

# Annual Report

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## 2018-19





# Strategic information



## Vision:

An empowered community actively cultivating long-term environmental wellbeing.



## Mission:

We build relationships to inspire, educate and demonstrate sustainable environmental practice and strengthen people's connection to the natural world.



## Values:

- Respect for our First Peoples and their cultures
- Integrity
- Inclusiveness
- Reciprocity

## Outcomes:

Over the next three years, we are striving to achieve four outcomes:



### Connect

People are more connected with, value and interact with their local ecosystems.



### Act

Individuals and groups take action that protects and restores their environment.



### Transform

Our partnerships and networks influence positive systemic environmental changes.



### Enable

The EcoCentre is an efficient and effective, forward thinking organisation with an excellent reputation







# President's Report

Across the world, understanding is becoming widespread about the causes and effects of climate change. Millions of children, adults, businesses, nations, cities and towns are calling on their governments to recognise the climate emergency and to do more to rebalance the planet. In this time, the work of the Port Phillip EcoCentre has never been more vital.

We did not realise when we started simply, 20 years and 250,000 volunteer hours ago, that our model would prove so effective to protect and enhance the environment, improve legislation and lead research. We are proud that our way of engaging local community and operating as a hub for environment groups increasingly inspires other organisations, as they work together with their communities in this current time of global climate and ecological crisis.

The EcoCentre is not just one small organisation, we are a team of people and a network of organisations who are learning, researching, thinking, acting, advising and helping each other in this time of massive environmental and climate change.

Together with 30 affiliate organisations, 179 schools and early learning centres, 117 partner groups from Scouts to businesses, 5 local government councils, 7 tertiary institutions, 14 funders and 17,546 participants we are doing all we can to restore and enhance our environment; to adapt; to research, educate and inform others of local and wider impacts; to adopt new approaches to environmental and climate problems; and to advocate to government and other decision makers in key environmental areas and issues. Our work is performed by a small dedicated team of paid staff, a volunteer Committee of Management and the work of thousands of volunteers. Collectively we undertook action in 125 suburbs this year.

To creatively and effectively lead local response to unprecedented global challenges, we need a unifying vision and strategy – and that exists as our new *Strategic Plan*

*2018-2021*, with impacts measured through a valuable new *Monitoring and Evaluation Framework*. The Strategic Plan is carefully designed to recognise the integrated approach of our education, research and practical action projects and evaluate program and project impacts, rather than only reporting on quantitative outputs like number of participants. This means that along with celebrating benchmarks like our meticulous analysis of 20,000 microplastic pollutants or planting 8,100 habitat plants this year, we can now also understand that 89% of our participants increase their knowledge and awareness of local ecosystems as a result of their EcoCentre program experience.

You will read about our many and varied programs and projects in the following pages. They contribute to the four outcomes we strive to achieve through our Strategic Plan: to **Connect, Act, Transform** and **Enable**.

We instill nature connection and stewardship beginning from childhood, this year working with 179 schools and Early Learning Centres. Our early years programs provide the benefits of **Nature Play**, while programs for school students and teachers integrate **Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths (STEAM)** curriculum links, build practical leadership, and implement whole-school approaches to improving sustainability and environmentally sound practices.

397 **citizen science** activities were conducted, often in partnership with universities or research institutes. This included coordinating citizen science for the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Nanotechnology Lab, and partnering with Environmental Protection Agency Victoria in stormwater drain monitoring with Scouts, schools and citizens.

EcoCentre volunteers contributed a record 20,357 hours, a 22% increase on last year. There is a rising sense of community collaboration, understanding and achievement through all our programs, but in particular in those where volunteers are key contributors.



(Left to right) Port Phillip Mayor Dick Gross, Janet Galpin of Boon Wurrung Foundation, Bayside Mayor Michael Heffernan and EcoCentre President Pam O'Neil

The EcoCentre's **Port Phillip Baykeeper** program is part of the global Waterkeeper Alliance and is an umbrella program for much of the work we do around Port Phillip Bay and its catchments.

- This past year the **Clean Bay Blueprint** project was the first to quantify 1.4 billion items of litter flowing to the Bay on the surface of Melbourne's two urban rivers, 79% of which are microplastics.
- In the **Living Water Workbees** project the EcoCentre and 11 volunteer activity partners across Elster Creek and Werribee River catchments help care for waterways through clean-ups, tree planting and surveying wildlife.
- Our **Global Melbourne** team works with hostels and tourism operators to get visitors connecting to and protecting the Bay during their stay.
- **Multicultural Bay Ambassadors** help us improve our cultural knowledge and better engage with Melbourne's culturally and linguistically diverse communities, while building their professional experience.

The EcoCentre's expertise is increasingly being recognised and called on. We provided a range of submissions to Government and agencies, including responses to the Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management, the Victorian Future of our Forests consultation, and Waterways of the West Ministerial Advisory Committee. We participated in reference groups for Elster Creek Catchment, Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve, Melbourne Water's *Healthy Waterways Strategy*, and co-design workshops for a new Victorian Litterwatch database with the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The EcoCentre's evidence-based advocacy secured the addition of 'plastics and microplastics' as legally defined aquatic pollutants in *State Environment Protection Policy – Waters*.

Each year we improve our systems, operations and communications. As well as our monthly member and teacher newsletters, our website and our active social media presence, the EcoCentre distributed 8 videos on its digital channels and launched a blog. 33,447 people used our digital resources – films, issues papers, citizen science tools and more. We also released two professional reports: *Microplastics in the Maribyrnong and Yarra Rivers, Melbourne, Australia*, and the *Citizen Science Evaluation Rubric*, a free resource to help organisations improve their citizen science projects through structured evaluation.

We were able to undertake this important work and achieve such positive impacts because we have received funding from many sources. These include: 24% from local government, 34% from State Government, 34% from fee for service including corporate volunteering, 4% from philanthropic organisations and 4% from donations.

We are grateful to all our generous funders but in particular the City of Port Phillip. The council has been our major partner and supported us for 20 years now, through providing the building on Crown land in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens at peppercorn rent, an annual operating grant and practical project funds. This steady foundation enables us to operate a successful organisation, provide service continuity and leverage

other funding. Council's partnership represents both direct investment in the Port Phillip community, and seed funding for other contributions of direct benefit for the people of Port Phillip, as well as for the state and nation.

We were successful in winning grants from the Victorian Government, and we continue work funded by Australian Government Citizen Science Grants and other organisations including Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Environmental Resources Management Foundation and Waterkeeper Alliance.

Many other organisations and individuals donated to the EcoCentre to support a thriving environment and community. We are very grateful to all of you.

Our impacts are driven by an outstanding team of people. The volunteer professional Committee of Management provides well-considered strategic direction and best practice governance. The team of staff and volunteers is admirably led by multi-talented, hard-working and super effective Executive Officer April Seymore. The Baykeeper Neil Blake continues to inspire with his work, passion and ideas as he first did as the EcoCentre founder 20 years ago. Karen Jones as Education Manager commendably and thoughtfully leads the team as they engage teachers and learners of all ages. We are very grateful for the dedication, knowledge and caring that all the staff and volunteers bring to their work.

It is the people who make this EcoCentre such a fantastic organisation in which to work, volunteer and participate. Thank you to our participants, funders, partners, Affiliates, members, communities, volunteers and staff for all you have done and continue to do for the EcoCentre, the environment and towards a more sustainable world.

I hope you enjoy learning more about the work of the EcoCentre and some of our Affiliates in the following pages of this Annual Report.

*Pam O'Neil*

Pam O'Neil  
President



## Outcome:

People are more connected with, value and interact with their local ecosystems.

## Strategies:

**Place-based learning.** Develop and deliver dynamic, place-based learning for formal and informal education.

**Tailored engagement.** Engage a variety of participants and groups and tailor programs to their needs.

**Highlight interconnections.** Highlight and demonstrate the interconnection between catchments, urban ecology, Port Phillip Bay and our daily lives.

**Acknowledge First Peoples.** Integrate Kulin Nation cultural knowledge into our programs.

## Activities in 2018–19 included:

Nature Play, Alive Outside, STEAM Clean the Bay, Excursions, Place-based education, Corporate Volunteering

## Success Indicators:

Participants report increased knowledge and awareness of local ecosystems

Target <b>80%</b>	Actual <b>89%</b>
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Participants plan to spend more time in nature as a result of their EcoCentre experience

Target <b>50%</b>	Actual <b>87%</b>
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Participants have a greater connection to their local environment

Target <b>50%</b>	Actual <b>87%</b>
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Target: At least <b>four</b> Stories of Change	Actual: <b>4+</b> stories collected; one shared here
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## Story of Change:

### St Columba's School STEAMs ahead

The EcoWarriors at St Columba's Primary School, Elwood, are rolling up their sleeves and raising their voices to help Port Phillip Bay. During their six-year partnership with the EcoCentre, the students, teachers and a parent Green Team have transformed the school to attain ResourceSmart 5-Star certification. Following retrofits and behaviour change to slash waste generation and energy usage by 50 per cent, they focused on protecting local biodiversity and Port Phillip Bay through Science, Technology, Energy, Arts and Maths (STEAM). Hosting the EcoCentre's Sharron Hunter as an Expert in Residence, the Year 3/4 students investigated local marine species and applied biomimicry engineering principles to design underwater vessels for monitoring our bay's ecosystems.

The school has also planted vibrant, pollinator-friendly species, and a new rain garden helps to filter roof run-off through layers of rock, gravel and sand, preventing pollutants from entering the Bay. Indigenous understorey planting, installation of a bird bath, nest boxes and insect hotels, are some of the initiatives that helped to double their habitat score compared to 2013, and students planted over 1,000 indigenous plants on the foreshore. Last spring, St Columba's hosted the first ever Eel-wood Festival to celebrate and observe Elwood's local short-finned eel population.

St Columba's Climate Change Choir began singing their messages to the wider community, engaging school audiences from across Victoria with singalong lyrics and catchy choreography with the message 'clean it up, join up and smarten up' to protect Port Phillip Bay.

*'Such a wonderful excursion! The kids absolutely loved it, and the teachers even more so.'*

– Year 3 teacher, Caulfield South Primary School





## Connect:

Early Years, Schools and Youth

### Early Years education and Nature Play

EcoCentre **Nature Play** activities immerse children in sensory experiences with the living elements of their local environment at kindergartens, early learning centres, the EcoCentre gardens, a local beach or reserve. Children participated in activities aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework, with our most popular being:

- Captain Trash – our musical anti-pollution pirate sings the ‘aaaRRRRR’s’ of waste and litter prevention (rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle, remove)
- Meet Your Neighbours – wildlife discovery in your own back garden
- Mini-Beast Safari – investigating the types of bugs and the jobs they do
- Sensory Gardens – gardening to delight children’s sight, taste, touch and hearing
- Edible and Indigenous Gardens – interactive landscaping and learning with local plants

This year’s collaboration with City of Stonnington and City of Port Phillip has enabled 650 children and 88 educators to participate in our Nature Play.

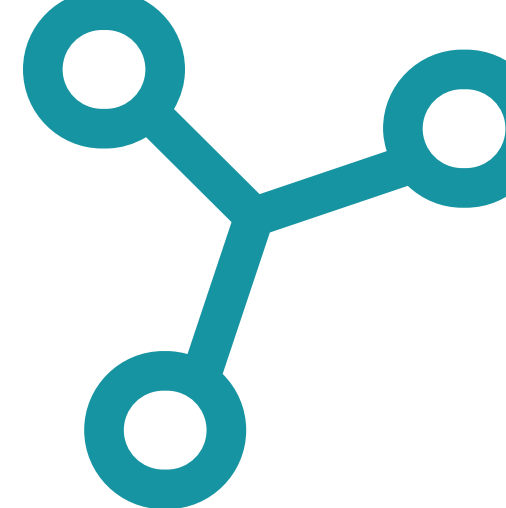
Our educators also delivered a range of professional development sessions for early years educators, staff and parents. Between March and May, four workshops were delivered, inspiring over 100 educators about sensory gardens, mini-beast safaris, bush kinder and marine citizen science.

We successfully piloted Nature Play and Indigenous perspectives incursions within schools’ Prep and Year 1 classes. The growing interest in these calls for wider delivery next year.



***‘The most valuable excursion I’ve been involved in for ages.’***

– Year 1/2 teacher,  
St Agnes Primary School, Highett



### Alive Outside

12- to 25-year-olds join **Alive Outside** to explore and investigate Port Phillip Bay, local parks and beaches in extraordinary ways – as protectors of penguins, investigators of minibeasts, architects of bat nest boxes and as practising palaeontologists.

Young people get up close to wildlife and take action for our local environment. Participants walk, cycle and snorkel their way around the beaches, foreshore, reefs and reserves within the City of Port Phillip, guided by EcoCentre educators.

