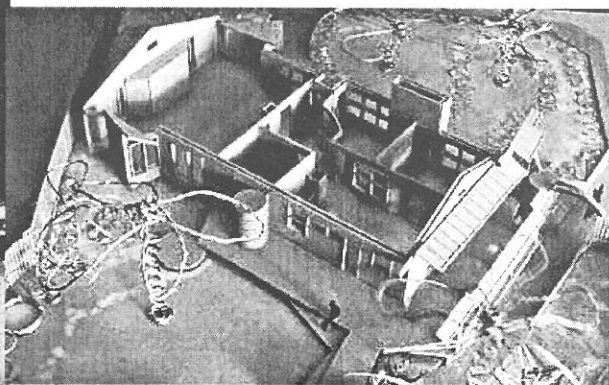
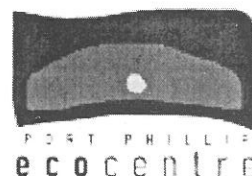


port phillip ecocentre  
annual report 2001/2002



**local** ACTION global **FUTURE**

## **Mission**

**To facilitate awareness and local action for sustainable living to protect and enhance biodiversity.**

## **Objectives**

- > To provide a base, resources and support for community-based environment groups within the Port Phillip region by managing and developing a community resource centre;
- > To provide information or education to the general public to promote sustainable living and reduce the adverse impact of human activities on terrestrial and marine ecosystems;
- > To facilitate collaborative projects between community groups, educational institutions, government agencies, and the corporate sector to protect and enhance the natural environment;
- > To facilitate research and monitoring of air and water quality, and flora and fauna populations and their habitats;
- > To promote ecologically sustainable development principles, including the use of renewable energy, recycling and waste minimisation, chemical-free horticulture, and soil conservation;
- > To establish and maintain a Public Fund to be called the "Port Phillip EcoCentre Public Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects/purposes of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc.

The Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc., a not-for-profit 'umbrella' environment organisation, is a resource for groups, individuals and the business community in the wider Port Phillip region.

The EcoCentre is located in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens on the corner of Blessington and Herbert Streets in St. Kilda.

Postal Address: 55A Blessington St, St. Kilda VIC 3182

Telephone: (03) 9209 6491 Fax: (03) 9525 3102

Email: [ecocentr@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:ecocentr@portphillip.vic.gov.au) Internet: [www.ecocentre.com](http://www.ecocentre.com)

Authors: Julian Donlen, Neil Blake, Michelle Hodes

Acknowledgements: Kay McKenzie, Sally Montalto, Amanda Webb

Editor: Neil Blake

## Background

As a result of an initial community workshop convened by the City of Port Phillip in February 1998, a community-based committee was formed to prepare the initial business plan. The plan (endorsed by Council in October 1998) included identification and establishment of an appropriate EcoCentre site and management structure in its primary goals.

Incorporated in November and launched in December 1999, the Port Phillip EcoCentre (the EcoCentre) is a non-profit Council and Community partnership that supports and promotes local sustainable living. In its role as an umbrella organisation, the EcoCentre provides environmental community groups with resources and opportunities to further their activities. In addition it provides the facilitation of partnerships with people in Council, State and Federal Government organisations, private companies and the network of community groups. The EcoCentre also seeks to actively educate the community about the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

## President's Report

Welcome to the EcoCentre's annual report for 2001-02.

The events of the past year have served to underline the need for global action to create a sustainable future for the planet. Last month's Earth Summit in Johannesburg highlighted that in our response to climate change, slow progress will be made without unilateral cooperation. Yet even in nations perceived as unwilling to cooperate, awareness and action to achieve environmental change are occurring at many levels.

This report contains many examples of how local action, through some globally minded people, is achieving the EcoCentre's objectives. Much of this year's work has focussed on building the partnerships and infrastructure required to achieve our mission in the wider Port Phillip region. A contagious spirit of collaboration and common goals drives it.

Our principal sponsor, the City of Port Phillip, has continued to provide ongoing support and resources for the continued operation of the EcoCentre. As one of only 16 local governments in Australia to achieve Milestone 5 status as a City for Climate Protection, we are fortunate to have a major partner and sponsor leading by example.

In the 'EcoHouse Project', a major partnership involving many varied and valuable contributors has been forged. Community groups and individuals, State and Local Government authorities, philanthropic trusts and sustainable product manufacturers have catalysed the redevelopment of our home from conception to imminent construction. I would like to thank Peter Barker as Project Coordinator for his tireless efforts in guiding this unique project.

The EcoCentre's achievements and daily operation would not be possible without its heart, mind and face (and beard!) in Neil Blake. His exhaustive dedication and commitment in instigating and facilitating community activities is inspirational. Thankyou, Neil. Thankyou also to the Management Committee and other volunteers who have kept our course progressive and dynamic.

