



2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT



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The EcoCentre is an effective, efficient, inclusive and innovative organisation

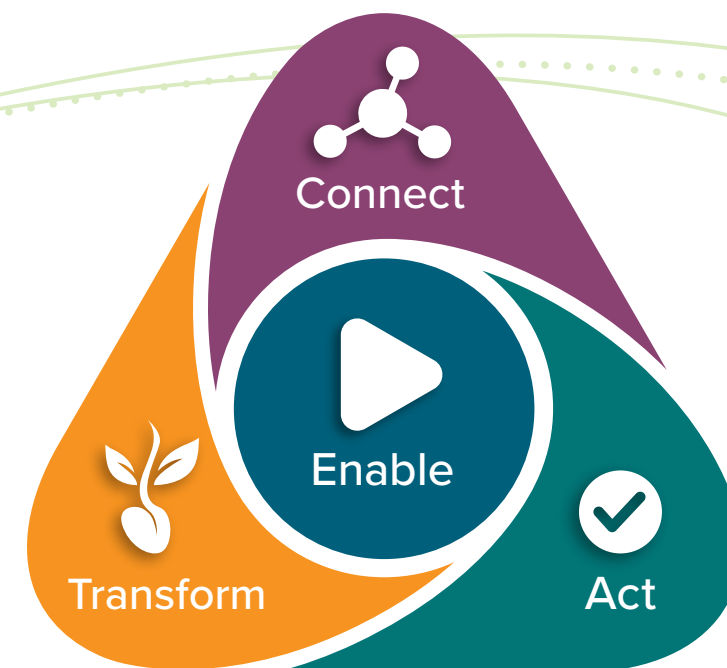
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Strategic Plan

Our theory of change and outcomes

We **connect** people to nature and each other, empowering groups and individuals to **act** with increasing momentum to **transform** systems.

- » Connect
- » Act
- » Transform
- » Enable

Our vision

A healthy, thriving and resilient planet where humans live in balance with the natural world.

Our purpose

We connect and inspire people to care for land, water, wildlife and wellbeing.

What we believe

- » Our climate and ecology are in crisis.
- » We must act together now.
- » Connected communities drive change.
- » Enhancing biodiversity is critical.
- » We must mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- » We must reduce waste and curtail overconsumption.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the First Peoples, in particular the Bunurong, Boonwurrung, Wathaurong and Wurundjeri language groups, the traditional and continuing custodians of the unceded lands and waters upon which EcoCentre activities occur. We uphold respect for Elders, and commit to caring for the land and children of Bunjil.

President's Report

I am extremely proud to present this 23rd Annual Report from the Port Phillip EcoCentre and commend to you the work and outcomes described within these pages.

It has been a dynamic year of learning and acting together, both online and across 128 postcodes in gardens, parks, coasts, classrooms, meeting rooms and at conferences and festivals.

Negotiating the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including significant lockdowns, continued to draw on our collective creativity, flexibility and compassion to revise programming and sustain critical climate action with our networks.

We worked with 13,816 activity participants, who after their experience reported that: 97% felt more connected to local nature, 87% connected with new people and groups, and 95% were inspired to take practical action following their participation. A further 80,400 service users accessed our digital resources or received advice.

During the past year, we facilitated meaningful time together in nature, including gathering for Multifaith Planting Days, walking the land with cultural and scientific educators, and joining up over 100 volunteer Beachkeepers who weeded, planted and conducted citizen science on local coastlines and dunes. Despite limitations created by the need to protect public health, more than 15,485 environmental volunteering hours were contributed across all programs.

More than 3,000 students and young people joined our education and youth volunteer programs,

representing 153 schools and early learning centres, as well as youth services and health organisations.

With the support of The Ian Potter Foundation, we expanded our Port Phillip Baykeeper work into a multiskilled Impact Team to leverage science, law and our deep community connections to create more effective plans and policies for environmental care.

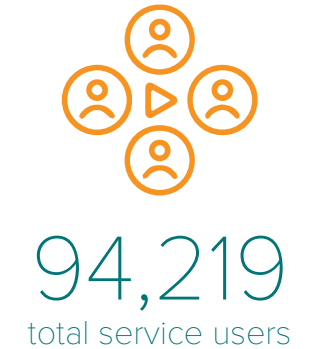
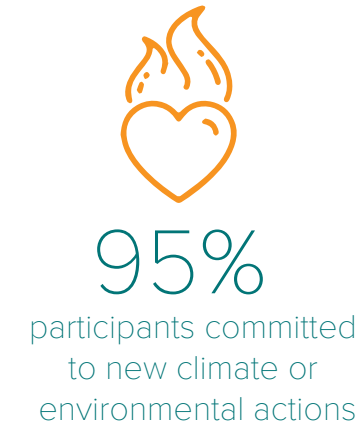
We developed and delivered a range of programs for the climate emergency and sustainability goals of councils, including the City of Port Phillip, Bayside City Council, and the City of Stonnington. We also collaborated on coastal care with the City of Kingston, Mornington Peninsula Shire and Hobsons Bay City Council.

We advanced research and mentored young people through partnerships with RMIT University, Monash University, University of Adelaide and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Our staff applied their scientific, legal and communications backgrounds to prepare evidence-based advocacy on behalf of the community, covering a range of topics, including plastic pollution, urban forests, urban planning, and the *Victorian Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022*.

