

Annual Report 2015-2016





2015-2018 Strategic Directions at a glance

Values

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

Mission

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

Vision

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

1. Education:

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

2. Community Action:

Support people to care for the environment
and address climate change

3. Partnerships:

Build strategic partnerships which maximise
our environmental and social impact

4. Organisational Development:

To ensure the EcoCentre is run in an
effective and efficient manner



President's Report

It is my privilege to be President of the Committee of Management of the Port Phillip EcoCentre. The EcoCentre is both a fantastic award-winning community organisation dedicated to environmental education and community action and a dynamic network of environmental organisations and committed individuals. Our vision is of an empowered and engaged community, actively cultivating long-term social and environmental well-being.

26 environmental organisations are Affiliates of the EcoCentre and together we form a wide network of expertise, community action and environmental outcomes. We are jointly committed to protecting the environment and to working to achieve a more sustainable world. We run community action and education programs and activities with many of our affiliates, including Friends of Westgate Park and Earthcare St Kilda.

This year has been outstanding for the EcoCentre in many ways. We launched our new strategic plan. We again won numerous prestigious awards. We have expanded many of our programs and introduced new ones with an enhanced

emphasis on citizen science, practical action to address climate change, corporate volunteering and innovative and inspiring education. We have worked with numerous partner organisations, communities and individuals around Port Phillip Bay to research, educate and share knowledge on catchment and regeneration solutions. We almost doubled our budget to close to \$1m. We have worked closely with the Boon Wurrung elders and integrated Aboriginal environmental knowledge and practices into our teachings.

The measures of our effort and our outcomes are many, and include the following. We have run programs with 67 schools. Over 19,078 people participated in our activities or programs, including over 7,745 school students. We collected over 5,600 kg and 1.4 million pieces of rubbish from our beaches and catchments. People contributed over 10,888 hours of volunteer time to work together in many ways. We saved about 2 million litres of potable water. We worked with at least 150 other organisations. We undertook over 250 citizen science research activities collecting valuable data.





We could not operate or achieve such great outcomes for the environment and the community without our funders, sponsors, partners and local communities.

I would firstly like to thank our major partner and sponsor, the City of Port Phillip, who supports us financially through an annual administrative grant and some project funds as well as through the lease of the Council managed building. This year we collaborated with the Council to develop a Business Case for a redeveloped EcoCentre building– including forecasting for the next 20 years of the EcoCentre. Plans are currently being developed for a much-needed new building and we are hopeful that in the coming budget the new Council will allocate capital funds for its build.

We also work with other local government Councils including Stonnington, Monash, Kingston, Hobsons Bay and Bayside. We thank them too for their financial and other generous support.

I would like to heartfully thank all our sponsors, funders and partners who are mentioned throughout this report and listed in the section Our Best Mates on page 32. We are able to be the responsive, dynamic, successful community organisation that we are because of their generosity through financial support and in many other ways.

Finally I would like to thank all the individuals who work for the EcoCentre in a paid and voluntary capacity. In particular, April Seymore who has been the Executive Officer for the first time this year, has been innovative, organised, supportive and practical in leading and inspiring the team of workers and volunteers and in managing a complex multifaceted organisation. Also Neil Blake, the Port Phillip Baykeeper and our founder, continues to inspire, connect, support others and to work tirelessly. We have a great team of workers who are committed and dedicated both to their work and to protecting the environment and sustaining the world. Their efforts go well beyond their remuneration. The many volunteers also generously contributed their time and expertise to our shared vision.

Thanks also to the members of the Committee of Management and the Public Fund Trustees. Their expertise and effort has ensured that the EcoCentre is strategic, well-governed and financially stable.

Congratulations to us all for our great work in supporting and developing this fantastic dynamic community organisation as we together work towards a more sustainable world.

Pam O'Neil

1. Education

Dear Bronnie
Thank you for educating me about the environment. I have learned lots of amazing stuff. I know I am making a difference in the world with little changes in my house. I never thought that the canteen [project] group, which is the group I'm in, would go so far. I feel proud of our presentation and I think we have taught other kids how much of a difference we have made. I have started to notice more biodiversity even in my backyard and I have a great passion for all different animals. I still can't believe our school won the biodiversity award. Thank you for everything you have done and together we are making a difference.

From Oliver, Year 4
Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability graduate

Schools & Early Childhood Learning

Our passionate and energetic Schools and Early Learning team continues to deliver on the strong foundation from previous years and in 2015-16 taught another 12 months of diverse educational programs and initiatives including:

- Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS)
- Sustainable Schools Festival
- ResourceSmart Schools facilitation
- Teachers' Environment Network
- Early Learning programs
- Sessions With Elders – Boon Wurrung Cultural Education
- Engineering Sustainability in Secondary Schools

The EcoCentre's collaborative approach to delivering educational programs attracted financial support from a diverse range of contributors including:

- City of Port Phillip
- Bayside City Council
- City of Stonnington
- Environmental Resource Management (ERM) Foundation
- Hamer Sprout Fund
- Kingston City Council
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund
- Monash City Council
- Jewish Ecological Coalition
- Victorian International Container Terminal (VICT) Community Investment Fund

85%
re-engagement rate
for schools and Early
Learning Centres

104%
growth in school
student participant
numbers





Students from seven schools were facilitated through the **Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS)** program. TLfS involved regular workshops with a class or leadership team, who learn principles of sustainability and leadership skills, explore local natural environs and develop student-led practical projects like building an indigenous plant nature trail, implementing a canteen campaign for less waste, constructing a vertical garden, increasing nude food participation, introducing advanced recycling, effective compost and art from rubbish.

Scholarships from City of Port Phillip and Bayside City Council support schools with initial participation in the program, with continuing schools investing their own funding to continue TLfS as an integrated curriculum unit or leadership program. We are lucky to collaborate closely with TLfS founders Pat Armstrong and Jane Stewart as this thriving program develops and changes.

A decade of delivering the **Sustainable Schools Festival** was celebrated with our 10th annual fest held in September 2015. Enthusiastic students, teachers and parents representing 14 primary schools celebrated leadership and action for sustainable communities. Students led workshops on 19 topics, following the **Kids Teaching Kids** model of interactive peer learning. The afternoon recognised environmental leadership including the **Elwood Poetry Prize** student winners, followed by bush walks, science, song and Boon Wurrung Foundation cultural sessions in the St Kilda Botanic

Gardens. We thank Bayside City Council, City of Port Phillip, Kids Teaching Kids, Target, Elwood Community Bank and our many community businesses for supporting this heartwarming event. This full-day Zero Waste event generated only 6 litres of waste to landfill, an incredible achievement for over 200 participants.

The successful facilitation of the **ResourceSmart Schools** framework continued with an additional 6 schools achieving completion of modules and star certification. We work closely with our friends at CERES, who coordinate the Southern Metro region for this Victorian accreditation framework that guides schools to become 5-star sustainable.

The **Early Childhood Programs** expanded to provide sustainability programs for Learning Centres including funded incursions for City of Stonnington. Over 540 children and 23 Educators were hands-on with sustainability learning including Captain Trash's treasure chest of plastics, and a wildlife safari getting to know their animal neighbours.

The success of the locally-funded professional development **Teachers' Environment Network (TEN)** was evident through the growth in both attendance and digital subscriptions. In addition to the network meetings, the EcoCentre also provided two teacher professional development sessions on **Biodiversity and Indigenous Perspectives**, delivered by the Boon Wurrung Foundation and our Youth Wildlife Ambassador.





Sessions With Elders supports educational programs for students and teachers in City of Port Phillip to engage with Boon Wurrung elders and cultural educators to increase Indigenous cultural awareness. This year, six Boon Wurrung Foundation educators worked with 600 students, educating them about smoking ceremonies, storytelling, bush tucker, weaving workshops and cultural walks. We also provided botanical science workshops to accompany Boon Wurrung bush tucker classes for Reconciliation Week at the City of Stonnington's Environmental Education Centre.

With the support of Environmental Resource Management Foundation (ERM) we ran our **Engineering Sustainability in Secondary Schools** program. Through this tailored workshop series we successfully connect engineering and environmental scientists from ERM to student leadership groups, while demystifying rigorous environmental data gathering methods. Schools progress practical ResourceSmart Schools targets and develop leadership and groupwork skills for participants. Through the ERM program, several students have been motivated towards related career pathways.

Our educators undertook several new projects this year, such as school holiday programs including a Youth Wildlife Ambassador workshop at Albert Park Library; and using song, drawing and taste buds for toddlers to learn **Leaf Literacy** at Port Melbourne Library. We also teamed up with Sheree Marris to write middle years curriculum for *Melbourne Down Under*, a breathtaking underwater wildlife documentary set in our beautiful Port Phillip Bay.



We extended school sustainability support into City of Kingston this year, including ResourceSmart Schools facilitation and April provided a keynote for the Big Green Schools Conference in May.

Curriculum-linked **Sustainability Excursions and Incursions** ranged from Captain Trash (very popular with our early years students), to flora and fauna walks through St Kilda Botanical Gardens and Elwood Canal biodiversity corridor, shell surveys, beach profiling, energy audit skills, worm farms and composting. Some notable highlights included presenting a workshop at Wyndham Environmental Youth Summit, teaching a visiting school from Japan, and delivering a Victorian International Container Terminal Community Investment Fund grant for local schools to plant indigenous species at Westgate Park.

Educator **Bronnie Walsh** received the Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network (IELLEN) **Outstanding Individual Achievement Award** for her inspiring work with young people including work with six Duke of Edinburgh students from Elwood College.