Twenty-eight Alive Outside activities provided the opportunity for 448 youth to spend a total of 777 volunteer hours on projects. These included monitoring wildlife species; building nest boxes and penguin habitat; weeding and mulching; auditing and collecting litter; and planting and growing indigenous plants. Participants developed a sense of connection to place; made and strengthened friendships; and participated in team building, knowledge sharing and problem-solving tasks, with a focus on nature through first-time experiences from snorkelling to a 24-hour bioblitz. All events provided opportunities for connection to, and protection of, the astonishing array of wildlife in local suburbs.


Funded through City of Port Phillip Youth Services, the Alive Outside program addresses many of the commitments within City of Port Phillip’s *Happy, Healthy, Heard: Youth Commitment 2014-19*.



## Excursions

The **School Excursion** program attracted a record 4,800 students, 228 teachers and 70 schools, who participated in activities unique to St Kilda Pier, West Beach and St Kilda Botanical Gardens. This record number is attributed to improvements made last year, especially the alignment of our curriculum to STEAM learning outcomes (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) through the support of PMF Foundation and Environmental Resource Management (ERM) Foundation, as well as making our online booking process easier for teachers. Sessions on marine ecosystems, human impacts and species adaptation remain staple favourites, while our new community action, Indigenous perspectives and sustainable gardening excursions are increasing in popularity. We've had the phenomenal opportunity to deliver a number of pilot marine ecology excursions in partnership with ERM scientists, centred on empowering girls and women for STEAM careers.

**Sessions with Elders** allowed many schools within the City of Port Phillip to learn about Indigenous culture from Parbin-ata Carolyn Briggs and educators from the Boon Wurrung Foundation, spending time on Country at Point Ormond, the Ngargee tree, and Yuro Yuroke (St Kilda).



***'An amazing excursion.  
My students and I  
have learnt many  
things to implement  
in our school.'***

*– Year 6 to 10 Coordinator,  
Australian International Academy*





## **Connect:** Community

### Corporate Volunteering

This year, 365 corporate volunteers from Aesop, AGL, ANZ, CSL, Edelman, General Mills, Intrepid Travel, Mimecast, Mkt Communications, NAB, Pexa, Telstra and Transurban donned fluoro vests and joined us on the St Kilda breakwater to Pamper the Penguins. These teams worked collaboratively to move more than 12 tonnes of sand and seaweed, propagated nearly 2,000 and planted almost 1,500 noonflower plants to create penguin habitat. They also collected 62 kg of litter from this habitat area to prevent penguin entanglement.

These outdoor team activities not only improve the habitat for our local little penguin population, they also provide team building in a unique environment. Thank you to all the organisations that participated in our corporate volunteering program this year, and to Good Company and Landcare for connecting organisations that want to take action for our local environment with the EcoCentre.

Proceeds support our marine research and youth programs, with a portion donated to Earthcare St Kilda penguin research.

***‘Pamper the Penguins is a big eye-opener for anyone who isn’t engaged in environmental sustainability awareness. You physically see the rubbish that gets caught in penguins’ homes, which makes you think of the damage that is being done to marine life below the surface. You see the dangers of single-use plastics to our water quality, you see the remnants of the packaging we open, plastic bottles we drink from and cigarettes thrown.’***

*– Stephania, ANZ*



# **Act**

## Outcome:

Individuals and groups take action that protects and restores their environment.

## Strategies:

**Foster volunteering.** Create a range of volunteering options that benefit volunteers, the environment and our organisation.

**Inspire leaders.** Foster skills, knowledge and opportunities for youth, adult and business leadership.

**Counteract climate change.** Activate and empower citizens to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

**Build wellbeing.** Recognise and support the interdependence of human wellbeing and environmental health.

## Activities in 2018–19 included:

Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability, Land Art Generator Initiative: Art and Tech Camp, Drain Detectives, School Sustainability Festival, Steps to Sustainability Conference, Living Water Workbees, Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network, Community Greening Projects, Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve (EPNR), St Kilda Repair Cafe



**5**

insect habitats  
built and installed



**8586**

indigenous  
plants planted

**397**

citizen science  
activities  
conducted

**19**

School Environment  
Management Plans  
progressed

## Success indicators:

Increase volunteer hours by 10% per annum

**Target: 12,200**  
volunteer hours

**Actual: 20,357**  
volunteer hours

Increase in the number and the types of actions completed by EcoCentre participants and partners, as individuals and groups.

**Target: 5% increase**  
in actions per year total  
across all types

**Actual: 252%**  
increase in actions per  
year total across all  
types (particular growth  
in planting and citizen  
science surveys)

Participants have made and sustained changes in their lives and communities to protect and/or restore the environment.

**Target: 75% of**  
participants  
made a change

**Actual: 58%**

**Target: 33% have**  
sustained a change

**Actual: Small sample**  
response; all have  
sustained a change

**Target: At least four**  
Stories of Change

**Actual: 4+ stories**  
collected; three  
shared here







**8100+**  
indigenous  
seedlings planted  
along riverine and  
coastal sites for  
erosion prevention  
and habitat  
creation



**4.3**  
tonnes  
of litter removed  
from the  
environment

### Story of Change: From concrete to catchment care

St Joseph's Primary School in Elsternwick occupies a campus with outdoor spaces for student learning and leadership. To offset the school's 40 per cent enrolment growth, it has partnered with the EcoCentre to cut overall water usage by 187 kL per year (about 18,700 buckets).

The school now operates using 85% rainwater, utilising multiple tanks connected to toilets and irrigation. As participants in the EcoCentre's Living Water Workbees, the school replaced impermeable surfaces with an interactive rain garden, which provides a place for the students to play and to see what they have achieved. Student sustainability leaders were involved in creating a vision board for the rain garden to develop a biodiversity habitat at the school, then fundraised rebate credits for the infrastructure by volunteering in catchment clean-up workbees.



### Story of Change: Teens tackling microplastics Melbourne-wide

Inspired by the EcoCentre's *Baykeepers* documentary, the Brighton Sea Scouts contacted Baykeeper Neil Blake in 2016 to show them methods for monitoring beach erosion and coastal microplastic pollution. Shocked by the quantity of plastic litter on a clean-looking beach, Venturers Sam Perkins and Tim Payne undertook a year of beach monitoring to earn their Queen's Scout Award. The resulting report which Sam presented to the EcoCentre led us to nominate him for the Bayside Youth Community Leadership Award.

With increasing profile for their microplastics work, fellow Scouts and Leaders across Greater Melbourne were provoked to investigate the upstream sources of the plastic polluting beaches. The Scouts' goal was to advocate for prevention measures based on real evidence of pollution patterns, so they designed the Street2Bay Litter Audit project and a badge for participating groups. The original project involving two Scouts has grown to engage 24 Scout groups from Geelong to Monbulk to Mornington, who have already conducted 224 audits across 116 sites, contributing to a powerful new dataset that can inform local source reduction plans.

***'The students learned so much from the clean-up action and EcoCentre education activities. The Baykeepers film and the marine web of life activity allowed them to link their learning and actions to understand better the impacts that we have on Elster Creek and bay habitat ... The rain garden is great as it allows students to see and interact with what they have achieved from the Living Water Workbees project.'***

– Claire Ryle, Sustainability Coordinator,  
St Joseph's Primary School





## Act

### Schools and Youth

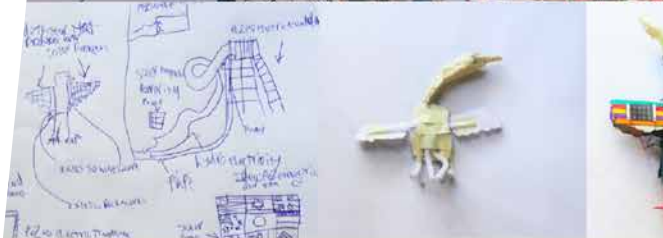
#### Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability

Our award-winning **Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability** (TLfS) program trained 219 students from 10 schools. These students participate in a program over 10 weeks involving hands-on leadership and environmental behaviour change learning, culminating in student-led projects ranging from waste reduction campaigns to new bin systems, and building food gardens to revegetating wetlands. Thank you to the City of Stonnington, City of Port Phillip and Bayside City Council for providing scholarships to participating schools, and to their respective mayors who presented the students with graduation certificates.

The EcoCentre's ongoing collaboration with TLfS founders, Pat Armstrong and Jane Stewart, is reflected in this program continuing to thrive and expand.

*'My inspiration was the disconnectedness of the chosen area from the natural happenings that existed just next door. The solar panels will be blue and wavy to incorporate the bay directly in front of it, and the canal and bridge over it including the nearby Elwood canal and how this connects the two. I want it to be, ultimately, a place to relax and enjoy what nature is and has to offer.'*

– Rowan, designer of Solar Shades at LAGI Arts and Tech Camp



#### Land Art Generator Initiative: Art and Tech Camp

The prestigious **Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI)** challenges artists and architects to collaborate with engineers and scientists to design sustainable energy infrastructures in the form of beautiful public art. In 2018, the Victorian Government and City of Port Phillip partnered to host LAGI's global design competition for ideas suiting St Kilda Triangle.

In addition to advising the public competition shortlisting, the EcoCentre team joined LAGI directors to deliver a camp for teenagers over the school holidays, which was booked out within an hour. Participants were mentored to design a proposal for St Kilda Marina – a real-life site being master-planned – using cutting-edge renewable energy technology with the aim of developing the design into a public sculpture.

Through the three-day process of prototyping a generator, the young designers demonstrated creativity, critical thinking, complex problem-solving, cognitive flexibility and emotional intelligence. They applied concepts like *renewable energy technology*, *energy conversion efficiency*, *capacity factor*, and became familiar with kilowatt hours. At the same time, they tested form, shape and colour, and touched on aspects of urban planning and whole-systems design.

The LAGI directors shared educational tools at a special **Teachers' Environment Network (TEN)** workshop, and the EcoCentre educators are currently designing an excursion-style experience based on the success of the Art and Tech Camp.



## Drain Detectives

Pollution from stormwater drains can impact the water quality of our beaches, including making beach closures necessary when swimming is risky. The **Drain Detectives** project, led by Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria, is monitoring beaches in Sandringham, Mentone, Mordialloc, Dromana and Rye from 2018–2020, to investigate unexpected flows from stormwater outfalls during dry weather. Combined with water quality sensors, public observations will help the EPA and local government to better understand and manage pollution from drains.

The EcoCentre's **Drain Detective Youth** program is the first of its kind in Victoria and is a four-session STEAM project for secondary-aged students to experience real-life project work measuring the health of Port Phillip Bay.

Students from Cheltenham Secondary College, Kilbreda College and Brighton Venturer Scouts worked side by side with scientists from the EPA, Port Phillip EcoCentre and Monash University to construct water sensor monitors, code Arduino sensor software, research locations for the sensors, and to analyse resulting data for recommendations relating to recreation-safe water quality downstream of stormwater drains on beaches.



## Teacher and student leadership events

We continued to elevate student and teacher sustainability leadership with our thirteenth **School Sustainability Festival** (September) and the fifth Victorian **Steps to Sustainability Conference** (March). These events strengthen and deepen our school sustainability network through students and teachers showcasing their achievements, and networking, sharing tools and supporting each other.

Our **School Sustainability Awards** are a highlight of the School Sustainability Festival. We thank Annie Strutt for organising eco-prize donations for all 16 schools, and we thank our local businesses for their generous support. It was a pleasure to welcome the mayors of City of Bayside and Port Phillip to present these awards.

The **Teachers' Environment Network (TEN)** facilitated five meetings on the topics of waste and recycling, indigenous garden development, Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve, organic waste, biodiversity, marine STEM citizen science and solar energy. The network published 11 editions of the TEN newsletter. School subscriptions increased by 12% on the previous year. The TEN continues to provide and share environmental educational information and curriculum resources.

We produced a short educational film showcasing the common macroinvertebrates found in our local waterways, to assist teachers wanting to deliver Waterwatch activities near their school; as well as creating two films about food webs and species adaptations in Port Phillip Bay.



## Act Community

### Port Phillip Baykeeper – Community collaborations

Your **Port Phillip Baykeeper** Neil Blake is an independent voice for Port Phillip Bay. The Baykeeper role is part of a global grassroots network of Waterkeepers on six continents, who advocate for swimmable, drinkable, fishable water. For over 30 years, Neil has worked with schools, government, First Peoples, researchers, business and community to love and protect our Bay. The Port Phillip Baykeeper conducts a range of initiatives including community projects (below), research and evidence-based advocacy (page 24).