In 2002-03, the challenge is to inspire further **local action**; to build and grow on the foundations laid. Our most valuable asset, our people, share the vision of a sustainable **global future**. The need for action has never been greater - let's show it can be achieved in our region.

Julian Donlen  
President  
September 2002

## ORGANISATION

### People

Day to day operation of the EcoCentre has been coordinated by the EcoCentre Coordinator, Neil Blake, in a 0.8 position funded by City of Port Phillip (CoPP). Neil has developed an extensive knowledge of the regional environment and its management in 17 years experience in various environmental roles with CoPP and the former City of St. Kilda. His role requires coordination of all EcoCentre activities, communication with CoPP and other sponsors, and making the EcoCentre available as a community resource.

Volunteers have also provided assistance in maintaining the facility. An EcoGarden team comprised under a 'Work for the Dole' scheme has been instrumental in upkeep of the garden, vegetable patch and composting displays. Volunteers have also provided greatly valued catering (and cleaning) at meetings and events.

The EcoCentre Management Committee has met on a monthly basis directing progress and project involvement. The Committee is comprised of community volunteers, some representing affiliate groups, elected at the Annual General Meeting. While this year has seen productive action and congenial meetings, the Committee recognises that further involvement from other community and affiliate group members would generate more progress and will be encouraged.

In 2001/02 there were 11 affiliate groups under the EcoCentre 'umbrella', with a total membership of around 500. These memberships have enabled the EcoCentre to qualify for inclusion on Environmental Australia Register of Environmental Organisations, as well as fulfilling a key objective. Additionally, there are 25 supporters who are individual EcoCentre members (titled 'Friends of the EcoCentre'). Other community groups have regularly utilised the EcoCentre's resources resulting in at least one new affiliation for 2002/03.

### Resources

While recognising that our greatest asset is our people, we are extremely grateful to the City of Port Phillip for the use of our premises, with the best backyard in St. Kilda. A lease at nominal rent will continue until June 2004.



The EcoCentre Resource Room continues to provide: access to personal computers and the Internet; a collection of sustainable literature; and continually updated information, to affiliate groups and the community. This facility will be enhanced after refurbishment. A new photocopier was purchased in June 2002.

### Funding

The EcoCentre Coordinator position and Operational Budget were supported by CoPP, amounting to \$70,000 in 2001/02. This support will continue into 2002/03, although both parties recognise a common objective for the EcoCentre to become financially self-supporting.

The establishment of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Public Fund achieved a major objective for the EcoCentre in 2001. This was made possible following listing of the EcoCentre on Environment Australia's Register of Environmental Organisations. The fund operates on a non-profit basis for the receipt of donations. A committee of management has also been established to maintain the Fund, consisting of three 'responsible persons' who have had direct involvement with the EcoCentre and have helped to drive its development.

## Funding (ctd.)

Endorsement of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Tax Office has meant all donations from the public to support the EcoCentre's environmental objectives are now tax deductible. This has provided local community members, businesses and organisations with a tax-deductible opportunity to contribute directly to the protection and enhancement of the local environment. Donations to the Fund from the community have totalled \$9400 in 2001/02.

The principal focus for funding drives and grants submissions has been the EcoHouse Project. We are extremely grateful to the many financial contributors who have enabled the development of the project through grants, in addition to CoPP support.

These are listed below:

John T Reid Trust	\$20,000
Department of Infrastructure	\$80,000
Coast and Clean Seas (NHT)	\$22,683
William Buckland Foundation	\$30,000
B'nai B'rith	\$4,300
South East Water	\$9,090
Melbourne Water	\$5,500
Helen Macpherson Smith Fund	\$5,000

## PROGRAMS

### Supporting Affiliate Groups

Eleven affiliate groups from the wider Port Phillip region have utilised the EcoCentre as a meeting space, an information resource and support base for their community-based environmental activities. They in turn have provided the EcoCentre with dynamism resulting from populating the space with friendly faces and the sharing of ideas. Other community groups have been attracted to the facility and encouraged to affiliate. The completion of the EcoHouse project will provide a more attractive facility for these groups and any new affiliates welcomed to a fully developed community resource centre.

The benefit of being, the 'umbrella' for and the hub of, community based environmental activity has been seen in the collaborative projects that have originated using the EcoCentre's networking and links.

## community

### B'nai B'rith aids eco-project

THE B'nai B'rith Environment Group has donated \$4500 towards a water treatment and recycling system for the Port Phillip EcoCentre's EcoHouse project in Murrumbidgee St, St Kilda.

The EcoHouse project aims to transform the former gardener's residence in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens to demonstrate sustainable design and living. The site will be energy efficient, collect its own water and deal with its own waste. Construction materials will be non-toxic, local and recycled wherever possible.

The B'nai B'rith Environment Group is under the auspices of Unit 4000.

In presenting the cheque to EcoHouse last month, Dr Tony Weldon, president of Unit 4000, said that B'nai B'rith was proud to be associated with the local project which helped the community to live in a more environmentally sustainable way.

