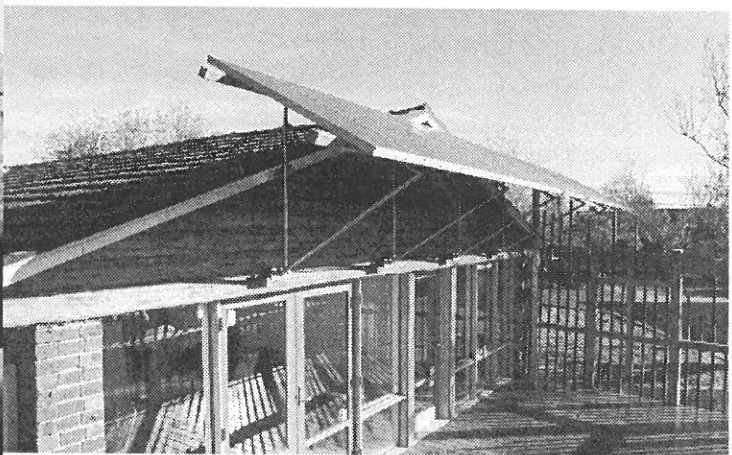


port phillip ecocentre annual report 2002/2003



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 City of Port Phillip and its wider region. The EcoCentre is located in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens on the corner of Blessington and Herbert Streets in St. Kilda. The office is open Monday and Tuesday between 1 and 5 p.m.. Alternate access can be arranged by phoning 03 9209 6811.

Authors: Julian Donlen, Neil Blake, Michelle Hodes

Design: Julia Dyer

Illustration: Jane Kneebone

Editor: Neil Blake

President's Report

Welcome to the EcoCentre's annual report for 2002 - 03.

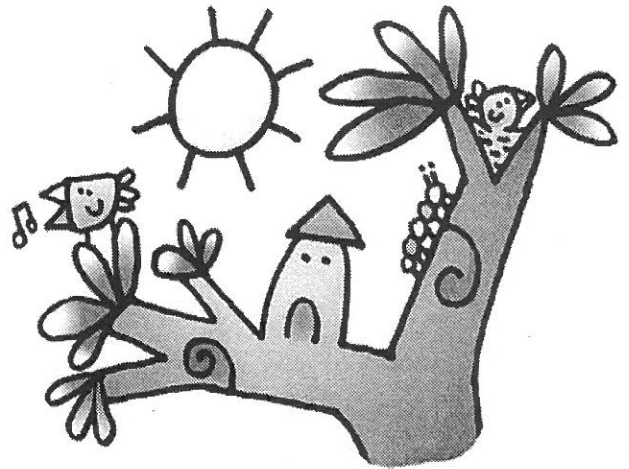
This report is a testimony to an astonishing year of local action. With help from our numerous partners, supporters, affiliate groups and community volunteers, the EcoCentre has delivered significant milestones in fulfilling our vision.

Among successes such as the Westgate Park Frog Habitat Project and the release of the 'Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt' book, the completion of the EcoHouse Project construction phase has created a new sustainable landmark in the wider Port Phillip region. In this major partnership involving community groups and individuals, State and Local Government authorities, philanthropic trusts and sustainable product manufacturers, we have realised a unique facility. The profile generated from this major achievement is already building awareness of both sustainable design and our collective capacity. I would like to thank Peter Barker as Project Coordinator, for his exhaustive efforts in overseeing the highly-valued sustainability of the project. Thanks also to Jo Samuel-King for her inspirational leadership of many capable community volunteers over the duration.

The EcoCentre has also developed partnerships with regional public and private corporations to secure ongoing resources for projects serving our mutual aims. Holden, Landcare Australia, Toyota and South East Water are just some of the organisations partnering the EcoCentre and its affiliates to improve our local environment.

Having built the infrastructure that tangibly demonstrates our goal of a sustainable future, we now need to fulfil the vision of a vibrant community facility. In this regard, we sadly regret the passing of our Secretary, Ruth Cooper, after a long battle with illness.

Her energy and motivation will be missed but she remains a joyful inspiration. The appropriate tribute to Ruth will be to continue filling the EcoCentre with vitality and soul.