With the assistance of community volunteers, our Baykeeper continues **beach profiling** to measure seasonal sand movement at Observatory Point, McCrae and Frankston. This monitors potential displacement of habitat for sandy-seabed molluscs and beach-nesting birds, which can result from sea-level rise and climate change. Regular volunteers include Steve Hanna and members of Frankston Beach Association and Port Phillip Conservation Council.

Initiated by Judy Muir of Polperro Dolphin Swims, **Canopy of Care** aims to deliver round-the-bay excursion packages to school groups so that students see 'good people doing good things'. Baykeeper citizen science activities provide rich curriculum as part of the geography modules. An extensive range of learning resources were assembled for the program by experienced geography teacher Peter Lindner.

The Baykeeper's identical cousin, **Captain Trash**, has toured his pollution-preventing pirate performance to numerous early learning centres. The Captain's portrait (painted by Brenda Walsh) was accepted into the

eighteenth *Hidden Faces – Victorian Salon des Refuses* exhibition at Pan Pacific Melbourne.

Molluscs (shellfish) play a key role in filtering water and removing nitrogen to keep Port Phillip Bay healthy; however, not much is known about the effect of climate change on the distribution and species composition of molluscs in Port Phillip Bay, particularly sandy-bottom intertidal species. **Shoreline shell surveys** were originally initiated in 2009 for summer Coastcare programs, later extending to the EcoCentre's excursions and corporate engagement. Around 200 surveys conducted across 58 beaches have amassed an extensive volume of datasheets and photographs! Thanks to a grant from Waterkeeper Alliance, the decade of data is now being analysed to map trends and changes observed in species range, abundance and size.

The survey method is designed to promote appreciation of animals living on and in the seabed, and their role in supporting the Bay food chain. Shells found at any given location are representative of species living locally offshore. Combined with observations of threatening processes such as climate change and pest species, consistent monitoring of shells on local beaches may provide valuable information for coastal plans to retain habitats into the future.

As part of Coastcare's 2019 **Summer by the Sea** program, Baykeeper conducted community shoreline shell surveys and contributed to two large beach events coordinated by EPA Victoria to help raise awareness of plastic pollution.





## Living Water Workbees

From the 'burbs to the Bay, millions of pieces of litter and pollutants from stormwater go down street drains, into the creeks and out to Port Phillip Bay. The community can join **Living Water Workbees** to improve water quality, remove plastic litter, create habitat for wildlife and alleviate the impacts of flood and drought resulting from climate change.

A diverse calendar of Living Water Workbees across Elster Creek and Werribee River catchments help care for waterways through clean-ups, tree planting and surveying wildlife. Volunteer hours are translated into \$25/hour rebate credits, which can be redeemed for an approved rainwater tank or rain garden at schools, homes or businesses. In our urban environment, these infrastructures serve a critical role in harvesting and absorbing rainwater, which reduces pollution run-off, slows stormwater flow and creates healthy habitat for our local creeks and rivers.

In the second year of the project, our community:

- mobilised 3,670 volunteers to care for Elster Creek and Werribee River
- provided 6,180 hours of volunteering to help fund large-scale rain gardens at two schools
- removed over 4,000 kg of litter and planted 5,600 indigenous trees
- created stormwater diversion capacity of nearly 2 million litres per year through installed infrastructure, plumbed to flush 47 toilets with rainwater and filter floodwaters through 234 m<sup>2</sup> of rain garden surface

The EcoCentre and Werribee River Association worked with 11 community partners and five schools this year. Together we held over 100 workbees in the catchment, along with tailored sessions for schools, and engaging Traditional Owners to present local cultural connections to water. We would like to thank our community partners at Love Our Street, Beach Patrol, Friends of Elster Creek, Earthcare St Kilda, and Roots & Shoots for enabling volunteer action and raising rebate credits for our community.

This year's rebate funding was allocated to St Joseph's Primary School Elsternwick and Elwood College to install large-scale rain gardens and prevent run-off from school grounds. At both schools, the teachers, parents and student leaders worked together to design rain gardens and organised whole school community street cleans.

For our third and final year of the project, we look forward to engaging with new schools and community sites to install infrastructure and create stronger water resilience in the community. We will have an exciting calendar of events and free catchment care education programs for schools and the community. Sign up to earn rebates for your school, home or business, or join our free community workbees by visiting [www.livingwaterworkbees.com](http://www.livingwaterworkbees.com). This project is funded by the Victorian Government's Port Phillip Bay Fund.

***'A unique and moving experience.  
... I've lived in this area for 45 years.'***

***- Participant, Wadawarrung walk hosted by Werribee River Association***







## Community Gardening: Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network

The **Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network (PPUFFN)** project took place on Fridays in the EcoCentre's onsite community garden. It continued our longstanding initiative supported by City of Port Phillip to run inclusive gardening activities, blending volunteer participants of all backgrounds, including through partnership with and referrals from Sacred Heart Mission and Star Health. Weekly sessions centre on garden maintenance and a shared meal cooked with freshly harvested ingredients.

Over 47 Fridays, the popular program achieved 3,129 voluntary gardening hours, through 582 participations by diverse community members. Participants ranged from retired professionals to new migrants, jobseekers, social housing residents and Sacred Heart Mission groups. Participant languages included Hindi, Polish, Spanish, Italian, German, Croatian and Indonesian.

Of participants surveyed:

- 85% felt a greater sense of happiness
- 67% felt a greater sense of health and wellbeing
- 76% learned a new skill
- 52% had increased access to healthy, fresh, affordable food
- 100% feel more connected with our local environment

To build skills, a number of mini-workshops were embedded this year, featuring topics ranging from seed saving to natural pest management, from worm farm care and cleaning secateurs to identifying indigenous plants.

Volunteers processed over 40 tonnes of food scraps into compost, diverting organic waste from landfill for local residents and Blessington Street traders, who donated coffee grounds. Creating closed-loop systems onsite reduces our ecological footprint and encourages discussions about greenhouse gas emissions. Our three compost bays plus two worm farms hit maximum capacity twice. Excess compost and an assortment of seedlings, propagated in biodegradable tubes, are available by donation.

There is currently a community waitlist to join the PPUFFN garden group, so options are being explored to pilot a fortnightly weekend group.





## Community greening

As part of its graffiti management program, Port Phillip City Council partnered with the EcoCentre to engage with the local community in activating and greening two sites in St Kilda.

The first was a garden on the corner of Carlisle and Barkly Streets, and we consulted closely with the people who know this spot the best: residents of the adjacent Acland Grange supported residential facility, and business owners and workers from shops surrounding the site. The outcome was a colourful indigenous plant garden designed and planted by a team of EcoCentre volunteers and Acland Grange residents.

The second was a productive community garden for local residents on Dalgety Reserve. Local families enthusiastically donned their rain jackets on a fresh winter morning and joined EcoCentre staff and volunteers to plant seasonal herbs and vegetables, and participate in a workshop on how to use and maintain their garden into the future.

These two activities were delivered by a team of 11 volunteers, including landscape architect Francisca Allende, and engaged with hundreds of members of our local community, including residents around Dalgety Reserve, Ms Nina Taylor MLC and Mayor Cr Dick Gross, readers of news website *This Week in St Kilda*, and the many local business owners, residents and passers-by who couldn't resist taking and sharing photos and having a conversation with volunteers working away in the dirt. Over 500 people 'liked' and commented on photos shared by community members on Facebook, and new volunteers were inspired to join the EcoCentre team.

The success of these projects is being enjoyed by everyone involved. We look forward to continuing the greening and activating of spaces across the municipality in partnership with Port Phillip City Council.

***'As a local resident of St Kilda, I am amazed at the positive influence that such a small, happy enterprise has made to the whole of the area, particularly the Bay. Our community is so much more creative, kind and healthy because of this marvellous group of people.'* – Margot B.**



The EcoCentre team and Council Officer Holli Taylor with Mayor Dick Gross and Nina Taylor MLC at Dalgety Reserve



## Story of Change: How Natalie discovered hope through action

After finishing high school, Natalie decided that she wanted to take some real action for our local environment and joined the EcoCentre community as a volunteer earlier this year. Natalie helps out with two important citizen science projects, **Sunscreen and Bay Marine Life** and **Clean Bay Blueprint**, collecting and analysing samples.

Like many of us, Natalie sometimes feels that environmental issues can be overwhelming and it may seem as if there is no way to effect substantial change. However, volunteering with the EcoCentre has made her realise that collective action makes a difference. 'Surrounding myself with the community at the EcoCentre and learning about the magnitude of projects as well as getting involved in them, is really quite reassuring and actually brings a lot of hope,' says Natalie.

Being part of the EcoCentre community has also opened Natalie's mind to a whole new set of career options. 'It wasn't until I got to work with the dedicated staff, other volunteers who are studying, and people who have retired that I could see how passion is so important when considering a job,' she said. 'Every job you do has an impact and it's up to you what kind of impact you want to have.'



## Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve

Bayside City Council is progressively taking steps to transition the former Elsternwick Golf Course to an environmentally focused parkland known as Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve. This process includes extensive community consultation and convening of a **Community Reference Panel** to workshop key elements and issues related to design and management of the 13-hectare reserve.

The EcoCentre team has participated on the Community Reference Panel since October 2018, and was commissioned by Bayside to convene a *plenary session of local experts* to provide an overview of existing fauna and habitat conditions in the park; and also to gather local and regional fauna records that could be used to *identify fauna species that would be most appropriate for habitat enhancement in the park*. The findings and recommendations arising were submitted in March 2019.

The report drew on data gathered from sites across the inner south-eastern Melbourne region over the past 30 years, including Westgate Park, Albert Park Reserve and Karkarook Park. While birds were the focus of most data collection, several local naturalists have also compiled extensive records of other fauna types. Assembling this local knowledge was a key element of this report.

*Envisioning the future of flood mitigation at Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve. (Left to right) Marcus Gwynne, Pam O'Neil, Port Phillip Mayor Dick Gross, Josh Burns MP, Claire O'Neil MP, Bayside Mayor Michael Heffernan, April Seymore, and Dr Jo-Samuel King, president of Elsternwick Park Association.*



As Elsternwick Park North is crossed by Elster Creek, the site has potential to enhance and develop wetland habitat through an increased flood retardation area. There is also scope for enhanced terrestrial habitats to accommodate a range of fauna species that are important contributors to biodiversity in the City of Bayside. These include species whose populations are in decline in the region due to human pressures including increased urbanisation/habitat fragmentation, and the impacts of introduced species – foxes, dogs, cats and mosquitofish.

Our report identified a list of target species for provision of habitat that would also benefit other species and could be readily provided in the future. Key considerations for each species in arriving at this list included:

- ability to contribute to visitor experience of nature
- utilisation of niche habitats that can readily be provided at EPNR
- conservation status at a national and state level
- vulnerability to extinction at a regional and local level
- contribution to ecosystem services

In addition to Bayside City Council, other stakeholders and contributors included Birdlife Bayside, Earthcare St Kilda, Edward Tsyrlin, Gio Fitzpatrick, Heather Kiley, Michael Norris, Elsternwick Park Association, Friends of Native Wildlife, Friends of Elster Creek, City of Port Phillip, Glen Eira Environment Group, Friends of Westgate Park and the Victorian Ornithological Research Group.





## St Kilda Repair Cafe

We're helping the community to upskill and reduce landfill. The Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO) and EcoCentre co-host a monthly St Kilda Repair Cafe led by skilled volunteers. On the second Sunday of each month, anyone can now get a practical tutorial by bringing their broken household items and learning how to repair them – for free!

The global Repair Cafe movement organises passionate volunteers to teach community members the skills and techniques required to revive beloved household objects – from electrical items to textiles. In our second year of workshops, 221 attendees repaired 144 items, diverting 489 kg from landfill. Happy customers learnt DIY repair skills to successfully resuscitate everything from trousers to toasters.

This project is powered by donations and incredible volunteers. If you love to tinker and can bring your toolbox, get involved by emailing coordinator John Hillel [stkilda.repaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stkilda.repaircafe@gmail.com).





# Transform

## Outcome:

Our partnerships and networks influence positive systemic environmental changes.

## Strategies:

**Drive research.** Conduct research and citizen science with community and research institutions.

**Build networks.** Support groups and networks to continually enhance community-led and cross-sector initiatives.

**Advocate for change.** Forge partnerships, and consult and advocate on local and Victorian policies, legislation and practices.

**Amplify voices.** Aggregate and share knowledge, evidence and stories to citizens and decision-makers.

## Activities in 2018–19 included:

Global Melbourne, Clean Bay Blueprint, Sunscreen and Bay Marine Life, Port Phillip Baykeeper Research, Macnamara Candidates' Forum on Climate Change and Energy, Elster Creek Catchment Community Reference Group, Citizen Science Evaluation Rubric



**20,000+**  
microplastics from water samples  
measured and categorised

## Success Indicators:

Maintain the number of members, partnerships, research programs and participation in networks.