For more information about the project see the web site at [www.ecocentre.com.au](http://www.ecocentre.com.au)



From left front are Kathy Deane and Tony Weldon of B'nai B'rith Unit 4000 and Neil Blake of the EcoCentre. Rear, from left, are Adam Denison and Peter Doherty of the EcoCentre.

In August 2002, a further application was made to the Environment Australia grants program for funding to meet the EcoCentre's administrative costs.

Income from membership fees is approximately \$1000 per annum. A cost neutral result is considered acceptable in regard to memberships.

A small amount of income is also generated from the sale of books.

By facilitating National Tree Day in August for CoPP, the EcoCentre was able to add value to existing planting projects by Parks Community Association, Friends of Westgate Park and Earthcare St. Kilda, swelling helper numbers through media exposure and schools contacts. Similarly, by connecting a group of local divers with Earthcare and the ReefWatch program, an astounding haul of the pest North Pacific Seastars was removed from the St. Kilda and Port Melbourne foreshores.

Providing these links between community groups, educational institutions, government agencies, and the corporate sector to protect and enhance the natural environment meets a major objective. By initiating projects, the EcoCentre has furthered community group activities that improve the regional environment while raising its profile as a developing organisation.



## Communications

Information on environmental activities has been continually provided for the community from EcoCentre volunteers, local sources and affiliate and other groups. The Resource Room collection established in 2001 has been added to sporadically. Use of the material and Internet facilities has been mainly by affiliate group members and EcoCentre volunteers.

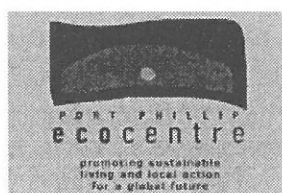
This year has seen the introduction of an EcoCentre newsletter, 'The ECO', produced bi-monthly. This publication has provided a further opportunity to publish affiliate group news and relevant CoPP press releases, as well as an introduction to the EcoCentre for visitors. While intended as an e-newsletter, production of hard copies has proved popular.

At present, lack of volunteer resources and the impending redevelopment limit the flow of information through the EcoCentre. The improved facility will require upgraded information displays commensurate with resources and expected visitor numbers. A priority in providing information to the general public, to promote sustainable living and reduce the adverse impact of human activities on ecosystems, will be the explanation of the EcoHouse Project systems (e.g. wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting).

About the EcoCentre  
Calendar of Events  
EcoCentre Newsletter  
How to Help  
EcoCentre Bookshop

EcoHouse Project  
St Kilda Peninsula  
Roofing Gardens  
Air and Water Quality  
Kids Centre

About This Site  
Contact Us  
Environmental Links



Don't Miss It!  
Port Phillip  
Community Festival  
Johannesburg  
East St Kilda  
25th November 2001  
10.00am - 4.00pm



Don't Miss It!  
Friends of Warrigal  
Park Check Telling  
Scrap Vehicle  
For exact location  
Dare Valley  
Melway 56 F1  
12.00 noon

## Website

Following recommendations from Robert Rowe, a new website hosting arrangement was completed in February 2002. Thanks to Robert also for a generous donation to secure the smooth transition. Regular updates of the calendar of environmental events have been provided thanks to Alison Strachan. Nik Beuret has assisted in the maintenance of systems. Volunteers with IT technical expertise will be required to upgrade the webpages to reflect the new capabilities and programs of the EcoCentre once refurbishment is completed.

## Fundraising

Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc achieved endorsement by the Australian Tax Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient in 2001. This means all donations from the public to support the EcoCentre's environmental objectives are tax deductible. This has provided local community members, businesses and organisations with a tax-deductible opportunity to contribute directly to the protection and enhancement of the local environment. Achieving this status followed listing of the EcoCentre on Environment Australia's Register of Environmental Organisations.

For the receipt of donations, the Port Phillip EcoCentre Public Fund has been established, which will be operated on a non-profit basis. A committee of management has also been established to maintain the Fund, consisting of three 'responsible persons' who have had direct involvement with the EcoCentre and have helped to drive its development. The Port Phillip EcoCentre Fund Management Committee comprises Josephine Samuel-King, Louise Kyle and Kay McKenzie. Creation of the Public Fund achieved a major objective of the EcoCentre.

Active fundraising was a part of community events with the first EcoCentre raffle at the Global Garden Party raising \$450. Book sales also contributed a small amount throughout the year.

## Education

Establishing and maintaining links to the local network of schools has been the focus of the EcoCentre's educational activities. We are fortunate to have 5 schools actively involved in the EPA AirWatch program (as is the EcoCentre) within the CoPP. Other schools have been actively involved in programs (such as Smogbusters' Way to School and Sustainable Schools) or have engaged in projects with EcoCentre affiliates. These have included: a litter survey of St Kilda Breakwater was conducted by students of Presentation College Windsor in Spring 2001; Garden of Eden's Art Garden Project in November 2001; and Brighton CAAM presentations on air quality.