The focus for our sustainable future is to use the partnerships forged and projects established as a means for growth as an organisation. To consolidate our community support, we will repay the faith shown by our affiliates in creating a functional and sustainable community facility, ever mindful of furthering their local action. Our resources will educating the community about sustainability and moving us closer to global future.

We congratulate our major sponsor, the City of Port Phillip, on its recent international recognition of its environmental commitment, winning the 'Nations In Bloom' award. Congratulations are also in order to our Coordinator, Neil Blake, for his being awarded a Centenary Medal for fostering community programs to protect flora and fauna.

Thankyou to ALL those involved in making 2002-03 such a successful year, particularly the EcoCentre Management Committee who have both guided and contributed to our rapid development. Here's to celebrating the fruits of our labour and sharing more successes.

Julian Donlen
President
October 2003

Financial Report: July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

The 2002-2003 year saw a significant increase in financial activity associated with several projects. Total income increased from \$206,964 in the previous year to \$301,094. Correspondingly, expenses (primarily associated with projects) increased from \$71,780 to \$141,863.

The City of Port Phillip contributed 55% of total income, highlighting the importance of the CoPP underpinning of EcoCentre projects. CoPP contributions included:

- \$59,821 in capital expenditure for the EcoHouse project (represents 45% the \$133,256 received for EcoHouse in the reporting year);
- \$98,964 for wages and operational expenses (approximately 60% directed to completing EcoHouse); and
- \$9,091 for the Westgate Frog Project.

The importance of the establishment of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Public Fund (and the Gift Deductible Recipient status it confers) enabled funding submissions to range sources that would not otherwise be available to a community group. Successful approaches were made to government agencies, philanthropic trusts, and the corporate sector.

Funds received for the EcoHouse Project included:

- \$45,000 from philanthropic trusts;
- \$11,333 from the Federal government Coats & Clean Seas Program;
- \$7,920 (solar panel rebate) from Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria.

Funds received for biodiversity projects were:

- \$55,000 from Holden via Landcare Australia for the Westgate Frogs Project; and
- \$10,000 from Toyota for the Earthcare Penguin Study.

The successes in the reporting year indicate that the EcoCentre's organisational structure is effective in securing project support. However, in the context of an increased public profile, and virtually all funds at the bank committed to existing projects, our immediate fundraising efforts should focus on increasing staffing to sustainable levels.

Michele Hodes

Treasurer

Statement of Income & Expenses for the year 2002-2003

Income

DNRE Coasts & Clean Seas (EcoHouse grant)	11,333
CoPP (Frog Project grant)	9,091
Landcare Australia/Holden (Frog Project grant)	30,000
Toyota (Earthcare Penguin Study grant)	10,000
J.T.Reid Trust (EcoHouse grant)	9,091
Book Sales	1,795
Memberships	405
Donations	61,112
Gift pack Sales	241
Sundry Income	364
Solar panel rebate	7,920
Timber Sales	818
Venue Hire	139
City of Port Phillip training contribution	700
City of Port Phillip wages contribution	8,364
City of Port Phillip contribution to EcoHouse construction	59,821
City of Port Phillip contribution to expenses	89,900

Total income

\$301,094

Expenses

Frog project	12,207
Bank charges	228
Books	173
Casual Labour	240
Catering	1,150
Computer costs	530
Gift Packs	1,140
Hire of Plant & equipment	2,713
Insurance	1,305
Lodgement fees	30
Printing & Stationary	85
Registrations	345
Repairs & maintenance	59
Replacement Coordinator	3,209
Seminars & Training	27
Staff amenities	74
Superannuation	863
Travel costs	835
T-shirts	218
Wages	26,322
City of Port Phillip payment of expenses	89,900

Total expenses

\$141,863

Operating surplus

\$159,231

MAJOR PROJECTS

EcoHouse Project: a major milestone achieved

Jo Samuel-King, initiated EcoHouse as an Earthcare project in 1999. Jo convened the EcoHouse Working Group (EHWG), a group of volunteers whose combined skills have brought about amazing and innovative solutions to the project's challenges. As a result of 12 months of intensive community design workshops Earthcare presented the EcoHouse Masterplan on World Environment Day 2000.