At the end of the 2015 school year, our beloved teacher **Andrea Eales** returned to full time classroom teaching after seven years developing our dynamic student and teacher programs. Her vim, vigour and integrity will be missed! We were thrilled to welcome **Sharron Hunter** and **Sarah Child** into educator roles following their volunteer service to our school programs, and to continue working with all-round bright spark **Peter Kelly**. **Angela Andrews** worked with the team for two very busy terms and looking to the future, Education for Sustainability star **Karen Jones** joined us as manager of Education programs.



Youth Wildlife Ambassador

Our **Youth Wildlife Ambassador** Gio Fitzpatrick is a dedicated 20-year-old urban ecologist and conservationist whose passionate volunteer work had by age 15 attracted endorsement by Sir David Attenborough. Gio has developed a reputation for knowledge and maturity far beyond his years, working and volunteering with organisations such as Museum Victoria, convening Friends of Elster Creek and starting his volunteering at the EcoCentre from age 11. Gio has a natural ability to explain to any audience how animals live, the threats they face, and what ordinary people can do about it.

In 2015-16 our Youth Wildlife Ambassador has led **Nestbox Building Workshops, School Fauna Audits, Urban Wildlife Walks** and keynote talks for people of all ages and backgrounds. He blogs regularly on the Friends of Elster Creek Facebook¹ page, sharing his vivid photos and film clips documenting the seasonal fauna of the Elster Creek catchment. His YouTube channel **GioEcoEnviro** has over 50,000 views and features the world-first footage of a *Desis kenyonae* marine spider. Gio's discoveries featured in the Wild Melbourne article *The Boy Who Looked*.²

With patient daily monitoring and keen senses, this year Gio has expanded his Elster Creek fauna register, engaging community to join the compilation of what we hope to eventually publish as a guidebook.

In 2015, Gio also recorded the first Victorian sightings for three species (a swamp fly, a hoverfly, and native bee). His commitment to creating habitat for hollow dependent urban species has generated numerous experimental nestbox designs. His innovative Westgate Park installation succeeded in the first attraction of Lesser Long-eared Bats to nestboxes anywhere in Melbourne!

For his tireless efforts in sustainability and leadership, Gio as Youth Wildlife Ambassador was recognised with the following awards:

- The Australia-wide **Individual Achievement Award** from United Nations Association of Australia
- **Outstanding Individual Achievement** (15-20 years old) Award from Inner Eastern Local Learning Education Network (IELLEN)
- **Young Leaders Award** from Keep Victoria Beautiful
- **Highly Commended Finalist – Victorian Young Landcarer of the Year** at the 2015 Victorian Landcare Awards

1. www.facebook.com/friendsofelstercreek

2. <http://wildmelbourne.org/articles/the-boy-who-looked>



“ We tend to think of cities as biological deserts. Against all the odds, there is still wonder and diversity of life among us. There is a vibrant and fascinating but largely unseen story going on and I hope to introduce some of its characters. If we can start to see our homes and cities as living systems, then we will treat our environment accordingly.

Take a closer look at any urban neighbourhood and you may be surprised at who, other than humans, manages to eke out a living in such an ‘unnatural’ environment but this is especially true for the Elster Creek area. Having surveyed the area's wildlife for four years and seen about a third of all bird species known from Victoria here, I am still stuck in a constant state of surprise and awe at what the place can produce. From exceedingly rare Intertidal Spiders and flies never before seen in Victoria to awesome winter feeding frenzies that churn the coastal waters white with the wings and fins of 3000 assorted seabirds, dolphins and salmon, it is a live natural spectacle with a residential backdrop.

Conserving biodiversity in cities is every bit as important as in protected areas. We know so little about what actually lives in among us or how it does so and we know even less about the possibilities for improvement if we were to start considering biodiversity in the management of cities. Urban nature is the key to literally bringing home the message that the natural world is precious and we are a part of it. ” - Gio



United Nations
Association of Australia



WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY AWARDS
2016

WINNER





Community Education

A thriving and connected community is key to a sustainable future, and coincidentally immense fun to facilitate! Our place-based learning empowers residents and visitors to re-experience the extraordinary urban ecosystem in which we're a part. (Did you know our **Youth Wildlife Ambassador** has catalogued over 700 species living alongside us in Elwood?)

With great offers for EcoCentre Members and a diverse calendar of events, this year's Community Education programs engaged participants of all ages. Over summer we hosted top travel journalist Danielle Lancaster from Queensland to showcase our year-round line up for Melbourne residents and visitors. Check our website calendar and subscribe to our monthly digital news for upcoming **Workshops and Walks** selections.

This year once again locals built backyard habitat at the Southport Uniting Care **Skills Fest Nestbox Building Workshop**. Popular **Twilight Wildlife Walks** to spot our wild faunal neighbours were expanded as we trialed a successful **Nocturnal Walk** and **Possum Prowl** along Elster Creek. **Little Critters Wildlife Walks** invited family members from toddlers to grandparents to become explorers.

Port Phillip Baykeeper's **St Kilda Natural History Walk** starts at a stormwater drain and ends at a penguin colony, and is a summer favourite along with numerous activities for Coastcare's **Summer By the Sea**. The summer season also debuted our dynamic **Fabulous Friday Snorkel Tours** and **Rediscover the Bay: Bike Tours**.

Many gardeners enjoyed our stall spruiking worm farm secrets at Stonnington Spring Into Gardening Festival and curious citizens jumped into bat tube construction at Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Carnival. Seasonal traditions included our 5th Annual **Elwood Poetry Prize** and two City of Port Phillip events for the Victorian Seniors Festival.

Based on four years of research, Gio the Youth Wildlife Ambassador gave a popular **Birds In Glen Eira** talk which can be tailored for other locations in south metro Melbourne.

Port Phillip Baykeeper offers free workshops and citizen science activities on beaches around the Bay, in all seasons and friendly for all ages. **Citizen Science** involves everyday people recording aspects of the environment, so qualified scientists can answer big questions. Latenite Films produced a short clip about **Baykeeper Citizen Science** you can enjoy on our YouTube channel **EcoCentre TV**.



Indicators of Success: Education

What will success look like

1. Schools and their students and teachers in our region involved in caring for the local environment

The success of 2015-16

275 teachers
7,745 students
67 schools

Types of care for the environment included:

- Habitat creation including frog bogs, microbat nest tubes, mammal and bird nestboxes, and Sandbelt revegetation
- Litter removal and auditing using Baykeeper methodology
- Baykeeper citizen science: microplastics audits, beach surface profile mapping, shell surveys, live mollusc surveys
- Waterwatch and macroinvertebrate surveys
- Biodiversity Audits including bird surveys, plant identification and habitat mapping
- Creation of nature trails, video clips, running Kids Teaching Kids workshops
- Recycling 'special' items, energy and water retrofits, canteen waste reduction
- ResourceSmart Schools accreditation
- Integrated sustainability curriculum creation

2. Niche post-school youth programs implemented

273 participants aged 12-25

Baykeeper: Be the RE-Generation, Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, work experience, university placements, Youth Services excursions, Sea Scouts collaboration

3. Young people and community members take up environmental leadership roles

306 Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability graduates
2000 students volunteered for Well Waters

4. Educational programs incorporate First Peoples' cultural perspectives

800 students and 40 teachers participated in Sessions With Elders, cultural excursions and Boon Wurrung professional development for teachers
6 Boon Wurrung Foundation cultural educators employed



2. Community Action



Corporate Volunteering

Our valued clients Treasury Wine Estates and National Australia Bank returned to the shores of Port Phillip Bay to once again **Pamper the Little Penguins** and undertake citizen science monitoring activities as **Marine Biologists for a Day**. In their mammoth Global Volunteering Week, 78 Treasury Wine Estates employees shifted a whopping 4.2 tonnes of sand and seaweed to improve the penguin habitat on the breakwater. Meanwhile 85 National Australia Bank employees rolled their sleeves up with dozens of trips onto the St Kilda Breakwater, accumulating over 20km of walking while lifting the valuable sand and seaweed that will sure up the breakwater revegetation project.

We were pleased to welcome Aesop, AGL Energy, Insurance Australia Group, Stratton, Telstra (in partnership with Landcare Australia Limited), Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and Victorian

Litter Action Alliance to our corporate volunteering partnership list. The positive feedback from these groups has given the EcoCentre confidence that we are providing a valuable service to our corporate friends, while also doing important environmental and education initiatives for the local area.

On each of these Corporate Volunteer days we connect with the individuals who make up such companies and remind them that daily decisions add up to powerful impacts on Port Phillip Bay. All participants get a very hands-on connection to our ecosystem and usually meet our cute penguin ambassadors!

A big thanks to our key partner Goodcompany, who broker team volunteering days between corporate groups and charities. Goodcompany have been a key player in assisting the EcoCentre attract valuable corporate teams.

291
employees contributed
1,792 volunteer hours

8
tonnes of sand and
seaweed moved for
Penguin habitat



Port Phillip Baykeeper

Baykeeper: Catchment Education & Winter By the Waves

The Baykeeper Catchment Education project funded by Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has enabled strong collaborations between EcoCentre, other community groups and government agencies related to management of Port Phillip Bay. The project aims to engage communities around the bay in citizen science activities that will increase awareness of the local ecology and contribute to strategies to reduce threats at an ecosystem level.

