

Annual Report 2016-2017



Strategic Directions at a glance



Vision

An empowered and engaged community, actively cultivating long-term social and environmental well-being

Mission

To build relationships to inspire, educate and demonstrate sustainable environmental practice and reconnect people to the natural world

Values

Integrity, Inclusiveness, Creativity, Reciprocity, Respect for First Peoples' cultures

1. Education:

Provide and support educational programs that develop and share knowledge, ideas and skills which inspire and stimulate positive environmental action

2. Community Action:

Support people to care for the environment and address climate change

3. Partnerships:

Build strategic partnerships which maximise our environmental and social impact

4. Organisational Development:

Ensure the EcoCentre is run in an effective and efficient manner



President's Report

We are a dynamic not-for-profit community organisation that is dedicated to building relationships to inspire, educate and demonstrate sustainable environmental practice and reconnect people to the natural world. The grave global challenge posed by climate change and the related threats to the health and well-being of the environment, humanity and of many of the planet's flora and fauna species mean that our work has never been more crucial.

The EcoCentre works towards facilitating our vision of an empowered and engaged community, actively cultivating long-term social and environmental well-being through actively partnering and working with over 279 organisations. These include our 25 affiliate organisations, 143 schools and early learning centres, and nine research organisations. Together we form a wide network of expertise and practical experience in community environmental practical action, research and education.

Our building is physically located in the beautiful and iconic St Kilda Botanic Gardens; however, our reach and influence extend from the 'burbs to the bay. (See map on page 19) We work in over 160 suburbs supporting projects across Melbourne and beyond.

The EcoCentre has a reputation of doing things well and of inspiring others. Over the past three years, we have won 15 significant awards and this year the EcoCentre

The Committee of the EcoCentre is proud to present the 2016–17 Annual Report and to celebrate with you our work, achievements and partnerships.

was recognised through two finalist nominations and four awards from Victorian to national level. These included the Keep Australia Beautiful 2016 **National Clean Beaches Overall Award** and **Dame Phyllis Frost Award**, for which we partnered with City of Port Phillip and several other local organisations.

There are many other ways we measure our success and outcomes and throughout this report you will read the complimentary words that some of our participants have used when they are thanking us for our work.

During the past year, in total over 17,000 people participated in our activities or programs including 6,769 school students and over 2,000 participants in citizen science research studies. We ran education programs and training with 787 teachers. Through the Corporate Volunteering program, 558 employees donated 3,812 volunteer hours to the environment. People contributed over 11,700 hours of volunteer time to work together in many of our programs including the Community Garden working bees and Baykeeper research. We convened our first partnership-based 'grant writing bee', leading to \$1.3 million for Port Phillip Bay protection projects, run by the EcoCentre and 10 partner groups from 2017-2020.

Our work, outcomes and success are made possible through the financial and other support of many people and organisations.

I would firstly like to thank the City of Port Phillip for its ongoing financial support in the form of an annual operating grant and some program funds, as well as providing the council-managed building from which we operate. During the past year the City of Port Phillip commissioned Zen Architects to develop *Concept Plans for the Redevelopment of the EcoCentre*. An artist's rendering is reproduced on page 21 of this report. We are thrilled to see that in the forward estimates of the 2017–18 budget, council has allocated funds to the EcoCentre's redevelopment during the next four years.

We would also like to thank other councils including: City of Stonnington, City of Bayside, Kingston City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council and Glen Eira City Council for financial and other support.

I would like to sincerely thank all our sponsors, financial contributors and partners. They are included throughout this report and listed in the section, Our Best Mates, on page 33. It is their generosity through funding and other support that enables us to achieve the success and outcomes we have and to be a dynamic, responsive community organisation.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who work and have worked during the year for the EcoCentre in either a paid or voluntary capacity. The staff, under the leadership of the Executive Officer, April Seymore; the Education Manager, Karen Jones and the Baykeeper, Neil Blake, are all dedicated, highly skilled and educated, innovative and resourceful. The team is highly motivated and achieves so much because they work so hard and so well together. They are dedicated to inspiring and educating others about the need to protect the environment so as to sustain the world. Thank you too, to the many volunteers who also very generously contributed their time and expertise to our shared vision.

The effort, expertise and commitment to exemplary governance of the members of the Committee of Management and the Public Fund Trustees, ensures that the EcoCentre is well managed, strategic and financially stable. Thank you to all of you.

Thanks too, to all those members, participants, affiliates and other organisations with whom we have worked this year.

Together we should be proud of our outcomes, our ongoing achievements and of being part of this dynamic community that is striving to protect and enhance the environment and to maintain a better, more sustainable world. Congratulations.

Pam O'Neil

Pam O'Neil

1. Education

Schools and early learning centres

A wide range of schools, early learning centres (ELCs) and community groups were inspired and encouraged to undertake positive environmental action through participating in the following EcoCentre programs and initiatives:

- Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS)
- Schools and ELC excursions and incursions
- ResourceSmart Schools (RSS)
- Teacher and educator professional development
- Sustainable Schools Festival
- Expert in Residence
- Sessions with Elders
- Engineering Sustainability in Secondary Schools
- 'Penguin Friendly' events targeting zero landfill or litter
- Wildlife habitat improvement

Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS)

continues to be our flagship environmental behaviour change program with students from 10 schools graduating in 2016–17. TLfS is a multi-session program that engages a class or leadership team in hands-on leadership skills through a sustainability lens chosen by the school. Students explore local natural environs and the 2016–17 student-led practical projects included fauna species lists, nest boxes, litter awareness sculptures, worm farms, improved bin systems and signage.

We acknowledge scholarships from Bayside City Council, City of Port Phillip and Jewish Ecological Coalition that provided financial support for schools to participate in TLfS as an integrated curriculum unit or leadership program. Our ongoing collaboration with TLfS founders Pat Armstrong and Jane Stewart is reflected in this program continuing to thrive and expand.

'I want to sincerely thank you for what you shared at the whole school Professional Development. You were both very inspiring and your commitment to the cause shone through strongly. You engaged the staff and gave them thoughts and substance with which to proceed.'

Assistant Principal,
Glen Huntly Primary School



Boon Wurrung Foundation prepares for a smoke ceremony at the Sustainable Schools Festival.
Photo credit: Hilmar Anton

The 11th annual **Sustainable Schools Festival** was held in September 2016 with 140 students participating. The Kids Teaching Kids workshop format allowed 12 local schools to showcase their student leadership and sustainability achievements.

The festival is the premier school sustainability event within the southern Melbourne region allowing the development and sharing of knowledge, ideas and skills between schools.

The School Sustainability Awards presented at the festival provide recognition of the sustainability achievements of participating schools. St Columba's Primary School received the **Green School of the Year Award** and the **EcoChampion of the Year** was awarded to Malcolm Dow (Armadale Primary School) for his many years of teaching sustainability. The EcoCentre acknowledges the generous support of many local and environmental businesses that donated prizes for the awards.

'The outcomes from the excursion this year have been phenomenal ... litter audits of the school, assembly presentations, etc., which have resulted in facilitating whole school change.'

Teacher,
Red Hill Consolidated School

6,769 students 98 nest boxes built and installed



**‘Content was so interesting and important...
Love all the wonderful discussion and sharing
of great ideas and exploring practical activities.’**

Teacher,
Teachers’ Environment Network

Sustainability Victoria continues to champion **ResourceSmart Schools (RSS)**, which provides a comprehensive framework to guide schools towards 5-Star sustainability through the modules of biodiversity, energy, waste, water and core strategic sustainability. Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) coordinates this Victorian accreditation framework for the Southern Metro region, engaging the EcoCentre to deliver both facilitation and assessor services to over 20 schools. Financial support from self-funding schools and from Kingston City Council allowed EcoCentre staff to deliver additional facilitation hours at many schools. These three funding models allowed a record number of EcoCentre facilitated/ assessed modules (10) and stars (11) to be completed this financial year.

We were proud that our programs helped two partner schools win Victorian ResourceSmart School Awards 2016. St Kilda Primary School won Waste School of the Year and Moorabbin Primary School won Community Leadership School of the Year.

In addition to implementing the EcoCentre’s strategic education objective, the development and delivery of our programs also assists schools with their ResourceSmart Schools certification. We continue to provide opportunities for schools to complete module and leadership activities not offered by any other provider, including the TLfS program, Sustainable Schools Festival and our ability to train students for waste, water, biodiversity and energy audits.

**‘Thank you once again,
the value added to
our school through
this program and your
involvement is amazing.’**

Sustainability Leader,
St Joseph’s Elsternwick

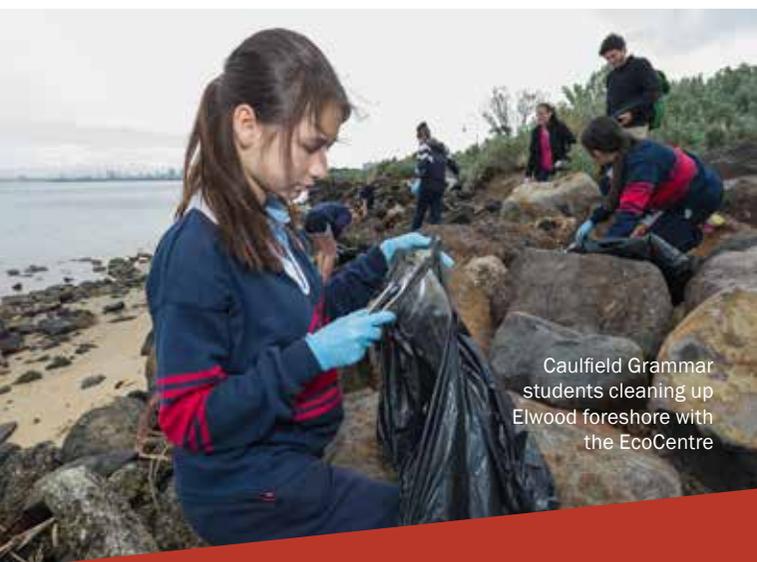
The Education Team delivered the following local programs made possible through government, community and philanthropic funding:

- The **Habitat Action for a Sustainable Future** and the **Know your Neighbours** projects connected three schools within the Elster Creek Catchment. Students built and installed nesting habitats for microbats, wood ducks and eastern rosellas. Elwood Primary School, St Columba’s School and Caulfield Grammar used the creek corridor as a classroom to supplement campus learning.
- The **Creatures of the Bay** project was a litter awareness and prevention initiative that involved students from five schools, (Albert Park Primary School, Albert Park College, St Kilda Primary School, Port Melbourne Primary School and Montague Continuing Education Centre), working with artists to create art work from litter collected from local beaches. This project was led by Inner South Community Health (now STAR Health) in partnership with Beach Patrol, Love Your Street, South Port Uniting Church and the EcoCentre. The project finished with the students’ artwork exhibited at Gasworks Arts Park.
- Melbourne Girls’ College and Presentation College Windsor completed their **Engineering Sustainability** program that connected environmental engineers and scientists to mentor student leadership groups.
- Arwee Carolyn Briggs, Elder and Director of the Boon Wurrung Foundation, asked the Elsternwick Primary School student Green Team to become the **Stewards of Elster Creek**. As a result, our educators worked with the students and teachers to improve the school’s energy efficiency, waste reduction and litter prevention.
- With Glen Huntly Primary School we delivered **The Komunitas Sayang Lingkungan Project**, which saw students, teachers and parents develop strategic sustainability policies and action plans to embed sustainability into their whole-of-school operations, management and curriculum.