## **Education (ctd.)**

Development of educational resources and curriculum-based programmes remains a priority. Completion of the EcoHouse Project will provide the opportunity to demonstrate sustainable design, principles and systems for rainwater harvesting, wastewater treatment, passive solar design, solar power, permaculture, composting and recycling. Flora and fauna of the St. Kilda Botanical Gardens, AirWatch and WasteWise program involvement, proximity to St Kilda Beach, VegOut and the urban tourist precinct of Acland St have also been identified as potential educational assets which can be incorporated into a modular educational package. This has been evidenced by a Sustainable Tourism group visit by students from William Angliss TAFE and a tour of the Botanical Gardens by Kingston U3A.

Community education has been provided in the form of 5 EcoWater Workshops in Spring 2002, under the Dept. Natural & Resources' 'Coast & Clean Seas' program grant for the EcoHouse project. These workshops focussed on practical activities to assist and demonstrate elements of the EcoHouse water

treatment systems to be installed (e.g. wetland plant propagation with SKINC, and heritage fruit tree grafting with Permaculture Melbourne, August 2002). Guest speakers have also added educational attraction to social events (e.g. Carol Scarpaci, speaking on Dolphin Research at Friends Day, January 2002).

The EcoCentre was successful in obtaining funding for educational initiatives under the EPA Stormwater Action Plan through CoPP. Water quality measurements conducted at four local sites over 2002/03 will be used to monitor environmental improvements (or otherwise) and featured on the EcoCentre website.

Another educational project involved volunteer Veronica Smith developing displays of local flora in CoPP libraries. CoPP also hosted the first round of the Sustainable Living at Home (SLAH) program for around 40 local residents at the EcoCentre, training participants to reduce environmental impact in the home.

## **PROJECTS**

### **EcoHouse Project**

The EcoHouse project aims to transform the EcoCentre building and grounds in St. Kilda Botanical Gardens into a model, fully-functioning, sustainable habitat, in order to educate and inspire the community and act as a seed for further change. The EcoHouse project aims to demonstrate technologies and methods for energy and water efficiency, as well as recycling and re-use principles during and after construction.

The project was initiated by Jo Samuel-King of Earthcare St. Kilda in 1999, who convened the EcoHouse Working Group (EHWG) and is the Strategic Coordinator. The EHWG volunteer group have met regularly to guide the integration of innovative sustainable technologies, offering expertise and receiving new knowledge.

The project has been under the stewardship of architect Peter Barker, employed as Project Coordinator since late 2000. His role has been as fundraiser and planner for the unique procurement and specification process, in liaison with the formally engaged project Architect, Peter Ho, Landscape Architect, Martin Reeves, and the EcoCentre management committee.

Plans have been refined since the presentation of the EcoHouse Masterplan on World Environment Day 2000. CoPP and Heritage Victoria approved the final plans in August 2002. An assessment of the plans rated the design as a 5 star energy efficient home using the FirstRate house energy rating system.

### **EcoHouse Project (ctd.)**

Peter Barker's initiatives have raised an estimated total of \$250,000 in funds and in-kind donations. This is not to mention the value of attracting significant and varied partners and demonstrable sustainable technologies to the EcoHouse Project. Project funding has been generously provided by the many community, private and State Government stakeholders and philanthropic trusts aforementioned. The many in-kind contributions secured include solar panels from CoPP, a solar hot water service from Solahart and a black and grey water treatment system from Environment Equipment.

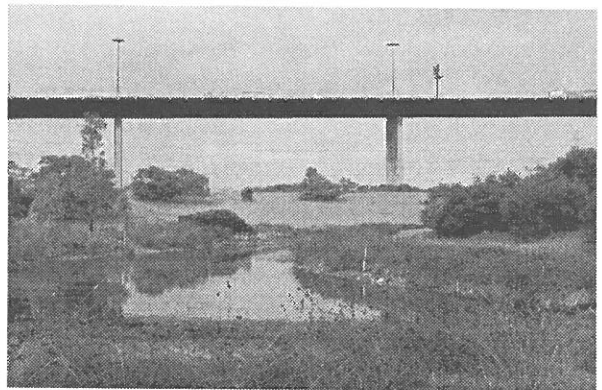
The construction phase of the EcoHouse Project has begun as we go to print. After some clarification of contracts and specifications required, the builder has been selected and is ready to construct a new Port Phillip landmark. FMSA Pty Ltd have been chosen as the preferred construction managers. They aim to implement a range of environmental objectives at all stages of the construction process. FMSA has sound environmental commitment and has successfully construction-managed projects of diverse requirements. Their design of an environmentally sustainable medium-density housing development in Windsor has recently attracted many accolades.