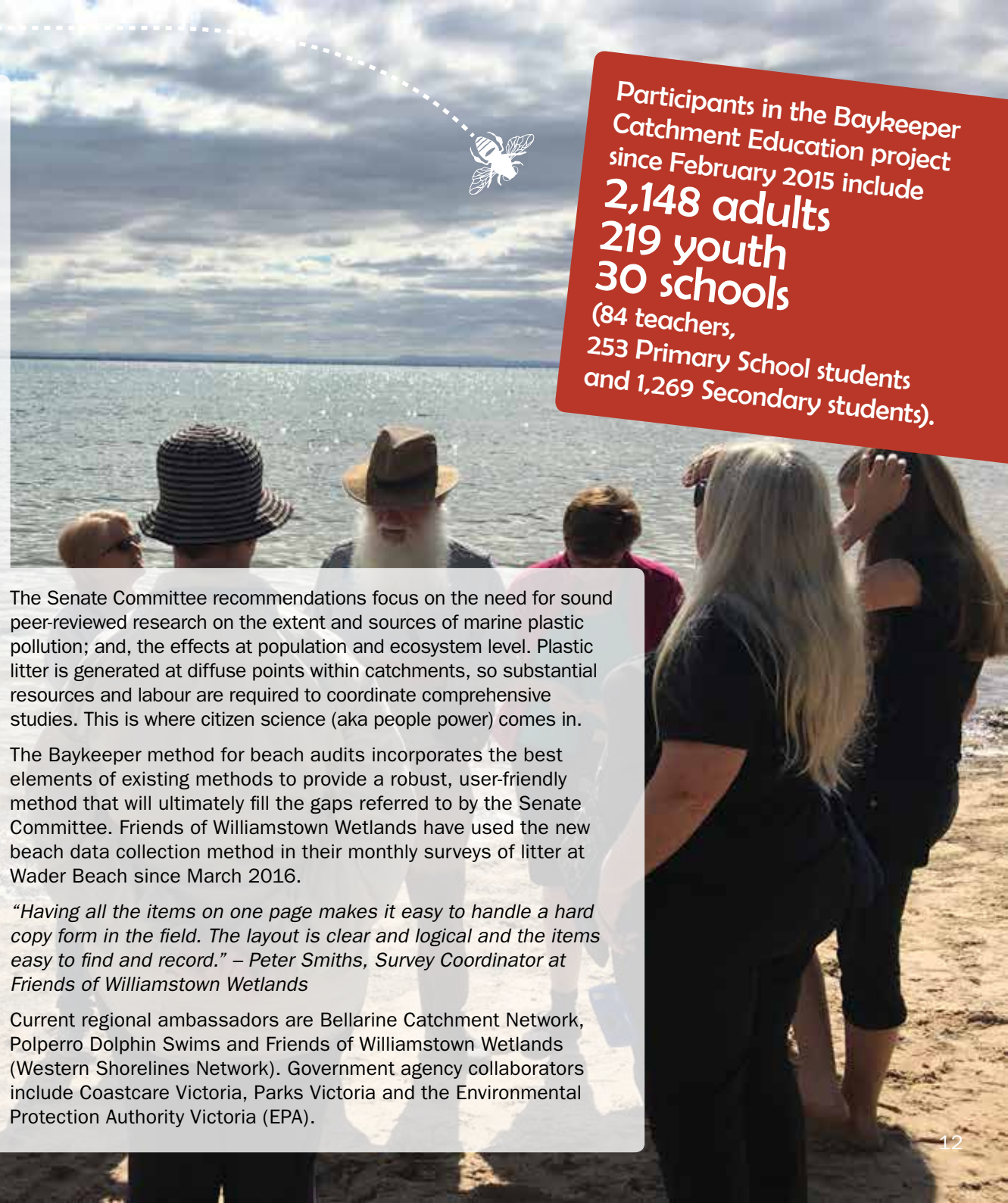
The major topics of research include monitoring of mollusc populations, beach erosion and the incidence of plastic pollution. Activities include:

- shoreline shell surveys (recording shell species and local abundance on beaches)
- live mollusc surveys (recording and identifying molluscs in nearshore sandy sediments)
- beach profiling (recording sand surface levels along a transect across a beach); and
- beach litter and microplastics audits (regular surveys of ecologically harmful litter on selected beach reference sites)

Organisms living on and in the seabed are recognized as playing an important role in regulating levels of nutrient in the bay ecosystem. A review of available literature reveals that there have been relatively few studies of mollusc populations in sandy seabeds.

Our live mollusc surveys are an excellent introduction to the role of shellfish in the marine environment; and the data gathered to date will provide an excellent baseline for future comparison.

Development and delivery of the beach litter and micro-plastic surveys has been a complex process due to the fact that several marine debris audit methods (devised by different groups at different times for different purposes) are already in use around Australia. Despite the existence of these models the Australian Government's Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications report on the threat of marine plastic pollution (April 2016) found *"significant gaps in the understanding of marine plastic pollution. For example, the extent of marine plastic pollution, particularly microplastics, effects of marine plastic pollution; the impacts at the population level; and the effects on ecosystems."*



Participants in the Baykeeper Catchment Education project since February 2015 include
2,148 adults
219 youth
30 schools
(84 teachers,
253 Primary School students
and 1,269 Secondary students).

The Senate Committee recommendations focus on the need for sound peer-reviewed research on the extent and sources of marine plastic pollution; and, the effects at population and ecosystem level. Plastic litter is generated at diffuse points within catchments, so substantial resources and labour are required to coordinate comprehensive studies. This is where citizen science (aka people power) comes in.

The Baykeeper method for beach audits incorporates the best elements of existing methods to provide a robust, user-friendly method that will ultimately fill the gaps referred to by the Senate Committee. Friends of Williamstown Wetlands have used the new beach data collection method in their monthly surveys of litter at Wader Beach since March 2016.

"Having all the items on one page makes it easy to handle a hard copy form in the field. The layout is clear and logical and the items easy to find and record." – Peter Smiths, Survey Coordinator at Friends of Williamstown Wetlands

Current regional ambassadors are Bellarine Catchment Network, Polperro Dolphin Swims and Friends of Williamstown Wetlands (Western Shorelines Network). Government agency collaborators include Coastcare Victoria, Parks Victoria and the Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA).

Baykeeper: Be the RE-Generation

Since January 2016, the RE-Generation project funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has established 5 key citizen science reference sites between Sandridge beach and Holloway Bend. The project has engaged young (15-25 year old) people to help shape the future through citizen science activities, as well as planting appropriate native species on St Kilda breakwater to prevent erosion and enhance

penguin and seabird habitat. Youth and their families can book into Baykeeper events at St Kilda Pier. Youth groups can organise fully-funded weekday Baykeeper citizen science sessions.

The project has enabled practical engagement with secondary schools, tertiary education students and four Sea Scout groups within the region. 134 young people have participated in one or more of the 21 activities that have been run in the first six months. During these activities, young people have influenced decision-making and contributed to developing more efficient and effective ways of conducting the activities.

Tertiary students on placement have made invaluable contributions to the direction of the project through desktop research to compile many studies of aspects of the Port Phillip Bay environment. This desktop research has found very few studies on mollusc populations in sandy seabeds, highlighting the value of the Baykeeper live mollusc surveys to contribute to understanding local food webs in the Bay.

Join 15-25 year olds to conduct research, revegetate coastlines, restore habitat and reconnect to Port Phillip Bay. Be the RE-Generation!



Baykeeper: the big picture

Throughout 2015-16, in addition to delivering the major funded projects described above, your Port Phillip Baykeeper has continued to work with schools, government, researchers, business and community to protect Port Phillip Bay. This involves a constant flow of ideas and information sharing as opportunities and/or needs arise.

Work with schools included **Captain Trash** appearances at primary schools and kindergartens; and coastal monitoring with students of Melbourne Polytechnic.

Baykeeper research was enriched by the excellent work of several tertiary students on placement. They compiled a wide range of studies on aspects of the Port Phillip Bay environment that will provide a sound basis for future projects.

Advocacy activities include:

- submission to the Federal Government Inquiry into Marine Plastic pollution
- attending Victorian Litter Action Alliance meetings
- contributing to Sustainability Victoria cross sectoral forums to plan litter prevention and waste disposal strategies; and
- strategic planning with Yarra Riverkeeper and Werribee Riverkeeper to devise a Port Phillip Bay 'water protector' network

Significant outreach and program development activities included:

- April attending the Waterkeeper Alliance annual conference at Cape Fear in North Carolina, USA
- combined screenings of *Baykeepers* and *Melbourne Down Under* with Sheree Marris
- devising the St Kilda breakwater revegetation project as a positive and practical educational opportunity for community and corporate groups to contribute to enhancing local seabird habitat

The Baykeeper program earned recognition as a **Clean Beach/Waterway Finalist** in the Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards due to our commitment to cross-sector, cross-catchment collaborations highlighting how positive actions in our 'burbs play a role for our Bay.

