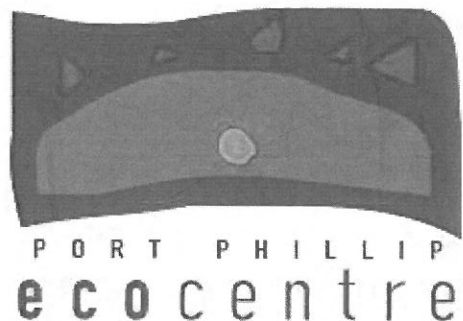
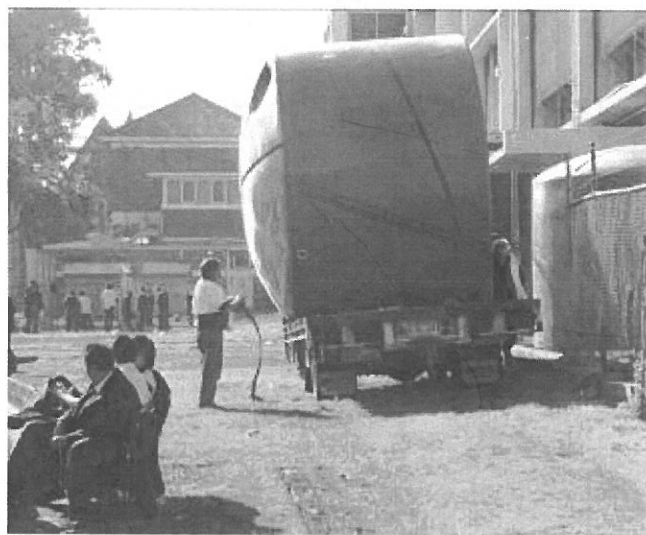


# PORT PHILLIP EcoCentre

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## Annual report 2006-2007



## Solutions

## Connections



## Action

## Cultures

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**Local ACTION global FUTURE**

# Mission

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**To work with the community to improve and protect the natural environment and ensure good living for future generations.**

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide access to current technical expertise to maintain and improve the environment.
- To influence decision-making in all sectors of society to maintain and improve the environment.
- To educate our community to avoid waste of water, energy and resources by demonstrating practical examples.
- To provide an accessible community place which strengthens capacity within the wider Port Phillip region to maintain and improve the environment.
- To enable a mutually beneficial community network to maintain and improve the environment.

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.

Authors: Neil Blake, Julian Donlen, Noel Gilcrist

Design: David Giles

Editor: Neil Blake

Photographer: Toby Richards, Andrew McCutcheon, Caroline Packham

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# President's Report

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Welcome to the EcoCentre's Annual Report for 2006-07.

Will the past year be remembered as the time that our community reached a 'tipping point' in addressing climate change? One of many signs that advocacy is working was the editorial in 'The Age' on New Years' Day titled, '*A time to face up to the facts of living sustainably*', which featured a picture of the EcoCentre. This has proved appropriate as in our region, we have seen unprecedented awareness and community action, as groups and individuals have made themselves seen and heard in demanding change for sustainability.

Events such as the Walk Against Warming, the ReNew Open House Day, our Open Day, the CoPP showerhead exchange, and especially the Human Sign at Sandringham Beach all demonstrated the current climate of commitment. The '*Port Phillip Speaks*' event highlighted environmental sustainability as the primary concern for our community – there is no mistaking the motivation to keep ourselves and our leaders addressing the issue.

There are many other highlights from the year. One of the most reinvigorating experiences was the inaugural Indigenous Heritage Trail Walk, featuring the first corroboree at the Ngargee Tree at St. Kilda Junction for well over a hundred years, on a warm evening under a full Moon. The EcoCentre will continue to proudly celebrate our indigenous connections through Our Rainbow Place and the Boonwurrung Foundation and develop mutual opportunities to promote our natural heritage.

Our education programs continue to be very well received by the community, schools and leaders in education for sustainability. The Integrated Environmental Partnerships program has grown rapidly, building on successes to deliver more sustainable water systems and productive gardens and now energy audits in schools. The year's highlights included a visit to one of our Community Water Grant projects by the Prime Minister, and the Harvest Festival shared celebration of all that has been achieved in our partner schools. A new major project, '*Love the Bay*', has begun to develop and link community education activities celebrating our Bay and generating awareness of it as an asset ("not a toxic dump!" I hear you say).