Target: Sustain <b>79</b> prime partnerships	Actual: <b>82</b> prime partnerships
Target: Sustain <b>5</b> research projects	Actual: <b>6</b> research projects
Target: Sustain participation in <b>10</b> networks	Actual: <b>11</b> networks and reference groups
Target: Grow membership by <b>10%</b> per year	Actual: <b>602%</b> growth after membership re-launch

Maintain number of submissions advising on policy, legislation and regulation across all levels of government.

Target: <b>10</b> per year for local government	Actual: <b>5</b> submissions and consultations
Target: <b>6</b> per year for state or Commonwealth	Actual: <b>8</b> submissions to state or Commonwealth
Target: At least <b>two</b> Stories of Change	Actual: <b>Four</b> stories collected; two shared here







## Story of Change: Testing 'living breakwaters' for coastal protection in a changing climate

85% of Australians live near coastlines. In the climate change context of sea level rise, storm surges and shifting coastlines, a clear understanding is needed of erosion protection options beyond costly concrete barriers that harm ecosystems. The **Grey to Green** project is a collaboration between City of Greater Geelong and the National Centre for Coasts and Climate to address coastal erosion by installing a 'living breakwater' offshore. Such breakwaters absorb wave energy while establishing suitable habitat for mussels and other native species.

The EcoCentre's role is working with Gordon TAFE students to monitor sand surface levels along transects across the beach and intertidal zone, before and after the installation. To study shellfish as bio-indicators, shoreline shell surveys have been conducted; and intertidal sediment samples were sieved to record and measure live mollusc species.

The study found sand has accumulated on the beach and offshore in the area sheltered by the reef, where increased seagrass cover has also been observed. Moreover, we recorded an increase in mollusc species living offshore. Before the installation 6 molluscs from 3 species were recorded in 20% of samples. In April 2019, one year after installation, live molluscs were found in 34% of samples, consisting of 44 individuals from 7 species. Such positive results highlight the potential to maintain Port Phillip Bay biodiversity, along with protecting recreational beach amenity and property.



## Story of Change: How the EcoCentre made aquatic plastic pollution illegal

Eight years ago, teenage intern Jess Jeyasingham sat on the EcoCentre's north deck carefully classifying litter collected in a beach clean. 'I've finished analysing the sample,' she told us, 'except there are a lot of little plastic beads I don't know how to describe.' She held out a hand full of nurdles, and the Port Phillip Baykeeper mission to address microplastics was born.

Given the consequences of microplastics on marine ecosystems and levels of human ingestion through air and food, an Australia Senate Inquiry into the threat of marine plastic pollution in Australia was conducted in 2015. Resulting recommendations included a call for a greater evidence base to monitor the extent, quantities, origins, types and chemical contaminants of marine debris – precisely the sort of citizen science Jess inspired the EcoCentre to lead through community partnerships at sites around Port Phillip Bay, its tributary rivers and land catchments.

Our initial *Microplastics in the Maribyrnong and Yarra Rivers* report was launched by the Victorian Minister for the Environment in July 2018. The study results have been cited in the media and multiple major Victorian reports, as well as Victorian and Australian election pledges.

Most importantly, the EcoCentre's evidence-based advocacy led to plastics and microplastics being legally defined as water pollutants in the *State Environment Protection Policy - (Waters)* as of October 2018.

*With Environment Minister Hon Lily D'Ambrosio and Hon Martin Foley MP to launch our Microplastics in the Maribyrnong and Yarra Rivers report alongside incredible research partners and volunteers, in July 2018.*





## Global Melbourne

Our city is diverse and growing. Over 40% of residents were born overseas and Melbourne hosts 2.5 million international visitors annually. The **Global Melbourne** project engages with these communities by removing barriers and increasing opportunities to learn about and take action to protect Port Phillip Bay.

The EcoCentre partnered with two hostels and a tour operator to design eco-active tourism for international visitors; recruited youth as our Multicultural Bay Ambassadors to connect communities to the Bay; and produced short clips of the documentary film *Baykeepers* so as to reach a broader audience.

To introduce international travellers to Melbourne as a vibrant urban ecosystem that we all are a part of, our educators delivered free monthly events for guests at two backpacker hostels, Melbourne Metro YHA and Habitat HQ. Engaging 476 guests from over 15 countries, volunteering activities helped to improve the little penguin habitat on St Kilda foreshore, surveyed nature in the city, and included indigenous plant-based dinners to introduce indigenous flora and food traditions.

The EcoCentre also supported environmentally conscious operations at the hostels by conducting an environmental audit of the accommodation, providing staff training and planting a bush-food garden. Melbourne Metro YHA also assigned sustainability staff to accompany guests to Beach Patrol and Love Our Street clean-ups to encourage active volunteering while travelling.

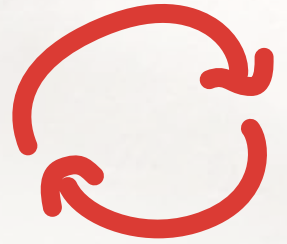
With Walks 101, EcoCentre educators developed a unique eco-adventure tour that explores Melbourne's connection to Port Phillip Bay. The tour incorporates citizen science activities to learn about the city's waterways, litter prevention, and bird and aquatic life at the Royal Botanic Gardens. This year, 136 travellers went on the pilot tours and a portion of ticket sales was donated to Port Phillip Baykeeper programs.

Our **Multicultural Bay Ambassadors** Elissa, Katy, Yashoda and Ranjith interned with the EcoCentre while building their professional experience, to help

us improve our cultural knowledge and better engage with Melbourne's culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The Ambassadors were trained in a range of bay care activities. They then designed culturally inclusive events to connect people to our bay and inspire environmental action. Elissa held a beachcombing event for children on Elwood foreshore, Katy took Chinese international students out to the little penguins on St Kilda breakwater to learn about plastic pollution, and Yashoda brought together women of diverse cultural heritage to share traditional food and their stories of the cultural significance of water.

Lutman Films partnered with the EcoCentre once again to create short clips from the documentary film *Baykeepers* to highlight four themes: microplastics, plastic entanglement, beautiful endemic marine life, and the Boon Wurrung *Time of Chaos* story of Nairm (Port Phillip Bay). The shareable clips surpassed 8,000 online views in the first six months. We are also excited to have new Chinese subtitles on the full-length film of *Baykeepers*, in addition to the Spanish subtitles already available. These films are available to the public through YouTube and are used by our educators in school education and community events.

In the second year of the project we will continue to expand bay-focused volunteering for Melbourne's visitors, recruit four new Multicultural Bay Ambassadors in the summer, and produce a new film to showcase diverse cultural connections to local waterways. Our learnings from the first year will be integrated across EcoCentre programs to ensure that they are culturally sensitive and welcome our multicultural communities to take part in caring for our environment and the Bay. This project is funded by the Port Phillip Bay Fund.





## Clean Bay Blueprint

**Clean Bay Blueprint** made some big waves and has been incredibly productive this year. The report *Microplastics in the Maribyrnong and Yarra Rivers, Melbourne*, was launched on the banks of the Yarra by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio, and many of our project partners.

The report featured in an article on pages 2–3 of *The Age*, and its results were quoted regularly by the mainstream media. The results were used as scientific evidence to inform the update of the *State Environment Protection Policy (Waters)*, which resulted in plastics and microplastics being added to the legal definition of water pollutants. Results were also used to inform the inaugural *State of the Yarra and its Parklands Report 2018* by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Victoria, and earned a paragraph in the 2019 *Assessment of the Values of Victoria's Marine Environment* report by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council.

We were invited to present and speak at many events, including at universities, professional forums, government agencies, community events and the Melbourne Museum. Both Neil and Fam, who work on the project, have regular radio appearances on 3RRR, 3AW and 3CR, reaching an even wider audience with our research. Meanwhile, back at the EcoCentre, our international crew of sample analysis volunteers processed the 2018 river trawl samples, resulting in updated results in June 2019, with statistical analysis done by Dr Chris Johnstone and Emma Barnett from Monash University.

***'I'm using Clean Bay Blueprint to educate school students about what is happening to plastic, microplastics and what actions they can take to be part of the pollution solution!'***  
– Emily Hui

***'The EcoCentre has made me more conscious of my impact on the world, which has prompted me to work towards a zero-waste lifestyle.'***  
– Tierney Kist

Dr Nicole Kowalczyk and Andrew Kelly, our partners from the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, continued to help us collect monthly river trawl samples. Captain Blair Stafford, Australian ambassador to the 5 Gyres Institute and supported by Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron, did nine bay trawls to find out what litter washes in from the ocean. Mr David Flew is donating the use of his boat to the project, so that we can trawl the Patterson River. We are also collaborating with RMIT's Plastic Lab to find out which plastic polymers are most commonly found in our trawl samples. Their students are working hard to analyse every single tiny microplastic we give them. Hopefully, this will get us closer to finding out where these items come from and stop them at the source.

Wonderful volunteers from Balcombe Estuary Reserve Group Mount Martha, Bellarine Catchment Network, Sacred Heart Mission, Dolphin Research Institute, Werribee Riverkeeper Association and various Beach Patrol groups, have contributed litter audits. The data will be added to an online litter map developed by Worcester Polytechnic Institute students and available to the public via our website.

Clean Bay Blueprint, which is funded by the Port Phillip Bay Fund, was awarded Highly Commended in the 2019 Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards.







## Sunscreen and Bay Marine Life

The second year of 'the sunscreen project' saw passionate citizen science volunteers put in a fantastic effort to help protect Port Phillip Bay. The world-first research project is managed by the Nanotechnology Laboratory at RMIT University and funded by a three-year federal Citizen Science Grant. Volunteers collect water samples from the Bay, which are then analysed for the chemical compounds nano form zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, and oxybenzone, all of which are notoriously toxic yet still widely used as ingredients in sunscreen. These chemicals are known to damage corals but their effect in temperate waters is as yet unknown.

Volunteers were trained to take water samples in Rye, Elwood and St Kilda over summer, working together to ensure data were collected scientifically and accurately. A special shout-out to the volunteers who were taking samples at the crack of dawn (6:00 am!) and late at night (10:00 pm!) – Bridge, Josie, April, Miranda, Ying, Pam, Bel, Emma, Helen, Mario, and Shelby.

We held two volunteer celebrations in Rye and at the EcoCentre, where project manager Dr Sarvesh Soni from RMIT came to present the preliminary findings, and volunteers were treated to pizza and drinks. We are looking forward to the last sample year and finding out about the effects of sunscreen on our bay. To get involved email [volunteer@ecocentre.com](mailto:volunteer@ecocentre.com).

***'There is so much diversity! In the people, animals and plants that are present here ... I don't think enough people know about how special it really is.'***

***– Tierney Kist***





## Port Phillip Baykeeper research

Port Phillip Baykeeper has collaborated with several other projects enabled by the Victorian Government's Port Phillip Bay Fund.

### Street2Bay

On behalf of Scouts Victoria, Brighton Sea Scouts are recruiting local scout groups in all Port Phillip Bay catchments to conduct street litter audits at six different street usage types: residential, industrial, retail, sports grounds, parks and public buildings. The project is designed to inform local source reduction plans for frequently found litter items. Results of this project add an extra layer of knowledge to the river trawls and beach audits conducted in EcoCentre's Clean Bay Blueprint project. It has been a pleasure to work with so many capable and enthusiastic Scouts, with special thanks to Tracey Steeves for her unstinting role in recruiting groups to the project, and scheduling and delivering audit method training.

Thirty-three local scout groups, from Geelong to Monbulk to Mornington, have registered for the project. Of these, 27 groups involving over 800 scouts have already held an Environment Night with Port Phillip Baykeeper to introduce the project, including viewing *Baykeepers*, reflecting on the Scouts Victoria Scout Environment Charter and receiving method training. To date, 24 groups have conducted a total of 224 audits across 116 sites and data are currently being prepared for geospatial mapping.

### Grey to Green

City of Greater Geelong, with support from the National Centre for Coasts and Climate, installed a partially submerged reef offshore to impede wave attack and curtail erosion of the Point Richards foreshore. The Baykeeper's role in the project is to engage community members in beach profile monitoring activities to assess the effects of the installation. Gordon TAFE Conservation and Land Management students have been key participants.

### Plastics Lab

Students from RMIT University's Plastics Lab are analysing microplastic fragments found in waterways and the Bay, to identify polymer types and any attached contaminants. Microplastics have been sourced through the Baykeeper network, including nurdle collectors from Nurdles No More, and manta-net trawls in the Patterson River. The river trawls are conducted with the generous support of David Flew (boat skipper).