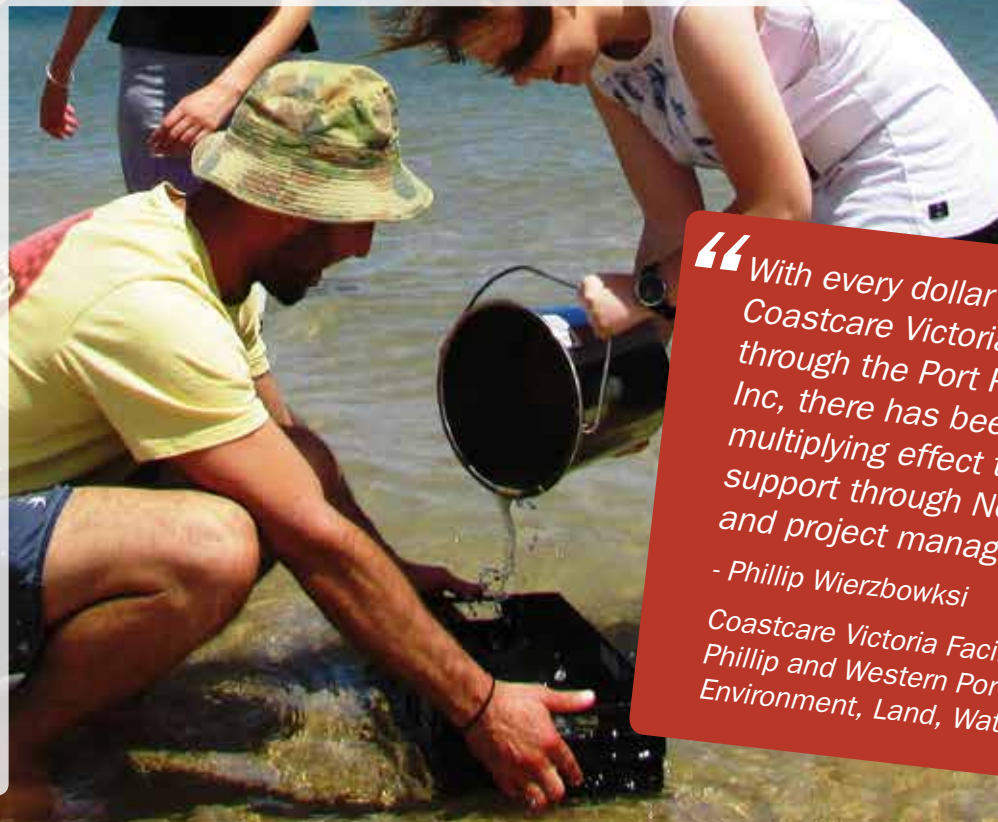
Key community collaborators include Beach Patrol Australia, Bellarine Catchment Network, Boon Wurrung Foundation, Brighton Sea Scouts, Earthcare St Kilda, Friends of Westgate Park, Friends of Williamstown Wetlands, Coastcare Victoria, Ricketts Point

Marine Care, Scab Duty, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group, Polperro Dolphin Swims, Australian Marine Mammal Conservation Foundation, Werribee Riverkeeper and Yarra Riverkeeper.

Local and State Government collaborators included Bayside City Council, City of Port Phillip, Hobsons Bay Council, Frankston Council, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, EPA Victoria, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria.

We appreciate project support from Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and the property management team at Crown Resorts who recycled the plastics in cigarette butt litter via Terracycle Australia to fundraise for Baykeeper.

Baykeeper enjoyed regular community radio spots on Radio Marinara (3RRR) and Tuesday Hometime (3CR). Special thanks to MC Guttermouth (world famous hip-hop artist), Brendan and Will from MOOP Patrol, Nicole Wheatley and Daniel Zisin for creating the catchy mind-bending song *A Little Bit of Litter* for the **Turn Off the Tap project**.



“With every dollar invested by Coastcare Victoria into activities through the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc, there has been an 18 fold multiplying effect through in-kind support through Neil's leadership and project management skills.”

- Phillip Wierzbowski

Coastcare Victoria Facilitator – Port Phillip and Western Port Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning



Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network (PPUFFN)

Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network (PPUFFN) aims to encourage and educate in the growing of fresh food leading towards food security. *Food security* means having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food as climate change prompts consequences for human health, our communities and environment.

PPUFFN is funded by City of Port Phillip to create fresh, healthy food options while promoting inclusion. The project supports City of Port Phillip residents to achieve improved health and wellbeing; to value lifelong learning; and ensure population growth is well managed for the future with secure access to fresh vegetables. The project has operated in many capacities for many years. In 2015, PPUFFN formed an alliance with Port Phillip Housing Association to enable community housing residents to grow their own food.

Deb Punton provided horticultural and landscape design advice guiding initial garden set-ups at five sites, and developed skills and confidence through Horticulture related workshops and activities. More than 96 community housing residents participated in workshops onsite to establish and maintain shared edible gardens. These gardens complement and extend current Cooking Programs and Social Meals to benefit individual and environmental health.

Outreach sessions and planning workshops at the EcoCentre assisted seasonal planning, and allowed tenants to join our Community Garden team for Friday working bees and shared meals made from fresh harvests.

Community Garden Team

Following the hard work of **Deb Punton** as the Garden Volunteer Team Coordinator, a changing of the guard has seen much of the coordination taken over by **Anthony Gallacher** as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Deb's organisation skills, knowledge and friendly face sustained the garden group through the cold winter and the Community Garden is still thriving from the group's work. The ongoing cheerful smiles of the garden volunteers are the best indicator of the positive gardening message that the community garden presents.

Meanwhile our propagation expert Eva Marks has returned to a busier life schedule, so the rest of the garden team has taken on the role of selling seedlings, setting up the regular propagation assembly line in order to meet the local hunger for our heirloom seedlings that are available by donation 24/7.

With an increased capacity to take on new volunteers, we have seen an influx of new garden participants, including compost turners, which has sped up the composting process remarkably.

Gill Upton has continued oversight of the Wominjeka Garden, organising regular working bees to plant indigenous species and oversee the growth of the local bush tucker garden.

We were pleased to welcome a returning partnership with the **Sacred Heart Mission Outlandish** program. The Outlandish program runs supported eco-volunteering activities for women who are keen to contribute to community and the environment. Lead by Tif Alp, the Outlandish program women join the EcoCentre's Garden Group once a month.





An approximate
1.46
million items of litter
were removed from
the environment

47
Community
clean-ups

Litter Hotspots

This 3-year, State Government funded project **Turn Off The Tap** has just finished its second year of litter monitoring and education. Upper Yarra Landcare, Beach Patrol Australia and the Friends of Westgate Park did a collective 47 litter clean-ups and audits, providing us with valuable information about litter quantity and composition along our beaches and in the Yarra River in Warburton.

More than 3600 kg or an approximate 1.46 million items of litter were removed from the environment by volunteers, with the top 5 items – unsurprisingly - all made of plastic.

Microplastics trawls in the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers continue to provide pertinent information about the types of microplastics (plastics <5mm) in our waterways with hard plastics and Styrofoam beads dominating trawl catch. Plastic production pellet or “nurdle” surveys continue to be a useful index for industrial mismanagement, and nurdle survey data are shared with Tangaroa Blue Foundation for their Litter Hotspots project, which aims to achieve zero pellet loss by Victorian industry.

Highlights of this year include:

- Collaborators EcoCentre, MOOP Patrol, bad boy-turned-good MC Guttermouth and Nicole Joy created the catchy and confrontational song *A little bit of litter*. The song will be used in education resources to spread the word about the impacts of littering
- **Fam Charko**, the only female scientist in the line-up of presenters at *National Science Week - Under the lens at Rickett's Point* and Port Phillip Bay, delivered an informative and well received presentation about nurdles in Victoria
- Fam Charko was interviewed by the United Nations Environment Programme for a case study of the work environmental not-for-profits do regarding marine pollution. The case study will be used to design an international MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on the subject
- The project has changed coordinators, with **Dr Nikki Kowalczyk** now lending her data-analysis skills and marine ecology expertise to the project



Well Waters: Elster Creek Pilot

Funded by the Victorian Government, the **Well Waters Elster Creek Pilot** provided a scaleable, flexible, community-based model for climate-sensitive urban catchments to generate immediate and long-term benefits.

The world-first Well Waters project created a living Water Cycle Classroom, installed water-recycling infrastructure, and mobilised 3,482 residents of Elster Creek Catchment through whole-of-water-cycle education and volunteer workbees to improve catchment health.

Community members including students, businesses and residents volunteered 4,275 hours at a total of 66 **Well Waters Workbees**. An innovative credit scheme translated this public volunteering into funding for 11 schools, homes and community sites to install rain tanks and raingardens. PJT Green Plumbing converted 59 toilets and 2 showers to use rainwater, installing permanent infrastructure expected to filter and recycle nearly 2 million litres of stormwater per year.

Over 95% of the volunteers developed their first ever understanding of the scope of the Elster Creek catchment comprising 40km², primarily underground and crossing four suburban municipalities with limited open space. The Creek mouth opens to a public beach and a biodiverse (relatively unknown) reef only 11km from Melbourne's CBD, impacted by factors across the catchment. A diversity of workbees showcased the "hidden catchment" to participants, connected residents to community action groups for ongoing volunteering, and fostered a sense of place and spirit of community.

In addition to the permanent infrastructure installed through Well Waters, we estimate at least 1.8 tonnes of litter was cleaned up; 3200 tubestock seedlings were planted; and schools have integrated regular catchment curriculum and community action, as well as organised several inter-school environmental projects. Many participants have continued to regularly join ongoing community action groups (e.g. Beach Patrol and Friends of Elster Creek) to contribute to catchment health.

Thank you to our many partners who contributed to the project's success.



“Bringing students, businesses and residents together, the Well Waters pilot generated a strong community sense of ‘paying it forward,’ through infrastructure provision, increased volunteering, and curriculum integration at local schools...”

- Judges' comments, at United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards

Annual potable
water savings
predicted:
1,976,000
litres

3,482
volunteers donated
4,275
hours

59 toilets +
2 showers
converted to
recycle rain
water



Primary project partners

- Port Phillip EcoCentre
- Victorian Government
- PJT Green Plumbing

Participants who installed/activated tanks & raingardens

- St Columba's PS
- Poets' Garden
- Elwood & St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Caulfield PS
- Elsternwick PS
- Gardenvale PS
- Helen, Elsternwick
- Liz, Elwood
- St Kevin's Ormond PS
- St Joseph's Elsternwick PS
- Treehouse Childcare St Kilda

Community, workbee & promotional partners

- Friends of Elster Creek
- Beach Patrol 3184
- Port Phillip Bicycle User Group
- Earthcare St Kilda
- Love Our Street 3184
- Elwood Floods Action Group
- City of Port Phillip
- City of Bayside
- City of Kingston
- Melbourne Water
- Community Information Glen Eira
- Schools Water Efficiency Program
- CERES

Groups who volunteered (in addition to general public & participating sites)

- National Australia Bank
- Coca Cola Amatil
- Caulfield Grammar School environment team
- Elwood PS (97 Grade 6 Biology students)
- Elwood College Duke of Edinburgh students

Well Waters partners



Well Waters was a 'Community' finalist in the prestigious **United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards**, and a finalist for 'Environmental Sustainability' at the **Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards**. The project featured in **Sustainable Gardening Australia**.