The Masterplan attracted substantial interest and support from the City of Port Phillip and the Victorian Department of Infrastructure. At the same time the Port Phillip EcoCentre took up occupancy of the building; and as leaseholder, ultimately became the formal proponent of the project. From these beginnings vital inter-organisational partnerships were forged. The resultant project is unique partnership between community groups, local, state and federal government, philanthropic trusts, individuals, and the business sector.

With support from all of the above, as a result of four years of community involvement, design development and construction, the major structural changes are complete.

This project is fundamental to the EcoCentre fulfilling its vision. Correspondingly it has represented a great deal of the EcoCentre's financial and human resources in 2002-03. The EcoCentre was fortunate to employ

Peter Barker as EcoHouse Coordinator. Peter brought exceptional skills and commitment to the myriad tasks involved in making the project happen.

The project to date has involved hundreds of people in negotiations and discussions - EHWG volunteers, EcoCentre staff and committee, Earthcare, CoPP parks, leasing and planning personnel, Councillors, Heritage Victoria, potential sponsors, building and design professionals,

permaculture experts, consultants, and many more.

The EcoHouse Project was launched on World Environment Day 2003 by the Honourable John Thwaites, Minister for Environment.

EcoHouse promotes biodiversity protection by empowering city-dwellers to minimise their "environmental footprint" by:

- inspiring and enabling builders, architects, home-owners and tenants people to make a positive impact on the three most important environmental challenges: biodiversity protection, climate change and water conservation;
- introducing the community to the topic of global and local resource depletion that threatens biodiversity.
- demonstrating many ways that city dwellers can reduce their water consumption in order to maintain environmental flows in rivers;
- minimizing use of forest-related products, by using alternative, recycled timber, thus leaving the vital and threatened forest habitats untouched;
- using indigenous flora in an urban setting to provide habitat for indigenous and potentially threatened fauna;
- addressing the issue of global warming with non-greenhouse gas emitting energy systems and small and large-scale examples of passive solar design

We are indebted to Peter Ho (Architect), Martin Reeves (Landscape Architect) and Fooks Martin Sandow Anson (Construction Managers) for their technical expertise and commitment to sustainable principles. Special thanks also go to Michele Hodes (EcoCentre Treasurer) John Hawker (Heritage Victoria) and Suzanne Zahra (Heritage consultant) and many City of Port Phillip staff for their sound advice in the planning stage. Sincere thanks also go to the many hundreds of volunteers have contributed to the EcoHouse project.

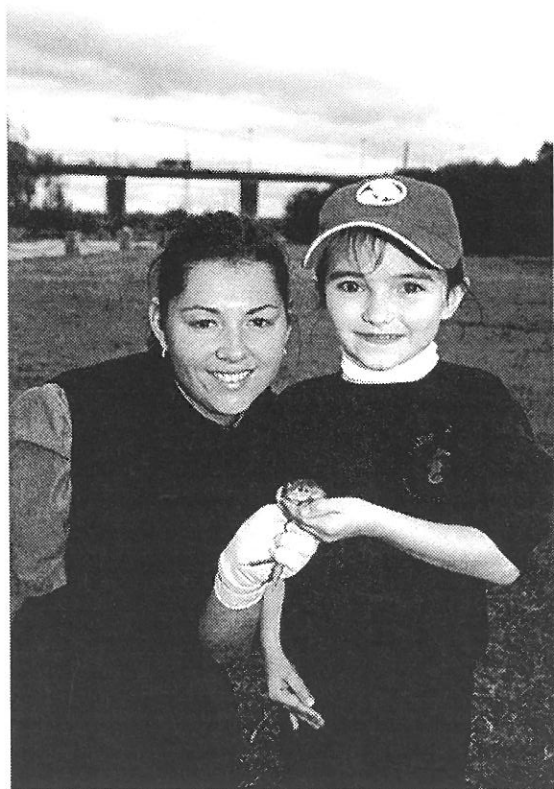
Westgate Frog Project

A 1998 study reported over 300 growling grass frogs (GGFs) in Westgate Park. However, the GGF – which is on the Federal Government's endangered list – hasn't been recorded in the area for two years.