Last November, over 40 EcoCentre members and friends embarked on a process of developing our new mission and goals. This collaborative workshop was extremely successful in capturing expert opinions on what we should be doing as an organisation. The resulting Strategic Plan has set our clear direction for the next 3 years.

We have increasingly seen the EcoCentre embrace social sustainability as many users and members enable their vision of a community hub in our St. Kilda home. Many new people have been exposed to our work through



creative and social groups, which has extended our role as a network of practical environmental action. Greater community use has been matched by continuing growth in the range of activities and stakeholders, building on the support of our principal sponsor, City of Port Phillip. Stronger connections with existing partners, such as Central Bayside Community Health Service, Holden and Landcare, and Reichstein Foundation, have generated more opportunities. Too much demand for our services is a good problem to have.

I recently reflected on delivering EcoHouse tours in 2003-04, when I used to describe the inherent need for some compromise in addressing sustainability issues, as enabling change and action was often met by many barriers. However, in three short years, I feel we have moved to begin changing the constraints in which we live and work, so that there is no compromise – we more readily accept that we *have to* be sustainable. While our community has increasingly embraced the need for change, we still have a number of challenges to address in working to achieve our mission. However, there is reason to look forward positively to a more sustainable future.

Thankyou to ALL those involved in continuing the EcoCentre's mission and growth, much of whose work is detailed in the following pages. Special thanks to our Coordinator, Neil Blake, for his gift of transforming vision into action. Thankyou also to our other wonderful and dynamic staff, our Management Committee and Public Fund Managers, our affiliates, members, volunteers and partners. We trust that that you will continue to make this time remembered for not just the messages but demonstrated **local action** for a **global future**.

Julian Donlen

President

October 2007

# Financials

## Treasurer's Report July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

For the 2006-07 financial year we established an operating budget to control and regulate financial activities. This allowed for expenditure control in line with income and allowed a cash flow to be maintained.

During the year we invested our cash prudently and increased interest income from \$1,300 in 2006 to \$3,900 in 2007.

We could not exist or provide services to the community without the financial support of our sponsors; the City of Port Phillip, the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, General Motors Holden's Ltd., Bendigo Bank Elwood Community Bank, the Reichstein Foundation and various donations from interested persons and groups. On behalf of the general community we say thank you to our sponsors.

For the 2007-2008 financial year we have planned to provide additional services to the community and have budgeted for a deficit of \$80,000. We are actively seeking sponsorship to support the additional costs.

Our bookkeeper Debbie has resigned and relocated to the Murray River area. We thank Deb for her years of service and welcome Jagoda to the position of bookkeeper.

JOHN GILCRIST

TREASURER

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

### Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Port Phillip EcoCentre mc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2007, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

#### *Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report had been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria). I disclaim any assumption for responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

#### *Independence*

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

#### *Qualification*

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

#### *Auditor's Opinion*

In my opinion, subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc as at 30 June 2007 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

BUCKLEY & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

Martin Buckley  
Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2007.



# Financials

## Port Phillip EcoCentre inc. Statement of income and expenses for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

<u>Income</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Holden Funding	-	25,000
Book & DVD Sales	3,265	3,651
Membership	1,129	1,007
Donations	6,222	6,859
Administer Projects	15,319	1,783
Sundry Income	509	467
Interest	3,869	1,294
WFD Contribution	-	17,895
Venue Hire	3,795	2,454
Seminar & Education	8,338	6,509
Eco Centre Tours	1,316	396
Eco Fair	425	-
City of Port Phillip Administration Grant	154,127	148,915
DSE Fund	46,667	13,632
NED program (Central Bayside Community Health Service)	972	855
Administrative Contributions	1,670	-
Ecohouse Grant	-	500
SCPI	-	20,000
Garden Grant	-	1,600
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b><u>247,623</u></b>	<b><u>252,817</u></b>