Funding for these projects was received from Sustainability Victoria, Hamer Sprout, Environmental Resources Management Foundation, Elwood Community Bank Branch, City of Port Phillip and Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.

'I wanted to put into writing what a joy and a pleasure it was to have Sharron facilitate a nature-based playgroup session yesterday. As you're no doubt aware Sharron's calm, inquisitive, engaged and gentle style with children worked magic with our little ones. It was lovely to watch the toddlers enjoying themselves in nature, exploring the world and learning more about the trees and plants in the garden, having a range of unusual tactile and sensory experiences and the freedom to create paintings and products of beauty with the produce they picked from the garden. The children we work with often live in cramped living conditions and don't have many opportunities to play outside, so this program was all the more important for us.'

Group Worker, Launch Housing Children's Specialised Support Service



Caulfield Grammar students cleaning up Elwood foreshore with the EcoCentre

'Captain Trash's treasure chest of rubbish was superb. Also, introducing "Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove" through the pirate voice was fantastic. Afterwards the children could remember all of the Rs!'

'We really enjoyed walking through the gardens, a lovely experience for the children. Learning about indigenous plants was great.'

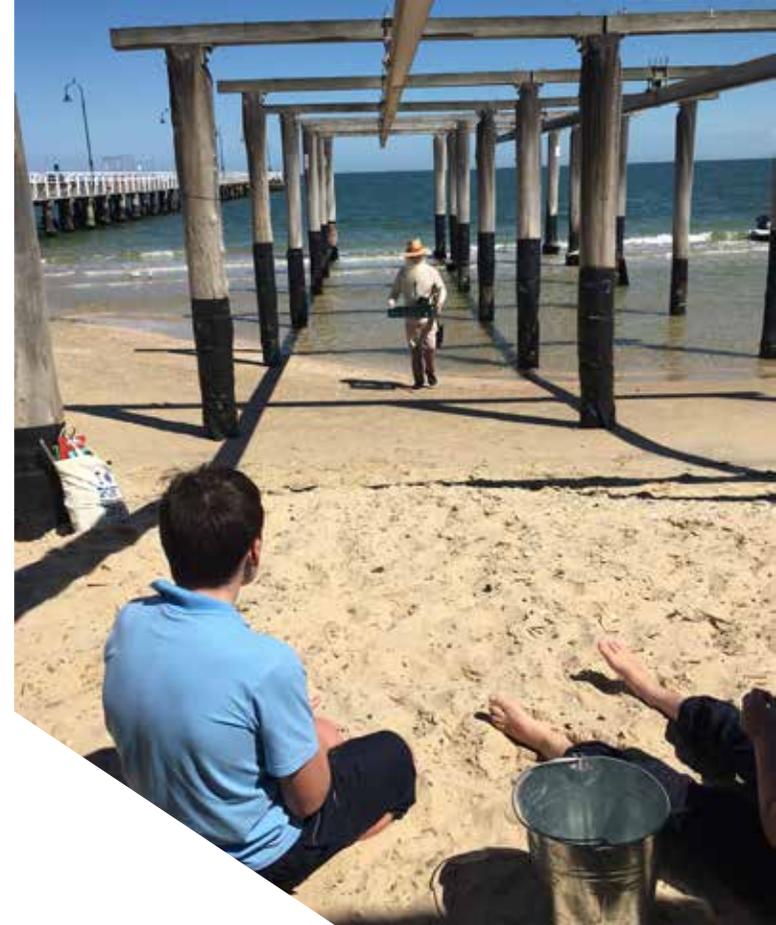
Parent, Nature Play Week

Our **excursion program** continued to be popular. Key 'outdoor classrooms' at St Kilda Pier, West Beach and the EcoCentre allowed our educators to deliver a wide range of curriculum-aligned activities at all year levels. Our most popular topics included habitats, understanding human impacts, natural processes and marine ecosystems. The subject of introducing Melbourne as a liveable and sustainable city and also the French language beach excursions enjoyed popularity. The Friends of Westgate Park received funding that allowed our teams to co-deliver school excursions at Westgate Park.

Our **ELC incursion program** provided dynamic support to ELC staff implementing the Early Years Learning Framework. Popular topics included **Captain Trash**, Edible and Indigenous Gardens and Minibeast Safari. A growing portfolio of ELC educator training workshops has been enthusiastically received and many organisations have booked repeat sessions. The EcoCentre acknowledges the City of Stonnington for its financial support for ELC incursions that provides a 50:50 funding split for ELCs within Stonnington.

The EcoCentre provided a wide range of support to teachers to assist them in delivering and embedding sustainability within their schools and ELCs. EcoCentre staff successfully ran hands-on sensory garden sessions as part of **Nature Play Week**.

For the first time, the EcoCentre helped co-organise the **Steps to Sustainability Conference** held in March 2017. This is the third conference and is Victoria's leading school sustainability conference where workshops are delivered by teachers for teachers. The conference is a Finalist in the **Melbourne Awards** and **Premier's Sustainability Awards 2017**.



Hosted by Melbourne Zoo, the event was booked out with over 200 teachers participating. The EcoCentre received great exposure with our Education Team staff serving as MCs and hosting many of the workshops. Many conference participants have now booked EcoCentre excursions for the first time. The conference received financial support from Sustainability Victoria, Catholic Education Melbourne and in-kind support from St Louis de Montfort Primary School, Environment Education Victoria (EEV) and CERES.

The **Teachers' Environment Network (TEN)** continues to provide and share environmental educational information and curriculum resources to over 200 members. The EcoCentre delivered a networking event in each school term with practical learning activities covering waste and recycling, Indigenous perspectives and biodiversity, and Baykeeper Citizen Science.



Photo credit: Diversity

‘EcoCentre educators gave the kids lots of chances to ask questions and learn about the things they were interested in... Super informative and engaging! Working with the EcoCentre is always a positive experience given the friendly and committed staff.’

Teacher, Elwood Primary School

EcoCentre education staff conducted numerous principal visits to schools in the Bayside municipality. These visits provided opportunity for the schools to share their sustainability achievements and for principals to find out what sustainability support is available to their school.

Our **Sessions with Elders** allowed many students, teachers and families within the City of Port Phillip to learn about Indigenous culture from Arweet Carolyn Briggs and educators from the Boon Wurrung Foundation.



Environmental Educator of the Year Awards

The EcoCentre was invited to be part of the **Two Bays** educational sessions aboard the Pelican research boat, where we delivered educational activities to a wide range of teachers and staff from environmental organisations all involved in protecting Port Phillip Bay, as well as children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds experiencing the bay for the first time.

The pilot **Expert in Residence** program was successfully completed with Gardenvale Primary School. All classes in every year level participated in three sustainability lessons delivered by EcoCentre staff. The program also provided support to teachers to understand how to teach sustainability and embed it in their lesson plans. Many schools are interested in the Expert in Residence program for next financial year.

Individual staff success included **April Seymore** being recognised on World Environment Day by Environmental Education Victoria with an **Excellence Award–Informal Education Sector**, for her previous role coordinating the EcoCentre’s many education programs.

In August 2016, **Karen Jones** brought considerable expertise and energy to the EcoCentre as our new Education Manager. We extend our appreciation to Karen, **Bronnie Walsh, Sharron Hunter, Gio Fitzpatrick, Peter Kelly, Sarah Child, Captain Trash, Belinda Daly** and **Reiko Yamada** for sharing their knowledge and skills, and for their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to deliver another successful year of sustainable educational support to schools, ELCs and the community.



Community education

A thriving and connected community is the key to a sustainable future. Our 'place-based' programs are inspired by the local environment and people, and designed to empower residents and visitors to re-experience the extraordinary urban ecosystem of which we are a part. This year's **Community Education** calendar engaged participants of all ages. Information on upcoming workshops and walks is available on our website, or by subscribing to our monthly digital news.

The EcoCentre team delivered a range of community engagements:

- The **Habitat Action for a Sustainable Future** and the **Know your Neighbours** projects provided the local community with guided walks along Elster Creek.
- Bush Tucker and Elster Creek community walks led by the EcoCentre quickly booked out during the **Seniors Festival** October 2016.
- A 'pop-up classroom' was set up to celebrate World Environment Day and as part of **Vibrant Acland Street** to allow locals and visitors to St Kilda to meet their wildlife neighbours. We unveiled a diorama of a drain to illustrate the incredible story of the eels that live beneath Acland Street. We also set up activity stations and there were roving street performances by Captain Trash and MC Guttermouth.
- The **Penguin Friendly Events** project which continues to work with St Kilda Primary School, Albert Park Primary School, City of Port Phillip and a range of community groups to implement waste wise community events that reduce the impacts of litter on the St Kilda little penguin colony.

- **Urban Biodiversity** and **Nest Box Workshops** and community information sessions were delivered for Glen Eira Council as part of its community festival and sustainability calendar.
- Various environmental education sessions were held at a range of South Port UnitingCare **SkillsFest** events.

Funding for these projects was received from Sustainability Victoria, Hamer Sprout, Elwood Bendigo Community Bank, Glen Eira Council and City of Port Phillip.

The Port Phillip Baykeeper's **St Kilda Natural History Walk**, which starts at a stormwater drain and ends at the penguin colony, is a summer favourite along with numerous activities run as part of Coastcare's **Summer by the Sea**. These programs are part of a calendar of free Baykeeper workshops and citizen science activities held on beaches around the bay, in all seasons and for all ages. Citizen Science involves people who are not trained scientists recording aspects of the environment to help qualified scientists answer some of the bigger questions.

Our staff members are regularly invited to present on the various environmental issues and research. These presentations include motivational speaking, keynote addresses and consulting. To build value for community environmental expertise, we have set up a fee-for-service **Speakers Program**. Staff can be booked to speak at events,

facilitate a roundtable discussion or lead a workshop. Bookings can be made through the staff page on our website.

We were pleased to continue our partnership with Launch Housing on Thursdays hosting the **Launch Housing Play Group**. We have started facilitating nature play experiences for participating families that are at risk of homelessness or are experiencing other social disadvantages.

This year we expanded our YouTube channel **EcoCentre TV** with several clips produced in-house by our team and **Hilmar Anton**. The **Elster Creek Wildlife** film was created as an educational tool to showcase biodiversity within the suburbs of the Elster Creek Catchment.

Gio Fitzpatrick, our **Youth Wildlife Ambassador**, has catalogued over 1000 species in the Elster Creek suburban corridor. This year we joined Friends of Elster Creek to repeat the all-day **Elster Creek Wildlife Challenge**: an attempt to spot more species of animals in a suburb in a single day than the number of species kept at the Melbourne Zoo.

In recognition of his work, Gio was named joint national winner of the 2016 Keep Australia Beautiful **Young Leaders Award** for Clean Beaches and Sustainable Cities.