During the next few months, our home will be extended, retro-fitted and substantially improved into a model of sustainable design. Solar electricity panels, a rainwater harvesting system, greywater recycling, passive solar heating, compost toilets, and a solar hot water system will all be integrated to demonstrate technologies that have low impact on the local environment. As a bonus, the surrounding land will be re-landscaped to accentuate the harmony between the EcoCentre and its idyllic setting in the north-west corner of St Kilda Botanical Gardens. Heritage fruit trees and wetland plants will integrate the innovative water treatment system with the improved landscape.

The project has been the prime focus of resources for 2001/02. The improved facility will greatly enhance our profile and capacity to increase environmental awareness. Completion of the construction phase will achieve a major EcoCentre objective and result in a powerful and tangible statement of our mission. The improved facility will greatly enhance our profile and capacity to increase environmental awareness.

### **Westgate Park Frog Habitat Project**

Concern for the fate of the endangered Growling Grass Frog, once distinctively heard in Westgate Park, led to the mobilisation of EcoCentre resources to repair its habitat. Garnering support from the Friends of Westgate Park, Gerry Marantelli of the Amphibian Research Centre, the Cities of Melbourne and Port Phillip, and Parks Victoria, an approach for project funding was made to corporate park neighbour, Holden, in conjunction with Rob Youl of Landcare Australia. To show its environmental commitment and increase awareness of biodiversity for its employees, Holden generously donated \$30,000 to the project through Landcare.



In September 2002, excavation works began to create a wetland extension to a freshwater pond, artificially creating an ideal habitat for the endangered frogs. Project involvement from all park stakeholders, Holden employees, local primary schools and EcoCentre volunteers will see the propagation and planting of wetland plants to enable the reintroduction of the Growling Grass Frog to Westgate Park. The EcoCentre will continue to coordinate the project in 2002/03.



### **Butterfly House Project**

'If a butterfly flapped its wings... .' Local freshwater ecologist Edward Tsyrlin walked into the EcoCentre in December with a vision of butterflies flying around the St. Kilda Botanical Gardens Conservatory. Encouraged by EcoCentre assistance to develop the project, consultative visits to the Melbourne Zoo Butterfly House to examine the potential opportunity followed. This led to the successful backyard breeding of a Monarch butterfly. Edward presented the project possibilities (and his new pet) to the newly reformed Friends of St. Kilda Botanical Gardens in February. The FoStKBG accepted the idea enthusiastically and the added value for the Conservatory won support from Councillors.

This developing project aims to introduce species to the Conservatory subject to achieving the environmental conditions to sustain a thriving butterfly population. An added bonus will be the improvement of the (long neglected) Gardens glasshouses for the Friends group to propagate plants for feedstock and breeding. Awareness of the project has reached local schoolchildren, who created hundreds of artwork butterflies to fill the Conservatory at the Global Garden Party in April. We eagerly anticipate the arrival of our colourful winged neighbours.

### **Sandbelt flora book**

Neil Blake (on behalf of the EcoCentre) has provided coordination services for publication of Earthcare St. Kilda's new book: 'Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt Region'. A team of contracted editors, researchers and indigenous plant specialists have worked tirelessly under the leadership of Rob Scott to produce a unique volume specifically for plant lovers and students in our region.

This extensively researched and beautifully photographed resource will be released in Spring 2002. Thankyou to the team members involved.

### **Webpages**

The EcoCentre won financial support in June to promote education and awareness of stormwater management issues, under an EPA grant for City of Port Phillip. The funding will be used to publish water quality measurements on an upgraded 'Water Quality' webpage. The EcoCentre has begun to monitor water quality at several sites to measure the effect of pollutants from the rain on our rooftops to the drains to the Bay. Analysing the differences from rainwater tanks at the EcoCentre and an Ormond Road development, in Elwood Canal and Cowderoy St drain will provide a clearer indication of how we affect our local environment.

Further webpage projects for 2002/03 are the promotion of local air quality information from EPA Air Monitoring stations and schools involved in the Airwatch program, and a revamped EcoHouse webpage.

### **Botanical Gardens Fauna**

Establishment of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens pond as an open-air freshwater ecology education resource in 2001 saw the introduction of long-necked turtles, native fish and aquatic plants. Baby long-necked turtles discovered in August 2001 have been nurtured in the EcoCentre and released to increase pond numbers. The enhancement of pond ecology has culminated in the arrival of 20 rare white-eyed ducks in Winter 2002, and additional baby black ducks.

### **Other projects**

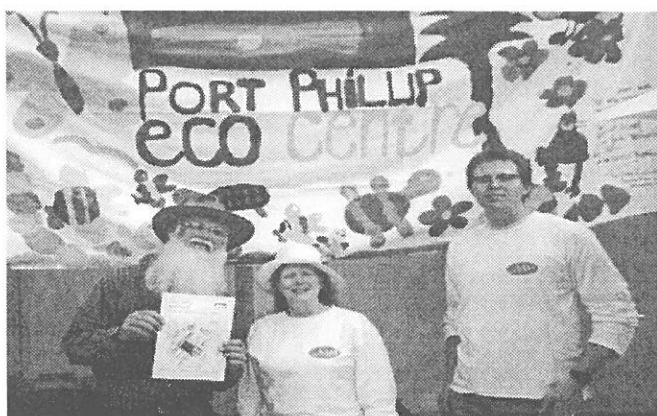
As a developing community organisation we recognise limitations while pursuing objectives. Our focus on completion of the EcoHouse Project, combined with limitations on volunteer resources has meant some projects have been put on hold. These 'seeds,' such as the Elster Trail project, are still priorities and will require a few years to grow.