Such Baykeeper work could not be done without the dedication of expert volunteers including David Flew (Karingal boat trawls), Damien Nzabanita (plastics analysis), Tracey Steeves (Street2Bay project recruitment and training), and Mel Hynes (donating Filmtime's documentary skills).





## Elster Creek Catchment Community Reference Group

The EcoCentre has always taken a keen interest in Elster Creek, a small waterway that flows into Port Phillip Bay through Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve and the Elwood Canal at Point Ormond, providing the only remaining surface watercourse between Port Melbourne and Mordialloc. In the creek's downstream corridors, the EcoCentre and volunteers have recorded an extraordinary abundance of wildlife and run myriad education programs. Upstream, the waterway is hidden in underground drains, meandering through a catchment area extending 40 km<sup>2</sup> across four municipalities.

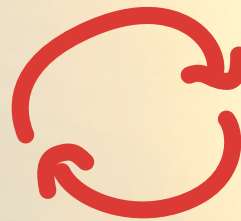
Pre-colonial wetlands like the Elwood swamp (now Elsternwick Park and Elwood) provided a rich abundance of food for the Boon Wurrung; however, the 1905 'reclaiming' of the ephemeral wetlands for construction, contemporary intensity of storms and king tides, plus impermeable paving of the suburbs, have combined to trigger pockets of fast flowing floodwaters that cannot soak into the ground.

To reduce impacts for residents in flood-prone suburbs, Melbourne Water, along with the Cities of Port Phillip, Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston, have formed a working group to consider catchment-scale Integrated Water Management targeting flood reduction and community safety.

The EcoCentre serves on the **Elster Creek Catchment Community Reference Group** to represent community concerns and offer expertise toward the *Elster Creek Flood Management Plan 2019 – 2024*. We contribute on behalf of residents, schools and ecosystems, to ensure consistent consideration of the community benefits and environmental impacts of infrastructure, planning policy and emergency response. The lifetime of this five-year plan promises exciting shifts into collaborative, united response across municipal boundaries.

## Port Phillip Baykeeper with Melbourne Water

Regular attendance at Melbourne Water's **Healthy Waterways Strategy workshops** and **Waterways and Drainage Customer Council**, has provided great insight into waterways management challenges in the context of increasing population and climate change, and the opportunity to meet the wide range of stakeholders who care for waterways that impact the health of the bay, including the Yarra and Werribee Riverkeepers and other community advocates; Melbourne Water specialist staff; Victorian Planning Authority; several urban and peri-urban local government agencies; a professional hydrologist; a farmer; and a writer.





## Macnamara Candidates' Forum on Climate Change and Energy

The EcoCentre collaborated with a range of environmental groups to organise a Candidates' Forum prior to the Federal election. More than 500 citizens heard the candidates from the three major parties speak on environmental policies. The forum was facilitated by Peter Mares, and also addressed by a local student and experts Fiona Armstrong and Simon Holmes à Court.

## Citizen science evaluation rubric

As citizen science becomes an increasingly popular tool for both community groups and scientists to help them collect the environmental data they need, the quality of the projects really matters. The only rubrics that safeguard citizen science project quality so far are scientific ones published in journals (often not accessible by the community) and seem to be more concerned with the rigour of the scientific data than with the human component of engaging with volunteers and their needs.

This led the EcoCentre to collaborate with talented interns from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, USA, to develop a rubric that helps citizens AND scientists to design, evaluate and improve their citizen science projects for maximum effect. The rubric is accessible to anyone who wants to collect environmental data for positive change and keeps both the 'citizen' and 'science' in citizen science. The rubric was officially launched at the 2019 Marine and Coastal Forum organised by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The workshop enabled 40 people from science, government and community backgrounds to use the rubric to evaluate some of their own projects and forum evaluations marked it the second most valuable session of the three-day event. The rubric is available for free on the EcoCentre's website.

***'This is an impressive and EXCELLENT tool for workshopping projects. We will be using this.'***

***– Anna, Abbotsford Riverbankers***







## Enable

### Outcome:

The EcoCentre is an efficient and effective, forward thinking organisation with an excellent reputation.

### Strategies:

**Outstanding people.** Recruit, retain, manage and develop skilled and diverse staff.

**Best practice.** Ensure best practice through high quality planning, monitoring, and evaluation.

**Strong finances.** Maintain financial security via a range of sources.

**Robust systems.** Consolidate systems and policies including HR, IT, membership, communications and marketing.

**Excellent governance.** Maintain a strong committee of management and best practice governance.

**Inspiring Facilities** Develop and implement a strategy for a new fit-for-future community building that enables our innovation and growth.

### Activities in 2018–19 included:

Redeveloping a fit-for-purpose EcoCentre, Proactive knowledge management, Community Skills Grants, Membership and reach, Awards

*The EcoCentre Committee and Executive discussed a range of policy issues during a visit from Josh Burns MP and Mark Butler MP, who pledged support for a fit-for-purpose EcoCentre.*

### Success Indicators:

Maintained high levels of satisfaction with funders, government agencies, project partners and Affiliates.

**Target: 90% of stakeholders report high level of satisfaction with the quality and conduct of our work**

**Actual: Full stakeholder survey in 2020**

Agreed financial surplus achieved annually

**Target: \$22,000 in 2018-19**

**Actual: \$170,956**

Redevelopment strategy is progressing against milestones

**Target: 90% of milestones met**

**Actual: Progressed to Concept Design**

### Story of Change:

#### How IT helped the St Kilda Penguins

A small change in the backend systems can have unexpected benefits: the upgrade of the EcoCentre's website enabled streamlined registration for our Corporate Volunteers. The ability to collect data before the event means more time onsite for helping little penguins at St Kilda Breakwater. Redirecting just 15 minutes of volunteer effort each session into propagation has collectively translated into doubling the noonflower grown for penguin habitat this year. Those 1,910 plants provide natural nesting material, and prevent penguins from using dangerous plastic litter for homemaking.



## Redeveloping a fit-for-purpose EcoCentre

The EcoCentre cottage no longer has capacity to host the growing numbers of residents, schools and groups inspired to use it for training, education, citizen science, and as planning and meeting space for activities.

In 2017, City of Port Phillip funded a Strategic Business Case and committed \$3.2 million in capital funds, subject to securing matching funds. This provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to model sustainable design and living to households and businesses, and optimises the variety of programs that the EcoCentre undertakes with our partners. A fit-for-purpose community facility will enable and accelerate imperative science, education for all ages, and community leadership that tackles climate change, prevents pollution and fosters long-term wellbeing.

Melbourne has now reached a population of five million. As we face critical climate challenges, we need effective, collaborative, community-led environmental action to capitalise on government investments and facilitate inclusive solutions. The EcoCentre network of expertise and community action can be amplified in a new building that supports and enhances our work.

This year, the Committee of Management and Executive Officer continued to seek matching funds for a fit-for-purpose community environment hub, which has inspired incredible letters of support to the Minister Lily D'Ambrosio from over 140 members and partner organisations, and supporting advocacy from MPs in four parties including The Hon Martin Foley (Albert Park), Mr Josh Burns (Macnamara), Ms Nina Taylor (Southern Metropolitan), Mr Sam Hibbins (Prahran), Mr James Newbury (Brighton), Mr Clifford Hayes (Southeast Metropolitan), Senator James Paterson (Victoria) as well as pledges in the Victorian state and Australian federal elections.

Together with the City of Port Phillip and our partners, we will continue to advocate for visionary facilities in which to conduct our vital environmental work.



*The EcoCentre Committee and Executive presented our operating model to James Newbury MP and Senator James Paterson, who submitted our redevelopment business case to the Australian Government.*





## Proactive knowledge management

Not-for-profit (NFP) organisations and community are very knowledge-rich, but for a range of reasons they are susceptible to losing key knowledge if a staff member, committee member or longstanding volunteer moves on.

From our origins with one part-time employee in 1999, the EcoCentre grew to employ a small team on a fixed-term project basis, with a goal of retaining staff through consecutive projects. Although this achieved some continuity in our skills, knowledge and relationship network, we struggled to find time to systematically keep records of repeated processes or specialised knowledge.

Staff, committee and volunteers often figured out practices organically by observation, experimentation or research on personal time. In 2015, interviews and assessments with committee and staff revealed knowledge management as a weakness. Staff agreed that improving our Information and Communications Technology (ICT) was a priority for recording and sharing knowledge and information. To help us decide between a field of technology options, we invested in a consultant.

Although we expected a 'shopping list', the consultant encouraged us to select an ICT option only after broader work on understanding the interaction of our mission, relationships and processes had been undertaken. The consultant recommended a culture shift through practical actions to recognise and value knowledge as our core and distinguishing 'product'.

This shift in thinking triggered a range of improvements:

- improving documentation by reducing ambiguity in language, making checklists and FAQs for repeated activities, and consistently labelling files and folders
- increasing budget for training and ICT to make it proactive instead of reactive
- investing in opportunities to share tacit knowledge

With support from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, the EcoCentre team was able to allocate time over two years to investigate and improve how we record and share knowledge within our organisation, and how we may be able to help other small groups and NFPs make practical changes. Our *Proactive Knowledge Management on an NFP Budget* case study is now available on the EcoCentre website.

Clare O'Neil MP and Josh Burns MP met with April Seymore and Neil Blake (and one not-so-Little Penguin) to discuss the EcoCentre redevelopment.





## Community investments and strategic activities

Some activities conducted each year are outside funded projects; however, they provide strategic value on behalf of our members. These activities involve knowledge sharing, network building and practical support that accelerates sustainability in our daily lives, business best practice and government systems. They typically involve a mix of self-funded work (enabled by donations) and time volunteered by our tireless team.

This year, staff and committee members strategically contributed their time to:

- **Affiliate and partner support:** attending partners' annual general meetings and events; facilitating strategic planning workshops for groups; hosting 'grant writing bees'; supporting project development and writing letters of recommendation
- **Building the next generation of advocates:** mentoring students and pre-service teachers; participating in research projects; hosting internships; and providing career advice and references
- **Building community connections:** community radio appearances and radio program hosting; attending ceremonies and celebration events; speaking at film screenings and partners' events; and providing volunteer support and social inclusion activities
- **Community outreach and initiatives:** advocating for waterway protection during factory fire response; partnering with local artists; responding to community enquiries and reports of dead or injured wildlife; and peer reviewing citizen science
- **Cross-sectoral relationship building:** collaborative consulting for government and government agencies by attending events and participation in various co-design workshops; science communication support to research labs; serving consultation panels, brainstorming sessions and forums (considering a range of topics including coastal management strategies, Fisherman's Bend biodiversity, sustainability in schools, and plastics pollution)
- **Ecosystem-scale thinking:** mapping current and potential wildlife corridors with community naturalists; providing expertise and advocacy for integrated water management and biodiversity in the Elster Creek catchment; securing community-centred commitments in Melbourne Water's *Healthy Waterways Strategy*; and aligning citizen science methods between various groups
- **Knowledge gathering and research on key issues:** literature reviews and leveraging networks to design informed position statements and background papers, including for Australian election candidates in all parties
- **Providing equipment and space:** hosting the St Kilda Repair Cafe; sharing tools, providing meeting rooms, IT equipment and advice



April talking habitat with Steph Hodgins-May, who pledged support for a fit-for-purpose EcoCentre.





## Community Skills Workshops

The EcoCentre was pleased to offer a calendar of free professional development events to our Affiliate organisations and partner groups, without whom we could not cultivate environmental wellbeing. The **Community Skills Workshops** were perfect for community groups that love the on-ground work but know that other skills are needed to recruit, influence, inspire and endure.

The EcoCentre team was joined by 108 members from 18 NFPs at workshops, to demystify websites and social media, make the most of membership and fundraising, and share principles and templates for successful partnerships and marketing. Our common goal was that better digital engagement skills and partnerships maximise participation and resourcing to accelerate on-ground biodiversity protection.

The Community Skills workshops were funded by the Victorian Government. Our excellent delivery partners include Our Community, Hootville Communications and Treetec, who tailored training to accommodate small-to-medium groups with lean resources. Further value was added by generous guest experts Erin Dolan, Ewa Zysk, Jacqui Lawrence and Phil Wierzbowski who shared advice from the perspective of experienced grant officers.

***‘Werribee Riverkeeper got a grant to investigate sediment contamination and the government feedback indicated it was funded specifically because of the advice the EcoCentre gave us at their grant writing bee.’***

*– Dr Teresa Mackintosh, Science Officer,  
Werribee River Association*





***‘I want my child to grow up in a safe, clean community and the EcoCentre shares that vision.’***  
- EcoCentre member



***‘When I arrived in Melbourne as a complete stranger in a big city, this was the place where I always felt accepted and welcomed. The EcoCentre gave me new friends and knowledge about local community, nature and culture. I think they are doing a lot both for us foreigners in this city and for locals as well. They are offering “services” that cannot be paid for.’***

- EcoCentre member

## Membership and reach

In 2018, in appreciation of the enduring relationships that EcoCentre members are building with one another on our beautiful patch of the planet, the EcoCentre redefined membership as a lifetime term. We also removed set membership fees, enabling members to instead choose any level of contribution they feel best assists our mission – with any gift of \$2 and over tax deductible.