## Port Phillip EcoCentre inc. statement of expenses for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Bank Charges	130	148
Catering	3,115	3,464
Computer Costs	1,754	1,979
Consultants Fees	830	1,828
Books and DVD costs	3,928	-
Donations	1,163	-
Gardening	2,196	4,169
Audit Fees	2,250	1,900
Office Supplies	872	1,233
Insurance	2,611	2,665
Lodgement Fees	-	100
Postage	154	-
Printing & Stationery	5,378	5,809
Professional Services	6,405	-
Repairs & Maintenance	496	2,277
Replacements	1,849	1,526
Safety Equipment	273	429
Seminars & Training	1,345	2,118
Staff Amenities	18	6
Staff Training	359	48
Subscriptions	628	1,488
Sundry Expenses	160	908
Superannuation	17,841	14,131
Travelling Costs	287	617
Telephone	3,761	5,218
Wages	204,457	172,886
Materials	6,155	6,570
Cleaning	694	-
Electricity	850	972
WorkCover	3,110	2,334
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>273,069</u></b>	<b><u>234,823</u></b>
<b><u>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</u></b>	<b><u>(25,446)</u></b>	<b><u>17,994</u></b>

# Financials

## PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

<u>Members' Funds</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Accumulated Surplus Brought Forward	366,818	348,824
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) For Year	(25,446)	17,994
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>	<b>341,372</b>	<b>366,818</b>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash at Bank - Administration Account	20,899	4,046
Cash at Bank - General Account	36,814	53,912
Cash at Bank - Public Fund (1)	7,531	9,781
Cash at Bank - Work for the Dole		444
Cash at Bank - Public Fund (2)	2,095	15,741
Cash at Bank - Staff Entitlements	14,277	13,619
Cash at Bank - Sandhurst Public Investment	19,576	-
Cash at Bank - Sandhurst Admin Investment	427	-
Cash at Bank - Sandhurst Account General	45,853	-
Trade Debtors	7,821	990
Petty Cash	78	563
Sundry Debtors	-	550
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>155,371</b>	<b>99,646</b>
<u>Non Current Assets</u>		
Eco House, at cost	260,519	260,519
Plant & Equipment, at cost	22,598	22,598
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>283,117</b>	<b>283,117</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>438,488</b>	<b>382,763</b>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Income in advance	72,015	-
PAYG Payable	11,697	10,626
GST Payable	3,377	3,568
Superannuation Payable	300	1,004
Employee Entitlements	9,730	747
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>97,119</b>	<b>15,945</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>341,369</b>	<b>366,818</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

### NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic.). The committee has determined that the EcoCentre is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic.) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112	Income Taxes
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB 117	Leases

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of noncurrent assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are not being depreciated.

(b) Income Tax

Pursuant to the provisions of the Income Tax Assessment Act the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc. is exempt from income tax.

# Major Projects

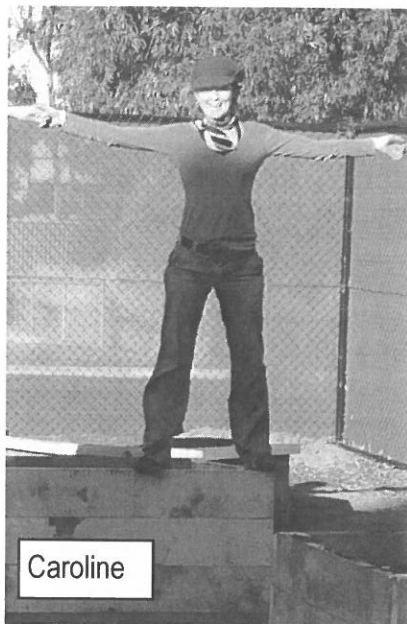
## Integrated Environmental Partnerships Noel Gilcrist

Thanks to our wonderful team – Caroline, Julia and Wendy – the Integrated Environmental Partnerships program continues to evolve and grow throughout the community. We now work with 13 schools and many new community, business and organisation partners have been established to provide mutual support and project collaboration.



Julia

Our high profile Education Officer Caroline recently completed the AUSSI Vic (Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative) facilitator training which will enable us to deliver and accredit local schools in this Australia wide program.



Caroline

Having recently returned from maternity leave, Julia has been busy coordinating sponsorship and fund raising activities in order to ensure the continuation and enhancement of the IEP in 2008 and beyond. Holden have continued their financial support of the program and we are hoping to gain further sponsorships from local and state government, corporations and philanthropy sources for 2008.