## PROFILE

2001/02 saw the EcoCentre's network extend to a wide range of community stakeholders. An important success was the initiation of partnerships between corporate sponsors, State and local government agencies, and community groups (e.g., the Westgate Park Frog Habitat Project). Inclusion on the Environment Australia 'Register of Environmental Organisations' gained national accreditation as well as fundraising benefits. However, efforts to raise awareness of the EcoCentre's activities in the wider community did not translate into increased membership. Focus on the completion of the EcoHouse

project, which will be a major boost to our profile, and limited volunteer resources for promotions were likely causes.

The EcoCentre attended community events in the Port Phillip Community Fair in Alma Park in November and the Global Garden Party in St. Kilda Botanical Gardens in April. The latter event was extremely well attended with many thousands visiting the EcoCentre, its display of indigenous artwork, storytelling tent, composting workshop and affiliate group stalls. Thanks to Maree White and Terry Moore for their superb coordination and integration of the EcoCentre's projects into event activities.



Management Committee members attended several affiliate group meetings and events, encouraging cross-fertilisation of ideas. Members were also involved in the CoPP Sustainable Community Indicators project and the EcoCentre hosted the Sustainable Living At Home program. Details of the EcoHouse project were well received at a CoPP Neighbourhood Forum. In August, Committee member Don Linke was invited to join the CoPP Sustainable Energy Advisory Committee as a community representative.

The inaugural 'Friends Day' was held in January to revive community group spirit for the New Year, with guest speaker, Carol Scarpaci informing the gathering on dolphin research in Port Phillip Bay. A series of practical community seminars on the EcoHouse water systems, the EcoWater Workshops, began monthly in July 2002. Other new profile-raising opportunities explored included EcoYoga classes run by Lani Summers, which commenced in the grounds

in March and Ray Burns and Katie Doyle's artwork, which adorned the walls from April. The main avenues of publicity were the Port Phillip Leader, Emerald Hill Times and CoPP press releases. In coordinating National Tree Day in August, the EcoCentre achieved TV exposure for the Parks Community Association's Corroboree Tree planting project. Neil Blake was also highly successful in raising awareness of the Westgate Park project by influencing its inclusion on the cover of the White Pages and also was interviewed on local radio, 3CR. The newsletter, 'The ECO', was circulated to approximately 50 readers in its first issues.

The EcoCentre registered with volunteer.com in June, in recognition of the need to generate further community involvement in our environmental activities. In particular, increasing the capacity to create promotional benefit for our EcoHouse project contributors is required.

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2002-05

The EcoCentre undertook a strategic review in April/May 2002 with the aid of a CoPP funded independent consultant, Ken Williams, and the Management Committee. This Strategic Plan concluded that the EcoCentre has achieved all of its strategic objectives since 1998. The very significant exception was the failure to win Environmental Australia funding for administrative functions. A further submission for the 2002 funding round has recently been lodged.

Despite this setback, the EcoCentre has achieved:

- entry onto the Environment Australia Register of Environmental Organisations;
- Gift Deductible Recipient status (donations to the EcoCentre Public Fund are tax deductible);
- approval for the 'EcoHouse' project;
- funding for the EcoHouse project management and construction phase;
- a balanced budget (no debt); and
- the establishment of internal systems and policies.

In summary, the EcoCentre is holding its own and making steady progress towards achieving its principal objective for 2002 - the EcoHouse construction. At present, day-to-day operations are heavily dependent on the Coordinator. For the EcoCentre to grow to meet the evident demand, raise its profile and increase outreach capacity, additional personnel are required.

The challenge for the coming 12 months is to inspire further local action to meet our objectives.

## THE VISION

***"In 2010, Port Phillip EcoCentre will be operating 7 days a week; a social hub attracting interest, creating links and inspiring sustainable living"***

Local families call in for refreshments, to meet up with friends, and check out what the butterflies and turtles are doing. Students in the resource room are researching environmental issues and projects. Participants in the City's 'Sustainable Community Indicators' project are recording their local observations.

The EcoYoga teacher is chatting with the heritage horticulture buff, who is about to lead a tour of the St. Kilda Botanical Gardens. An EcoGarden volunteer is swapping tips for biological pest control with a member of Port Melbourne Community Garden.