As a result, we welcomed 421 inaugural lifetime members.

***‘The EcoCentre is a superb, efficiently run institution and a focus for many in the community... When there I am always pleased to see so many coming and going: students, tourists, mums with prams, backpackers, older people teaching or learning, activists, artists, gardeners...’***

- Rob Youl, Port Melbourne

## Awards

The EcoCentre was proud to have projects and team members recognised as finalists and recipients of a number of awards this year:

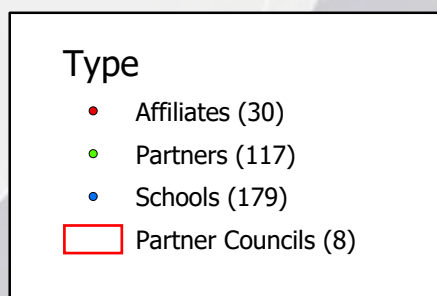
- Be the RE-generation – Clean Beach/Waterway Award, Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards
- Penguin Friendly Events – Highly Commended, Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards
- Chenxin Tu – Finalist, Young Leaders, Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards
- Sam Perkins - Winner, Young Leaders, Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards
- Karen Jones – Excellence Award, Victorian Environmental Educator of the Year
- April Seymore – Finalist, Australian Environmental Educator of the Year





# EcoCentre

School Program, Affiliate and Partner Reach  
125 suburbs reached in 2018-2019



31 records are regional, interstate, or international, and therefore outside of the Greater Melbourne catchment and not pictured.





## Affiliates in Action

EcoCentre Affiliation is open to not-for-profit groups who are engaged in environmental projects or community-building activities with an environmental component. We provide a hub for 30 Affiliate groups to conduct meetings and trainings. We cross-promote their events and share resources within this action network. Below are annual highlights from several of our diverse Affiliate organisations.

### Beach Patrol Australia and Love Our Street

Beach Patrol is an organised network of volunteer-based community beach-cleaning groups across Port Phillip Bay. Each group is defined by its suburb, is comprised of residents of that suburb, and is named according to the relevant post code. Beach Patrol now has 30 groups and approximately 3,500 volunteers engaged. Love Our Street (LOS) is a newer initiative whereby each group cleans a street in their area. Significantly, 85% of beach litter originates in the street, then gets washed down to a beach. LOS volunteers tackle streets to stop the litter from travelling downstream. We lobby for changes with local and state governments to reduce the amount of litter that pollutes the marine environment, by using the power of the data we collect and the number of groups and volunteers that form Beach Patrol Australia.

[www.beachpatrol.com.au](http://www.beachpatrol.com.au)

[www.beachpatrol.com.au/LOS](http://www.beachpatrol.com.au/LOS)



### Christ Church Community Centre

Christ Church Community Centre's Kitchen Garden at 14 Acland Street, St Kilda, started in 2013 to grow and provide fresh ingredients to the Open House free community meal program and the Emergency Food Parcels for people experiencing financial difficulties.

The garden has continued to expand through generous donations, community grants and volunteer hours. With 10 regular participants in our weekly workbees, the garden provides opportunities for skill development and social interaction. We offer training and support to newcomers, and mentoring opportunities for those with skills to share. We have been able to become more environmentally sustainable in our practices by installing a 2000-litre water tank and two Hungry Bin worm farms, and running informative workshops. Our composting system recycles at least 25 kg of vegetable scraps per week.

[www.ccm.org.au](http://www.ccm.org.au)



## Climate for Change (C4C)

C4C helps ordinary Australians have better conversations about climate change, using the party-plan model made famous by Tupperware® in its model of engagement. C4C trains volunteers to facilitate Climate Conversations for small groups of people, allowing for deep engagement, reflection and providing opportunities to take action.

In 2018–19, we saw 344 two-hour long Climate Conversations reach over 2,800 people. This included over 1,000 people in the lead-up to the 2019 federal election, where C4C contributed to the Australian Conservation Foundation's (ACF) *One Million Conversations* campaign. Attendees were encouraged to pledge their vote for climate, and volunteer for ACF's election campaign activities. This short-term partnership delivered outcomes comparable to standard campaign activities such as doorknocking, but with a depth of engagement that is hard to find elsewhere.

[www.climateforchange.org.au](http://www.climateforchange.org.au)

## Earthcare St Kilda

This busy year marks our thirtieth year since the founding of Earthcare in 1989. As always, our enthusiastic and dedicated committee and volunteers carry out a diversity of projects and activities: penguin research recommenced, Northern Pacific Seastar removal continued, as did seagrass surveys, breakwater clean-ups and little penguin guide programs. Four winter revegetation tasks were held, which planted 2,800 plants in locations around Elwood and St Kilda West. Our Friends of Elster Creek volunteers conducted monthly Waterwatch sampling in Elster Creek (and quarterly in the Elsternwick Park North lake), and held plantings creekside and at Tea Tree Reserve.

[www.earthcarestkilda.org.au](http://www.earthcarestkilda.org.au)



## Elsternwick Park Association

In 2015, Bayside City Council proposed to change the use of a nine-hole public golf course in Elsternwick Park. The Elsternwick Park Coalition, representing community groups and residents, won agreement from Bayside City Council to turn the golf course into a nature reserve. The Elsternwick Park Association is an incorporated organisation formed from the Coalition.

The Elsternwick Park Association, City of Port Phillip, and other community representatives are now working with Bayside City Council to develop a nature reserve incorporating enhanced wetlands, flood mitigation, and a variety of habitats for native species as well as public amenity.

Bird and wildlife surveys have commenced, and scanners are being purchased to conduct bat surveys. Litter collection days are being organised by Love Our Street. We are seeking to further engage community members in the development of the nature reserve.

[www.elsternwickpark.org/home](http://www.elsternwickpark.org/home)



## Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO)

As well as continuing to support the St Kilda Repair Cafe, JECO has been working on three major projects this year:

- Encouraging and supporting Jewish organisations to put solar panels on the roofs of their buildings
- Providing guidance on how Jewish organisations can cater for community functions in a more sustainable way
- Encouraging discussion and sharing of practical ideas among parents and educators on how to be more sustainable while raising children

Our members have participated in Clean Up Australia Day, planted trees on National Tree Day, considered the environment when voting in the federal election, and joined in Deep Time Walks to understand the planet's history, our own species, and our impact on the environment. Each November, we run our Reverse Garage Sale where we help people get rid of items they no longer need without adding them to landfill.

[www.jeco.org.au](http://www.jeco.org.au)

## Kids in Nature Network (KINN)

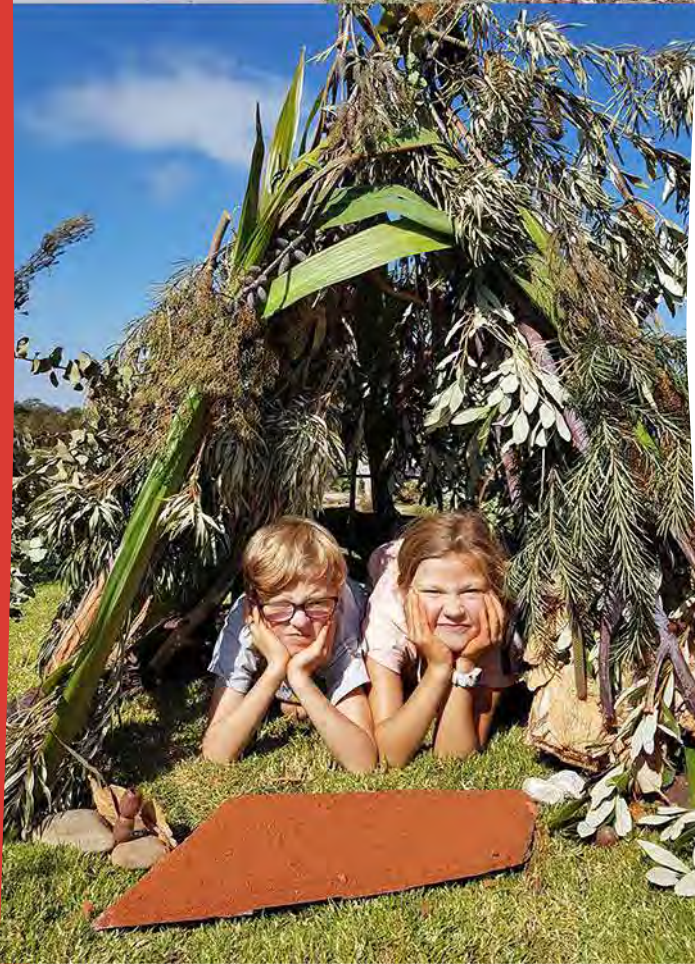
Founded in 2011, KINN acts to empower, connect and grow a movement of individuals and organisations that get kids back outside and connected with nature. KINN provides a unique meeting place for collaboration and capacity building through facilitating the sharing of experiences, ideas and knowledge. Our network is diverse, with leaders from health, education, environment, urban planning, outdoor recreation, community, government, business, arts, and many other sectors.

In 2018–19, we held our sixth Nature Play Week, featuring over 150 Nature Play events presented by over 80 organisations across Victoria and beyond. Many events were free, and the week had 15,000 participants.

We also released our first *State of Nature Play* report, and held the inaugural Victorian Threatened Species Children's Art Competition, which had over 600 artworks entered by children aged five to 12.

[www.kidsinnaturenetwork.org.au](http://www.kidsinnaturenetwork.org.au)

[www.natureplayweek.org.au](http://www.natureplayweek.org.au)



## Australian Landcare International (ALI)

Australian Landcare International works with communities across Africa, South East Asia and the Pacific promoting Landcare techniques and philosophies to restore land and water resources, farm sustainably, conserve biodiversity and help communities cope with disasters.

This year we collaborated to help a Nepalese community establish their own local Landcare network, with Junior Landcare in Uganda to run its first national Landcare conference, and to raise funds for Japanese Landcare projects and Landcare coordinators in the Zambian Copperbelt to purchase bicycles. Our fundraising efforts also enabled Landcare delegates from Ghana and Democratic Republic of Congo to attend the 2018 Climate Chance Summit Africa, and we sent a team to eastern Uganda to train small landholders in marketing farm produce and Landcare coordinators in network management, and to explore multi-country revegetation projects in southern Africa.

Additionally, ALI Secretary Belinda Brennan was awarded the 2019 Victorian Farmers Federation/Landcare Victoria Inc. Heather Mitchell Memorial Fellowship Award and has since been nominated for the 2019 National Landcare Awards.

<https://alci.com.au>



## Marine Care Ricketts Point

Marine Care Ricketts Point aims to foster species diversity conservation of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through the protection, preservation and regeneration of plant and animal life in the sanctuary, using community education and engagement.

Key programs include our summer snorkelling program, beach clean-ups, and citizen science to monitor and survey the biodiversity within the sanctuary. We have also been active with policy feedback and formulation, particularly on reporting offences in the sanctuary and dealing with marine pollution and debris.

[www.marinecare.org.au](http://www.marinecare.org.au)



## Port Melbourne Uniting Church

The Simply Living Community Garden at Port Melbourne Uniting Church continues to be a point of connection between our church and community. It is a place of learning for children and adults. Programs include gardening, cooking and skill-sharing, workshops, and a resource for the community through garden produce, community composting, and our annual garage sale. It is also a community space to simply enjoy.

This year we are excited to be a part of the City of Port Phillip's Smart Solutions for Community Services program, which is building on what we have already done and helping us to model more sustainable practices for other community organisations.

[www.spuc.org.au](http://www.spuc.org.au)



## Port Phillip Bicycle Users' Group

Port Phillip Bicycle Users' Group (BUG) has been working towards making riding better for more people. This year, we continued to make submissions to council's budget and transport strategy, and took councillors on rides of their wards to understand bicycle infrastructure. We also launched our Lock2Latte program, which allows you to borrow a bicycle lock from any of our participating cafes in Port Melbourne, so you can lock up your bike, relax, and enjoy a coffee. And of course – we have been cycling together!

[www.ppbug.org](http://www.ppbug.org)





## WEAll Youth Melbourne

WEAll Youth Melbourne is the first Australian branch of the global youth organisation WEAll. Since starting in March 2019, we have focused on increasing youth political involvement, mental health awareness, and economic development. Coordinating with the main WEAll Youth Hub in the Netherlands, we work with many Australian and international companies and organisations to create a wellbeing economy.