Holden, in partnership with Landcare Australia, have commenced major works to restore frog habitat in Westgate Park. Important contributors to the project include Parks Victoria, the Amphibian Research Centre, Friends of Westgate Park, City of Port Phillip, and St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Cooperative. Port Phillip EcoCentre coordinates the project.

Holden is the major sponsor, having committed \$55,000 to date; and Holden staff have undertaken a range of land restoration activities including plant propagation, planting seedlings, and spreading mulch. The plants will provide frogs – including the endangered growling grass frog – and their prey species, with cover.

Education is integral to the project and Elwood Primary School and Albert Park Primary School have both participated in planting excursions to Westgate Park.



Raelene Hobbs (Amphibian Research Centre) with frog-friendly Albert Park Primary School student at Westgate Park

'Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt' book production and distribution

On behalf of Earthcare, Port Phillip EcoCentre has coordinated the production and distribution of the 'Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt: a Gardener's guide'. This project is another example of multiple partners being brought together to great effect. Funds totalling \$20,000 was acquired by Earthcare from Parks Victoria, Excell Corporation, and the Cities of Port Phillip, Bayside, Kingston, and Glen Eira. A further \$25,000 was contributed from Coastcare.

Authors of the book are Rob Scott (Naturelinks Landscape Management), Doug Evans (City of Kingston), Neil Blake (EcoCentre), and Jeannie Campbell and Nicholas Williams (Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology).

The EcoCentre distributes the book to Councils and indigenous nurseries and Bloomings books distribute to bookshops. The initial print-run of 2,650 copies has been enthusiastically endorsed by the gardening community with 2,000 copies sold in the first 12 months.

ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES

Strategic Planning

In June 2002, the committee completed a 3 year management plan which identified the following strategic directions:

Strategy 1

Maintain and/or reallocate existing CoPP resource levels as a foundation for growth. Gain commitment from City of Port Phillip to maintain the core funding of the EcoCentre for the next 5 years, with CPI adjustments – thus ensuring the maintenance of the current core operations of the EcoCentre.

Strategy 2

Complete 'EcoHouse' retrofit as a demonstration of sustainable design and practices.

Strategy 3

Provide additional resources to expand the capacity of "day to day" operations and allow for increased marketing and promotion of the centre:

- Administration assistance
- Inhouse Information Technology skills (toexpand Website use, desktop publishing etc)

Strategy 4

Increase involvement and use of the centre:

- Increase the level of support to other environment groups in Port Phillip to ensure level of membership is maintained over time.
- Increase general visitation to the EcoCentre by broadening the range of interests catered for, diversifying activities to incorporate St Kilda Botanical Gardens; and educational programs to schools.

Strategy 5

Gain new and additional funding to allow for growth and outreach by:

- Entrepreneurial Activities: Building (hire of building and grounds as a venue for ceremonies and events)

- Publications
- Training (vocational courses for the wider community as a registered training provider with the Adult Council of Further Education)
- Grants for specific projects to raise profile (seek and obtain specific purpose grants from relevant organisations, eg philanthropic trusts)

Media and Publicity

The EcoHouse launch received major network TV news coverage and was featured in articles in the Herald-Sun and Age newspapers, with assistance from City of Port Phillip and State Government. ReNew magazine, Channel 31 and local electorate newsletters also showcased the community facility. EcoCentre activities, along with the great work of our affiliates, were reported on 3CR's 'Out of the Blue' and 'Tuesday Hometime' programs, and in local newspapers. The profile generated by publicity and word-of-mouth has been instrumental in attracting support for further projects.

Significant Collaborations

The EcoCentre planned and coordinated 5 local planting sites for Planet Ark's 2002 'National Tree Day'. The local tally of plants in the ground represented 5% of the National total.

The EcoCentre provided local contacts and information for the facilitated Clean Up Australia's 'Bag Yourself a Better Environment' national campaign launch conducted at St Kilda Pier in January 2003. This campaign, to promote reduced use of plastic bags is supported by major supermarkets and Environment Australia.