Youth Wildlife Ambassador

Besides building nest boxes for schools and incursions, our Youth Wildlife Ambassador is also experimenting with different designs of nest boxes in our local area, with potentially positive results for endangered wildlife.

'The discovery of rainbow lorikeet chicks in an Elster Creek nest box in June brought the first conclusive evidence that at least some birds will take to a nest box with a 40-degree downward-angled spout entrance. Several earlier tests of this particular spout entrance (using banana pieces as a lure) showed that both common brush-tailed possums and black rats were unable to get in. This was an important experiment to test nest box design for hollow-nesting birds. Many of these birds are nesting in areas where few natural tree hollows occur and plenty of competing mammals, like possums, can evict them and sometimes may even eat them.

We also hope that this type of spout can be attached over the entrance of tree hollows used by swift parrots in Tasmania, thereby reducing the threat of chick predation by sugar gliders (which kill on average 50 per cent of nesting female swift parrots annually). In order to further ascertain the potential of these spouts for swift parrot conservation in Tasmania, tests would need to be carried out on sugar gliders. This has so far proven surprisingly difficult but a site has recently been found which may yield results. It seems fairly likely that if this spout design successfully excludes sugar gliders, it could be a very useful tool in recovering the now critically endangered swift parrot.'

- Gio Fitzpatrick, Youth Wildlife Ambassador



Gardenvale Primary Students tested nest box designs as part of their EcoCentre Expert In Residence program.



Indicators of Success: Education

What will success look like	The success of 2016–2017
<p>1. Schools and their students and teachers in our region involved in caring for the local environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 787 teachers • 6,769 students • 129 schools and 14 ELCs <p>Types of care for the environment included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant propagation and planting • Habitat restoration • Microplastics and litter audits and removal • Research activities including beach profiling, live mollusc surveys and shoreline shell surveys • Built nest boxes for: insects, microbats, rainbow lorikeets, possums, eastern rosellas and wood ducks • ResourceSmart Schools reducing ecological footprints of participating schools
<p>2. Niche post-school youth programs implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,328 volunteer engagements by participants aged 12–25 <p>Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be the RE-Generation • Duke of Edinburgh activities
<p>3. Young people and community members take up environmental leadership roles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted six tertiary interns and five secondary work experience students • 254 students graduated from the TLfS program • Showcased 334 student and teacher leaders at our Steps to Sustainability Conference and Sustainable Schools Festival • Gio Fitzpatrick won the 2016 Young Leaders Awards from both Keep Victoria Beautiful and Keep Australia Beautiful • Sam Perkins won the 2017 Bayside City Council Youth Leadership Award. See Baykeeper: Be the RE-Generation • Two high-participation volunteers secured their first post-university job in the environment sector with support from EcoCentre
<p>4. Educational programs incorporate First Peoples' cultural perspectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 134 students and 15 teachers participated in Sessions with Elders, cultural excursions and Boon Wurrung professional development for teachers • 3 Boon Wurrung Foundation cultural educators employed

2. Community Action

Port Phillip Baykeeper

Our solutions-based approach to building relationships with community groups, schools, businesses and government agencies has forged a strong, strategic network of environmental protectors for those waterways linked to Port Phillip Bay and its catchments.

This year's highlights included completing Australia's first study on microplastics in rivers; our anti-litter hip hop video going globally viral; presenting at the National Coast to Coast Conference; and collaborating to design Victorian microplastics survey methods with EPA Victoria, Sustainability Victoria and Melbourne Water.

'Baykeepers is a great film and one which has had a huge impact on me, changing my life significantly. Credit to all involved.'

John Billing, Beach Patrol 3199



Celebrating with our citizen science partners aboard the Pelican research catamaran.

Baykeeper: Catchment Education and Winter by the Waves

This multi-year project provided for extensive cross-sectoral liaisons enabling strong collaborative relationships. Our **Turn off the Tap** project ran parallel and presented opportunities to value-add, particularly in relation to community and government stakeholder engagement.

Catchment Education generated Melbourne's first bay-wide network to begin deploying a suite of citizen science methods to build a cohesive snapshot of catchment health. The partners also consider strategic perspectives and develop other practical projects that contribute to the study and protection of our catchment holistically.

Winter By the Waves extended our activity calendar year-round with over 100 events enabling residents to connect to the bay in all seasons. Accordingly, our original Baykeeper Citizen Science activities were trialled extensively across bay aspects and with varied audiences. This resulted in substantial improvements to the beach audit method, and its integration with other methods used elsewhere in Australia. We selected nine reference sites for regular monitoring with partners. In addition to this, new citizen science activities designed and trialled successfully during the project include:

- beach and intertidal sand surface level monitoring
- intertidal sandy seabed live mollusc survey
- microplastics litter audit for suburban streets
- microplastics litter audit method for river and creek banks.

'Baykeeper Catchment Education was an amazing opportunity to give the students' learning context and motivate them to be proactive in protecting Port Phillip Bay in the future. The students rate their experiences with the EcoCentre as the highlight of their year! Thank you.'

Teacher,
Red Hill Consolidated School

These methods enable the community to track sources and pathways of litter, including small microplastic litter often overlooked in general clean-ups. Collectively, these **Street to Sea Litter Audits** provide a simple way of not only counting and comparing litter items, but also to track where litter starts and travels in relation to various site conditions, including tides and winds at beaches, proximity to stormwater inlets along rivers and creeks, land use and pedestrian traffic on streets.

This whole-of-catchment approach recognises the 80% of litter that originates inland and eventually makes its way to the bay. By extending litter clean-ups and research from the beach and foreshore into the catchment, the problem can be addressed closer to the litter source.

Sustainability Victoria has recently commenced a research project to investigate the impacts of microplastics in Port Phillip Bay. This project emerged through a series of stakeholder workshops attended by state and local government agencies, research institutes and peak community organisations (including EcoCentre and Tangaroa Blue Foundation). Sustainability Victoria earmarked six of EcoCentre's beach reference sites for the collection and laboratory analysis of sand samples.

The tangible benefits of these relationships and the influence of the project on policymakers is evident in the list of successful applicants to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's *Port Phillip Bay Fund* announced in May 2017. Of the \$3.2 million awarded, EcoCentre will receive a total of \$589,070 to deliver two exciting projects over the next three years. A further \$649,131 has been awarded to 10 community organisations with direct links to EcoCentre.

Baykeeper: Be the RE-Generation

Funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, **Be the RE-Generation** is a Baykeeper youth volunteering project to research, restore and revegetate our coastal habitat. Over two years, we are training youth to create a resilient Port Phillip Bay. Formalised youth network partnerships support twice-weekly programs for volunteers aged 15–25 to work with the Baykeeper. Citizen science and practical works focused on biodiversity and marine plastic pollution are restoring habitat and collecting crucial data to inform government policy, biodiversity conservation and infrastructure investments in coastal planning.

Youth consultations report the environment as being a priority issue for young people. Citizen science provides an excellent avenue for them to enhance and understand their local coastal environment. This project provided extra resourcing for EcoCentre to engage with tertiary education student placements, schools and scout groups, as well as with individuals who were not necessarily part of an organised group.

Data is crucial to inform habitat conservation and marine litter prevention as we face complex challenges during the next 30 years. Of particular concern is plastic, which attracts and stores waterborne toxins. When birds and marine life consume plastic litter, these toxins are released into their bloodstream and the foodchain.

‘These encounters taught me to be more conscious and responsible in protecting our environment. I hope to contribute my part in helping people to have a greater awareness of microplastic pollution and its repercussions.’

Ying Quek, Environmental Science graduate student

Be the RE-Generation:

1,328 volunteer attendances

‘I was extremely interested in this field of work ... an excellent opportunity to further develop my knowledge and also share my research findings with others.’

Christine Hogan, RMIT student

As Melbourne’s population increases, so does waterway pollution and this threatens biodiversity and human health. Impacts of climate change (including sea level rise) will reduce the scale of, and in some cases eliminate, the narrow coastal habitat zone. Frequently, urban infrastructure and land management practices constrain the possibility of habitat being relocated further inland. Through Be the RE-Generation, 475 young leaders got the opportunity to write a positive future for Port Phillip Bay.

This project increased our ability to work in-depth with keen young people and host tertiary student placements. We particularly recognise the invaluable work of **Andrea Bayas**, **Maura Buckley**, **Cierra Ford**, **Javier Lawes** (Worcester Polytechnic students); **Wenjing Xu** (University of Melbourne); **Christine Hogan** (RMIT); and **Sam Perkins** and **Tim Payne** (Brighton Sea Scouts).

Sam Perkins prepared a comprehensive report on microplastics based on the research conducted by Brighton Sea Scouts and entered beach profiling data into Excel spreadsheets. Consequently, Sam was successfully nominated by Neil Blake for the Bayside City Council **Youth Leadership Award**.



Litter Hotspots: Turn off the Tap

This year concluded our multi-year **Turn off the Tap** project funded by the Victorian Government. During the project, thousands of volunteer hours were dedicated to the auditing and removal of millions of items of litter from the environment.

The data generated by our key partners has been used to create an interactive MOOP (Matter Out of Place) Map that illustrates volumes and types of litter collected around the bay in the Yarra River Catchment. Litter audits and river trawls highlighted the need for a standardised litter audit method to measure the level of microplastics present in waterways and on beaches around Port Phillip Bay, in bay catchments and even interstate. The Baykeeper Litter Audit method is now being used by a number of organisations and community groups around the bay and is being trialled by national partners.

This year, the production of the music video *A Little Bit of Litter* saw the collaboration of the EcoCentre, MOOP Patrol, MC Guttermouth and Nicole Joy address litter issues in a creative way. The video went viral immediately and was shared in newsletters and on social media in Australia, Canada, The Netherlands, UK and Ireland. The song and music video were played at a number of community events raising awareness about the impacts of litter on our waterways and Port Phillip Bay. The song was also screened at Harmony Square in Dandenong and Federation Square in Melbourne to commemorate Earth Day, and elsewhere for six weeks reaching a diverse, international audience of over 500,000 people.

Turn off the Tap has supported two Tangaroa Blue Foundation projects. The first project was the Litter Hotspots program **Operation Clean Sweep®** that involved working with the plastic industry to prevent nurdle pollution. Data from the program's clean-ups were used to kick off a community-led **Source Reduction Plan** (facilitated by Tangaroa Blue), to combat plastic straw litter in Port Melbourne. Currently, 14 cafés have replaced plastic straws with paper ones.