Ecological wellbeing is at the heart of WEAll Youth, as the wellbeing of every individual and our society depends on ensuring environmental sustainability. We have participated in several clean-ups and promote environmental activism, such as the School Strike 4 Climate. We encourage all young people in Melbourne to get involved.

Facebook: [WeAll Youth Melbourne](#)  
[www.instagram.com/weallyouth/](https://www.instagram.com/weallyouth/)



## Westgate Biodiversity

Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery and Landcare was formed in June 2018, after Friends of Westgate Park and St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Coop (SKINC) merged to form a new environmental organisation. (*Bili* is Boon Wurrung for small lizard or skink.) In the first year of our amalgamation, we've launched operational online sales, collated all our resources, and fully integrated our operations.

Westgate Biodiversity aims to actively engage the community with nature, ensuring that indigenous vegetation is valued, understood for its importance to biodiversity, and widely adopted. We have also initiated a water management plan, and worked to bring indigenous vegetation to the Fishermans Bend Urban Development project. We grow and sell native plants, host volunteering days and corporate volunteering groups, and run citizen science projects such as Bioblitzes, fungi forays, and bird surveys.

[westgatebiodiversity.org.au](https://westgatebiodiversity.org.au)





# Our best mates

## Major partner

City of Port Phillip launched the EcoCentre and provides us with our council-managed building and an annual funding agreement to cover basic operational costs, enabling us to build new partnerships and generate additional income. We value their longstanding collaborative support since 1999.

## Major funding

Bayside City Council

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

- Building the EcoCentre's Knowledge Management and Knowledge Networks
- Inspiring Future Wildlife Ambassadors

Victorian Government

- Clean Bay Blueprint
- Living Water Workbees

## Projects funding

Australian Government

City of Port Phillip

City of Stonnington

Environment Education Victoria

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) Foundation

Kingston City Council

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

- School Sustainability Festival: Bay Leaders Program

Melbourne Water

PMF Foundation

Sustainability Victoria

Victorian Government

- EcoCentre Catchment to Coast: building partnerships and online storytelling to maximise action
- Urban biodiversity: tree climbing, leveraging membership and media training
- Nerm: Leading the Way to Protect the Bay
- Multicultural Coastal Ambassadors

Waterkeeper Alliance

## Government agency collaborators

Coastcare Victoria

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

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA)

Melbourne Water

Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group

Parks Victoria

Sustainability Victoria

## Consultants

Brett de Hoedt, Hootville Communications

Dr Chris Johnstone, Monash University

Mark Cashmore, Treetec

Michael Lutman, Lutman Films

Natalie Bramble

Peter Preston, Huzzara Video

Ply Creative

Ronald Jore

Dr Ross Colliver, The Training + Development Group

Tess Sellar Design

## Benefactors

The EcoCentre's work is made possible by our generous supporters. In particular we would like to recognise gifts this year from:

Anonymous

Dale Robinson

Keith and Debby Badger

Lis Fenwick





## Affiliates

Animal Liberation Victoria  
Australian Landcare International (ALI)  
Australian Youth Climate Coalition  
Macnamara (AYCC)  
Beach Patrol Australia &  
Love Our Street  
Christ Church Community  
Centre, St Kilda  
Climate For Change  
Earthcare St Kilda  
Elsternwick Park Association  
Elwood Floods Action Group (EFLAG)  
Environment Education Victoria (EEV)  
Get up! Melbourne Ports Action Group  
GIVback  
Glen Eira Environment Group  
Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO)  
Kids In Nature Network (KINN)  
Landcare Victoria Inc  
Marine Care Ricketts Point  
Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club  
Melbourne Ports Stop Adani  
Permaculture Women Australasia  
Port Phillip BUG (Bicycle Users' Group)  
Roots & Shoots  
(Jane Goodall Foundation)  
South East Suburbs Permaculture  
South Port Uniting Church  
Sustainable Gardening  
Australia (SGA)  
St Kilda Community Gardens Club  
Stop Adani Macnamara  
Veg Out Community Garden  
WEAll Youth Melbourne  
Westgate Biodiversity:  
Bili Nursery & Landcare

## Partner Organisations

1st Albert Park Scouts  
1st Elwood Scouts  
1st/14th Brighton Sea Scouts  
3CR  
3RRR  
5 Gyres Institute  
Alliance Francais  
Ascot Vale Scouts  
Australian Conservation Foundation  
Balcombe Estuary Reserve  
Group (BERG) Mt Martha  
Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife  
Bayside Venturers  
Beaumaris Scouts  
Bellarine Catchment Network  
Belmont Scouts  
Birdlife Bayside  
Blackburn Scouts  
Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron  
Boon Wurrung Foundation  
Canopy of Care  
Catholic Education Melbourne  
Caulfield Love Our Street 3162  
Centre for Education and  
Research in Environmental  
Strategies (CERES)  
Cheltenham Secondary College  
City of Glen Eira  
City of Greater Geelong  
City of Wyndham  
Climactic  
Community Learning for  
Environmental Action  
Croydon Scouts  
Darebin City Council  
Deakin University

Diversity  
Dolphin Research Institute  
Dromana Scouts  
Earth Echo International  
Elsternwick Park Love  
Our Street 3186  
Eltham Scouts  
Elwood Beach Patrol 3184  
Elwood Love Our Street 3184  
Filmtime  
First Friends of Dandenong Creek  
Frankston Beach Association  
Frankston Beach Patrol  
Friends of Elster Creek  
Friends of the Earth Melbourne  
Friends of the Marine  
Discovery Centre  
Friends of Westgate Park  
Friends of Williamstown Wetlands  
Geelong Yacht Club  
Geography Teachers' Association  
of Victoria  
Goodcompany  
Gordon TAFE  
Habitat HQ  
Hampton Scouts  
Jackson's Creek Eco-Network  
Keep Victoria Beautiful  
Kilbreda College  
Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI)  
Launch Housing  
Linden Gallery  
Locals Into Victoria's  
Environment (LIVE)  
Lutman Films  
Melbourne Down Under

Monash University  
Monbulk Scouts  
M-Video  
National Centre for Coasts  
and Climate  
Nature West  
North Balwyn Scouts  
Nurdles No More  
Oakleigh Scouts  
Olinda Scouts  
PJT Green Plumbing  
Plastic-Free Victoria Alliance (PVA)  
Polperro Dolphin Swims  
Port Melbourne Beach Patrol 3207  
Port Melbourne Love Our Street 3207  
Port Phillip Alliance for Sustainability  
Red Hill Scouts  
Remember the Wild  
Ripponlea Love Our Street  
3183 & 3185  
Royal Melbourne Institute of  
Technology (RMIT University)  
Rye Beach Patrol  
Sacred Heart Mission  
Sandringham Scouts  
Scouts Victoria  
Sea Shepherd Australia  
Seaford Beach Patrol  
South Melbourne Beach Patrol 3205  
Soxy Beast  
St Columba's Primary School, Elwood  
St Kilda Beach Patrol 3182  
St Louis de Montfort's  
School, Aspendale  
Streamline Media  
Sunbury Scouts

Take2  
Tangaroa Blue Foundation  
Taylors Lakes Scouts  
Tomorrow's Leaders for  
Sustainability Inc.  
Trash Puppets  
unChain  
University of Melbourne  
Victorian National Parks Association  
Victorian Ornithological  
Research Group  
Walks 101  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
Wauthurong Cooperative  
Werribee Beach Patrol 3030  
Werribee Love Our Street 3030  
Werribee River Association  
Werribee Scouts  
Westmeadows Scouts  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
YHA Melbourne Central  
YHA Melbourne Metro  
Yarra Riverkeeper Association  
Zoos Victoria





## Schools

Albert Park College  
 Albert Park Primary School  
 Alphington Primary School  
 Angliss Children's Centre  
 Armadale Primary School  
 Aspendale Primary School  
 Aurora School  
 Australian International Academy  
 Bambini Early Learning Centre  
 Beaconhills College  
 Beaumaris Primary School  
 Beaumaris Secondary College  
 Bialik College  
 Black Rock Primary School  
 Brighton Beach Primary School  
 Brighton Grammar School  
 Brighton Primary School  
 Brighton Secondary College  
 Brookville Kindergarten  
 Bubup Womindjeka  
 Burnside Primary School  
 Camberwell High School  
 Carey Baptist Grammar School  
 Carnegie Primary School  
 Caroline Chisholm Catholic College  
 Catholic College Wodonga  
 Catholic Regional College,  
 Caroline Springs  
 Catholic Regional College, St Albans  
 Caulfield Grammar School  
 Caulfield South Primary School  
 Cheltenham Primary School  
 Cheltenham Secondary College  
 Christian Brothers College, St Kilda  
 Clarendon Children's Centre  
 Cornish College  
 Covenant College  
 Dallas Brooks Community  
 Primary School  
 Damascus College

De La Salle College  
 East Malvern Early Learning Centre  
 Eastwood Primary School  
 Elsternwick Primary School  
 Eltham Child Care  
 Eltham College  
 Eltham Primary School  
 Elwood College  
 Elwood Primary School  
 Epping Views Primary School  
 Explorers Early Learning,  
 Brighton East  
 Firbank Grammar School  
 Galilee Regional Catholic  
 Primary School  
 Gardenvale Primary School  
 Geelong Grammar School,  
 Toorak Campus  
 Genazzano Early Learning Centre  
 Glen Huntly Primary School  
 Glen Waverley Primary School  
 Glenferrie Primary School  
 Grovedale West Primary School  
 Haileybury College, Brighton  
 Hampton Primary School  
 High Street Early Learning Centre  
 Hornbrook Children's Centre  
 Ingles Street Early Learning & Kinder  
 Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School  
 John MacKenzie Kindergarten  
 Kew High School  
 Kilbreda College  
 Kingston Heath Primary School  
 Korowa Anglican Girls' School  
 Korumburra Secondary College  
 Lady Forster Kindergarten  
 Lancaster House Child Care Centre  
 Lauriston Girls' School  
 Lauriston Girls' School Kindergarten  
 Little Paddington Early  
 Learning Centre

Little Patch Early Learning Centre  
 Lloyd Street Primary School  
 Loyola College  
 Lumen Christi Catholic College  
 Mac.Robertson Girls' High School  
 MacKillop College  
 Malvern Central School  
 Malvern Day Nursery  
 Mansfield Steiner School  
 Mary MacKillop Primary School  
 Melbourne Girls' College  
 Melbourne Girls' Grammar School  
 Mentone Grammar School  
 Mentone Primary School  
 Merewether High School  
 Middle Park Primary School  
 Montague Continuing  
 Education Centre  
 Moorabbin Primary School  
 Mount Waverley Primary School  
 Mount Scopus Memorial College  
 Murrumbeena Primary School  
 Newhaven College  
 North Melbourne Primary School  
 Notre Dame College  
 Ormond Primary School  
 Our Lady of Good Counsel  
 Primary School  
 Our Lady Star of the Sea  
 Primary School  
 Penleigh and Essendon  
 Grammar School  
 Point Lonsdale Primary School  
 Port Melbourne Primary School  
 Port Phillip Specialist School  
 Ripponlea Primary School  
 RiverGarden - A Guardian  
 Early Learning Centre  
 Sacre Coeur  
 Sacred Heart Parish School

Samantha's Child Care  
 Centre & Kindergarten  
 Sandringham College  
 Sandringham East Primary School  
 Sandringham Primary School  
 Scotch College  
 Serrell Street Kindergarten  
 Sirius College  
 South Melbourne Park  
 Primary School  
 South Melbourne Primary School  
 Southmoor Primary School  
 St Agnes' Primary School  
 St Anne's Primary School  
 St Anthony's Parish Primary School  
 St Augustine's Primary School  
 St Bernadette's Primary School  
 St Brigid's Parish Primary  
 School, Mordialloc  
 St Catherine's School  
 St Columba's Primary School  
 St Finbar's Primary School  
 St James Catholic Parish  
 Primary School  
 St Joan of Arc School, Brighton  
 St John Vianney's Primary School  
 St Joseph's Catholic School Mernda  
 St Joseph's Primary School,  
 Black Rock  
 St Joseph's Primary School,  
 Brunswick West  
 St Joseph's Primary School, Chelsea  
 St Joseph's Primary  
 School, Elsternwick  
 St Jude's Parish Primary School  
 St Kevin's Primary School Ormond  
 St Kilda and Balaclava Kindergarten  
 St Kilda Park Primary School  
 St Kilda Primary School  
 St Leonard's College  
 St Louis de Montfort's  
 School, Aspendale