At the 'EcoHouse' launch on World Environment Day 2003, the Honourable John Thwaites also launched the Victorian Solar Innovation Initiative.

AFFILIATE GROUP REPORTS

Current affiliate groups and their key activities are:

Brighton Community Access to Air Monitoring 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.

Earthcare St. Kilda Inc. is a local, community environment group. We work closely with specialists and the Council doing practical things to maintain and improve the natural environment in the City of Port Phillip. Our main projects are to increase the diversity and extent of indigenous vegetation in Port Phillip including sites such as West Beach and the Canterbury Road Urban Forest. We study the penguin and rakali populations and conduct water quality monitoring in St Kilda Harbour. We also monitor the populations of indigenous and 'pest' species in Port Phillip.

Our motto is '**we do what we can where we are**'.

Some of the highlights of the past 12 months have been:

- the launch of "Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt", by Neil Blake, Jeannie Campbell, Doug Evans, Rob Scott and Nicholas Williams
- the commencement of a fortnightly 'rakali watch' in St Kilda Harbour and the
- continuation of the penguin survey the launch of Port Phillip Nature Watch
- the removal of significant numbers of northern pacific sea stars from St Kilda harbour

Find out more about Earthcare from our website www.vicnet.net.au/~earthcare, or you can email us at earthcare@wecare.au.com.

Sue Pennicuik
Co President



Friends of Port Melbourne Foreshore Inc. is a care and lobby group for the Port Melbourne Foreshore established in 1992. The group is vitally interested and involved in both the built and natural environment of the foreshore. The group's dual aim of care and lobby group is expressed in its activities:

- The Friends work with any agency, authority or person that has responsibility for any aspect of foreshore management. This involves liaising regularly with officers in various departments of the City of Port Phillip, as well as developing relationships with staff at the Port of Melbourne Corporation.
- The group's care for the foreshore is expressed through monthly working bees mainly taking place at Perce White Reserve, an area of open space between Port Melbourne and the Port of Melbourne.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the celebration of the Friend's 10th birthday on the beautiful hot evening of 7 November 2002 – taking stock after a decade of frenetic change on the Port Melbourne foreshore.

For several years the Friends have lobbied for more energetic management at Perce White Reserve, and this was abundantly achieved in 2003 - a time of fruitful cooperation on the ground between the Friends, officers of the City of Port Phillip and its contractor, Naturelinks. We thank council officers for their support, and note the energy and care that has been evident since Naturelinks took over the management of the site. Meanwhile the significance of Perce White Reserve as a

site for biodiversity has been acknowledged in the recent audit of Natural Heritage Areas undertaken by Biosis.

We hope that renewal of the boardwalk will be achieved soon, and we look forward to the fence separating the Reserve from the new Webb Dock East path coming down to significantly increase the open space in that area.

Great satisfaction and pleasure has been derived from deepening our association with Perce White Reserve through monthly planting and weeding days.

Projects funded by Waste Wise were successfully completed this year. [Don't] Feed the Birds, a project aimed at discouraging people from feeding seagulls resulted in wide spread publicity. We hope that the cigarette butt audit undertaken outside Coles New World supermarket in Port Melbourne will result in long lasting change.

In the coming year we intend to continue the monthly rhythm of working mornings, and introduce more people to Perce White Reserve through the walks for which we have been funded through the City of Port Phillip's community grants scheme, called 'Getting to Know the Place'.

We congratulate all involved for the realisation of the EcoCentre to model sustainability in all its manifestations to our own and the wider community.

Friends of Port Melbourne's Foreshore,
P O Box 560, Port Melbourne, Vic 3207

C/ jbolitho@optusnet.com.au
tel 9645 2269

Friends of Westgate Park are primarily aiming to rehabilitate and reestablish the ecosystem and habitat at Westgate park, providing habitats suitable to a range of locally indigenous species. *We achieve this aim through hard slog.* Success highlights in the past year include the establishment of a heathland ecosystem with a pond that currently contains many noisy frogs!