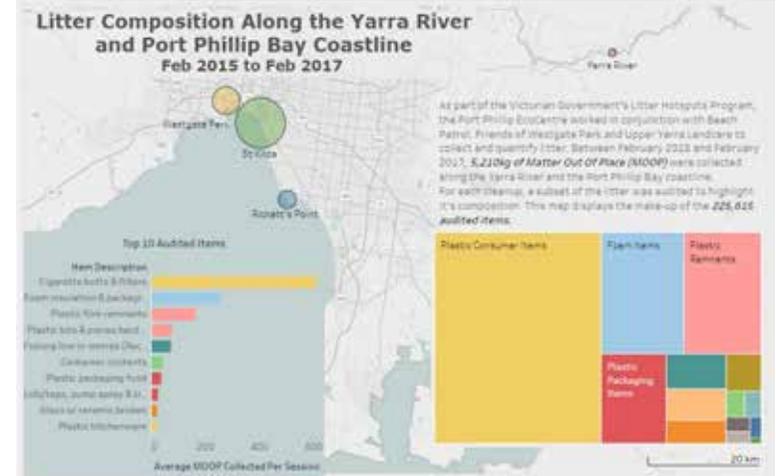
Some of the most important long-term outcomes of Turn off the Tap are the new partnerships we have forged and

our enhanced reputation within the anti-litter community. We have become a specialist in litter education and citizen science data for plastic pollution in Victoria. We have been able to work with Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria to quite literally 'put nurdle pollution on the map', joined the Victorian Litter Action Alliance and have been invited to brief Members of Parliament. We co-designed Victoria's microplastics citizen science survey methods, and published Australia's first study quantifying and categorising riverine microplastics.

Work carried out in Litter Hotspots was recognised through the Keep Australia Beautiful 2016 **National Clean Beaches Overall Award** and **Dame Phyllis Frost Award**. The music video and litter audit methods won the 2017 Keep Victoria Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards in the category **Clean Beach/Waterway Award**.

A big thank you to **Dr Nikki Kowalczyk** and **Fam Charko** for their meticulous project coordination during the life of this project.

MC Guttermouth and MOOP Patrol starred in a globally viral music video rapping reasons why a little bit of litter really matters.



Corporate Volunteering Program

Through our **Corporate Volunteering** program, participants get to roll up their sleeves, meet some local wildlife and breathe some fresh sea air as they help our community.

National Australia Bank (NAB) returned to the shores of Port Phillip Bay to **Pamper the Penguins**, where they undertook citizen science monitoring activities as **Marine Biologists for a Day** and planted trees in conjunction with Friends of Westgate Park. We ran a record 21 corporate days with NAB this financial year, with over 300 NAB employees making dozens of trips out onto the St Kilda Breakwater little penguin colony. Each program we run enables us to donate funds to Earthcare St Kilda for penguin monitoring equipment.

We were pleased to continue our partnership with Landcare Australia Limited, 83 returning Telstra employees, and new clients Konica Minolta and Monsanto. Other new partnerships included Hub Australia (with which we held our first evening activity) and the enthusiastic Charter Hall, Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia, Recoveries Corporation Group Ltd and REA Group Limited. Goodcompany, which assists us in brokering new commercial partnerships, also chose us for its team day in 2017.

Special thanks to Konica Minolta and Charter Hall for their generous donations towards carts and wheelbarrows to help us continue our penguin habitat improvement work.

Evaluations captured overwhelmingly positive feedback in regard to our activities. Volunteers gave us full marks for making a difference, building team spirit, and personal education. Activities this year were coordinated by the unflappable **Anthony Gallacher**.

558
employees
donated **3,812**
volunteer hours

820
habitat plants
installed

26.8
tonnes of sand
and seaweed
moved to create
penguin habitat

**'By far the best
corporate volunteer
activity I've undertaken'**

Abigail, Head of Restructuring and Recovery, National Australia Bank

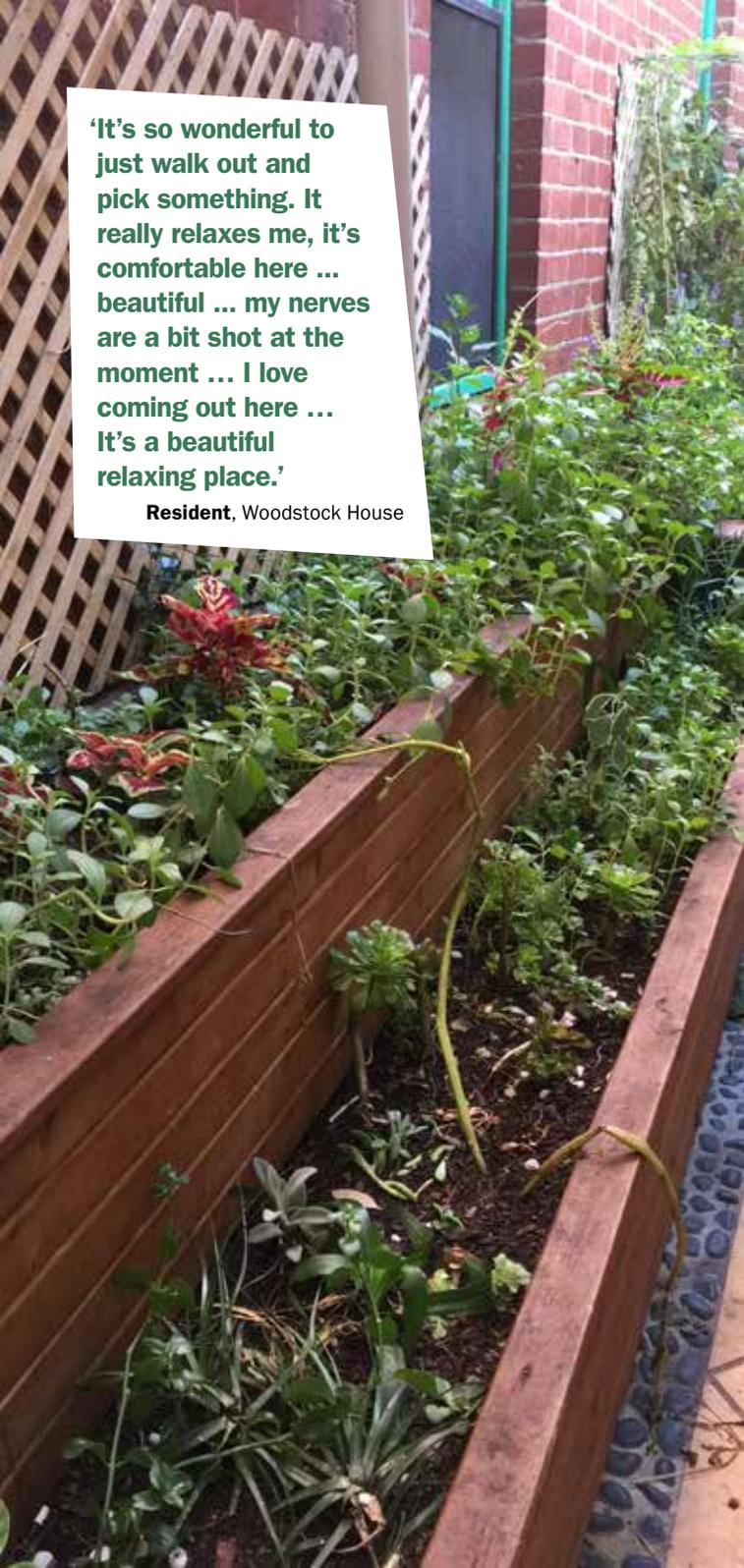


Since undertaking corporate volunteering activities with us:

- 85% of participants were more likely to undertake further volunteering
- 90% noted increased personal and team communication with colleagues
- 83% of participants felt the activities improved their commitment to the company and
- 82% felt increased pride in their company and increased motivation

'It's so wonderful to just walk out and pick something. It really relaxes me, it's comfortable here ... beautiful ... my nerves are a bit shot at the moment ... I love coming out here ... It's a beautiful relaxing place.'

Resident, Woodstock House



Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network

Deb Punton coordinated the **Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network** (PPUFFN) funded by the City of Port Phillip. The PPUFFN aims to engage Port Phillip Housing Association (PPHA) tenants in food security activities, composting and garden development at social housing properties.

Gardens at four sites were supported. Rejuvenation of the Regal site saw new gardens containing edible and sensory plants installed. This activity prompted remarkable behaviour changes in tenants, including self-motivation and engagement, resulting in a sense of pride and strengthened family and community bonding.

Deb provided horticultural and design advice for the initial set-up, as well as on-site workshops and information sessions for ongoing sustainable gardens including seed saving, closed loop fertilisers and growing seedlings. The PPHA Community Gardens Officer was provided with resources to inspire and maintain these thriving gardens into the future.

'We planted a garden in October 2016 and have an active working group of 10 men involved in the garden. The garden has been a resounding success. We planted a mixture of flowers, succulents, vegetables, herbs and fruit trees. The men take responsibility for watering, weeding and chasing off possums in the middle of the night. The garden has transformed how the men behave in the back yard. Prior to the garden being put in, the yard was full of discarded objects and the ground was littered with cigarette butts and glass. It was used as a urinal and was not a pleasant place to be. The men built a purpose made ashtray – their own initiative – and the place is spotless. The produce is used both in the fortnightly social meal and also individuals harvest for their own meals.'

Philippa, PPHA Community Gardens Project Officer



Community Garden Team

The EcoCentre's productive community garden attracted many new Garden Volunteers to help us nurture our living food system. Every Friday, you can find us in our garden from 10 am - 3pm.

Our little patch kept the team busy (and fed!) with organic produce throughout the year to use in fresh vegetarian community meals prepared each Friday. The Garden Volunteers continued to propagate seedlings to provide to members of the public for a small donation and diligently turned our compost to produce a worm-rich super soil.

It was a pleasure to host the Sacred Heart Outlandish group once a month on Fridays, giving us extra hands to help care for the grounds and vegie gardens.

There was a change in the community garden landscape with the removal of the Monster Composters in May. As a focal point of the garden for many years, it was a multi-person job to pack them up for a return to creator Dane Morrissey.

Thanks to 'Bob the handyman from Lismore' whose cameo volunteering helped expedite many manual tasks including re-landscaping behind the shed, tweaking the lizard enclosure shade and creating a new wheelbarrow lettuce box.

This year **Anthony Gallacher** coordinated **Friday Garden Bees** and **Georgie Adaney** brought sunshine, support and chef skills to the garden group during her 10-week placement.



7
tonnes of
community food
scraps composted



EcoArts Festival

The **EcoArts Festival** was a participatory arts/climate change awareness festival centred on a roaming projection performance work called **Illuminate 2030**. Funded by City of Port Phillip, the festival lit up the EcoCentre with a daylong program in September 2016.

The Illuminate 2030 projection work featured four animated wildlife creatures whose bodies were illustrated with changing imagery created by our artists, climate scientists and the community. The creatures represented two very different future scenarios for the City of Port Phillip in 2030: climate change addressed; climate change ignored. These contrasting visions were communicated through a roaming projection performance involving four performers and four projectors. It evolved in response to public participation as it travelled through the suburb and St Kilda Botanic Gardens.

The festival included guided wildlife walks, Boon Wurrung Welcome to Country and story; a Climate Art-Science Forum; art workshops, interactive installations, food, and live music by Little Feet Music.