Two local government officers and a community health worker have arrived from a rural shire to investigate the EcoCentre's 'community-building' blueprint. They're having a coffee with members of Earthcare's Rakali Research team who have just finished proof-reading an activities booklet on local schools.

Meanwhile, EcoCentre staff are facilitating a new partnership project; meeting with representatives of government agencies, community groups and a potential corporate sponsor. The discussion is going well. The EcoCentre is widely respected for its history of facilitating and implementing successful partnership projects.

People from all walks of life (backpackers to local residents) visit the EcoCentre to:

- find out what's going on locally;
- participate in community environment projects;
- learn about the latest information on sustainable design, and energy and water saving technologies and practices;
- learn more about the St. Kilda Botanical Gardens;
- seek help or information on matters related to the Gardens;
- learn about and participate in the City of Port Phillip's environmental programs;
- research the EcoCentre blueprint, with a view to creating something similar in their own community
- socialise and have fun.

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2001-02

### Statement of Income & Expenses for the year ended June 2002

#### INCOME

##### Grants

Western Region Waste Management	255.75
Dept Infrastructure Grant (CPP)	88,000.00
Melbourne Water	5,500.00
South Eastern Water Grant	10,000.00
ANZ Trustees Grant	30,000.00
DNRE Coast and Cleanseas Grant	12,485.00

##### Donations

Earthcare donation	3,991.03
Global Garden Party Donations	149.50
Rob Rowe Website Donation	375.00
B'nei Brith Donation	4,400.00
Cash Donations	452.35
Donations	32.00

##### Book Sales

Book Sales	372.50
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##### Memberships

Vegout Membership	200.00
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##### Other

City PP - Peter Barker Wages	2,200.00
Replacement Wages Co-ord	2,200.00
CAE Site Booking Fee	70.00

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>160,683.13</b>
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#### EXPENDITURE

Wages	20,390.58
Superannuation	1,776.11
Internet	745.68
ATO - BAS	12,489.00
Govt Debits Tax	19.90

##### Eco House

RJF Services	100.00
Peter Ho	1,921.00
PJ Yttrup & Assoc	1,512.50
RJF Services energy consultant	400.00
The Age	274.89
CoPP Urban Planning	150.00
Consumer Bus. Affairs	30.00
Heritage Vic	16.50
CoPP Urban Planning	100.00
PB Paint Re-imburs.	123.00
Consumer & Bus Affairs Lodgement Fee	33.00
Peter Ho	1,200.00
Metropolis Media	131.67
John Stronell	99.95

**6,092.51**

##### Other

Erica Lauthier	70.00
Tierra Permaculture	200.00
WorkCover	148.50
Overton Insurance	459.52
Fortuna Maria Callipari	540.00
ASB	458.72
Rob Rowe reimbursement.	372.75
The Age Builder	744.04

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>44,507.31</b>
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#### Operating Surplus

**116,175.82**



## AFFILIATE GROUP REPORTS

### **Brighton Community Access to Air Monitoring (CAAM)**

is an EPA Victoria initiative that involves volunteers in air quality monitoring at regional air monitoring stations. A key goal of the project is broader community education to be achieved through local dissemination of data and information on air quality issues.

In 2001/02, CAAM volunteers diligently maintained the Brighton Air Monitoring Station, holding an Open Day to coincide with CleanUp Australia Day in March. CAAM also presented air quality information at schools, community groups and events such as Bayside Biodiversity month, the Global Garden Party and the Sustainable Living Fair.

**Earthcare St Kilda Inc.** is a vital and practical local environmental group that works closely with specialists and council to improve the environment of Port Phillip. Their current projects include: monitoring and protection of the St Kilda penguin colony (which celebrated 15 years this year); revegetation projects at West Beach, Canterbury Rd., Johnson Reserve and Sandringham Railway reserve; facilitation of the indigenous Sandbelt flora book ; the EcoHouse project, and study of the local Rakali (native water rat) population.

### **EarthQuesters**

Formed as a result of CoPP's 'Sustainable Living at Home' program, the EarthQuesters affiliated to maintain the network of support and achievement in reducing their environmental impact at home.

### **Friends of Port Melbourne's Foreshore Inc.**

- aims to
- > achieve a clean beach and swimming and marine environment;
  - > protect and enhance public open space and the natural environment of the foreshore;
  - > support only such uses of the foreshore that respect it, users of it, and residents living in close proximity to it;
  - > protect important view corridors from the foreshore to the CBD; *and*
  - > strongly support the retention and protection of historic buildings and remnant vegetation.

**Garden of Eden Inc.** is a non-profit community organisation whose training program won federal approval for its 3<sup>rd</sup> successive term. The program includes a Permaculture Design Course.

Their Art Garden project has also received funding from the City of Port Phillip as part of the Cultural Development Fund – 2001/2002 round. This project ran concurrently with the work -for-the-dole project and the Swinburne Community Options program, which provides practical gardening experience and support for people with disabilities. Their Community Garden Education and Training Centre at the former Albert Park Railway Station has been recognised by the City of Port Phillip for achievements in contributing to a stronger local community.