We aims have received a huge boost with the sponsorship from Holden in association with Landacare Australia for

the growling grass Frog project. Our thanks go to the EcoCentre for facilitating this support and for coordinating the ongoing project.

Key goals in the next year is the establishment of a red gum woodland , with more ephemeral frog ponds. This is all made easier with the amazing work for dole crew we have there, and will at least until March of next year.

Contact Naomie Sunner (Gnomie)
0415 941 629

Garden of Eden Inc. is working towards providing an inner city example of sustainable living, as well as a model for environmentally friendly and ethical business practices. The Project has evolved out of a need to further our understanding of increasing environmental and social issues, through the application of the principles of permaculture, natural health, and sustainability.

Our philosophy is simple: **"Care for people, care for animals and care for the earth."**

Julia Morris, Project Coordinator,
Pn/Fax: (03) 9696 8013
Email: station@corplink.com.au

Park Community Association is developing native grasslands in the facility of the Corroboree Tree in Albert Park. The aim of the Corroboree Tree Grasslands project is to celebrate the Kulin Nation - a pre-settlement federation of aboriginal tribes formally located around Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay. It also aims to highlight the threatened status of indigenous grasses as a plant group in Victoria.

Our main activities involve propagating native grasses from local seed and planting areas in the Park with distinctive grasses, each species representing one of the tribes of the Kulin Nation. During the year, we propagated and planted out approximately 25,000 grasses and trees. This attracted over 900 volunteers from the local community and the business sector.

In the coming year and we aim to complete the project. This involves more planting, and constructing a second "Meeting Place" where people can sit, relax and watch activities at the Junction Oval. It will incorporate indigenous artwork, celebrating the significant role of the aboriginal people in Australian Rules football.

Helpers are always welcome; no skills are required.

Contact - John Addie 9682 2323.

St. Kilda Indigenous Nursery Cooperative (SKINC) grows and promotes local native plants with the aim of aiding in the preservation of indigenous plants and enhancing fauna habitat. In the last year we have provided plants for projects across the City of Port Phillip including in Albert Park and Westgate Park, and beyond to Stonnington and Hobsons Bay councils. We have also totally revamped our retail section and introduced an ever increasing range of non-local bushfood plants.

SKINC is also a workers' cooperative providing employment for our members in indigenous and sustainable horticulture. Some of our members have started a landscaping and garden maintenance service, which is also becoming quite successful.

In the next year we hope to be able to reintroduce more locally extinct species to the Port Phillip environment and increase our overall production to be able to satisfy the ever-growing number of requests that we get. We've also received a grant from the City of Port Phillip to produce an indigenous plant database which will hopefully be up and running soon.

Contact Ph 9645 2477

St. Kilda Organic Food Cooperative Inc. volunteers have been doing our weekly boxes (15 – 30 boxes) of organic fruit and vegetables, all new people are welcome to a trial box before buying a dollar share with membership. We are also expanding our suppliers of manufactured/wholesale household staples from dried foods to cleaning

products (bulk or pre-packaged). Last year we held ten committee meetings (all welcome) in the EcoHouse, recently meeting another local food coop. In December, we will be starting cherry then berry picking picnics.

We are open Saturday 10.30 – 12.45pm, rear 435 Inkerman Street, East St. Kilda
Contact Steve Pennells
Ph. 9593 8057

St Kilda Community Gardens Club was established in 1980 on council land located close to the Balaclava train station. The club has 24 plots, a tools shed and a propagation shed. The waiting list is long, taking about two years to get a plot. The key goal for the coming year is to improve our composting, and an electric shredder has been bought with a grant from Port Phillip Council.

Contact person: Graeme Randall, Treasurer, 9531-8886.

Veg Out St Kilda Community Garden is exactly what our name implies. We are a garden space situated on the corner of Shakespeare Grove and Chaucer Street that provides garden space for residents of Port Phillip to come and grow vegies and flowers.