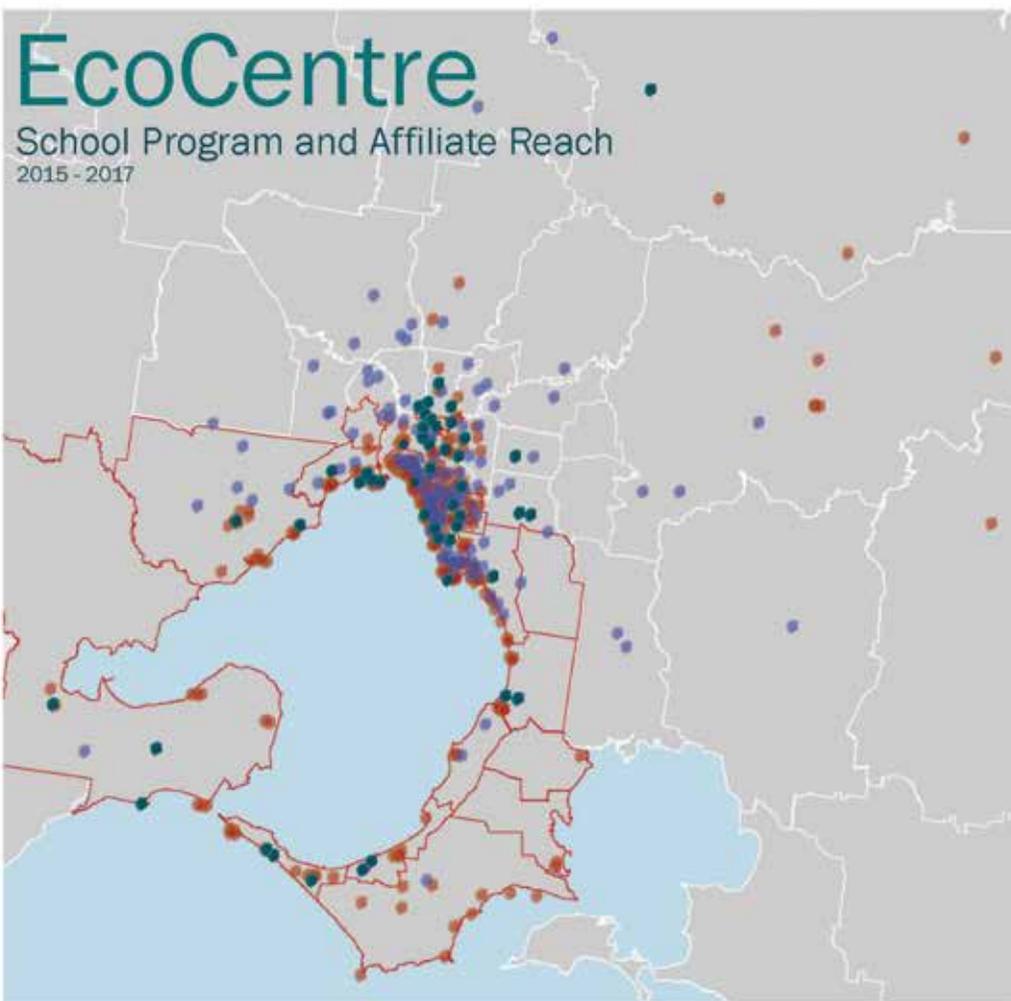
We enjoyed the return of EcoCentre alumna **Caroline Packham** as Creative Director for this wonderful event, and thank all the volunteers, artists, panellists and participants on the day.

Indicators of Success: Community Action

What will success look like	The success of 2016–17
<p>1. Wide range of stakeholders positively engaged in environmental protection activities, including through social media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly engaged 17,020 people • Worked with 279 organisations • 25%+ participation growth on all our digital/social platforms • 3,711 volunteers contributed 11,701 volunteer hours • \$28,204 received as donations (including direct giving, workplace giving and other)
<p>2. Specific studies completed, reported on, publicised and influencing positive behaviour change</p>	<p>Nine studies and reports completed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Succession Planning Case Study</i> • <i>Microplastics in the Maribyrnong and Yarra River Report</i> • <i>A Citizen Science Platform for Long-term Monitoring of Plastic Pollution in Port Phillip Bay</i> • <i>Regal Community Garden Case Study</i> • <i>School Sustainability Barriers and Drivers Review</i> • <i>Environmental Citizenship Surveys Best Practice Report</i> <p>Submissions made in response to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Protection Amendment (Banning Plastic Bags, Packaging and Microbeads) Bill 2016 • Discussion paper <i>Protecting the Yarra River (Birrarung)</i> • Port Phillip Bay Draft Environmental Management Plan • Victorian Marine and Coastal Act • City of Port Phillip Council <i>Draft Plan and Budget</i> • Elsternwick Park North (joint Ministerial letter) <p>Media coverage included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International coverage of <i>A Little Bit of Litter</i> music video • 900+ screenings of <i>A Little Bit of Litter</i> music video in Federation Square and in Harmony Square in Dandenong • 10 radio appearances on various channels

<p>3. Active engagements by community members in citizen research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities included habitat mapping; microplastics and litter audits and removal; beach erosion profiling; live mollusc surveys; shoreline shell surveys • 2000+ people engaged in more than 360 citizen science activities
<p>4. Community members confident and able to cultivate and have access to fresh locally grown produce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97 PPUFFN participants learned to garden • Three gardens installed in community housing • 37 new EcoHouse Garden Volunteers inducted • 1,319 volunteer hours contributed to our community garden • Affiliates include Mary and Basil Community Garden, St Kilda Community Gardens Club Inc, Veg Out Community Garden, Christ Church Community Centre (community garden site) and Port Melbourne Uniting Church (community garden site)
<p>5. Up to date, well maintained suite of communications and promotional tools and systems used internally and externally</p>	<p>Diverse communications tools included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and education videos on YouTube • <i>A Little Bit of Litter</i> music video on Vimeo • Regular social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (including via Hootsuite) • Digital newsletters for Members, Volunteers, Teachers and Early Years • <i>Baykeepers</i> film

3. Partnerships



‘ **The EcoCentre employs a wide range of approaches to enable participants to collaborate, to drill down into issues and to develop concrete solutions. I am in awe (not an expression I use lightly) of how April is deftly able to manage complex and often disparate groups to ensure energies are channelled in a positive direction.**’

Jill Sokol, Love Our Street 3184

Strong reciprocal partnerships are one of our core values, greatest enablers and truest pleasures. Every partner brings to the EcoCentre a new perspective and technical knowledge on issues around ecological and social well-being that contribute to better and more effective projects. We have a spectrum of formal collaborations spanning from local to global; from community to institutional; and from strategy to action.

We commit to meaningful engagement with people from all backgrounds to improve our collective ability to understand and care for our environment from the 'burbs to the bay. This year the EcoCentre explored diversity and equity initiatives including recruitment practices, staff diversity training and project development. A new **Coastal Ambassadors** project funded by Coastcare will provide paid internships for culturally and linguistically diverse young people from communities typically under-represented in our sector. Our hope is to foster a continuing, reciprocal dialogue that increases cultural inclusivity in coastal stewardship activities.

This year we also developed two new types of in-depth collaborations, Expert In Residence for schools and Embedded Officer consultations for local government.

Port Phillip Bay Catchment Network

In recognition of our positive approach to building relationships with community groups, schools, businesses, and government agencies, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation invited EcoCentre, Yarra Riverkeeper and Werribee Riverkeeper to conceive a network of community protectors and advocates covering all catchments around Port Phillip Bay.

The Port Phillip Bay Catchment Network (PPBCN) would promote community stewardship and influence government policy through enhanced dialogue between statutory bodies and the many volunteer 'Friends' groups, who have detailed local knowledge but often lack capacity to communicate more widely.

Since October 2016, participation in Melbourne Water's innovative series of catchment strategy co-design workshops has provided invaluable networking opportunities and catchment management insights. On the basis of the wealth of ideas and understanding gathered, we expect to see a healthy PPBCN born in 2018.

Indicators of Success: Partnerships

What will success look like	The success of 2016–17
1. Partnerships focus on active mutual engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Affiliate organisations • Affiliates collaborated on practical action for schools, Litter Hotspots, the EcoArts Festival and Be the RE-Generation • Four ongoing Baykeeper Ambassadors formalised
2. Partner-relationships built across government, businesses, environmental organisations, schools, trusts and community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 279 school, government, business and community partnerships • Outcomes included practical action, research, advocacy, venue sharing, auspicing services, in-kind contributions, training and education • Port Phillip Baykeeper’s citizen science methods were adopted by EPA Victoria, Sustainability Victoria, Sea Scouts and Waterkeepers Bahamas • National Clean Beaches Overall Award and Dame Phyllis Frost Award recognised our successful partnership-based practical action
3. Engaged and increased memberships and effective membership system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership system was digitised • Membership drive practical handover instruction videos and manuals created by the Administrator for staff training • Membership base is stable
4. A well-coordinated team of volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,711 volunteers contributed 11,700+ hours to caring for our environment • A full-time volunteer coordinator role was trialled • Volunteer induction and policies were updated



4. Organisational Development

EcoCentre redevelopment

During the year, the City of Port Phillip managed a project conducted by Zen Architects for the drafting of *Concept Plans for the Redevelopment of the EcoCentre*. We are most appreciative of the contribution of our volunteer consultant, **Tim Naylor**, who, with the EcoCentre Executive, represented the EcoCentre during this project and worked closely with the consultants and council officers on the project. A drawing from the concept plans is reproduced below.

The EcoCentre also collaborated in a Council-managed project for the development of the *Port Phillip Regional EcoCentre Strategic Business Case*. This will be used to seek partnership funding from the State government for the redevelopment of the EcoCentre.

We are thrilled to see that in the forward estimates of the 2017-18 budget, the City of Port Phillip has allocated funds to the EcoCentre's rebuild over the next four years.

Capacity building case study

During the transition from Founding Director, Neil Blake to current Executive Officer, April Seymore, a multi-year Capacity Building Grant from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation facilitated our succession planning project.

Succession planning helps capture organisational knowledge, reduce an organisation's vulnerability and improve organisational sustainability. It is part of an ongoing and dynamic organisational process that requires review, adaptation, updates and changes over time. During this process we used objective and impartial assessment methods, like an organisation assessment tool and employing an external consultant **Anne Garrow**, to highlight previously unknown issues in your organisation.

After our experience, we generated a case study of our approach to this process and the knowledge gained. The case study is freely available to assist other not-for-profit organisations. In October 2016, the *Succession Planning Case Study* was published with in-kind support from Ply Creative. The Case Study can be downloaded from the EcoCentre website.

Artist's rendering of the EcoCentre Redevelopment, by Zen Architects



Community investments and strategic activities

Some activities each year are outside funded projects, but provide strategic value on behalf of our members. Such activities involve knowledge sharing, network building, and practical support that accelerates sustainability in our daily lives and government systems. This typically involves a mix of self-funded work (enabled by your donations) and volunteer time by our team. In particular we recognise Port Phillip Baykeeper Neil Blake for his tireless contribution to helping community take action on behalf of the environment.

Staff and Committee members strategically donated their time for:

- **Affiliate and partner support:** attending partners' annual general meetings and events, facilitating strategic planning workshops for groups, collaborating on funding submissions, project development support and writing letters of recommendation
- **Building the next generation of advocates:** mentoring students, participating in research projects, providing career advice
- **Team building with partners and community:** various community radio appearances and radio program hosting, attending award ceremonies and celebration events, speaking at partners' events

We've taken Victoria's climate change pledge.