With excitement, we worked closely with the Victorian Government and the City of Port Phillip to progress the new EcoCentre redevelopment, a 'world leadership' rated sustainable community hub in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens, which will triple our capacity. We invested in a new Community Action Manager to help us grow our offerings to meet demand and maximise our new facility. Meanwhile, we temporarily relocated across the road to the Cora Graves Centre with its spacious hall, community kitchen and meeting room for our Affiliates to convene.

So, a huge thank you to all of you who have worked with us in many different ways: through financial support, affiliation and strategic partnerships, advice, membership, volunteering and more.

Firstly, I would to thank the organisations and individuals who commissioned our services and expertise, provided grants or donated funds or other resources to the EcoCentre.



In particular, I would like to thank the City of Port Phillip, our major funder and partner that provides support for our programs and operations, the use of premises at peppercorn rent and is also jointly developing our new premises. Thanks too to other local councils with which we worked and to the State of Victoria for funding a number of key projects and for jointly funding the redevelopment of the EcoCentre.

The Ian Potter Foundation, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Pool of Dreams Fund, Ryan Cooper Family Foundation and members of the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network all generously provided advice and philanthropic resources, which allowed us to expand our programs, carry out new types of work and develop improved systems and outreach.

The Committee of Management is legally entrusted with the governance and financial management of the organisation and its members are all volunteers. They are highly skilled, experienced and knowledgeable people. I thank them all for their work, friendship and generosity. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the retirement of Dr Janie Maxwell, Laura Grant and Dr Lis Fenwick as committee members and to thank them for their work. Dr Lis Fenwick has been on the committee for 10 years, mostly as Vice-President. She brought high-level business and scientific experience to the organisation and expertly represented the organisation in many forums.

Thank you to all our partners and affiliate organisations. We have always been a proud community organisation that works closely with individuals and other organisations. Our list of

diverse partners on pages 28 and 29 testifies to this collaborative network.

Lastly, a special thanks to all the members of staff at the EcoCentre. The programs and the outcomes described in this report are testament to their expertise, innovation, dedication and friendliness. The Executive Officer, April Seymore, is an exemplary leader who inspires and efficiently leads the staff and manages the organisation, and I sincerely thank her for all her work and support.

As the impacts of the climate crisis become more evident, the work of the EcoCentre with the local community and partners has never been more important. I am proud to be part of 'team EcoCentre' as together we work for the environment, the people and other creatures of this world. Our longstanding motto, *Think global, act local*, takes on increasing significance and urgency.

Pam O'Neil

Pam O'Neil
President



connect



MAJOR FUNDERS



*People are connected
to nature and each other.*



What we achieved

We believe connected communities drive change. This year, EcoCentre programs inspired 97% of participants to feel more connected to the local environment, and helped 87% of participants to develop new social connections with individuals and groups.

Despite consecutive school years challenged by pandemic lockdowns and COVID-19 outbreaks, more than 3,000 school and kindergarten students, homeschoolers and young people engaged in EcoCentre education and youth programs, including **Nature Play** and **Excursions** ranging from **Online Snorkelling** with marine biologists to **Outdoor Connections** events conducted to survey, remove litter and increase native habitat across beaches and Parks Victoria parklands.

EcoCentre teachers developed custom citizen science fieldwork for Year 9s, and an original webinar for dozens of schools to prepare for species-spotting as part of Greater Melbourne's entry in the global **City Nature Challenge**. A 'learning-by-doing' approach introduced habitat creation and environmental monitoring through our **Corporate Volunteering** programs, **Community Garden Group** and creating the **Ecolibrium Exhibition** with the Photography Studies College.

Melbourne Nature & Neighbours supported culturally and linguistically diverse community members, and educators, to access nature-based volunteering including cultural, educational and physical safety resources for both activity participants and hosts.

The community joined **Walks on Country** with Boonwurrung educator Jaeden Williams of Bunjil's Bliik, gained perspective through **Deep Time Walks**, and considered the evolution of coasts with our Baykeeper, botanist and palaeontologist during **Open Nature**. Through the Speakers Program we shared science, stories, skills and calls to action with a diversity of audiences, at community gardens, town halls and festivals as well as online sessions joined by participants from across Victoria and the world.

Thank you to our donors and partner organisations who help us to connect people to nature and each other.



Create Dynamic Learning Models	Tailor Engagements	Highlight Inter-Connections	Practice Djilbruk (Respect)	Build Relationships
Develop and deliver unique place-based and digital curricula for formal and informal education	Engage a diversity of participants in relevant and inspiring programs tailored to their needs	Emphasise and demonstrate the interconnection between catchments, urban ecology, Port Phillip Bay and our daily lives	Work together with First Nations people to protect the environment, recognising their deep cultural connection to Country	Facilitate new opportunities for individuals and groups to work together
STRATEGY 1.1	STRATEGY 1.2	STRATEGY 1.3	STRATEGY 1.4	STRATEGY 1.5

Key Performance Indicators

	target	actual
Participants increased knowledge and awareness of ecosystems	89%	93%
Participants feel a greater connection to nature	87%	97%
Participants strengthen connections to people or community groups	70%	87%
Participants spent more time in nature as a result of their EcoCentre experience	87%	57%
Participants feel more part of a community because of the EcoCentre	4+ stories of change	✓

'We were so excited to be part of this holistic, community-based event. It was an exceptional opportunity for our students!'

- Melanie, Teacher,
Mungkarta Homelands Learning Centre

'I work nearby and visit St Kilda Beach, so it was enlightening to learn about the area many of us just take for granted.'