Veg Out is open 365 days of the year for our member gardeners to come down and enjoy the benefits of their plot and for all members of the local and wider community to come and enjoy the colours smells and peaceful ambience of the gardens. We hold numerous public events throughout the year. Particularly successful are the holiday events like 'Carrots by Candlelight' and the 'Great Big Easter Egg Hunt.' All members of the community are welcome to come and share these events with us.

This year our goals are to plant more flowers, grow more veggies, get healthy and enjoy the outdoor wonderland that Veg Out has become.

For more information 9525 3679

SPECIAL PEOPLE

For an organisation to grow and win the respect of the broader community, special qualities are essential. Port Phillip EcoCentre has benefited from the ideas, skills, and enthusiasm of many people. But special mention must be made of those who above all else have consistently contributed to the EcoCentre's goals over several years.

Many people hold the view that **Steve Pennells** should write a manual for community action. Apart from his excellent contributions as EcoCentre Vice President, Steve is active in many areas of community endeavour. These include reconciliation, old-growth forest protection, community gardens and organic food. Steve would make a great role model for anyone interested in practical citizenship. His key principles, not necessarily in priority order:

Be there.

Do something.

Keep doing something.

Laugh.

Let's eat!

Peter Barker brought an exceptional range of skills, experience and qualities in his role as EcoHouse Project Coordinator. His commitment and passion for community participation in all aspects of project planning and delivery was a key factor towards an outstanding result for all stakeholders. He played an important role in researching and insisting on the inclusion of sustainable elements.

Above all else, in order to see the project come to fruition, Pete was prepared to contribute well beyond the extent that we were able to remunerate him. The entire community has benefited enormously from his commitment and passion. Unfortunately, we currently do not have the funds to retain Peter in the employ of the EcoCentre.

Jo Samuel-King has excelled as a community leader and inspiration to her peers. Apart from bringing a fine intellect to the sphere of local community environment initiatives, she is above all else, a doer: someone who sees a project through.

She has been exemplary in combining her work as a local General Practitioner, family life as a dedicated mother of 2 small children, and a community group committee-member and leader.

In addition to being President of Earthcare St Kilda for the past 5 years Jo has also been EcoHouse Project Strategic Coordinator. Some of her many roles are:

- convening and conducting meetings;
- motivating and recruiting volunteers;
- project design team member;
- funding submission writer;
- political lobbyist;
- painter;
- cleaner;
- working bee lunch caterer; and
- a calm and consistently logical badge of sanity to all who know her.

A further critical role is as one of three Trustees responsible for the management of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Public Fund which has been established to receive public donations towards the EcoCentre's environmental objectives. The fund also significantly increased the range of funding options available to the project.

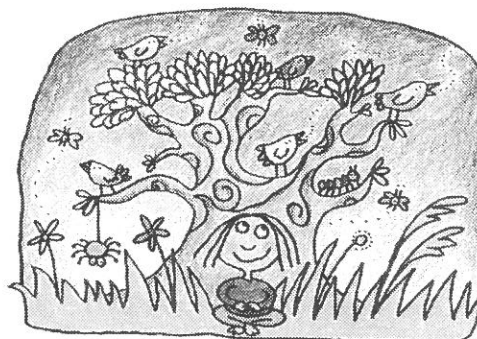
Apart from the other local environment initiatives implemented by Earthcare under her Presidency, Jo initiated the EcoHouse project. Jo's vision placed community involvement as among the highest of priorities in the project planning and implementation. Many local individuals have gained enormous personal satisfaction, skills, and friendships through their participation.

As President of local community-based environment group Earthcare St Kilda, Jo conceived the EcoHouse project in 1999. More importantly, Jo followed through as a key driver in all aspects of the EcoHouse project to its public launch in 2003.

Over the ensuing 4 years Jo's consistent voluntary contribution is conservatively estimated to be in the order of 12 hours a week. Certainly there have been many weeks when she contributed substantially more.

RUTH COOPER

Ruth was elected to the role of EcoCentre Secretary in 2002, and was instrumental to our steady progress thereafter. She regularly attended at the centre to tend to the administrative duties and share her extraordinary range of knowledge and good humour. In her own words she was "busier than a one-armed paper-hanger," in a host of community environment and social pursuits.