Well Waters is a model to protect, restore and better-manage natural resources within urbanised environments facing climate change and disconnected communities. An independent evaluation by Dr Peter Streker of Community Stars recommends this model could be trialed elsewhere, scaled up or applied to other topics, such as energy reduction or improving soil quality. The EcoCentre team are excited to apply our learnings and currently seek partners for future Well Waters projects.



Cycles and Snorkels

Studying, protecting and connecting to our urban environment is transfixing and transformational when experienced by cycle or snorkel!

In summer 2016, six EcoCentre team members qualified as Snorkel Instructors through a tailored AUSIDIVE intensive. Additionally, Fam Charko re-certified as a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor. This training enables a 'bayside action learning trail' and was funded through Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Youth in Philanthropy grant, nominated by St Michael's Grammar School students.

The summer season introduced **Fabulous Friday Snorkel Tours** to explore the incredible underwater life off Point Ormond, Elwood. In addition to public tours, we hosted Caulfield Grammar School environment team leaders for a terrestrial/marine litter clean up, and a networking day on the SV Pelican research catamaran. We welcomed two St Kilda Youth Services **School Holiday Snorkel** programs during which most participants submerged in the Bay waters for their first ever time. Participants from age 7 to 25 enjoyed a supported and relaxed experience, enchanted by the intertidal and reef biodiversity hidden just below the surface.



Indicators of Success: Community Action

| What will success look like | The success of 2015-16 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Wide range of stakeholders positively engaged in environmental protection activities, including through social media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly engaged 19,078 people • Partnered with over 150 organisations • 4,500+ volunteers making 6,519 attendances • 10,888 volunteer hours contributed • Doubled Instagram followers • \$18,452 received as donations (including direct giving, Workplace Giving, and other) |
| 2. Specific studies completed, reported on, publicised and influencing positive behaviour change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Phillip Baykeeper produced 4 litter and shell survey reports, which were shared at the International Waterkeeper Alliance Conference • New beach profiling method developed, approved by Australian Coastal Society and shared with Coastkeepers in Bahamas for trial • Submission made to the Federal Parliamentary inquiry into marine plastic pollution • Media coverage included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Community Water Conservation Project, Sustainable Gardening Australia, Nov 2015 - Youth Wildlife Ambassador Gio Fitzpatrick wins United Nations environment award, Herald Sun, June 2016 - 11 radio appearances • 6000+ participants in over 250 citizen science research studies |
| 3. Active engagements by community members in citizen research | |
| 4. Community members confident and able to cultivate and have access to fresh locally grown produce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 PPUFFN participants learned to garden • 5 gardens installed in Community Housing • 29 new EcoHouse garden volunteers inducted • 1297 volunteer hours in our Community Garden |
| 5. Up to date, well maintained suite of communications and promotional tools and systems used internally and externally | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse communications tools included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baykeeper Citizen Science clip - weekly Instagram stories - Melbourne litter hotspots mapping - A Little Bit of Litter hip-hop song - 24+ Baykeepers screenings - Conference presentations |



3. Partnerships

Our team is dedicated to developing and strengthening partnerships to maximise our environmental and social impact. Reciprocal, cross-sector collaborations are core to the design and success of all our programs, and in 2015-16 we worked with over 150 community, school, government and professional partners.

Port Phillip EcoCentre was created as an 'umbrella group' with the vision of providing support to smaller, like-minded organisations in the form of facilities, infrastructure, equipment and expertise. This year we reached 26 Affiliate organisations! They are listed on page 34. Affiliate Membership is available to not-for-profit groups involved in environmental or community building activities with an environmental component. For selected highlights, see Affiliates in Action on page 24.

With the support of the Brunner Foundation we are supporting production of international feature documentary *A Drop in the Ocean* film. *A Drop In The Ocean* highlights three potentially catastrophic impacts of human activity on the oceans and our health: plastics, pesticides and over-consumption. The film posits three achievable fixes and advocates pathways for trickle up change! Anyone can support the film through a current crowd-funding campaign on the indiegogo.com website.

The Once As It Was map and brochure depicts the First People of our region (the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung language group) and the natural attributes of their lands and waters. The project was funded by Public Records Office Victoria and City of Port Phillip contributed to printing. In collaboration with Boon Wurrung Foundation, Dean Stewart provided research, writing and concept design. These beautiful maps (also available in folded form) are available free at the EcoCentre and make wonderful gifts for residents, visitors and classrooms.

Indicators of Success: Partnerships

| What will success look like | The success of 2015-16 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Partnerships focus on active mutual engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 Affiliate organisations • 9 Affiliates collaborated on practical action for Well Waters, Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability and Port Phillip Baykeeper • 3 Affiliates auspiced or partnered on grants |
| 2. Partner-relationships built across government, businesses, environmental organisations, schools, trusts and community groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 150 school, government, business, and community partnerships • Outcomes included practical action, research, advocacy, venue sharing, auspicing services, in-kind contributions, training and education |
| 3. Engaged and increased memberships and effective membership system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Affiliate membership hit a new record, and individual membership grew by 30% this year • New membership system scheduled for implementation 2016-17 |
| 4. A well-coordinated team of volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a new full time Volunteer Coordinator role and appointed Anthony Gallacher • A small volunteer consultation was undertaken prior to Anthony's commencement • Volunteer review report scheduled 2016-17 |



4. Organisational Development



Capacity Building: Succession planning for EcoCentre's sustainable future

This second and last year of the capacity building project, funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, has successfully navigated the EcoCentre through its succession planning phase. The objectives of this project were to:

- achieve a smooth transition and full continuation of the organisation after the retirement of the Founding Director Neil Blake
- provide skills and career development of team members in managerial roles
- enhance the financial management skills of team leaders;
- improve its knowledge management and operational systems
- continue our service to the community and the environment, supporting long-term social change
- have a greater capacity for delivering our mission and strategic plan

The financial, human resources and knowledge management systems were reviewed and updated over the course of this year. Like last year, Anne Garrow helped us with this in her capacity as project consultant. She interviewed staff members to find out what needed to happen in terms of operational system upgrades for a more smoothly running organisation. She also helped us record our project journey, documenting important background information

EcoCentre Redevelopment

The EcoCentre building which we lease from the City of Port Phillip is now out-dated technologically, no longer a showcase of sustainable design and practice, cramped, not suitable for many of our programs and activities and in need of repair. In 2015-16, the City of Port Phillip supported us to develop a detailed design and a Business Case for the redevelopment of the EcoCentre building.

The Business Case recommended the construction of a new facility on the existing site and forecasted for the next 20 years of the EcoCentre. The Concept/Schematic Design report, which will include plans and a detailed cost plan, is currently being developed by consultants and managed by the City of Port Phillip. We are hopeful that the new Council will allocate capital funds for the redevelopment of the building in its 2017-18 budget.

about the EcoCentre from our founding director, which will be used to induct future staff and Committee members.

In January, we hosted a training day with the staff and Committee of Management to reconnect everyone with each other and the Strategic Plan, find out our collective strengths and to kick off 2016 together. Many thanks to Committee member Jan Cossar for her expert group facilitation on the day.

In May, staff worked with consultants from Blue Bike Solutions, who facilitated a workshop to discover the EcoCentre's ICT needs. With this information we can decide what our next steps will be to upgrade our systems.

One of the things that we delivered in addition to the positive capacity building outcomes for the EcoCentre, is an electronic guide to succession planning. Other small-to-medium sized environmental not-for-profits can download this document for free and use it to guide themselves through the succession planning process. This is a specific case study to the EcoCentre's situation. We expect that many organisations will recognize similar issues around the succession of their key leader as the EcoCentre, so we are confident that our case study will be of good use to them.

Indicators of Success: Organisational Development

| What will success look like | The success of 2015-16 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Effective and satisfied staff in an appropriate organisational structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth transition from Founding director Neil (after 16 years) to new Executive Officer April. Neil stayed on as Baykeeper, and our organisational structure was consolidated • Annual staff reviews and Exit interviews for staff documented high staff satisfaction overall |
| 2. Financial security gained from a range of funding sources and financial surplus increased annually towards a long term goal of one year's operating expenses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved over 60% income growth • Achieved 30% progress toward 2018 target of a surplus of one year's operating expenses • Achieved a diverse income mix of approximately: 33% local government (grants and consulting services), 22% fee for service, 22% state government contracts, 21% philanthropic grants, 2% donations |
| 3. An active and effective Committee of Management with appropriate range of skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee of Management operated 4 active Sub-Committees, managed the Executive Officer transition, and participated in an all-staff and Committee strategy day and many staff/committee meetings • Committee has 10 members - all skilled and active • Committee of Management has monthly meetings with excellent attendance |
| 4. Revised efficient financial, human resources, knowledge management, planning systems and communications systems in place and operating well | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Annual Report has been compiled by all staff and Committee • An Operational Plan was created and reviewed quarterly by staff • Executive Officer and Treasurer held monthly Financial Reviews and implemented a clear new Financial Report and forecasting format • Human Resource policies and procedures reviewed and updated • IT systems diagnostic report completed by Bike Bike Solutions, in consultation with all staff • Knowledge management systems diagnostic report completed by Anne Garrow, in consultation with all staff |
| 5. EcoCentre projects and programs align with relevant research and best practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Phillip EcoCentre was consulted by municipal and Victorian government on key issues relating to ecological sustainability • Participant evaluations are conducted for: Teachers' Environment Network, Schools programs, Corporate Volunteering, Community Volunteering • An independent evaluation report was commissioned for the Well Waters project • In total, our EcoCentre team was recognised this year through a total of 7 Finalist nominations and 4 Awards from local to national |



THE BIGGEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET...