TAKE2
Founding Partner

- **Community outreach and initiatives:** providing support for community campaigns such as for the Great Forest National Park, supplying litter items to artists for artwork, co-hosting a free ukulele repair workshop, hosting a community Plastic Free July celebration, contributing to others' citizen science projects, responding to community enquiries and reports of dead or injured wildlife
- **Cross-sectoral relationship building:** Collaboration with and consultation for government and government agencies by attending events, participation in various co-design workshops, consultation panels, brainstorming and forums
- **Developing new educational tools:** designing and performing musical 'edutainment', designing two-stringed instruments from 'rescued' parts, mentoring a community group in advocacy efforts to establish a nature conservation centre in its council area
- **Donating equipment and space:** providing bikes for community housing rides, sharing our tools, meeting room, IT equipment and advice



Indicators of Success: Organisational Development

What will success look like	The success of 2016–17
<p>1. Effective and satisfied staff in an appropriate organisational structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual staff reviews and exit interviews for staff documented high staff satisfaction overall • Monthly staff meetings • Twice-yearly all-staff and Committee training days • Education Manager was hired to coordinate the Education Team
<p>2. Financial security gained from a range of funding sources and financial surplus increased annually towards a long-term goal of one year's operating expenses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved a diverse income mix of approximately: 33% fee for service, 33% local government (grants and consulting services), 12% state government contracts, 18% philanthropic grants, 4% donations • Implemented Square for mobile donation/sales technology • Achieved a 25x increase in number of donors making gifts • Financial surplus is one-third of one year's operating expenses



3. An active and effective Committee of Management with appropriate range of skills

- Committee of Management held 11 meetings, numerous sub-committee meetings, and led two Staff-Committee Strategy Days, achieving a 78% attendance rate
- Skills matrix evaluated to inform Committee recruitment
- One vacant seat on Committee (due to resigning member)

4. Revised efficient financial, human resources, knowledge management, planning systems and communications systems in place and operating well

- Our Annual Report has been compiled by all staff and Committee
- Team work plans were reviewed quarterly against Strategic Plan
- Executive Officer held monthly review meetings with our Treasurer and President
- Conducted a review of Strategic Plan progress in September 2016
- Secured funding for a Knowledge Management and technology project from 2017–2019 based on last year's diagnostic reports

5. EcoCentre projects and programs align with relevant research and best practice

- Participant evaluations are conducted for: Corporate Volunteering, TEN, Excursions and TLfS
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute evaluated the Baykeeper beach litter audit methodology for scientific merit, ease of use and industry relevance
- Our EcoCentre team was recognised this year through two finalist nominations and five awards at Victorian and Australian levels
- EcoCentre was invited to present at National Coast to Coast Conference and to brief Members of Parliament
- Collaborated with EPA Victoria, Sustainability Victoria and Melbourne Water to co-design citizen science methods

Affiliates in action



Animal Liberation Victoria

Animal Liberation Victoria (ALV) is an independent not-for-profit organisation that has been saving the lives of our most vulnerable species for over 38 years.

We continue with our 'Open Rescues' campaigns, investigations and exposés including, Pig Truth, Cow Truth and Lamb Truth. We recently launched **ALV Youth** and the **Vegan Parents** sections of our website. We are also in the process of organising the exciting new **Spring Vegan Festival** to be held on 28 October 2017.

Our **Vegan Easy** initiative began almost 10 years ago and continues to be one of the most popular programs in Australia and overseas, helping people transition to veganism through our 30-Day Vegan Easy Challenge. We also produce one of the most used outreach tools in Australia, the *Vegan Easy* booklet. We provide it free of charge to groups or individuals wanting to distribute it during their outreach activities.

www.alv.org.au



Australian Coastal Society Ltd Victorian Chapter

Victoria may be a relatively small state but it has 2,512 kilometres of coastline and a population of 5.8 million people– almost 25 per cent of the national population. Victoria hosts a variety of environments, including the open coast, extensive embayment and islands and experiences of striking seasonality. Like other states, Victoria has a complex array of legislation, authorities and stakeholders that affect how the coastline is managed.

The Australian Coastal Society Ltd (ACS) is a key organisation in the Australian Coastal Advocacy Alliance. We have an active role in significant local and regional issues and also in developing national coastal policy. We are a member organisation that collaborates to share information, provide professional networks and advocate for best practice policy and management. Our Committee includes: President: Sue Mudford; Communications: Neil Cooney; Member: Helen Martin and Member: Steve Blackley.

In 2016, we assisted the Victorian Coastal Council to host the biennial **National Coast to Coast Conference** in Melbourne. This provided an opportunity to hear from international and regional speakers. Most of our current efforts have

concentrated on contributing to a plethora of policy reviews by government and providing input to the development of CoastAdapt support tools. Our seven submissions made over the last year are available on our website.

Following a review of the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, the government has committed to a new act expected to come into effect in late 2017. Via submissions and stakeholder reference groups, we have provided input to Victoria's proposed new Marine and Coastal Act (MACA), which proposes a number of significant changes to strengthen our coastal management system and includes a stronger focus on marine planning.

We hope you will attend the first Victorian State Coastal Conference convened by the Central Coastal Board on 23 November 2017 in St Kilda. We are always keen to hear from those interested in becoming involved or hosting an event. If you would like to participate or bring other issues to our attention please get in touch.

vic@australiancoastalsociety.org

Australian Landcare International

Australian Landcare International (ALI) involves community land management and operates in one form or another in Germany, Iceland, New Zealand, the Philippines, Tonga, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Jamaica, USA, Canada and 12 African countries. **Landcare** is effective due to its flexibility, multi-disciplinary character, commercial partnerships, freedom from corruption through group decision-making and an emphasis on training that results in community empowerment.

As the best Landcare networks run as community enterprises, Australia's aid agencies are paying more attention to Landcare to assist communities in the developing world overcome food security issues.

Financed by the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and Crawford Fund, ALI sent a three-person team to northern Zambia in December 2016 to train smallholders in marketing farm produce; train Landcare coordinators in network management and to explore multi-country revegetation projects in southern Africa. ALI is currently assisting with the first overseas global Landcare conference, to be held 5–8 November 2017 in Nagoya, Japan.

In four years, ALI has raised over \$35,000 for 40 small projects in 14 countries with some Landcare groups and networks supporting their third project. Donations are tax-deductible.

<http://alci.com.au/>





Christ Church Community Centre

Christ Church Community Centre continues to be inspired and encouraged through its affiliation with like-minded organisations holding similar values. We were most inspired and felt a real sense of connection when we attended the Urban Agriculture Forum at the University of Melbourne's Burnley campus. It was here that it became clear that we are part of a movement of change and belong in a network of inner city food growers. All of us came away with enthusiasm and hope that our work and the work of others will pave the way for a healthier and happier future for inner urban living.

Our link with the EcoCentre strengthens our goal to achieve best practice in sustainability. Our kitchen garden, modelled on the EcoCentre example, is expanding and improving by the season. We also enjoy making use of the garden as a training ground for people who wish to develop new skills or share existing ones. This year we installed a rainwater tank. We have also seen excellent outcomes for the **Garden Nomads** who help others in the local community who can no longer manage their own gardens due to age, health or other obstacles. This is a beneficial program for all. We look forward to the bounty of produce and positivity this aspect of the community centre generates.

<http://www.christchurchstkilda.org.au/activities.html>

Earthcare St Kilda

Earthcare St Kilda has had another busy year. Our continuing projects include penguin guide program, penguin colony research, litter clean-ups and sea star pest removal; revegetation works, seagrass mapping and Waterwatch water quality testing at Elster Creek. As always, our enthusiastic and dedicated members and supporters carry out these projects and activities.

In 2016, we celebrated 30 years of **St Kilda penguin study**. Mike Cullen and Neil Blake started observing the colony and recording penguin habitation during 1986. A decade later they were still out there—and three decades later, we held a symposium where all aspects of penguin life in St Kilda were presented by a variety of different research projects. This year we successfully held our eighth Penguin Guiding season with 145 registered guides supervising public penguin viewing. Earthcare St Kilda has worked closely this year with Parks Victoria to deliver infrastructure improvements to better protect the penguins after two attacks on individual penguins last year.

Litter data results, along with feedback from penguin research sessions, indicate that we are finding a lot less plastic and fishing line in penguin nests as a result of our habitat maintenance. But most importantly, this year we are aware of only two penguins becoming entangled in plastic bags or with fishing line and hooks.

Hopefully, with more ongoing fantastic advice from Neil Blake, Gio Fitzpatrick, EcoCentre and St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Co-operative (SKINC), and along with the saltbush seeds harvested last summer, our people power can get the penguin viewing area as well vegetated as the far end of the breakwater.

<http://earthcarestkilda.org.au/>



Elwood Floods Action Group

Elwood Floods Action Group (EFLAG) is pleased to report a number of significant developments for 2017.

City of Port Phillip's 10-year plan acknowledges flood vulnerability and includes a significant increase in the drainage budget. We thank City of Port Phillip and in particular, Canal Ward Councillors, Dick Gross, Louise Crawford and Tim Baxter. Port Phillip also agreed to a moratorium on sealing laneways in flood prone areas after a submission by EFLAG. We continue to press for replacing solid surfaces with a permeable alternative, which is in line with council policy but not current practice.

Elsternwick Park is vital to flood mitigation in Elwood. A plan for an environmentally-friendly, flood mitigating park ('Option 1A') was drawn up by a community Deliberative Panel including EFLAG Secretary, Geoff Love. Bayside Council did not endorse this option, which prompted the formation of the diverse Elsternwick Park Coalition, which continues to advocate option 1A. The Coalition has started a Facebook group for those interested in supporting it.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) is a federally-funded group that workshops ideas for solutions to multi-agency problems. The centre conducted the **Elwood Water Project** to consider ways Elwood and the Elster Catchment Councils could adapt to increased flooding and rising sea levels. At the recent CRCWSC Conference in Perth, speakers from City of Port Phillip and EFLAG were invited to address an audience of 200 academics and scientists.

In a significant milestone, Melbourne Water is to convene a working group comprising Port Phillip, Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston councils to facilitate cooperative management of flooding in the Elster Catchment. It will include a regular community forum. The approach should result in uniform policies and practices for flood mitigation that are determined by water flow rather than municipal boundary. EFLAG will particularly advocate that infill developments adopt best Water Sensitive Urban Design practices.

elwoodfloods@gmail.com



Friends of Westgate Park

For the Friends of Westgate Park, the 2016-17 year saw remarkable progress in delivering practical projects in the park and advancing a merger with our local nursery, SKINC.

Today, the Southern Wetlands looks nothing like the weedy, rubbish-filled area it was when added to the park four years ago. The eastern section is a series of water-filled lagoons surrounded by hundreds of plants attracting frogs, birds and visitors. It will not be long before the western section (which we are now working on) looks just as good! There has also been considerable focus on revegetating the Yarra riverbank, which is such an interesting section of the park. But we have not forgotten the rest of the park. We are maintaining and replacing plants as required. We expect to reach our target of 20,000 plants in the ground this year.