**Park Community Association Inc.'s**

objectives include fostering wider community interest and appreciation of Albert Park reserve and its uses, history, and natural environment. The group also has a specific interest in facilitating reconciliation through landscaping projects.

The Corroboree Tree planting project at St Kilda Junction has been the major activity for 2002. It was inspired by the coming together of the tribal groups in southern and central Victoria into a federation known as the Kulin Nation. The homeland of each of the tribal groups is represented in the Park by areas of distinctive native grasses and also by aboriginal artwork portraying some unique aspect of the indigenous culture of each tribe. These tribal 'markers' are set out in the pattern of "The Seven Sisters", a constellation which figures prominently in a number of aboriginal legends. Each star of the constellation 'fits' into each of the seven tribal lands. Over 15,000 plants were installed for the project this year, with a large number as part of National Tree Day.

**Plastic Bag Theatre** group was formed to respond to social and environmental issues with a focus on performance in outdoor settings.

**St. Kilda Indigenous Nursery**

**Cooperative's** primary aims are to propagate, grow, sell and supply flora indigenous to the Melbourne Sandbelt region, and to actively promote the principles of indigenous flora use and sustainable horticulture.

**Surfrider Foundation Melbourne's** primary activities are coastal protection including revegetation at Point Impossible, and campaigns for Marine national parks, to address marine pollution and combat Abalone poaching.

**TEVA (Jews and the Environment)**

approaches environmentalism from a Jewish perspective and attempts to integrate aspects of Judaism with modern ecological understanding and commitment. TEVA has three main goals: education, action, and recreation.

**Veg Out Community Artists Garden**

seeks to create a unique, supportive and safe haven within the City of Port Phillip for all citizens. We promote a sense of community where trust effort, knowledge, skills and responsibility are shared. Current projects include development of a schools education program on sustainable agriculture and permaculture.

## **Management Committee 2001-02**

Julian Donlen, President  
Tony Gardner, Vice President  
Ruth Cooper, Secretary  
Michelle Hodes, Treasurer  
Josephine Samuel-King,  
EcoHouse Project Representative  
Don Linke, Veg Out Representative, SEAC  
Committee Representative  
Aria Smith, Treasurer's Assistant  
Stephen Pennells  
Hartmut Grieb, Park Community  
Association Representative  
Janet Bolitho, Friends of Port Melbourne's  
Foreshore Representative  
John Addie  
Jon Cook  
Peter Tekinder  
Neil Blake, Public Officer

## **Volunteers**

Veronica Smith  
Stephen Pennells  
Joan Gibby

## **Website Team**

Alison Strachan  
Nik Beuret

## **Affiliate Groups**

Brighton Community Access to Air  
Monitoring  
Earthcare St Kilda Inc  
EarthQuesters  
Friends of Port Melbourne's Foreshore Inc  
Garden of Eden Inc  
Park Community Association Inc  
Plastic Bag Theatre  
St. Kilda Indigenous Nursery Cooperative  
Surfrider Foundation Melbourne  
TEVA  
Veg Out Community Artists Garden

## **EcoCentre Fund Managers**

Louise Kyle  
Kay McKenzie  
Josephine Samuel-King

## **EcoHouse Working Group**

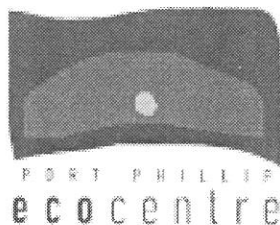
Peter Barker,  
Project Coordinator  
Josephine Samuel-King,  
Strategic Coordinator  
Peter Ho, Architect  
Martin Reeves, Landscape Architect  
Duncan Hall  
Jono Long  
Hartmut Grieb  
Jo Malignaggi  
Geoff Boadle  
Bianca Tootell  
Tracey Ibrahim  
Freda Erlich  
Neil Blake

## **Planning Consultants**

Louise Barbon-Elliott, Urban Design  
City of Port Phillip  
Justine McCormick, Urban Planning  
Department of Infrastructure  
Ken Williams, Strategic Planning  
Australian Institute of Management  
Stuart McQuire, Waste Wise Consultant  
Western Region Waste Management  
Group

## **Individual Members**

Julian Donlen, Tony Gardner,  
Ruth Cooper, Michelle Hodes,  
Josephine Samuel-King, Don Linke,  
Aria Smith, Stephen Pennells,  
Joan Gibby, Hartmut Grieb,  
Jared Gottlieb, Kay McKenzie,  
Robert Rowe, Freda Erlich,  
Bill Pemberton, Nicki Furkert.



**Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc.**

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**ABN: 66 852 809 680**

**Incorporated Association No. A0038897K**

Registered on Environment Australia's Register of Environmental Organisations

Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc. is a Waste-Wise Organisation

**local ACTION global FUTURE**