Animal agriculture is a leading cause of global warming, water usage, oceanic dead zones, deforestation, species extinction, suffering and death.

ANIMAL
liberation alv.org.au

VeganEasy.org



Animal Liberation Victoria

Animal Liberation Victoria is a front-line animal rights and vegan advocacy organisation that has been saving lives for almost 40 years. Through direct action, outreach and animal rescue we are dedicated towards ending animal exploitation and exposing the inherent cruelty involved in animal industries. We are committed to a world where animals' lives are respected in their own right, and are no longer abused and killed for the profit of humans.

We also work to protect the environment we all share through our vegan advocacy. One of our key environmental campaigns was at The People's Climate March held in November last year. Animal Liberation Victoria volunteers addressed the issue the event organisers were not willing to. We highlighted the single greatest threat to this planet, animal agriculture. Our message was clear and reached tens of thousands of people, as we peacefully marched through the streets of Melbourne. So many were open to our message, taking thousands of leaflets. For more information on the devastating implications of animal agriculture visit www.alv.org.au/earth



Australian Coastal Society

Victorian Chapter Report on 2015-2016 activities

The Australian Coastal Society is a national, policy-focussed organisation that is dedicated to promoting healthy coastal ecosystems, vibrant coastal communities and the sustainable use of coastal resources.

Since our 2015 AGM, held at the EcoCentre, we have promoted to our members a range of on-ground activities being held by other organisations. We have also been busy providing submissions on the following to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in order to achieve improved outcomes for coastal planning:

- **Gippsland and Lakes, Central and Western Regional Coastal Boards** on regional plans and the need for long term monitoring and evaluation. This will assist in understanding how we can adapt to and mitigate sea level rise and climate change impacts
- **Port Phillip Bay Plan** where we supported improved management and reduction of litter and the need for marine spatial planning
- **Biodiversity Plan 2020** which included the Review of Native Vegetation Clearing controls- we highlighted the weakness in current legislation which allows clearing on smaller [coastal] sites. This causes habitat fragmentation and loss. We recommended a reduction to the minimum area which can be cleared without a permit. We also highlighted the need to recognise the “Coastal Squeeze”, where few options are available for adaptation as sea levels rise, for mitigation to manage storm events
- **Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan Discussion Paper [Moolap and Point Henry 1200 hectare site]** Informed by site visits, Deakin University Case Study Analysis, liaison with local field naturalist groups and Birdlife Australia’s recommendations, we support the Conserve Moolap option. This recognises the key environmental systems and heritage features at a landscape level and their importance for migratory birds. We supported Birdlife Australia’s key outcome: to create Victoria’s first international bird sanctuary on part of the Moolap site. We also supported the opportunities for carbon farming as researched by Dr Peter Macreadie



We support and promote the Port Phillip EcoCentre activities. In addition we have assisted Port Phillip Baykeeper Neil Blake to refine a shoreline monitoring tool which he designed.

At the recent **National Coast to Coast Conference 2016** in Melbourne, we assisted in programming the event, leading a field trip, and presenting papers. Our ACS stand, which included a section on the EcoCentre activities, was very busy.

We are currently crafting a response to the proposed new **Victorian Marine and Coastal Act**. This is an extremely important Consultation Paper. It sets the scene for future marine and coastal planning in Victoria. We look forward to working with the Port Phillip EcoCentre and other groups during the next year.

www.australiancoastalsociety.org



Australian Landcare International

The major activity of Australian Landcare International (ALI) is its Overseas Landcare Fund (OLF). In almost three years the OLF has raised and paid out \$AU 16,500 to 28 projects in 13 countries, a useful achievement. ALI is now updating the website, adding a crowd-funding app, seeking corporate and philanthropic donors and producing a YouTube video for the website. And looking for more projects – generally we support groups known personally through our networking and overseas partners.

We have most to do with a dozen or so countries in eastern and southern Africa – the African Landcare Network (ALN), and with Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Tonga, Fiji, Indonesia and Jamaica.

In Africa, ALI is part of an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research project devoted to improving farm produce marketing in Uganda and Zambia, with a medium-term goal also of launching a multi-national large scale revegetation project. In Japan we help our colleagues employ Australian Landcare experience to revitalise rural communities and improve post-disaster rehabilitation. To this end, a student from Nagoya University is here for six months looking at Landcare, volunteerism, environmental education and stronger Japan-Oz links. Two ALI members ran a week-long training course in Fiji late last year. We maintain contact with Fijian and Tongan colleagues as the region recovers from its natural disasters.

Because we strongly believe in helping young people, we are developing ties with youth-oriented Intrepid Landcare, which has spread to Victoria and Queensland from NSW. We want very much to include young people in overseas activities. Finally, in Colombia, Angelo and Amy Indovino's Fundación Soñar+Verde is implementing environmental projects in ten Cartagena public schools, financed by the local Environment Protection Authority. Thirty schools now participate, a great achievement for the couple who spend half each year in Melbourne's Southbank.

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

*Landcare respects local knowledge
- here a farmer in Mindanao in
the Philippines discusses crop
management with visiting scientists*

Beach Patrol Australia

Beach Patrol is a chain of volunteer community groups each defined by suburb, post code and t-shirt colour. Over 1500 registered volunteers clean over 50 km of Port Phillip Bay foreshore.

Another great year for Beach Patrol Australia with three new groups formed - Mordialloc, Altona and Tootgarook - bringing the total number of groups to 21 that are cleaning their beach every month.

Some of our groups received Australia Day Environmental/Community group of the Year awards from their councils, namely Ricketts Point (from Bayside) and Mentone/Parkdale/Aspendale/Chelsea (from Kingston). Rob Bradley, the leader of our Werribee group, received the 'Environment and Sustainability' Award from Wyndham City Council's 2016 Community Volunteer Awards.

We continued to partner with the Port Phillip EcoCentre in their **Turn Off The Tap** project by providing a monthly analysis of litter collected at St Kilda and Ricketts Point.

A new initiative to Beach Patrol, **Love Our Street** attracts volunteers actively making a difference to the litter on our local streets.

We continue to get expressions of interest in starting new groups so we plan to keep growing!

www.beachpatrol.com.au



Desert Discovery Inc

Desert Discovery Inc. is a new affiliate of the Port Phillip EcoCentre. A small organisation of 80 members, it conducts field research in one of Australia's eleven deserts every two years.

This year's project was located on the eastern edge of the Great Sandy Desert, 700km west of Alice Springs, at the invitation of the Traditional Owners. It commenced at the Kiwirrkurra Community on the Gary Junction Road and finished at the Balgo Community on the Tanami Track.

Over this 600km journey, teams trapped and photographed mammals and reptiles, collected plants and spiders, photographed fungi and butterflies, surveyed birds and, as part of a national project, undertook surveys of the Greater Bilby.

A highlight for all was a three-day visit by 20 school children from the indigenous communities at Wingellina, Blackstone, Jameson and Kiwirrkurra.

Over the course of this three-week project over 470 plant specimens were collected, documented and pressed. These are now with the Western Australia Herbarium and will be checked by the botanical staff. The database will be expanded and many plants will be listed as collected in these parts for the first time. Our botanists are expectantly waiting on feedback about rare plants and plants that have unexpectedly been found.

The mammal and faunal team trapped and returned some 50 species of mammals and reptiles. Also exciting was the discovery of new fields of the Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) thus expanding the known distribution of this nationally vulnerable species that has shrunk to just 15% of its previously known distribution.

The bird team surveyed at 1 km intervals over 375km, recording over 90 species of bird with multiple sightings of the Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, a species often poorly recorded.

Butterfly and fungi were photographed and recorded and trapdoor spider and scorpion specimens were sent to the Western Australian Museum for molecular studies. Some fourteen species of fungi were collected and only one had been recorded in the Great Sandy Desert before.

Similar to all Australia's deserts, the Great Sandy is far from barren rolling sand dunes. The reward for visiting scientists is the ever-

changing landscape – from dune country to expansive lateritic plains, from rocky ephemeral waterways to mesas and cones. But it is the remoteness and isolation that make these landscapes even more remarkable. We are privileged to have had the opportunity to work through this country and for this we thank the Traditional Owners.

Desert Discovery thanks the John T Reid Charitable Trusts for the grant and the Port Phillip EcoCentre for their auspicing support that allowed two young faunal scientists, Nathan and Merinda, to attend the project, provided educational materials, allowed the purchase of a night camera and bat trap and contributed to the purchase of a computer linked microscope that was given to one of the schools at the completion of the project.



Top: Checking the traps

Left: Greater Bilby caught on night camera

Right: Magnified eyes and fangs of a trapdoor spider

Back: Sand dune country



Earthcare volunteers have researched and protected St Kilda penguins since 1986



Earthcare St Kilda

This year marked our 30th year of research of the St Kilda Little Penguin colony and celebrated by holding our 3rd Penguin Symposium - our biggest ever in terms of size of program and audience. The colony continues to thrive with at least 1300 birds in residence. We were pleased with the news of State funding for increased protection of the Little Penguins at the St Kilda colony and are working with Parks Victoria to implement the planned improvements.