- Melbourne Nature & Neighbours participant

Nature Play and early years education


153
schools and ELCs engaged


720
teachers supported

Research demonstrates the health and psychological benefits for young people who regularly spend time playing outdoors. Designing *managed risk* into a child's play builds coordination, confidence and resilience while developing cognitive abilities.

EcoCentre **Nature Play** activities were on hold during pandemic restrictions and the face-to-face program restarted in March 2022. Our program immerses young children in sensory experiences with the living elements of their local environment at kindergartens, early learning centres (ELCs), the EcoCentre gardens or a local beach or reserve.

Nature Play activities are aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework, with our most popular being edible and indigenous gardens, sensory gardens and the miniature world of insects. We also commenced the delivery of the first two ELC biodiversity packages supported by the City of Stonnington, which included tailored ELC teacher training and biodiversity-focused incursions.





Education to empower students

By experiencing education in the world beyond the classroom, young people are shown to achieve improved attention, knowledge, motor skills and mental health; positively change their environmental behaviours and values; and grow their resilience to respond to changing conditions in their environment. These equip students to navigate the complexities of a world facing climate change.

Our popular **School Excursions** feature activities aligned with the Victorian Curriculum and Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths (STEAM) learning outcomes, both on the beach and in urban parks.

Our unique **Expert in Residence** program tailors environmental education across curriculum priorities at key year levels, drawing on local ecosystems and histories. Students and their teachers have an opportunity to explore knowledge, values and actions of sustainability across a diverse range of subjects and teaching modes. This year, we collaborated with Albert Park College to provide their Year 9 **Student Inquiry Citizen Science Program**, giving 254 students an opportunity to participate in a series of citizen science excursions delivered on Sandridge Beach, to monitor biodiversity and pollution.



*'I am a Nature Ambassador!
It occurred to me that people
are unaware of the beauty of
nature... Education is the key.'*

- Sienna, Grade 6





Melbourne Nature & Neighbours

Building on the findings of the *Victorians Volunteering for Nature* report published by the Victorian government, Melbourne Nature & Neighbours facilitated accessible nature-based volunteering tailored to Melbourne's diverse migrant communities, in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic, Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre and Stonnington Youth Services.

Connecting educators and volunteer groups, events were held to exchange cultural stories and understandings of 'nature', while learning specifically about our local role as part of urban ecosystems. Eleven events invited 378 newly arrived migrants and young people to volunteer at iconic Melbourne foreshores and parklands to cultivate a connection to place and community while caring for nature.

Delivery of pre-excursion online incursion workshops introduced key vocabulary and themes, creating rapport and trust with the multicultural students ahead of outdoor volunteering.



Excursion activities explored native plants and animals through citizen science, observation and identification, and revegetation working bees. This included learning about indigenous connections, the importance of urban habitat and foreshore ecology, and human impacts. Pathways to ongoing volunteering were highlighted at various sites by ambassadors from the EcoCentre, Westgate Biodiversity and Yarra Riverkeeper Association.

Sessions provided an immersive, practical and social experience for participants to create a sense of place and emotional connection with the environment of their new homeland.

'As students, we get to learn English skills ... and moreover, we are touched by their genuine kindness [and] therefore willing to pass it on to people around us. The students got to know many related organisms and plants. We have benefited a lot from this event and felt we expanded our knowledge about Australia. During lunch, the students shared with the group the food they prepared. The atmosphere was very cheerful ...

'Although the day's activities are over, the joy still remains within the group. We spent a very happy, beautiful and meaningful day.'

— Zhicheng,
Adult Migrant English Program,
Melbourne Polytechnic

To negotiate childcare and work schedule conflicts, programs were timed to integrate with and complement existing commitments, such as Australia's Adult Migrant English Program. Transport was provided, and jointly created curriculum support activities are now available free through Cool Australia.

This project was funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). It builds on the EcoCentre's ongoing collaboration with educators, health care, community groups and youth service providers to create a sense of place for migrants, and to provide inclusive environmental volunteering and career pathways in our multicultural city.

'Highly informative and engaging. I got to learn a lot about pollution, native plants and wildlife. Staff did a great job of making everyone feel welcome and I left the event feeling so inspired and invigorated!'

— Destiny,
Youth Action for the Yarra participant





The rise of online networks and speaking opportunities during COVID-19 lockdowns led the EcoCentre team to make new connections with cross-sectoral organisations that share our values, including a number of healthcare, cultural and youth service organisations. As our partnership with Headspace Bentleigh developed, they secured a Parks Victoria Volunteering Innovation Fund grant to jointly develop a 10-week vocational training and volunteering program for a small group of young people.

The Victorian Government featured the program as a case study for National Volunteer Week 2022.

Healing power of nature motivates next generation of environmental volunteers

Creating bird boxes, planting at the new Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve and providing food for the little penguins of St Kilda Pier are just some of the ways young volunteers engage in a pioneering new partnership between Port Phillip EcoCentre and youth mental health service, Headspace.

The EcoCentre is a not-for-profit that promotes self-development and sense of community through environmental sustainability and community action.

A collaboration between Headspace Bentleigh and the EcoCentre, with support from Parks Victoria,

the 10-week partnership program provides opportunities for young people to volunteer in nature and explore their connection to land, identify possible career opportunities and establish pathways for future environmental volunteering.

Tasma, an Urban Planning university student from South Yarra, said she enjoyed volunteering with the program and immersing herself in nature each week.

‘The EcoCentre is such an awesome organisation with many knowledgeable people and engaging activities,’ Tasma said.