St Macartan's Parish Primary School  
 St Mark's Catholic Parish  
 Primary School  
 St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College  
 St Mary's Primary School, Ararat  
 St Mary's Primary School, Hampton  
 St Mary's Primary School,  
 Malvern East  
 St Mary's Primary School,  
 St Kilda East  
 St Michael's Grammar School  
 St Patrick's Catholic Parish  
 Primary School  
 St Patrick's College  
 St Peter's Early Learning Centre  
 St Peter's Parish Primary School  
 St Peter's Primary School  
 St Pius X Primary School  
 St Raphael's Primary School  
 St Thomas the Apostle  
 Catholic Primary School  
 Star of the Sea College  
 Stella Maris Primary School  
 Strathaird Primary School  
 Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar  
 Strathmore Primary School  
 Sunnyside Kindergarten  
 The Cheshire School  
 The King David School  
 Think Childcare  
 Thomas Mitchell Primary School  
 Valkstone Primary School  
 Warrnambool East Primary School  
 Wesley College  
 Whitefriars College  
 Winter Street Occasional  
 Care Centre  
 Woodleigh School  
 Wooranna Park Primary School  
 Wyndham Park Primary School  
 Yesodei HaTorah College





# EcoCentre people

## Committee of Management

**Pam O'Neil**, President  
**Lis Fenwick**, Vice President  
**Tony Flude**, Secretary  
**Keith Badger**, Treasurer  
**Anne Callaghan**  
**Jan Cossar**  
**Geoff Love**  
**Isabel Robinson**  
**Jo Wallace**

## EcoCentre Public Fund Managers

**Louise Kyle**  
**Michele Hodes**  
**Nic Capes**

## Staff

**April Seymore**, Executive Officer  
**Karen Jones**, Education Manager  
**Neil Blake**, Port Phillip Baykeeper  
**Belinda Daly**, Schools and Community Educator  
**Bel Evans**, Community Engagement Coordinator  
**Ben Francischelli**, Schools and Community Educator  
**Coco Rivarossa**, Schools and Community Educator  
**David Giles**, IT Specialist  
**Deb Punton**, Garden Coordinator, Educator, and Project Officer  
**Ella Ryan**, Schools and Community Educator  
**Fam Charko**, Marine Biologist and Project Officer  
**Fiona Second**, Bookkeeper  
**Gio Fitzpatrick**, Youth Wildlife Ambassador

**Josh Solomonsz**, Communications and Marketing Coordinator  
**Kate Bulling**, Schools and Community Educator  
**Malcolm Dow**, Schools and Community Educator  
**Matt McArthur**, Schools and Community Educator  
**Niralee Shah**, Bookkeeper  
**Peter Kelly**, Schools and Community Educator  
**Reiko Yamada**, Education and Project Officer  
**Sharron Hunter**, Schools and Early Learning Educator





## Key Volunteers

The EcoCentre is powered by tireless, dedicated community members. We are particularly grateful to the following volunteers for providing professional-level expertise or an extraordinary contribution of more than 50 hours volunteering this year.

**Abbie Wiberg**, Admin and social media

**Adrienne James**, Community Garden

**Allan Pringle**, Compost engineer

**Alkira Orlindhia**, Community Garden

**Amy Watts**, Beach microplastics audits

**Annie Strutt**, School Sustainability Festival

**Aurora Tang**, Translation

**Brenda Walsh**, Portrait Artist

**Bridge de Lange**, Citizen scientist

**Chris Johnstone**, Microplastics statistics

**David Flew**, Karingal Boat Trawls

**Emma Barnett**, Microplastics statistics

**Emma McGlashan**, Citizen scientist

**Francisca Alliende**, Community Garden

**Gill Upton**, Wominjeka Garden

**Helen Dawson**, Citizen scientist

**Helen Topliss**, Community Garden

**Hilmar Anton**, Photography

**Janine Stabryla**, Community Garden & Compost engineer

**Jayu Khot**, Community Garden

**Jennifer Burns**, Community Garden

**John Hillel**, St Kilda Repair Cafe

**Josie Jones**, Citizen scientist

**Judy Muir**, Canopy of Care

**Julie Jame**, Beach microplastics audits



**Laura Bulmer**, Community Garden & Compost engineer

**Louise Kyle**, Admin

**Mandy Robertson**, Beach microplastics audits & Citizen scientist

**Mario Mendez Brilanti**, Citizen scientist

**Mark Bytheway**, Finance Sub-Committee Advisor

**Mark van Wijk**, Street litter audit training

**Mechelle Cheers**, Citizen science

**Melissa Hailes**, Worm Whisperer

**Miranda Braakhuis**, Citizen scientist

**Pam O'Neil**, Citizen scientist

**Pete Lindner**, Canopy of Care

**Peter Dedrick**, Beach microplastics audits

**Peter Moraitis**, Citizen scientist

**Peter Talbot**, Beach microplastics audits

**Rob Bradley**, Beach microplastics audits

**Ron Jore**, IT and photography

**Sacha Guggenheimer**, Citizen scientist

**Shelby-Jayne Kearns**, Citizen scientist

**Stephen Hanna**, Community Garden & Beach profiling

**Tierney Kist**, Citizen scientist

**Tif Alp**, Community Garden & Beach microplastics audits

**Tim Naylor**, Redevelopment Sub-Committee Advisor

**Tom Hiney**, Citizen scientist

**Travey Steeves**, Street2Bay project recruitment and training







## Multicultural Bay Ambassadors

**Elissa Howard**

**Katy Li**

**Ranjith Venkatesan**

**Yashoda Pathak**

## Work Experience

**Caitlin Hall**

**Hazel Campbell-Best**

**Isabella Waid**

**Rose McGowan**

**Sophie Zuehlke**

**Veronique Villis**

**Zach Narkiewicz**

## Interns

**Alex Wiltshire**, Deakin University

**Brendan Gallagher**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Cameron Collins**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Damien Nzabanita**, RMIT University Plastics Lab

**Dylan Boey**, Deakin University

**Ethan Lauer**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Gina Visser**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Josh Driscoll**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Kayla Thatcher**, Deakin University

**Khadija Muhanna Saif Al Nabhani**, RMIT University

**Maryam Attarbashi AJ Bisheh**, Deakin University

**Michelle Clark**, Deakin University

**Samantha Comeau**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Sylvia Lin**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Tanner Gauthier**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute







# Financial Report

Detailed income and  
expenditure statement  
for the year ended  
30 June 2019

	2018/2019 \$	2017/2018 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Administer projects	-	107,043
City of Port Phillip grants	260,210	228,894
Commercial sponsors	2,114	-
Consulting	249,112	169,754
Donations	38,345	668,152
Interest	24,419	5,480
Membership	1,739	3,160
Other grants	389,430	380,183
Seminars & Education	114,800	78,626
Product sales	3,935	8,911
Sundry income	-	50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,084,204</b>	<b>1,650,253</b>

	2018/2019 \$	2017/2018 \$
<b>LESS: EXPENSES</b>		
<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE</b>		
Salaries and Wages	611,258	491,494
Superannuation	54,663	43,666
Workcover	8,769	10,851
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE</b>	<b>674,690</b>	<b>546,011</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION &amp; AMORTISATION EXPENSE</b>		
DEPRECIATION	6,590	7,066
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION &amp; AMORTISATION EXPENSE</b>	<b>6,590</b>	<b>7,066</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSE</b>		
Accounting and audit fees	19,209	14,081
Auspicng	-	100,658
Bank charges	1,236	1,097
Cleaning	6,061	6,451
Computer expenses	4,723	12,734
Consumables	17,259	14,940
Electricity	3,048	2,581
Insurance	3,456	3,650
Equipment and materials	5,178	7,767
Printing, postage and stationery	4,832	6,280
Professional services	108,170	128,784
Repairs and maintenance	471	5,180
Seminars and training	8,347	4,851
Sundry Expenses	41,631	11,935
Subscriptions	5,971	1,042
Telephone	2,376	3,375
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE</b>	<b>231,968</b>	<b>325,406</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>913,248</b>	<b>878,483</b>
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>170,956</b>	<b>771,770</b>





# Financial Report

## Statement of financial position 30 June 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,306,311	1,142,441
Trade and other receivables	50,784	28,312
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,357,095</b>	<b>1,170,753</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Land and buildings	218,208	223,803
Plant and equipment	2,984	3,979
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>221,192</b>	<b>227,782</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,578,287</b>	<b>1,398,535</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	52,567	44,963
Other financial liabilities	74,545	88,557
Provisions	67,876	52,672
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>194,988</b>	<b>186,192</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>194,988</b>	<b>186,192</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,383,299</b>	<b>1,212,343</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
Retained profits	1,383,299	1,212,343
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>1,383,299</b>	<b>1,212,343</b>

Income for the year remained well over \$1 million, despite the closure of our Affiliate administration service, and the absence of any significant bequest which inflated prior year results. All major income streams grew, with fee for service projects increasing by a very strong 47% over prior year to \$363,912 to represent one third of total revenue.

Payroll costs were higher as we re-established our community engagement coordination function in response to the community's growing appetite for volunteer involvement. Otherwise, professional services, although lower this year, continues to be our largest expense category reflecting obligations under various grant terms to share income with other community organisations. This signature collaborative approach in turn leveraged over \$780,000 in-kind value this year.

Another year achieving surplus has enabled the Committee of Management to commit to a new investment fund to underpin the security of the organisation over the long-term, including to ensure program continuity and insulate against uncertainties over the coming years during the establishment of a new building. This investment will provide stability and help maintain the expertise we have built, to maintain the vital and professional work for which the EcoCentre is recognised.

**Keith Badger**  
Treasurer



PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC  
ABN 66 852 809 680

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

10 Statutory information

The registered office of the company is:

Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc  
55a Blessington Street  
ST.KILDA VIC 3182

PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC  
ABN 66 852 809 680

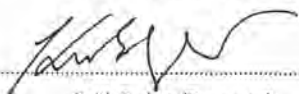
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

We, Lis Fenwick 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 2019.

Dated:



Lis Fenwick (Vice President)



Keith Badger (Treasurer)



Level 13, Freshwater Place, 2 Southbank Boulevard  
Southbank VIC 3006

Phone: 03 9690 5700

Facsimile: 03 9690 6509

E-mail: [info@morrrows.com.au](mailto:info@morrrows.com.au)

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 2019, 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 2019 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As mentioned in Note 3 to the financial statements, accounting records are not available to substantiate buildings and plant and equipment amounting to \$283,017 cost and \$61,825 accumulated depreciation at balance date. The fixed asset register and accounting records for these assets date back 15 years ago and detailed records were not maintained at the time. The committee of 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. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.





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Southbank VIC 3006

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Fax: 03 9690 6509  
Email: info@morrows.com.au

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

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

The committee of management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, and for such internal control as the committee of 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 is responsible for assessing the 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.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

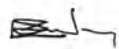
### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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: [https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Morrrows

MORROWS AUDIT PTY LTD



L.S. WONG  
Director

Melbourne: 30 July 2019



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Email: info@morrows.com.au

## COMPILATION REPORT TO PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc on page 25 and 26. The specific purpose for which the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement has been prepared is to provide detailed additional information relating to the performance of the entity that satisfies the information needs of the committee of management.

### The Responsibility of the Committee of Management

The committee of management are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement was prepared.

### Our Responsibility

On the basis of the information provided by the committee of management we have compiled the accompanying special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with APES 315: Compilation of Financial Information. We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the requirements of the committee of management.

### Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to me by the committee of management to compile the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement.

The special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement was compiled exclusively for the benefit of the committee of management, who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement.

Morrrows

MORROWS AUDIT PTY LTD

Melbourne: 30 July 2019





**EcoCentre**



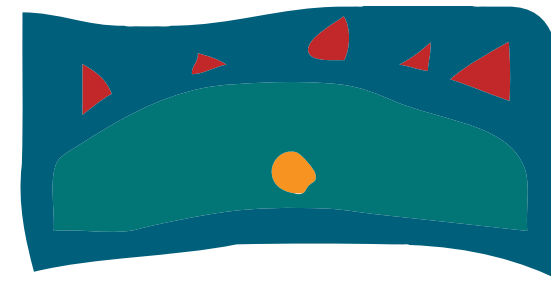
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**@ecocentrestk**

Registered on Environment Australia's Register of Environmental Organisations and entitled to receive tax-deductible donations.

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PORT PHILLIP  
**ecocentre**

**Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc.**

**55A Blessington St.  
St Kilda, VIC 3182**

Located in St Kilda Botanical Gardens  
(corner Blessington and Herbert Streets)

**ph: (03) 9534 0670**

**e: [info@ecocentre.com](mailto:info@ecocentre.com)**

**w: [www.ecocentre.com](http://www.ecocentre.com)**

**ABN: 66 852 809 680**

Incorporated Association No. A0038897K

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