We were pleased to welcome Wendy van Dort to our team to assist schools maintain their gardens. Wendy visits the schools once per term and provides them with practical advice on crop care, watering and composting. She also runs practical gardening workshops for the public and will be leading the team in a new Food Security network. Wendy and Julia also produced crop care cards which are available on our web site and have proved to be very popular.

All of our partner schools from 2006 have indicated they would like to continue and further develop our partnerships. Energy saving programs and resources have been developed and are currently being implemented

Once again we will be inviting the schools to participate in our Annual Harvest Festival where students can share their experiences and the food they have grown.

Four successful Australian Government Community Water Grant projects were developed by the IEP team and school communities which have led to a total of \$122,040 in funding for rainwater tanks and water saving devices which will save a combined total of 3,338,000 litres of water per annum or an estimate of between 69% and 79% reduction in mains water consumption by the four schools.

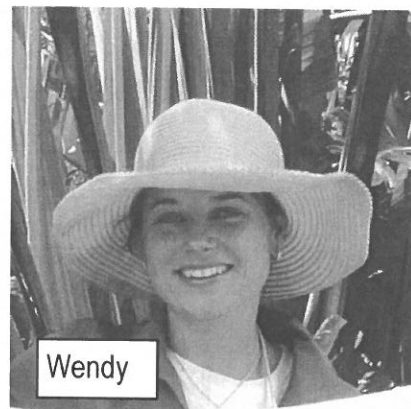
We would like to thank our program sponsors – the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Holden Ltd. for their support.

## The EcoCentre Productive Garden Wendy Van Dort.

The garden continues to grow and is producing better crops as the quality of the soil improves with the addition of compost and crop rotation techniques. Excess veggies that were grown from our last harvest were given to Stonnington Primary School for children to sell to the parents to raise money for their school garden. We have worked with several school groups, who have come to visit the EcoCentre and participated in many outdoor activities involving edible and native gardens and recycling waste.

We are also running various programs that are centred around the productive garden.

One of these is the Better Environmental Action Team (BEAT) program, which started a year ago, and engages with adults with disabilities. The BEAT group gathers at the EcoCentre once a week and learns about the environment through garden activities. Music and craft activities are also included in the program.



Wendy

The children's garden group is held on the first Wednesday of every month and is an opportunity for parents to come along with their toddlers and help design and plant the children's garden to make it an interactive play space.

In collaboration with Our Rainbow Place and Inner South Community Health Service, we have created a bush tucker garden in one of the raised garden beds. This was planted by children as part of the Indigenous Family Day, which will be held at the EcoCentre in October.



Department of  
Sustainability  
and Environment



HOLDEN

## Major Projects

### Love the Bay

During 2006 considerable EcoCentre effort was invested in developing the 'Love the Bay' concept. This effort was rewarded by Reichstein Foundation funding received in June 2007.

The project aims to engage residents in the various Drainage Catchments which impact on the health of the Bay environment. Contact will be made with schools, community groups, businesses and local government bodies to contribute to Bay protection activities and educational programs. Particular emphasis will be placed on Bay user groups such as recreational anglers and boaters.

In addition to raising the profile and capacity of 'Bay Champions', particular effort will be made to link with indigenous communities to educate the wider community on indigenous cultural heritage.

- To engage with the community to encourage love and stewardship of the Bay as a central aspect of their lifestyle.
- To raise awareness of the environmental treasures of PPB through distribution of DVD's showing underwater life.
- To raise awareness of threats to biodiversity in Port Phillip Bay.
- To publish and distribute printed educational materials encouraging community stewardship of PPB and its associated catchments.
- To engage with and support the indigenous communities around Port Phillip Bay in conveying their relationship with the land to the wider community.

To promote the ongoing environmental protection work of community environment groups around the Bay.