Most of these plants are grown by SKINC, which collects seeds and cuttings from the park, so it makes sense for both groups to merge. The new organisation would promote biodiversity by growing and planting locally Indigenous plant species. We plan to operate as **Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery & Landcare** ('bili' meaning small lizard or skink in the Boon Wurrung language) at a site that was recently added to the park at the end of Wharf Road.

We are also delivering two very exciting citizen science projects: providing for the pollinators, and soil and tree health measurement. We are partnering with the City of Melbourne to study the relationship between our plants and pollinators in the park through field observations. The soil and tree health project involves a series of measurements throughout the park with the results being entered into a worldwide database.

<http://www.westgatepark.org/>

Marine Care Ricketts Point

Marine Care Ricketts Point (MCRP) is a group of around 200 amazing volunteers who care for the beautiful Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary in Beaumaris year-round despite rain, hail, wind or shine! The Sanctuary was declared in 2002. It is 115 hectares stretching three kilometres along the coastline between Table Rock Point in Beaumaris and Quiet Corner in Black Rock, and extending 500 metres out to sea. The Sanctuary provides protection and a nursery for important fish species, diverse marine life, migrant and resident bird populations and many small animals that inhabit the area.

The group has many activities that draw in the local community and thousands of visitors annually. One of these is our weekly snorkelling program held every Saturday in the warmer months with six qualified snorkel leaders. Some diehards continue into the colder months too and we had a winter solstice snorkel swim this year ... chilly! The group is also heavily involved in policy action and ongoing educational programs.

Melbourne Ports Stop Adani

A number of local people attended the Stop Adani Roadshow in March 2017, organised by 350.org, GetUp!, Stop Adani and other environmental organisations. The presentations outlined the range of issues presented by the proposed new largest coal mine in the world. These included that emissions would

Melbourne Ports Stop Adani held vigils outside banks urging divestment from the proposed Adani mega-mine



Beach Patrol 3193 is our group of 140 tireless volunteers who do monthly beach clean-ups and help organise and analyse the rubbish collected. The data is then uploaded to the Beach Patrol Australia and EcoCentre websites. This forms the basis for submissions to government and feeds into the larger **Turn off the Tap** project funded by the Victorian Government to reduce the amount of litter entering the bay. The most common material collected is plastics—both large and small pieces—and thousands of cigarette butts. Consistent with the previous year, we are seeing a great deal of small pieces of hard plastic, as well as plenty of plastic film remnants (bits of plastic bags, wraps etc.), straws, packets and food containers. These smaller pieces may take a long time to collect; however, they are a huge problem because they enter the food chain and become extremely hazardous to birds and marine life.

Citizen science work continues year-round through the Marine Education Science and Community Centre

warm the planet by more than two degrees and that additional shipping and coal storage/ loading facilities would increase the threat to the Great Barrier Reef. Additionally, a further four mines are proposed for the Galilee Basin and would commence should the mine go ahead, posing threats to the purity and availability of water in the Great Artesian Basin. There are also concerns about the integrity of governance and the potential for corruption.

Meeting at the EcoCentre, Melbourne Ports Stop Adani was formed to provide a focus for local action and education about the dangers of the proposed mine.

Melbourne Ports Stop Adani held its first event, a screening of *Guarding the Galilee* with guest speakers at the EcoCentre, which was attended by over 70 people. A second film night with speakers from Market Forces and Australian Conservation Foundation was held at the Elwood Sailing Club in June and despite inclement weather, over 100 people attended.

We also held five vigils outside local Commonwealth Bank branches on three different days in the lead up to the

MCRP Winning the City of Bayside Australia Day Environment Award



(MESAC), of which MCRP is a founding member. Its many achievements include intertidal surveys, student projects and producing book and film resources ranging in topic from fossils to shorebirds to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Ray Lewis, AO, produces our eNewsletter, which always contains an impressive array of photographs and information on the Sanctuary. We have a Facebook page and are launching a brand new website very soon.

<http://www.marinecare.org.au>

release of the bank's new climate change policy. Vigils were also held outside bank branches from Geelong to Cairns. The bank stated that it had not been asked to fund the proposed mine and that if it were, it would not do so.

We have written to the Prime Minister, ministers with relevant portfolios, other politicians and have tried to secure a meeting with our local member, the Hon. Michael Danby. We are urging politicians from all parties to speak out against the mine and against the use of tax payer funds to support the mine or its associated infrastructure.

This issue is said to be the largest environmental protest in Australia since the proposed Franklin Dam project in Tasmania in the 1980s. We join with the hundreds of #StopAdani and other groups and the hundreds of thousands of individuals who are fighting to stop the mine. The group has a number of other events and actions planned. Please join us.

stopadanimelports@gmail.com

Port Melbourne Uniting Church

'Sowing Seeds of Hope' is the tagline for Port Melbourne Uniting Church. One of the ways we do this is through the activities and events of our **Simply Living Project**, where we connect with our local community and engage with issues of sustainability. Our affiliation with the EcoCentre continues to be an important part of how we do this.

The **Simply Living Community Garden** in the grounds of Port Melbourne Uniting Church has provided a focus for gardening and social cooking activities throughout the year. Pre-school gardening activities, Seniors Festival intergenerational **Gardening for Life** and our annual plant sale were all successful. Our fortnightly community kitchen group, Kitchen Mates, continues for people from a range of backgrounds. The monthly **Grow and Eat** social cooking group has expanded to incorporate a children's cooking activity and special school holidays cooking activities for children and their parents.

In 2017, we changed the format of our **SkillsFest** community event to become three smaller events linked to other community activities. **Life in the Garden** in February was part of the Sustainable Living Festival with a focus on bees, bats, worms and butterflies. **Creatures of the Bay** in May linked to the community project of the same name, with activities around reducing plastics and recycling. This led to starting up a monthly sewing bee to make re-usable bags in support of the Boomerang Bags initiative. Our third event for the year will be part of the **Garage Sale Trail** in October, bringing together a number of local community groups to re-use and re-purpose items as well as raise funds for those groups.

Thanks to the EcoCentre and other affiliates for their support throughout the year, especially of the SkillsFest events.

janet.hoare@southportuniting.org.au

Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group Inc.

The Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group (BUG) has had a very active year in 2017. We meet every second month at the EcoCentre and have enjoyed some great speakers, including Anthony Aisenstein from the **BikeSpot mapping project**, members talking about recent notable bike adventures, and prominent cycling researcher Dr Jan Garrard.

We have run bike rides to Open House day and also in conjunction with the Heritage Festival. We have been ramping up our advocacy efforts during 2017 with visits to local councillors and local MP, Martin Foley. We have been working on improving those streets where it is difficult to cycle and also keeping our eye on the efforts to provide separated cycle lanes on St Kilda Road.

We welcome new members to join us on the first Wednesday of every second month.

portphillipbug@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/PortPhillipBUG



Port Phillip Community Group

Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG) operates from four sites in the City of Port Phillip: St Kilda, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and East St Kilda. The group provides services to individuals, families and communities experiencing complex issues such as poverty, disadvantage and isolation. To address these issues, PPCG provides centre-based and outreach programs that focus on support, social inclusion, and education and skills development.

During the past year PPCG's **Social Inclusion and Well-Being Programs** have continued to be well attended and successful. These are funded and supported by the City of Port Phillip. They provide low cost supported access to recreation, well-being and creative and performance events that enhance social inclusion and skills development for people of all ages and abilities. The recreation activities continued to include gym, swimming, tennis, bushwalks, dog walking and gardening.

Highlights this year included:

- Increased participant attendance at mainstream venues including: Fitness First, Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, Carmelite Tennis Courts and the Port Phillip Life Activities Club
- Increased demand for weekend bushwalks in partnership with Bushwalking Victoria with an average of 16 participants each walk. Participants enjoyed supported nature walks to Trentham, Warburton, Point Cook and Anakie Gorge. Additional bushwalks are planned for 2017-18 to meet this demand.

At PPCG, our volunteers, staff and partner agencies are our most valuable resource and we thank them for their commitment. We are united by our vision: *a fair and just society that values all people.*

www.ppcg.org.au



Transition Port Phillip

Transition Port Phillip now uses Facebook as its online hub. Over the past year, posts to our page have provided insight into events and activities in the area as well as links to transition-themed articles and videos.

Our Facebook page provides a snapshot of the variety of local grassroots activity that enhances our environment and promotes community-led action. We have used it to promote little-known local insights such as the emergence of little free libraries on the streets of the Port Phillip area.

Some posts on our page provide more in-depth information on the Transition Town Movement, including links to news from the global Transition Network (transitionnetwork.org). Overall, the information we have been posting provides locals with the opportunity to discover what the Transition Town Movement is about, whilst highlighting examples of how local groups and individuals are acting to transition to a more environmentally sustainable and socially connected future.

www.facebook.com/TransitionPortPhillip

Victorian Landcare Council

Since its establishment in 2008, the Victorian Landcare Council (VLC) has been the independent advocate for the Victorian Landcare community of approximately 60,000 volunteers.

A chief focus of the last 12 months has been working through a process to partner with the Farm Trees and Landcare Association to form a new single organisation that will service, support and advocate for land care in the state. This organisation was established in April this year and is called Landcare Victoria Incorporated (LVI).

A Committee of Management is steering LVI towards its first AGM in February and elections for Landcare representation on the first Committee of Management, as well as an advisory Members Council. We are seeking around 60 volunteers and professionals from across the state to represent the Landcare community on the two committees.

During this merger process, VLC has continued at pace with its normal activities. These include representing the Landcare community on a number of reference committees such as those set up by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability to oversee the *State of the Bays* and *State of the Environment Reports 2018*; the community reference panel for the *Biodiversity Strategy*, and the Victorian Rabbit Action Network. The VLC has also hosted a regional forum in the Mallee, attended by over 50 Landcarers from both the Mallee and across the state.

A three-year partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation League has also continued to provide information about how best to support Landcare volunteers and their staff in building knowledge and capacity. As a component of this project, called **Community Learning for Environment Action (CLEA)**, we ran a universally applauded two-day workshop in June for 40 Landcare support staff.

All in all, it has been an exceptionally busy year but one made easier through our affiliation with the EcoCentre and the availability of meeting space in St Kilda. Most importantly, this affiliation provides organisations like ours with links to the enthusiastic activities occurring in this urban Landcare space.

www.landcarevic.org.au



Our best mates

Major partner

City of Port Phillip has provided us with our Council-managed building and an annual grant to cover basic operational costs, thus allowing us to welcome new partners and generate additional income. We value their longstanding collaborative support.