Like many other young people, Tasma asserts being in and volunteering for nature improves her overall health and wellbeing.

‘My passion for environmental volunteering stems from my love and care for nature – being in and volunteering for nature improves my wellbeing and sense of achievement in life,’ she said.

‘My hope for the future is that everyone does their part to actively take care of nature and to achieve a sustainable future.’

After completing the program, Tasma was inspired to continue giving her time by becoming a volunteer with the Stonnington Youth Services’ Expressions Program, helping with events aimed at youth aged 12 to 25 years, with a focus on diversity in the Stonnington Council community.

Reprinted with permission from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning



How Nethmi re-connected to nature and identity



Nethmi Nagahulla was appointed to our team of **Multicultural Bay Ambassadors** over the summer of 2021–2022. Nethmi says, ‘When I heard that the purpose of the program was to include people of culturally diverse backgrounds who were passionate about the environment, I immediately applied.’

‘I am ethnically from Sri Lanka, my parents and my older sister were born in Sri Lanka, but I was born in Australia and raised in New Zealand.

The older I got, and the more times I visited Sri Lanka, the more I realised how in touch with nature the people are in my homeland.’

‘I strongly believe that education is the first step to change, so I was thrilled to learn so many new things while training with my three fellow Ambassadors. It was not only informative but so much fun to put ourselves in nature and use our observations and our mentor Reiko Yamada’s knowledge to learn new things about the environment around us.’

‘I loved the idea of people sharing their journeys in Melbourne (Naarm), and linking those journeys back to how their cultures connect them with nature.’

Each summer, Multicultural Bay Ambassadors apply for three months of fieldwork training, one-on-one professional mentoring, and group workshops on how to design, facilitate and evaluate an event. Together with EcoCentre staff, they consider possible improvements to

increase inclusiveness in environmental education and volunteering. Ambassadors each receive a budget to devise and deliver events.

‘I taught participants the history of St Kilda West Beach and the First Nations people that rightfully own the land, and the science behind the landscape and the flora. Then I let them go off by themselves to immerse themselves in nature; to just exist, observe and think. While doing this, they collected natural objects that they felt drawn to and created mini nature landscapes.’

Participants loved the atmosphere and evaluation showed that community greatly enjoyed the event. ‘...Nethmi spoke from the heart, evoking such deep passion for the land on which we walk’ wrote one participant. ‘Informative in delivery, and made sure everyone felt welcome and included. Interacting hands-on with the very land we were learning about was a nice touch.’

Reflecting on her experience, Nethmi says, ‘I used to feel out of place. I didn’t know if I was fully Sri Lankan, or fully Australian or even fully Kiwi. But the EcoCentre accepted me and my ideas, so that uncertainty disappeared and instead I embraced all the different cultures I had been exposed to in my life. And that helped me reconnect with nature around me and understand myself.’





MAJOR FUNDERS



*Individuals and groups
take action to mitigate
climate change and protect
the environment.*

What we achieved



Learning, volunteering and evolving together sustains our network to protect our land, waterways, wildlife and wellbeing in this climate-critical decade. This year we collaborated with community volunteers and naturalists, schools, councils and state government, researchers, the dive industry, multifaith groups and organisations like Zoos Victoria and Melbourne Polytechnic, for innovative activities contributing over 15,400 environmental volunteer hours.

As gathering restrictions lifted, we facilitated meaningful time together in nature, digging in at **Multifaith Planting Days** co-hosted with Earthcare and Citywide, building pollinator and penguin habitat through **Corporate Volunteering** programs, and events with over 100 volunteer **Port Phillip Beachkeepers** who weeded, planted and conducted citizen science on local beaches and dunes.

The EcoCentre shared inclusive volunteering tools and tips with fellow organisations at the **Grow Environmental Volunteer Management Conference 2021** and **Coastcare Volunteer Forum 2022**. With the support of the Victorian Government, we developed **Melbourne Nature & Neighbours**, a suite of educational nature-based excursions and resources for students of Australia's Adult Migrant English Program, to experience culturally inclusive volunteering.

To scale up climate action, we equipped and mentored new leaders, including youth from Lord Somers Camp and Power House, teenage clients at Headspace through the **NatureSpace** project, and diverse emerging professionals appointed as **Multicultural Bay Ambassadors**. The EcoCentre **Teachers' Environment Network (TEN)** and **Early Years Workshops** built skills through on-ground and online professional development with 357 teachers from across the region. Students from 17 schools (as well as homeschool families) exchanged leadership and sustainability skills and heard from inspiring keynote speakers aged 10–14 at the **16th Annual School Sustainability Festival**.

Our free webinars trained EcoCentre members on **Ethical Investment**, **Green Energy Literacy** and **Gardens for Wildlife**. Our resident marine palaeontologist Ben Francischelli also developed a one-of-a-kind lecture series on **The Rise and Fall of Megafauna** of our region, with viewers tuning in from around the globe, and two special versions were recorded for Coastcare's **Summer by the Sea** website.

Qualified educators delivered workshops, panel presentations and field excursions to the inspiring participants of **Port Phillip Enviro Champions**, **Bayside Youth Climate Leadership** and the **Zoos Victoria Youth Leadership** program. The EcoCentre also became the host venue for local **Climate Conversations**, new alumni meetups for Port Phillip and Stonnington community leadership courses, as well as the **South Eastern MP Engagement Group** led by Climate for Change volunteers.