Despite the fact that the bay is a natural icon around which most Victorians live or at least are familiar with, relatively few people are aware of the environmental values or the threats that they face. *A societal shift towards environmental stewardship requires a major 'culture-shift' in the wider community. This will not be achieved through any one initiative in isolation, but by regular presentation of 'reasons and options for change'.*

## Affiliate Reports



### The Jewish Ecological Coalition Inc

#### A sample of our activities in the past 12 months:

- The JECO '7 star' Show House [www.jeco.org.au/JECO%20SHOWHOUSE%20info%20sheet.pdf](http://www.jeco.org.au/JECO%20SHOWHOUSE%20info%20sheet.pdf) (owned & occupied by Rabbi Jonathan & his family) and a brilliant example of cost-effective sustainable living on a difficult site with many site & construction constraints was opened to the public several times over the past 12 months drawing nearly 100 visitors. The owners were recent recipients of a prize from the Age Newspaper - 'Green Challenge' competition. The Showhouse also featured in a forum at the last Sustainable Living Festival (SLF) and raised a lot of interest.
- Many disused mobile phones were again collected from our affiliate/supporting organisations and several Jewish day schools for recycling through the Aussie Recycling Program. We are currently investigating options of extending the scheme.
- To coincide with 'Tu Bishvat' (an ancient Jewish Holiday, resembling Arbor Day in present times) and the SLF in February, **AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH** was screened in front of more than 50 of our members & friends.
- Early in the year we held our all-day **Strategic Planning Meeting**. This meeting was well attended by members & delegates and had many positive outcomes.
- For the first time, we arranged for an **Energy Appraisal** at the premises of a major Synagogue & community centre in St Kilda. The exercise was led by Colin Gillam of Alternative Fuels & Energy.

#### Our Mission Statement

JECO seeks to raise awareness about environmental issues, to actively promote ecological sustainability, and to emphasise and deepen Jewish commitment to the environment.

JECO's objectives are:

- To encourage individuals to **"tread lightly on the earth"**.
- To build bridges of mutual cooperation within the Jewish community and between the Jewish and wider communities by working together for ecological sustainability.
- To leave the environment in a better state for future generations.

#### Contacting JECO

"The JECO Convenor" P.O. Box 430, East Kew, Vic.  
3102 Or email us at [info@jeco.org.au](mailto:info@jeco.org.au)

Michael Adler  
President JECO



# Affiliate Reports

## FRIENDS OF WESTGATE PARK

Friends of Westgate Park (FOWP) have completed another successful year. The number of hours volunteers worked in the park averaged over 800 hours per month. Over 20,000 plants were planted during the year and hectares of revegetated beds were weeded and maintained.

Highlights during the year included:

**Work for the Dole:** This programme continues to contribute so much to the park's development with a large number of volunteers turning up each Monday and Tuesday. As acknowledgment of the success of this project, our team leader, Naomie Sunner, was highly commended in the Prime Minister's Work for the Dole Awards, 2006.

**Green Corps:** For six months from December 2006 we had a team of up to 10 participants aged 17 to 20 years working full-time under the guidance of a team leader. This government programme provides work experience, accredited training and leadership development. To broaden the scope of the experience for the participants, FOWP offered other Port Phillip EcoCentre affiliated organizations the opportunity to host the group for short periods. Earthcare, SKINC, Friends of Port Melbourne's Foreshore and the EcoCentre itself took up the offer. We have been invited to apply for another scheme to commence in December 2007.

**Envirofund:** FOWP successfully applied for a \$20,000 grant from the Australian Government Envirofund to restore native vegetation to the Lookout Hill and to improve natural habitat. We expect to transform this hill, which is found just south of the park's dam, into an area of indigenous planting within six months.



**Community Engagement:** We continue to host the NED group each month in conjunction with the EcoCentre, and have commenced a relationship with MacKillop Family Services to provide community work for their young people. We have also hosted a number of school groups during the year. We continue to work with groups such as Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and Greening Australia, to provide volunteer opportunities.

**Corporate Planting Days:** Working with Landcare Australia and other organizations, we have run 21 successful corporate planting days. Participating companies have

generously provided many volunteer hours in addition to funds to assist us to purchase plants, tools and meet our running expenses.

We now undertake a monthly bird count and are working on a project to build a bird hide in the park.

We are always looking for new faces and can promise those who turn up each Monday, Tuesday and the third Sunday of the month, a rewarding time.