We continued our popular Penguin Guiding program, including a successful trial of an off-season service with guides on duty Friday-Sunday during the non-daylight saving period.

We also held our monthly litter removals from the Little Penguin colony, monthly removal of Northern Pacific Seastars from St Kilda Harbour and our winter planting program at four sites across Elwood, St Kilda and Middle Park.

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

Elwood Floods Action Group (eFLAG)

Two major linked events dominated 2016 for eFLAG.

First was the announcement by Bayside Council of the redevelopment of Elsternwick Park with expansion of sporting purposes with a golf driving range, including the redevelopment of Oval 1 and its facilities; and the expansion of Oval 2 replacing the public golf course as the centrepiece. A vigorous response by a coalition of Bayside and Port Phillip community groups got Council to reconsider and explore broader possibilities including flooding and environmental concerns.

This process is up to the Citizen Jury (the latest thing in community consultation) stage. It is important to keep flooding and environmental issues at the forefront of this vitally important development proposal.

Secondly, the Co-operative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities held a series of workshops with Elwood residents, City of Port Phillip Officers and other interested parties to develop a vision of a different water future for Elwood using water sensitive urban design.

This culminated in an exhibition *Swamped*, an interdisciplinary collaboration by Monash University post-graduate students showing the geographic history of Elwood with predicted future scenarios and possible ways that people could adapt. It includes proposals for flood mitigation for the Elster Creek/Elwood Canal, particularly Elsternwick Park. eFLAG hopes to bring this exhibition to St Kilda Town Hall in the future. Bayside Council Officers have also been made very aware of these ideas.

Flood early warning systems are still in the works, progressing slowly.

<https://sites.google.com/site/elwoodfloods/>

eflag
elwood floods action group





Top: Albert Park Primary Students learn before a planting day



Bottom: A native Black Swan (Cygnus atratus) at Westgate Park

Background: Westgate Park



Friends of Westgate Park

It has been another year of great progress in revegetating the Park (will it ever be finished, we hear you ask?). Our volunteer hours still add up to an extraordinary 12 full time staff, more land has been added (one reason it's not finished), new projects tackled, more biodiversity discovered, planners and councils worked with, and communication improved.

The **Westgate Park Master Plan** has reached concept stage after a year of talks and, importantly our revegetation work was endorsed by the planners and Parks Vic and *escape to nature* is the theme.

The plan proposes that the go-kart track east of Todd Road will be returned to parkland and linked with a flyover bridge and relocation of the compound and nursery to the newly transferred Port land at Wharf Road. New sewer toilets (hooray) will be built near the extended carpark and boardwalks will make the southern bank of the salt lake and its salt marsh publicly accessible without damaging vegetation – particularly important for pink lake-attracted tourists. There are many more ideas and details to work through including how the Park will link to and meet the needs of 80k residents coming to Fishermans Bend.

A major project this year was the 300m of services reserve on the southern boundary, added to the Park two years ago and now shaped into a series of ponds and mounds, mulched and planted with grassy wetland species. A new shared path from Todd Road is being constructed through Port land and parallel to this new wetland, offering a direct route to the River and new Park entrance.

Citizen science and biodiversity themes were a focus with City of Melbourne's second **Bioblitz in the Park** in March discovering microbats and flying foxes along with some aquatic species near the River bank that suggest water quality is pretty good. We are working with City of Melbourne to refine the objectives of this important project.

We have a new website and now publish a quarterly eNews and our Facebook has lots of Likes!

We also like being affiliated with the EcoCentre which helps us in so many ways. Thank you!

We miss Tony Flude's guiding and organising hand terribly but we have all stepped up and hope he is well again very soon.

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



Port Melbourne Uniting Church

The **Simply Living Project** at Port Melbourne Uniting Church is an expression of our faith and of our connection with our community and the world in which we live.

The Simply Living Community garden, built with the support of the EcoCentre in 2008, has continued to provide a focus for a range of activities during the past year. These include regular activities such as the monthly garden working bees, Wednesday gardening sessions for adults and for pre-school families, community kitchen groups (**Kitchen Mates** and **Grow & Eat**) as well as one-off events such as **Gardening for Life**, held during Port Phillip Seniors Week, and **SkillsFest**, held in February during the Sustainable Living Festival.

Our community compost station is well supported by neighbours and others within walking and cycling distance. The compost creatures, especially the worms, provide endless fascination for the children who visit the garden.

We have greatly appreciated our affiliation with the EcoCentre, particularly for your support of SkillsFest. We look forward to continuing our connection into the future.

<https://www.southportuniting.org.au/congregations/port-melbourne>

Transition Port Phillip

Transition Port Phillip (TPP) is part of the global Transition Towns movement and was initiated by locals in 2009, to inspire community connectedness and sustainable living.

In recent years our projects and activities include: mapping our community's eco connections, neighbourhood walking tours, **Appetite For Insight** film and speaker program, **Convivial Kitchen** skill shares and community dinners, skill sharing festivals, zero waste events, beach cleanups, social get-togethers and seasonal celebrations.

After a quiet period the group is experiencing renewed activity, energy and interest. Some of our recent activity includes:

- A welcome session and talk about the global Transition movement and TPP, at 4Dverse Arts Hub in St Kilda
- Launching a new online hub to share local happenings, group projects and events, discussions and to connect with local community groups. Please connect with us here <https://www.facebook.com/TransitionPortPhillip/> by Liking the page

- Forming a new committee. We welcome expressions of interest from locals who would like to contribute to guiding the future direction of the group. Please email transitiontownportphillip@gmail.com if this sparks your interest
- Participation in the 2016 Transition Convergence held in Melbourne, which brought together about fifteen Transition initiatives from Victoria and South Australia. It was a great opportunity to reconnect, exchange ideas and find out what's been happening in the world of Transition, here and abroad. We also heard from those who had attended the **Transition Network Conference** and **International Permaculture Conference**, which were held back to back in UK last year

We're pleased to be affiliated with Port Phillip EcoCentre, and look forward to an exciting year ahead!

<https://transitionnetwork.org>



Victorian Landcare Council

There are over 60,000 landcarers in Victoria and the Victorian Landcare Council represents and advocates for this community, with delegates from each of the 10 catchment regions forming the Council. We regularly hold our committee of management meetings in the EcoCentre. It is an ideal central location, close to public transport and not too difficult for parking.

Over the last 12 months we have held two major forums in regional Victoria, one in East Gippsland at Raymond Island, and the other at Dookie College near Shepparton. These forums are weekend affairs and give the local landcare community an opportunity to come together and discuss their projects and compare notes with others from across the state.

Our AGM was held recently in Melbourne with the CEO of the Environment Protection Agency providing the keynote address, discussing the recommendations of the recent independent review into the EPA and the potential role for citizen science to assist in expanding environmental monitoring. Not only can we see a role for landcare here, but it also seems that the EcoCentre would be ideally placed to be involved if this does occur.

The VLC has also just become a founding partner of the Victorian Take 2 Pledge for Climate Change.

www.vlc.org.au



Box: Native flowers, part of regenerated grassland in East Gippsland

Background: Raymond Island Forum participants inspecting sustainably managed grassland in East Gippsland



Major Partner

City of Port Phillip has provided the lease of our Council-managed building, and an annual grant to cover basic operational costs, providing a basis for us to generate additional external partners and income.

Major Funding

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

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

Victorian Government

- *Cleaner Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay Litter Hotspots: Turn off the Tap*
- *Well Waters*

Projects funding

Bayside City Council

City of Port Phillip

City of Stonnington

Glen Eira City Council

Kingston City Council

Elwood Community Bank Branch (Bendigo Bank)

Environmental Resource Management Foundation (ERM)

Hamer Sprout Fund

Kids Teaching Kids

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

- *Stewards of Elster Creek*
- *Komunitas Sayang Lingkungan Project*
- *Bayside Animalia: Action Learning Trail*

Public Records Office Victoria

Victoria International Container Terminal Community Investment Fund

Government agency collaborators

Coastcare Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA)

Melbourne Water

Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group

Parks Victoria

Sustainability Victoria

Victorian Litter Action Alliance



Affiliates

Animal Liberation Victoria
Australian Coastal Society
Australian Landcare International
Beach Patrol Australia
Christ Church Community Centre
Desert Discovery Inc.
Earthcare St Kilda
Earthsong
Elwood Floods Action Group
Friends of Port Melbourne
Foreshore
Friends of Westgate Park
Jewish Ecological Coalition
(JECO)
LIVE – Locals into
Victoria's Environment
Mammal Survey Group
of Victoria
Marine Care Ricketts Point
Mary & Basil Community Garden
OASES Community Learning Ltd
Port Melbourne Uniting Church
Port Phillip BUG Inc
(Bicycle Users' Group)
Port Phillip Community Group Ltd
St Kilda Community
Gardens Club Inc
St Kilda Indigenous
Nursery Co-Op
Transition Port Phillip
Veg Out
Victorian Landcare Council



Partner organisations

Our practical action is undertaken with local schools (too numerous to mention here) and in alliance with many collaborators including:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 3CR | Landcare Australia Limited |
| 3WBC | Latenite Films |
| 3RRR | Love Our Street 3184 |
| A Drop in the Ocean | Melbourne Down Under |
| Australian Marine Mammal Conservation Foundation | Melbourne Polytechnic |
| Bayside Community Nursery | MOOP Patrol |
| Bellarine Catchment Network | Pelican Expeditions & Saltwater Projects |
| Biofilta | PJT Green Plumbing |
| Boon Wurrung Foundation | Point Nepean Conservation Society |
| Brighton Sea Scouts | Port Phillip Housing Association |
| Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) | Polperro Dolphin Swims |
| Community Information Glen Eira | Rye Foreshore Advisory Group |
| Cool Australia | Sacred Heart Mission |
| Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre | Scab Duty |
| Environment Education Victoria | Schools Water Efficiency Program |
| Frankston City Council | Sea Life Trust - Ocean Youth |
| Friends of Elster Creek | Sea Shepherd Australia |
| Friends of Barwon Bluff | Southern Peninsula Flora and Fauna Association |
| Friends of McCrae Foreshore | Sustain: Australian Food Network |
| Friends of Williamstown Wetlands | Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Inc |
| Goodcompany | Trash Puppets |
| Gordon TAFE | Upper Yarra Landcare |
| Hobsons Bay City Council | Werribee Riverkeeper |
| Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network | Yarra Riverkeeper |
| Inner South Community Health Services | Waterkeeper Alliance |
| | Western Shorelines Network |