EcoCentre scientists and educators continue delivering program support for the climate emergency and sustainability goals of many councils, including City of Port Phillip, Bayside City Council and City of Stonnington. We collaborated on coastal care with City of Kingston, Mornington Peninsula Shire and Hobsons Bay City Council, as well as assessing modules completed by **ResourceSmart Schools** located across councils and shires in the east of Greater Melbourne.

continued...



The **St Kilda Repair Cafe** passed its thousandth repair mission, with nearly two tonnes of items saved from landfill to date. The volunteers of the roving **St Kilda Bike Kitchen** added bike repair and tune-up tutorials to the monthly Repair Cafe sessions.

Training up **Pest Seastar Rapid Response Teams**, ready for deployment when mass pest aggregations are spotted, demonstrated what is possible when community volunteers, state and local government, scientists and the dive industry collectively pool

each group's unique resources to respond to pest aggregations. With the support of Victorian Government, we published a beautiful update to our *Best Practice Guide to Pest Seastar Removal in Port Phillip Bay*.

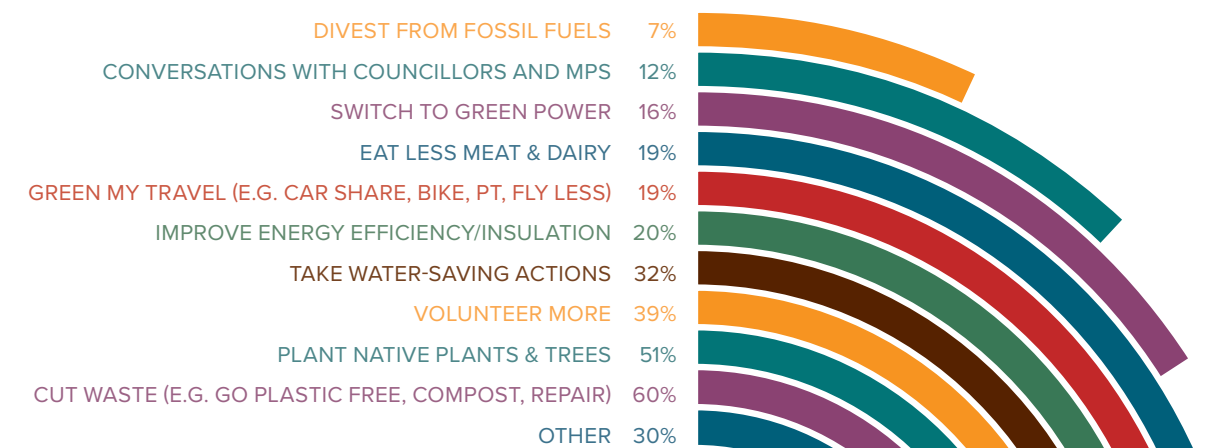
Thank you to our donors and diverse partner organisations who help us empower individuals and groups to take action to mitigate climate change and protect the environment.



Key Performance Indicators

	target	actual
Increased volunteer numbers and hours through EcoCentre programs	5% increase p.a.	+12% increase
Participants gained skills or confidence as a result of their EcoCentre experience	70%	95%
Types of climate and environmental actions taken by individuals and groups as a result of EcoCentre programs	TBE	95% Take action
Participants have sustained changes in their lives/communities to improve our climate or environment	87% 4+ Stories of Change	74%

As a result of their EcoCentre experience,
95% of participants
 identified climate and environmental actions
 to undertake (as individuals or part of their group).



What type of follow-up action does EcoCentre participation inspire?

Student and Teacher Leadership

Our award-winning **Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS)** program trained 177 students from seven primary and secondary schools. Graduates completed a term-long program involving hands-on leadership and environmental behavioural change, culminating in student-led projects, ranging from taking actions to care for Port Phillip Bay to improving habitat for wildlife in school grounds, and developing an emissions-busting School Climate Action Plan.

Thanks to the City of Port Phillip and Bayside City Council for providing scholarships to participating TLfS schools. Thanks also to St Michael's Grammar School for embedding the program into their annual Year 4 curriculum to help support local wildlife habitat, both on campus and in local reserves. Using TLfS as a successful pilot program linking students with their local community and public spaces, the school was inspired to develop other community program partnerships for their entire upper primary teaching levels.

'Partnership with the Port Phillip EcoCentre is now an integral part of our year long, inquiry-based Year 4 Signature Program. The children so look forward to their weekly walk to the St Kilda Botanic Gardens.'

The program is carefully crafted to reflect student interest and needs, and the EcoCentre team work with our staff to maximise learning opportunities for our students. The result is an action-focussed unit of inquiry that makes a difference for our local community'

– Emma Phillips,
Director Years 4-6, St Michael's Grammar

'We are so excited to get going with our follow-up projects – What a fantastic program to empower young people to take action in their local community and inspire others to do the same!'

– Year 3/4 Teacher,
St Kilda Park Primary School

Our popular **Teachers' Environment Network (TEN)** continued to provide and share environmental curriculum resources and foster supportive networks among teachers interested in sustainability at all education levels. Membership grew to 720 educators (a 32% increase on last year), indicating a keen interest from teachers in professional development sessions, both online and in person.



Educators participate in social-distanced training workshop about minimising waste, after touring a suburban 'tiny house'

Professional development participants mainly hailed from the City of Port Phillip and Bayside region, and we also enjoyed skill-sharing with teachers from City of Stonnington and City of Glen Eira, educators from Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and CERES Environment Park, the Catholic Education Office and the Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning. Topics included carbon-neutral schools, Port Phillip Bay, tackling waste on campus and hands-on biodiversity in the curriculum. Following each TEN workshop, classroom teaching resources were available on the EcoCentre blog page.