Major funding

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

- *Baykeeper Catchment Education Project*
- *Organisational Capacity Building Project*

Victorian Government

- *Litter Hotspots: Turn off the Tap*
- *ResourceSmart Schools*

Projects funding

Bayside City Council

City of Port Phillip

City of Stonnington

Glen Eira City Council

Hobsons Bay City Council

Kingston City Council

Elwood Community Bank Branch (Bendigo Bank)

Environmental Resource Management Foundation (ERM)

Hamer Sprout Fund

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

- *Port Phillip Bay Catchments Network*
- *Stewards of Elster Creek*
- *Komunitas Sayang Lingkungan Project*

Patagonia

Victoria International Container

Terminal Community Investment Fund

Victorian Litter Innovation Fund

Government agency collaborators

Coastcare Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA)

Melbourne Water

Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group

Parks Victoria

Sustainability Victoria

Victorian Litter Action Alliance

Consultants

Andrew Smale, Wye Consulting

Anne Garrow

Jeremy Smart

Zen Architects

Benefactors

The EcoCentre acknowledges with gratitude all supporters. Our work is made possible by your generous gifts, large and small. For a gift that makes a difference, go to ecocentre.com

Affiliates

Our organisational members conduct diverse activities towards social and environmental well-being.

Animal Liberation Victoria
Australian Coastal Society
Australian Landcare International
Beach Patrol Australia
Christ Church Community Centre
Earthcare St Kilda & Friends of Elster Creek
Earthsong
Elwood Floods Action Group
Friends of Westgate Park
Glen Eira Environment Group
Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO)
Mammal Survey Group of Victoria
Marine Care Ricketts Point
Mary and Basil Community Garden
Melbourne Ports Stop Adani
OASES Community Learning Ltd
Port Melbourne Uniting Church
Port Phillip BUG Inc. (Bicycle Users Group)
Port Phillip Community Group Ltd
Ricketts Point Marine Care
St Kilda Community Gardens Club Inc.
St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Co-op
Transition Port Phillip
Veg Out Community Garden
Victorian Landcare Council

Partner organisations

Our practical action is undertaken with over 140 schools and Early Learning Centres (too numerous to mention here) and in alliance with many collaborators including:

3CR	Deakin University	Melbourne Polytechnic	Sea Shepherd Australia
3WBC	Diversity	Monash University	Sheree Marris (Melbourne Down Under)
3RRR	Diver Matt	MOOP Patrol	Soxy Beast
Australian Marine Mammal Conservation Foundation	Dolphin Research Institute	Mornington Peninsula Shire	St Kilda News
Australian Marine Conservation Society	Environment Education Victoria	National Australia Bank	Stonnington Climate Change Action Network
Bayside Climate Change Action Group	Friends of Greenwich Bay	National Centre for Coasts and Climate	Sustain: Australian Food Network
Bayside Community Nursery	Friends of Williamstown Wetlands	North Western Shorelines Network	Take2
Beach Patrol 3182	Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria	Ply Creative	Tangaroa Blue Foundation
Beach Patrol 3196	Georgie Wilton	Polperro Dolphin Swims	Trade Creative Media
Bellarine Catchment Network	Greensong	Port Phillip Housing Association	Trash Puppets
Boon Wurrung Foundation	Goodcompany	Qiantang Riverkeeper	Treasury Wine Estates
Brighton Sea Scouts	Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network	Rachel Gedye Photography	University of Melbourne
Carbon Arts	Inner South Community Health/STAR Health	The Renegades	Upper Yarra Landcare
Catholic Education Melbourne	Keep Australia Beautiful	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Victoria National Parks Association
Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES)	Keep Victoria Beautiful	Rye Foreshore Advisory Group	Victoria Polytechnic
City of Frankston	Kids in Nature Network	Sacred Heart Mission/ Outlandish	Vivad Pty Ltd
City of Wyndham	Landcare Australia Limited	Saltwater Projects	Waterkeeper Alliance
Clean Up Australia	Latenite Films	Save the Bays Bahamas	Werribee Riverkeeper
Cool Australia	Little Feet Music	Scab Duty	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
The Connies	Love Our Street 3184	Sea Life Trust (Melbourne Aquarium)	Yarra Riverkeeper Association
	Lutman Films		

EcoCentre people

Committee of Management

Pam O'Neil, President
Liz Fenwick, PhD, Vice President
Tony Flude, Secretary
Keith Badger, Treasurer
Anne Callaghan
Dan Coleman
Geoffrey Love
Jan Cossar
Jo Wallace
Lucy Hedt

Staff

April Seymore, Executive Officer
Karen Jones, Education Manager
Neil Blake, Port Phillip Baykeeper Programs Manager
Anthony Gallacher, Volunteer Coordinator
Belinda Daly, Schools and Community Educator
Bronnie Walsh, Schools and Community Educator
Caroline Packham, Artist in Residence
David Giles, IT Specialist
Deb Punton, PPUFFN Project Officer
Fam Charko, Marine Biologist and Project Manager
Fiona Second, Bookkeeper
Gio Fitzpatrick, Youth Wildlife Ambassador
Dr Nikki Kowalczyk, Litter Hotspots Project Manager
Peter Kelly, Schools and Community Educator
Reiko Yamada, Schools and Community Educator
Sarah Child, Schools Educator
Sharron Hunter, Schools and Early Learning Educator
Sair Clarke, Admin Ninja

EcoCentre Public Fund Managers

Louise Kyle
Michele Hodes
Nick Capes

Key Volunteers

Annie Strutt, Sustainable Schools Festival
Daniel Zisin, Little Bit of Litter music
Eva Steinfurth, Teacher placement
Gill Upton, Wominjeka Garden
Hilmar Anton, Photography and marketing
Louise Kyle, Admin
Nadav Zisin, MC Guttermouth
Nicole Joy Wheatley, Little Bit of Litter vocals
Sam Perkins, Baykeeper research
Tim Naylor, EcoCentre Redevelopment Sub-Committee
Tim Payne, Baykeeper research
Brian Tregillis, Data visualisation
Ying Quek, Microplastics research

EcoArts Festival Team

Thank you to the artists and scientists who donated their expertise to produce this vibrant event. In particular we thank: Gonzallos Ceballos, James Whitmore, Lachlan Plain, Michael Buckley, Minna Lappalainen, Rob Murray-Leach (Energy Efficiency Council) and Tom Milton

Community Garden Team

Many people cared for our organic garden this year, in particular we thank: Adrienne, Bernice, Bianca, Bridgit, Catherine, Connie, Debby, Deni, Eileen, Eva, Eve, Greg, Hahn, Karin, Kate, Loreto, Melissa, Nicolas, Paul, Paula, Ronald, Shelley, Steve, Tanya, Tenélle, and Tif.

Work Experience

Maddie Hanns
Monique Burns
Harley Dickerson
Bailey Loft
Lauren Autore

Internships

Andrea Bayas, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Cierra Ford, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Christine Hogan, RMIT
Georgie Adeney, Victoria University
Javier Lawes, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Maura Buckley, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Wenjing Xu, University of Melbourne

Detailed income and expenditure statement
for the year ended 30 June 2017

Independent Auditor's Report

2016/2017 \$ 2015/2016 \$

INCOME		
Administer projects	95,767	81,061
City of Port Phillip grants	202,195	295,768
Consulting	161,439	80,646
Donations	28,204	18,452
Interest	3,685	6,047
Membership	3,533	2,205
Other grants	187,396	458,709
Seminars & Education	54,327	46,802
Product sales	9,804	6,630
Sundry income	70	30
TOTAL INCOME	746,420	996,350

LESS: EXPENSES		
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE		
Salaries and Wages	558,233	396,070
Superannuation	50,712	37,487
Workcover	7,419	6,302
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE	616,364	439,859
DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION EXPENSE		
DEPRECIATION	7,655	8,395
TOTAL DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION EXPENSE	7,655	8,395
OTHER EXPENSE		
Accounting and audit fees	15,150	13,130
Auspiccing	88,848	77,348
Bank charges	806	1,084
Cleaning	4,777	5,065
Computer expenses	4,321	2,521
Consumables	8,849	7,701
Electricity	2,373	2,166
Insurance	2,910	2,845
Equipment and materials	10,334	3,410
Printing, postage and stationary	4,632	3,263
Professional services	141,842	235,988
Repairs and maintenance	1,212	1,923
Seminars and training	2,577	4,239
Sundry Expenses	11,498	13,926
Subscriptions	5,733	1,927
Telephone	2,878	3,468
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE	308,740	380,004
TOTAL EXPENSE	932,759	828,258
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	(186,339)	168,092

Statement of financial position 30 June 2017

	2016/2017 \$	2015/2016 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	489,888	403,805
Trade and other receivables	52,873	74,713
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	542,761	478,518
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Land and buildings	229,542	235,428
Plant and equipment	5,306	7,075
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	234,848	242,503
TOTAL ASSETS	777,609	721,021
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	19,120	41,213
Grants received in advance	279,390	25,000
Employee provisions	38,528	27,896
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	337,036	94,109
TOTAL LIABILITIES	337,036	94,109
NET ASSETS	440,573	626,912
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained profits	440,573	626,912
TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY	440,573	626,912



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.


MSI RAGG WEIR
Chartered Accountants


L.S. WONG
Partner

Melbourne 20 July 2017

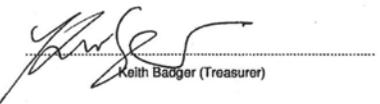
**PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC
ABN 66 852 809 680**

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

We, Pamela O'Neil and Keith Badger, being members of the Committee of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc, certify that -
The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc during the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2017.

Dated: 28 July 2017


Pamela O'Neil (President)


Keith Badger (Treasurer)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2017 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc to maintain an effective system of internal control over receipts until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to receipts was limited to the amounts recorded.

As mentioned in Note 2(k) to the financial statements, accounting records are not available to substantiate buildings and plant and equipment amounting to \$283,017 cost and \$48,169 accumulated depreciation at balance date. Management has determined and is of the opinion that these assets exist and that the carrying value approximates the value in use. However, in the absence of a valuation and stocktake we are unable to ascertain the details and carrying amounts of these assets.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association to comply with the financial reporting provisions of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibilities of the Committee of Management

The committee of management of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee of management are also responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee of management are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.



PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE

(03) 9534 0670
www.ecocentre.com

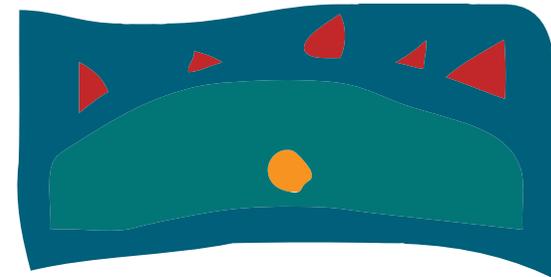
PORT PHILLIP
ECO
Sustainability
Education
& Community
Action

 **EcoCentre**

 **@ecocentrestkilda**

 **@ecocentrestk**

Registered on Environment Australia's Register of Environmental Organisations & entitled to receive tax deductible donations.
Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc is a Waste-Wise Organisation
Produced and printed at the EcoCentre on recycled paper



PORT PHILLIP
ecocentre

Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc.

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St Kilda, VIC 3182**

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(corner Blessington and Herbert Streets)

ph: (03) 9534 0670

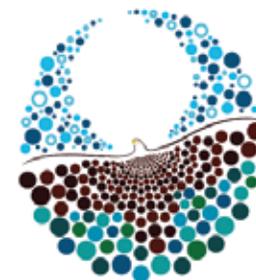
e: info@ecocentre.com

w: www.ecocentre.com

ABN: 66 852 809 680

Incorporated Association No. A0038897K

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