## ST KILDA MUSIC & POETRY INC (estab. 2005)

St Kilda Music & Poetry Inc. (StKmp Inc.) is an environmentally friendly artistic group which provides opportunities for writers, poets and visual artists to present their work to community. Following two annual concerts in 2005 and 2006, StKmp Inc. commenced its monthly concerts at EcoHouse in collaboration with Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc. in February 2007.



Connie de Silva & Owen Eales  
Administrators, St Kilda  
Music & Poetry Inc.

The facilities offered by EcoCentre have proved to be exceptional in terms of accessibility, atmosphere and setting. Comments from audience and artists consistently include recognition of what they call the 'good vibe' of the EcoHouse venue.

Furthermore, the association with EcoCentre has assisted with successful funding application to City of Port Phillip for the 2007-08 year. Together with audience support from local folk and financial support for the annual concerts from Bendigo Bank Elwood Branch and City of Port Phillip, the community-based artistic vision of St Kilda Music & Poetry Inc. is developing into a reality.

Since September 2007 StKmp Inc. is liaising EcoCentre Web Services to improve readability of the StKmp Inc. website and to maintain its currency of information.

EcoCentre Inc. is a community organisation which represents the heterogeneous face of the City of Port Phillip. This is particularly apparent in the fact that it is inclusive in its approach involving a diverse range of local interests.

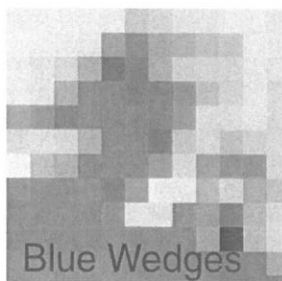
We hope for a continued association with EcoCentre Inc.

Connie de Silva & Owen Eales  
Administrators, St Kilda Music & Poetry Inc.  
[www.stkmusicpoetry.org.au](http://www.stkmusicpoetry.org.au)  
PO Box 1457, St Kilda South 3182

**Committee:** Alfred Camilleri, Alice White, Grant Caldwell, Martin Downey, Ross Donlon.

## BLUE WEDGES [www.bluewedges.org](http://www.bluewedges.org)

Blue Wedges continues to exert rigorous scrutiny of the proposal to deepen the Port Phillip Bay shipping channels. The group has not only considered the environmental issues of the proposal but has also looked at the social and economic impacts and concluded that the proposal is not justified.



The major task of the group has been to mount effective arguments supporting that conclusion. A particular focus in the past 12 months has been to prepare a comprehensive response to the 15,000 page Supplementary Environment Effects Study released by the Port of Melbourne Corporation in March 2007.

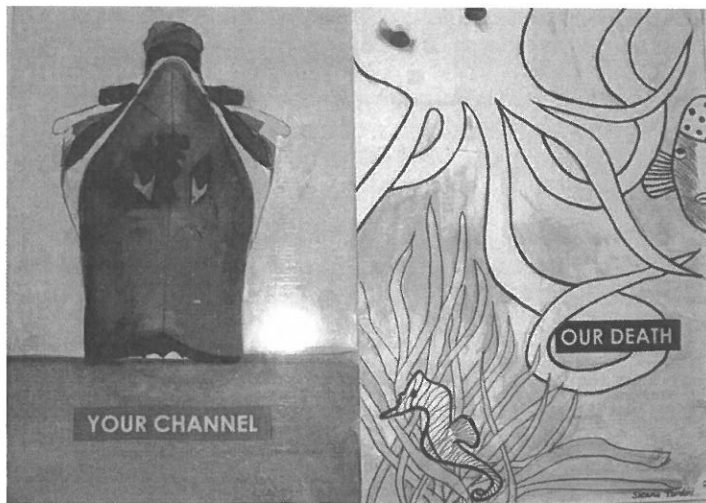
Given the short (6 week) timeframe made available to the public to read, understand and respond to this huge amount of information, this was a daunting task. However, more than 20 Blue Wedges members worked tirelessly to combine their collective expertise and commitment resulting in a 120 page submission to the Public Inquiry.

A highlight of the Blue Wedges campaign is that individuals and groups from very diverse backgrounds, some who would ordinarily be unlikely allies, have come together to oppose Channel Deepening. There would be very few other examples of community unification in a common cause in the post-white-settlement history of Victoria. In its role of supporting community advocacy, the EcoCentre has been invaluable to Blue Wedges through ongoing support for community participation in governance.