'A really comprehensive session and great to hear from expert speakers. The EcoCentre facilitator did a great job of asking questions that related back to the teaching environment, and created a warm and friendly environment.'

– Primary teacher,
Teachers' Environment Network participant

A teacher training program tailored for secondary college geography teachers was hosted at the EcoCentre by Canopy of Care presented by Peter Lindner, Baykeeper Neil Blake OAM and supported by the EcoCentre Education Team, in collaboration with Polperro Dolphin Swims, to inspire care for the Bay through education.

We continued to celebrate and elevate student and teacher environmental and climate leadership with our **16th School Sustainability Festival (SSF)** themed *Local action, global impact*. We are proud to annually present Victoria's longest running festival celebrating student leadership and action. This event strengthens and deepens our school sustainability network through students and teachers showcasing their achievements, networking, sharing tools and supporting each other.

Pandemic restrictions required a second year of SSF online, however, this allowed us to expand our reach right across Australia – with participation from homeschool families and a workshop led by students at an Indigenous school in Tennant Creek, remote Northern Territory! The expanded festival had five digital spaces for breakout workshops, keynote speeches by inspiring kids, and an interactive learning gallery.

Festival funding support was provided by the City of Port Phillip and Bayside City Council and we also thank our festival partners Reptile Encounters, Roots & Shoots Australia and Eventful Learning.

 Trained **357** educators from **182** schools and organisations



Firbank Grammar ask 'What is energy and how can we take action on climate change?'

Through Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS), Year 4 students at Firbank Grammar's Sandringham campus worked with EcoCentre teacher Alex Hoffman to deepen their knowledge of energy and take action on climate change. The students began by exploring the meaning of sustainability, by first learning about the different types of resources we take from the earth for different products in a resource/product matching activity.

Students then learned about different forms of energy and how we can harness and transform energy, including learning about how coal-fired power stations transform coal into electricity to charge our phones. Building on this understanding, students then sought to understand the role of fossil fuels in climate change. They enjoyed kinesthetic learning through a costumed performance acting out global warming.

Through various team building and leadership activities, the students collectively decided to investigate options for reducing school electricity use. 'Energy Detectives' conducted an energy audit of the school, using power meters, lux readers and thermometers to understand where there were opportunities to reduce power consumption.

Students were surprised to learn that heating consumed the largest amount of energy, whereas the school lights, which had all been converted to LED in previous years, were quite energy-efficient.

Students determined key actions to implement education and behaviour change at school around energy use, as well as proposing the introduction of nominated Energy Monitors to continue to collect data and provide feedback to other students and staff.

'We could see students gain a meaningful understanding of energy,' said Alex. 'They tested and taught others which actions would create the biggest benefits. Many EcoCentre schools that collect data for their climate action planning have cut up to 50% of their emissions. At Firbank, having students in grade 4 take the lead was really inspiring!'



St Kilda Repair Cafe

At the St Kilda Repair Cafe (SKRC), we continued to help Melbourne to upskill and reduce landfill. The global Repair Café movement organises volunteer fixers and menders who offer their time and skills to help make repairs possible, free of charge. The Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO) and the EcoCentre co-host a monthly SKRC led by skilled volunteers on the second Sunday of every month.

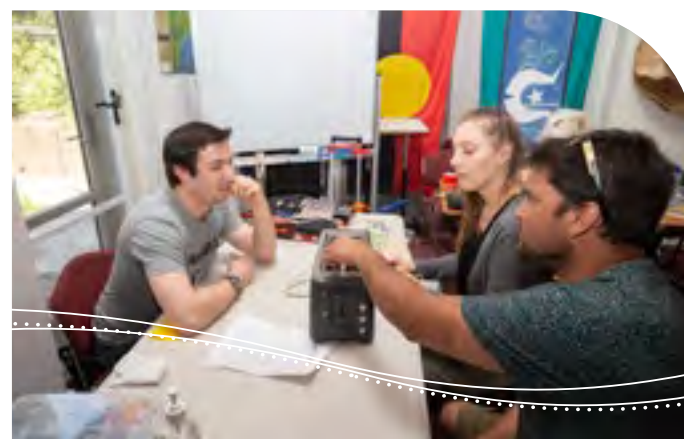
Anyone can receive a free practical tutorial on how to repair just by bringing their broken household items to the cafe.

In our fifth year of hands-on repair workshops, despite limited ability to host events, repairers surpassed 1,000 objects serviced, and nearly two tonnes of waste were diverted from landfill. The majority of items repaired at the cafe are still electrical, however, there is now a steady stream of sewing machine and mechanical repairs.

The 'Right to Repair' movement aims to change legal barriers to product repair. SKRC Coordinator John Hillel was interviewed by media covering this movement, and the EcoCentre made a written submission to the Productivity Commission's Right to Repair Inquiry in 2021.

The SKRC continued to be powered by donations and incredible volunteers who delivered hundreds of hours of repair time despite a year severely restricted by social distancing. Special thanks to the Australian Government Volunteer Grants for supporting the purchase of equipment to expand the repairs outdoors safely, making the sessions COVID-safe despite adverse weather conditions.

If you would like to volunteer your time and skills in future, please email stkilda.repaircafe@gmail.com.