Ruth passed on in September 2003, about a week after returning home to Portland USA. According to Jared she was comfortable and spending time with her family. Being one of triplets, and with an adult son and elderly mother, she wouldn't have settled for anything less. Throughout her illness Ruth displayed absolute courage, tenacity, and consideration for others.

We've lost a true friend but her spirit will always be with us.

Nicki Furkert writes: From the moment we met you at our inaugural Air Monitoring meeting I knew we had an ENERGISER, ORGANISER, DOER - and a great personality. It was always Ruth who had the great ideas, the exact itinerary details & knowledge to get things done. It was you who suggested painting half my wooden pegs black to act as pins for name badges. We ended up never using that idea - but every time I hang out my washing I think of Ruth, cos they hang on tenaciously & stand out & do a good job.

Your endless enthusiasm for the many activities you were so intimately involved in drove many of us to heights we would never have made on our own - Thanks for that, Ruth. We will try to sustain the good work in the Air Quality area on our own but you will both be sorely missed. Visions of Jared putting up the CAAM marquee at the Brighton air monitoring station, Ruth handing out bikkies ("cookies") on one particularly wet & windy Open Day, making terrific posters for all our events - all these memories float happily through our minds.

Thanks for sharing your life with us, Ruth. Every time we take a breathe of fresh air we will think of you. We are all the richer for it.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

EcoHouse stage 2: developing and delivering the educational components of 'EcoHouse'. To this end we are liaising with Kangan Batman TAFE with a view to running a Work-for-the Dole project at the EcoCentre.

Eco garden: a community 'Shared Harvest' food garden, managed in association with CoPP, Friends of St Kilda Botanic Gardens, and other community agencies.

Meeting commitments to members, sponsors and the wider community: providing a high quality facility that promotes and delivers sustainable living 7 days a week.

Administration and financial requirements: meeting all statutory obligations to ensure the organisation's longevity.

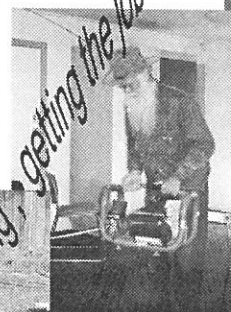
Marketing and fundraising: promoting partnerships and contributions from the wider community.

Sustaining the committee!

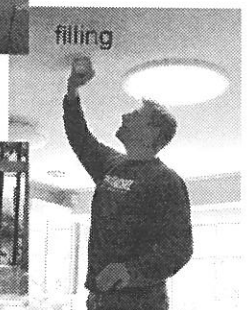
To sustain, support and expand our volunteer base we are pursuing a recruitment program for new committee members, deputies and volunteers for specific projects, whilst providing volunteers with training opportunities and proper acknowledgement.

EcoCentre Community Working Day

March 1st, 2003



March 1st 2003
Ecocentre community working day



Management Committee 2002-03

Julian Donlen, President
Steve Pennells, Vice President
Ruth Cooper, Secretary
Michele Hodes, Treasurer,
Josephine Samuel-King,
Geoffrey Barry
Don Linke
Tony Gardner
Hartmut Grieb
Joan Gibby
Neil Blake, Public Officer

Website

Alison Strachan
Robert Rowe

Affiliate Groups

Community Access to Air Monitoring
Earthcare St. Kilda
Friends of Port Melbourne's Foreshore
Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens
Friends of Westgate Park
Garden of Eden
Park Community Association
St. Kilda Indigenous Nursery Cooperative
St Kilda Organic Food Coop
St Kilda Balaclava Community Garden

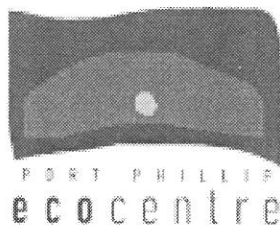
Veg Out Community Artists Garden
Quollity LETS

EcoCentre Public 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
Freda Erlich
Neil Blake



Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc.

55A Blessington St,
St. Kilda VIC 3182

Tel: (03) 9209 6811

Fax: (03) 9525 3102

Email: ecocentr@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Internet: www.ecocentre.com

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

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