Community contributors

Arweet Carolyn Briggs
Dane Morrisy
Daniel Zisin
Michael Lutman, Lutman Films
Nicole Wheatley

Consultants

Anne Garrow
Blue Bike Solutions
Klyti Green
Lorina Norvegna, Architect
Andrew Smale, Wye Consulting
Steve Sinclair, AUSIDIVE
Dr Peter Streker,
Community Stars

Benefactors

The EcoCentre acknowledges with gratitude all supporters. Our work is made possible by your generous gifts. In particular we would like to recognise our major gifts from:

Brunner Foundation
Jewish Ecological Coalition
Crown Resorts and
Terracycle Australia
Keith and Debbie Badger
Jared Gottlieb

Committee of Management

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

Staff

April Seymore, Executive Officer
Neil Blake, Baykeeper Program Manager
Fam Charko, Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator
(*now Project Manager*)
Nikki Kowalczyk, Litter Hotspots Project Manager
Anthony Gallacher, Volunteer Coordinator
Andrea Eales, Schools and Early Learning Educator
Bronnie Walsh, Schools and Community Educator
Sharron Hunter, Schools and Early Learning Educator
Angela Andrews, Schools Educator
Peter Kelly, Schools Educator
Sarah Child, Schools Educator and Walk to School Coordinator
Gio Fitzpatrick, Youth Wildlife Ambassador
Nadav Zisin, Youth Programs Leader
Victoria Wasilewski, Snorkel Guide
Deb Punton, PPUFFN Project Officer
Sar Clarke, Admin Ninja
David Giles, IT Specialist
Fiona Second, Bookkeeper
Caroline Packham, Artist In Residence

EcoCentre Public Fund Managers

Louise Kyle
Michele Hodes
Nick Capes

Key Volunteers

Tim Naylor (EcoCentre Redevelopment Sub-Committee)
Deb Punton (Community Garden coordinator)
Emma McGlashan (Nurdle research team)
Cam Villani (Nurdle research team)
Ying Quek (Nurdle research team)
Tara Crowley (Admin Ninja)
Eva Marks (Seedlings)
Paula Havelberg (Garden group)
Stephen McInerney (Garden group)
Adrienne James (Garden group)
Eileen Ashe (Garden group)
Gill Upton (Wominjeka Garden)
Sam Poyas (Sustainable Schools fest)
Paul Muller (Artist in Residence)
Michelle Mason (Garden group)

Work Placements

Krysia Nowak
Kylie Rowe
Eranthos Beretta



Detailed income and expenditure statement for the year ended 30 June 2016

| | 2016 \$ | 2015 \$ |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Administer projects | 81,061 | 33,632 |
| City of Port Phillip grants | 295,768 | 181,600 |
| Commercial sponsors | - | 3,100 |
| Consulting | 80,646 | 60,178 |
| Donations | 18,452 | 118,049 |
| Interest | 6,047 | 1,781 |
| Membership | 2,205 | 2,796 |
| Other grants | 458,709 | 164,160 |
| Seminars & Education | 46,802 | 32,459 |
| Product sales | 6,630 | 9,597 |
| Sundry income | 30 | 701 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 996,350 | 608,053 |
| LESS: EXPENSES | | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 396,070 | 340,432 |
| Superannuation | 37,487 | 30,928 |
| Workcover | 6,302 | 5,351 |
| TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE | 439,859 | 376,711 |
| DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION EXPENSE | | |
| DEPRECIATION | 8,395 | 9,369 |
| TOTAL DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION EXPENSE | 8,395 | 9,369 |
| OTHER EXPENSE | | |
| Accounting and audit fees | 13,130 | 12,490 |
| Auspicings | 77,348 | 30,009 |
| Bank charges | 1,084 | 1,029 |
| Cleaning | 5,065 | 5,968 |
| Computer expenses | 2,521 | 2,087 |
| Consumables | 7,701 | 7,841 |
| Electricity | 2,166 | 1,533 |
| Insurance | 2,845 | 3,226 |
| Equipment and materials | 3,410 | 15,229 |
| Printing, postage and stationary | 3,263 | 4,009 |
| Professional services | 235,988 | 55,105 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 1,923 | 1,541 |
| Seminars and training | 4,239 | 3,633 |
| Sundry Expenses | 13,926 | 10,320 |
| Subscriptions | 1,927 | 4,671 |
| Telephone | 3,468 | 3,071 |
| TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE | 380,004 | 161,762 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | 828,258 | 547,842 |
| NET PROFIT/(LOSS) | 168,092 | 60,211 |



Statement of financial position 30 June 2015

| | 2016 \$ | 2015 \$ |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 403,805 | 312,720 |
| Trade and other receivables | 74,713 | 134,004 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 478,518 | 446,724 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Land and buildings | 235,428 | 241,465 |
| Plant and equipment | 7,075 | 9,533 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | 242,503 | 250,998 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 721,021 | 697,722 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Trade and other payables | 41,213 | 19,193 |
| Grants received in advance | 25,000 | 194,350 |
| Employee provisions | 27,896 | 25,359 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 94,109 | 238,902 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 94,109 | 238,902 |
| NET ASSETS | 626,912 | 458,820 |
| MEMBERS' FUNDS | | |
| Retained profits | 626,912 | 458,820 |
| TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY | 626,912 | 458,820 |

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2016

| | Retained Profits \$ | Total \$ |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Balance at 1 July 2015 | 458,820 | 458,820 |
| Increase in profit during the year | 168,092 | 168,092 |
| Balance at 30 June 2016 | 626,912 | 626,912 |
| | | |
| Balance at 1 July 2014 | 398,609 | 398,609 |
| Increase in profit during the year | 60,211 | 60,211 |
| Balance at 30 June 2015 | 458,820 | 458,820 |

Statement of Profit or Loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2016

| | 2016 \$ | 2015 \$ |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Revenue | 996,350 | 608,053 |
| Employee benefits expense | (439,859) | (376,711) |
| Depreciation and amortisation expense | (8,395) | (9,369) |
| Profit before income tax | 168,092 | 60,211 |
| Income tax expense | - | - |
| Other Expenses | (380,004) | (161,762) |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR | 168,092 | 60,211 |

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2016

| | 2016 \$ | 2015 \$ |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Receipts from customers | 968,873 | 765,688 |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | (883,835) | (610,112) |
| Interest received | 6,047 | 906 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 91,085 | 156,482 |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held | 91,085 | 156,482 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 312,720 | 156,238 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year | 403,805 | 312,720 |



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC**

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Committee of Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of management of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee of management's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee of management determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC**

Basis for Qualified Opinion

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

As mentioned in note 1(k) to the financial statements, accounting records are not available to substantiate buildings and plant and equipment amounting to \$283,017 cost and \$40,514 accumulated depreciation at balance date. Management has determined and is of the opinion that these assets exist and that the carrying value approximates the value in use. However, in the absence of a valuation and stocktake we are unable to ascertain the details and carrying amounts of these assets.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc as at 30 June 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc to comply with the financial reporting provisions of the Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



MSI RAGG WEIR
Chartered Accountants



L.S. WONG
Partner

Melbourne

1 August 2016



**COMPILATION REPORT TO
PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC**

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2016 of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc. The specific purpose for which the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement has been prepared is to provide detailed additional information relating to the performance of the entity that satisfies the information needs of the committee of management.

The Responsibility of the Committee of Management

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

Our Responsibility

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

Assurance Disclaimer

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

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

MSI Ragg Weir
MSI RAGG WEIR
Chartered Accountants

01 August 2016

PORT PHILLIP ECOCENTRE INC
ABN 66 852 809 680

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

We, Pamela O'Neil and Keith Badger, being members of the Committee of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc, certify that -

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc during the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2016.

Dated: 1 August 2016

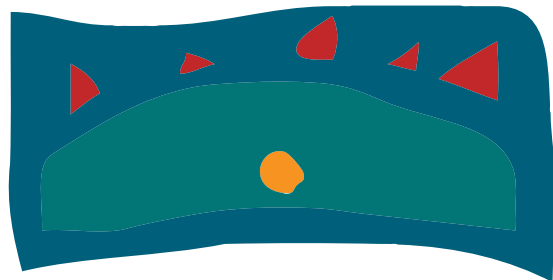
Pamela A O'Neil

Pamela O'Neil (President)

Keith Badger

Keith Badger (Treasurer)





P O R T P H I L L I P
ecocentre

Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc.

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

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

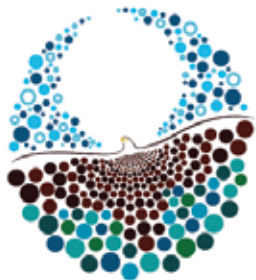
ph: (03) 9534 0670

e: info@ecocentre.com

w: www.ecocentre.com

ABN: 66 852 809 680

Incorporated Association No. A0038897K



Boon Wurrung Foundation



EcoCentre



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Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc is a Waste-Wise Organisation

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