Pest Seastar Community Rapid Response Teams

Northern Pacific seastars are a nationally significant marine pest and a major threat to the marine ecosystems of Port Phillip Bay. Since 2019, several mass aggregations of Northern Pacific seastars have abruptly appeared in different locations. While these aggregations attract widespread community concern, the removal is often done by only a handful of volunteers and without a regional strategy.

This EcoCentre project, funded by the Victorian Government, aimed to establish a cross-sectoral network to facilitate rapid community responses to marine pest outbreaks, and activate and support volunteers to protect the Bay.

The project steering committee consisted of representatives from Agriculture Victoria, local governments, Parks Victoria, the Victorian National Parks Association, and community groups and community members who have extensive experience in Northern Pacific seastar removals. To our knowledge, this is the first time that a cross-sectoral group that includes the community has been formed around the issue of marine pests in the Bay.

The project created five Community Rapid Response

Teams, covering all the Bay's beaches, with team leaders appointed, fisheries permits secured and volunteers trained to correctly identify Northern Pacific seastars and clean up potential aggregations. The project Facebook group has 71 volunteers who are all trained to join the Response Team in their local area when an aggregation call-out is posted.

Four volunteers were trained as snorkel instructors and will be able to safely guide snorkellers to help with in-water pest removals. We also updated our 2013 *Best Practice Guide for Northern Pacific Seastar Removal in Port Phillip Bay*, to advise on improved procedures for community members who hold seastar removal permits.

The citizen science component of the project aims for insight into aggregation behaviours, as well as to identify which native molluscs are preyed on and impacted.

The Port Phillip Bay Fund has granted further support to continue this project through 2024, adding two more pests to the Rapid Response Teams' identification and removal skillset.





Community Gardening and Greening

Cities, suburbs and coasts play an important role in biodiversity. EcoCentre programs extend beyond community plantings to collaborate with community groups, volunteers and land managers to support landscapes that restore indigenous habitat, filter stormwater, stabilise coastlines, cool temperatures and beautify and balance our urban ecosystems.

The **Port Phillip Beachkeepers** project coordinated more than 100 volunteers to learn about the role of healthy coasts in a healthy climate, and to join weeding bees, revegetation and citizen science monitoring, at events along Port Phillip's foreshore from Middle Park to St Kilda.

'Great explanations of vegetation types and plastic litter. Cheerful, informative volunteering!'

— Beachkeepers volunteer

Growing and planting together with our neighbours also offers a range of social and health benefits, particularly in a year of continued disruption, isolation and uncertainty. This year, 38% of our gardening



volunteers reported that the pandemic had a big impact on their social connections, income and physical and/or mental health. Research suggests that being part of a cohesive community, participating in community life and meaningful relationships can counteract adverse health effects. Indeed, surveys showed that 87% of EcoCentre participants in our community gardening and greening have an improved sense of belonging and wellbeing.

Every Friday, the **Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network (PPUFFN)** and **Community Gardening Group** continued to adapt by using phone chats, Zoom meet-ups and paired exercise walks in-place, until restrictions allowed a return to gardening and cooking meals as a group.

In March 2022, the EcoCentre relocated to Cora Graves Community Centre in preparation for the EcoCentre redevelopment. A collaborative and inclusive approach has paved the way for a smooth transition, which included saving plants and compost from the historical EcoCentre garden. The Cora Graves outdoor spaces provide an excellent opportunity to learn about small-space gardening and sustainable gardening methods, and the group has been involved in the site analysis, design stages and planting plans for edible and indigenous plants. Two volunteers generously nominated the EcoCentre to receive two local grants for equipment, plants and materials to support new gardens and community habitat creation.

'The EcoCentre and my fellow gardeners are a sheer delight. We are an interesting and kind group of people that enjoy being together. To work, to chat and to share lunch. To make a difference together.'

— Garden Group volunteer



'Despite the difficulties of COVID, we have managed to connect though telephone and Zoom and then at the garden when it was possible.'

The garden is a place where people from all walks of life connect and share their time and experience.