One of the more positively rewarding Blue Wedges undertakings during the year was the 'Wild About the Bay' Schools' Art Competition which attracted over 200 highly creative entries. These were exhibited at two locations, attracting wide interest.

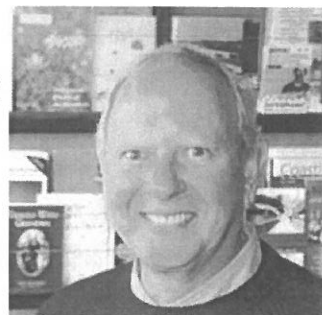
At the time of writing, the Victorian Government is yet to make a decision to approve or not approve the project.

For more information: [www.bluewedges.org](http://www.bluewedges.org)



## Tony Flude

It was a great day for the EcoCentre when Tony Flude joined the team. Tony is one of those unflappable, unpretentious, friendly, caring and capable people who, although they don't get listed in the annual audit report, are actually the prime assets of the organisation.



The term 'sunny disposition' barely begins to describe his personality. Some believe his smile is an as yet untapped source of renewable energy. Apart from his invaluable contributions to the EcoCentre, his work with the Friends of Westgate Park provides growing evidence Tony does indeed have the power to energise others.

## John Gilcrist

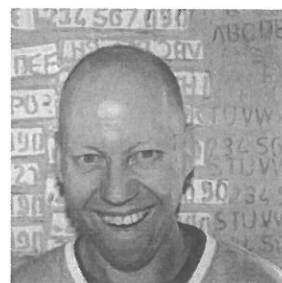
In the 1950's, John and a mate welded some extra metal under a Volkswagen Beetle and drove it from Adelaide to Darwin. In the vague hope that they'd eventually find a road out there somewhere, they crossed a million sand dunes, camped in dry creek beds, and occasionally went hungry. But apart from the occasional tire blow-out, they nursed the Beetle though to reach their destination.... just the kind of life-skills needed to keep a community group on track!



On taking on the role as EcoCentre Treasurer, John quickly put the organisation on a sound financial footing. His sense of humour, prudent investment of reserve funds, clear and concise presentations of budgets and accounts, enables the Eco staff to confidently set about their work in the knowledge that the organisation is in sound shape.

## Michael Lafferty

Michael has been visiting the EcoCentre for a number of years and contributes to the EcoCentre in a number of ways including being our official Artist in Residence.



Having spent many hours re-oiling the decking he took to producing art works, many of which are on display in the EcoCentre and if you've ever wondered about the origin of the red bike on the fence, it's another of Michael's works.

Michael's visits are always interesting with tales about the previous day or night and his plans for the future.

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## **Management Committee**

President and Public Officer:  
Julian Donlen

Vice President:  
Noel Gilcrist

Secretary:  
Tony Flude

Treasurer:  
John Gilcrist

Committee Members:  
Andrew McCutcheon  
Steve Pennells  
Toby Richards  
Josephine Samuel-King  
Miro Hodza  
Malveena Martyn

## **Affiliate Groups**

Blue Wedges Inc.  
Earthcare St Kilda.  
Friends of Port Melbourne's Foreshore.  
Friends of Westgate Park.  
GaiaVic Inc.  
Jewish Ecological Coalition Inc.  
Our Rainbow Place.  
Park Community Association.  
St Kilda Community Gardens Club.  
St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Cooperative.  
St Kilda Music and Poetry  
St Kilda Organic Food Cooperative.  
Southern Wilderness Action Group.  
Veg Out Community Artists Garden.

## **EcoCentre Public Fund Managers**

Josephine Samuel-King

Kay McKenzie

Louise Kyle

John Gilcrist

## **Staff**

Brett Gillespie (Hygiene)

Caroline Packham (Education and  
Projects Officer)

David Giles (IT and Communications  
Officer)

Deborah Jenkins, Yagoda Kurek  
(Accounts Officers)

Julia Muniandy (Projects Officer)

Neil Blake (Coordinator)

Wendy Van Dort (Community Cultivator)

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# **Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc.**

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

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**Incorporated Association No. A0038897K**

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