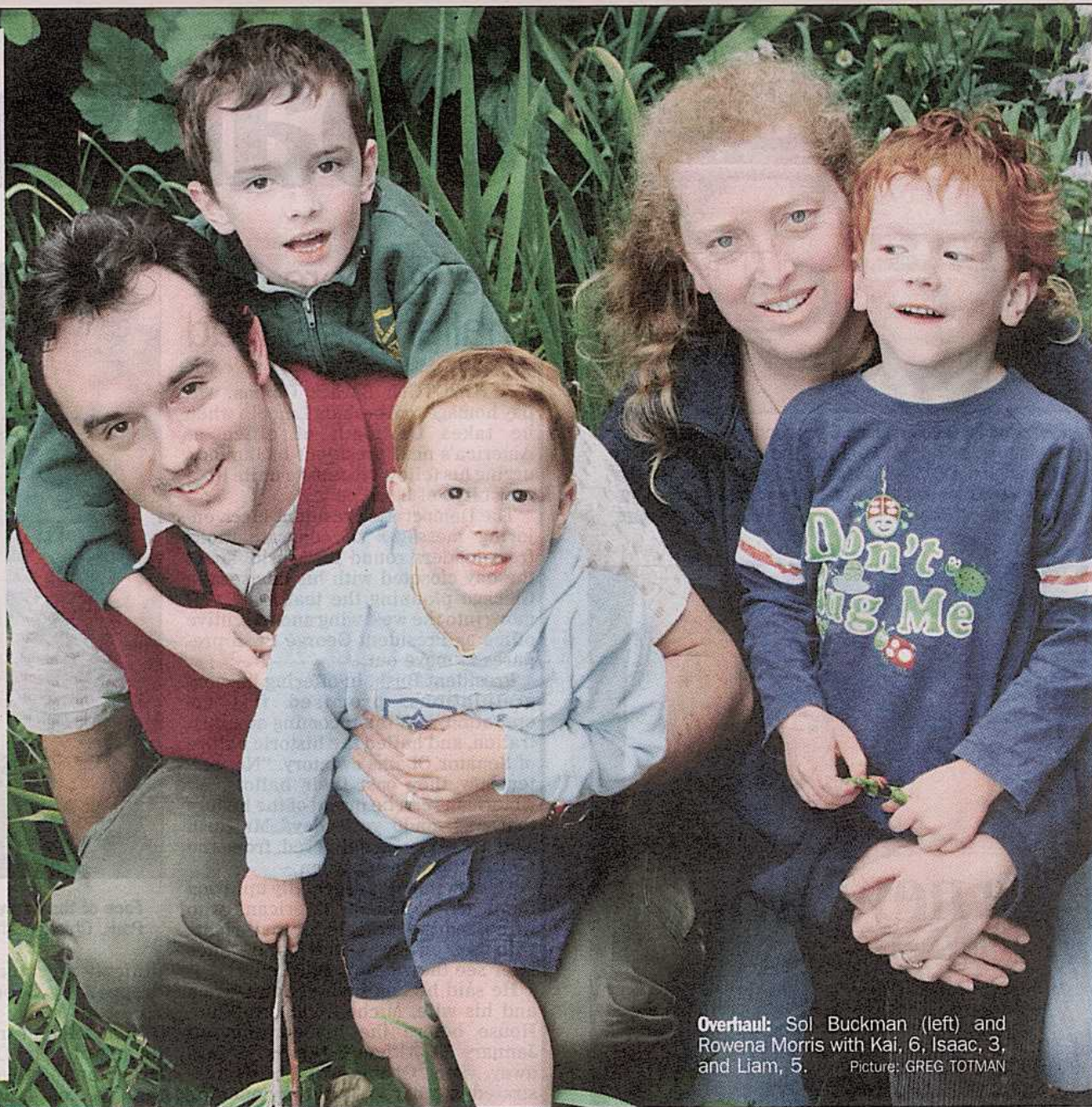
who want to reduce their impact on the planet. Participants detail their progress on a website over the course of a year.

"It's a really important part of the program for people to share their stories because it's all about real people doing real things for the environment and showing how easy it is ... to be more sustainable," sustainability education officer Vanessa John said.

Participants have set targets to reduce their water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, stop using plastic bags and convert to solar power.

For Mrs Morris, a greener future includes a garden filled with native plants to encourage native fauna to use the backyard. And she also plans to install a chicken coup, just like when she was a kid.

To monitor participants' progress go to [www.sustainableillawarra.com.au](http://www.sustainableillawarra.com.au).



**Overhaul:** Sol Buckman (left) and Rowena Morris with Kai, 6, Isaac, 3, and Liam, 5. Picture: GREG TOTMAN