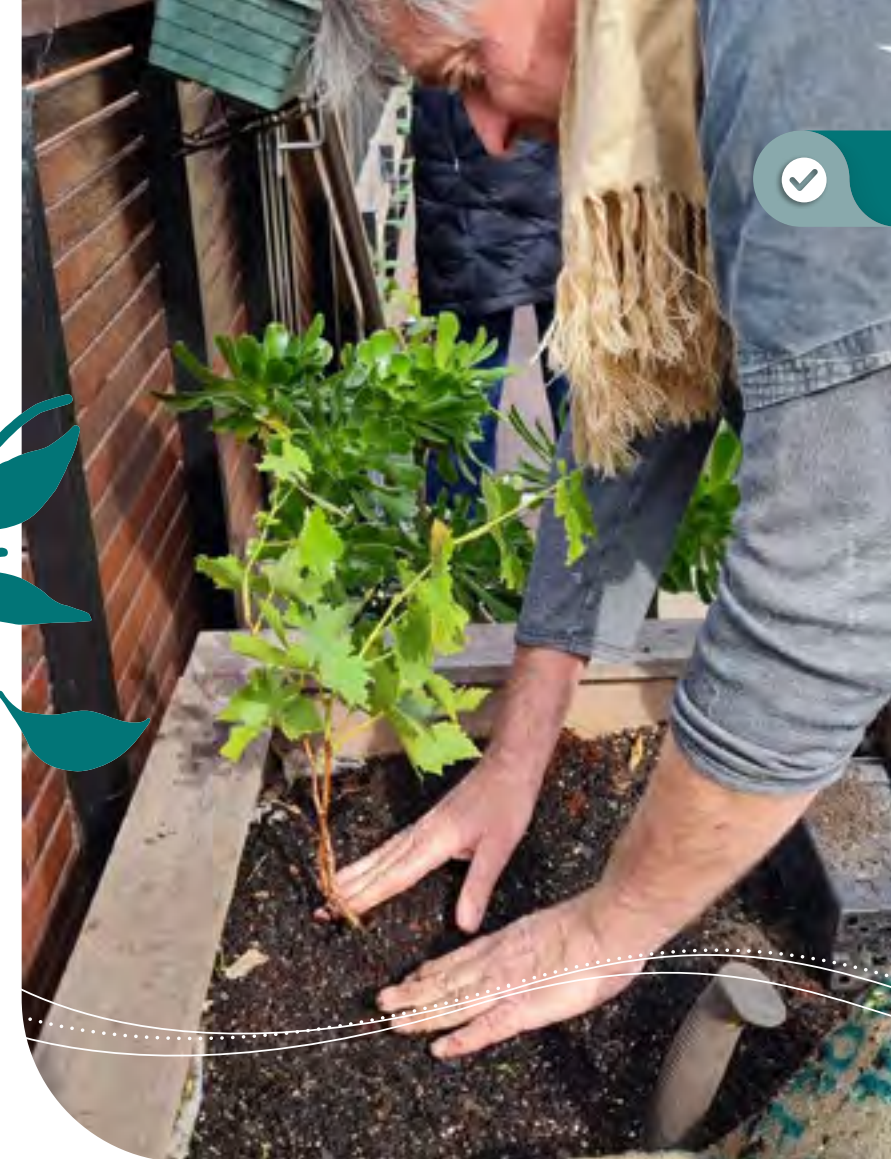
It feels like a kind of family.'

— Garden Group volunteer

Outreach gardening included a citizen science biodiversity study investigating the planned **Bothwell Street Biolink**, and a visit to **Veg Out Community Gardens** to experience another shared productive patch in action.

A new partnership with **Friends of the Redgum Triangle** saw us joining them for their working bees, which facilitated learning more about local indigenous plants, revegetation techniques and Traditional Owners. Monthly working bees also enabled learning and helping out at the crisis accommodation to contribute to the beautiful Community Garden at **Salvation Army Youth Services**.

We are extra thankful to the volunteers who included the EcoCentre as part of their lockdown exercise walk and dropped in to feed the worms or water



the gardens, tending to our living garden patch until our on-site group working bees could resume. Many members of the wider community shared how special it was for them to walk through our Community Garden, exploring or meditating during the challenges of extended lockdown.

The community gardening and greening programs were funded by City of Port Phillip, CommBank and South Melbourne Community Chest, and supported by a network of passionate community organisations.



3,300
native flora planted



87%
of our volunteers feel
greater belonging
& wellbeing



Multifaith and Multicultural Coastcare

All Victorians depend on a healthy environment; however, nature-based volunteering and professions do not yet reflect the diversity of all Victorians. The **Multifaith and Multicultural Coastcare** project was funded by Coastcare Victoria to help engage with culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD) who may face language or logistical barriers to joining Coastcare activities, and to improve **EcoCentre programs and organisational practices for equity and inclusiveness.**

Multicultural Bay Ambassadors joined our team for four months to build their professional skills, their network and knowledge of *Naarm* (the Boonwurrung word for Port Phillip Bay). Catalina Mardones Martinez, Jiani Zhang, Justine Nikiciuk, and Nethmi Nagahulla trained through fieldwork and event facilitation, under mentorship from Reiko Yamada.

Coastal and marine volunteering was introduced to new communities through 10 volunteer events co-designed with the Ambassadors, cultural leaders and the Port Phillip Multifaith Network. More than 190 volunteers participated in events such as citizen science, nature play, multilingual story hour, coastal 'walk and draw' nature journaling, as well as coastal clean-ups and revegetation bees.

'The event was very approachable and inclusive. It encouraged our family to think about volunteering.'

— Rachel,
Event participant

Multilingual animations produced by university students last year helped tell ecological stories that are difficult to directly witness in nature. The educational storyboard and animations were produced by the students working with EcoCentre marine biologists, with French, Spanish and Arabic voiceovers provided by volunteers. In future, we hope to fund professional animation of these clips, which include stories of *The Bottom of the Bay* and *Short-finned Eels*.

This project helped collect, apply and disseminate feedback to improve inclusive practices at the EcoCentre and our wider networks of volunteer groups, including a presentation at the 2021 Grow Conference for Environmental Volunteer Managers across Victoria.



How lending a hand to birds bonded Keshia's team



Each year, corporate volunteers join the EcoCentre to remove pollutants, build habitat and collect critical scientific data to protect native species.

At Toyota Australia, employees are granted one day of paid leave to undertake a volunteer activity. This commitment enables employees to meaningfully contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals and society by participating in community and philanthropic activities. Additionally, says Keshia Warland from Toyota's People and Culture Team, 'a group coming together with a shared sense of purpose can create a real difference and a strong bond.'

Keshia's team selected the **Urban Wildlife Conservation Day** from the EcoCentre's iconic **Corporate Volunteering** experiences. For this program, Toyota staff gathered at Westgate Park in Port Melbourne. They first explored the revegetated parkland guided by Westgate Biodiversity staff, sharing facts about the flora, fauna and wetlands. A highlight was a tiny baby long-neck turtle greeting the group!

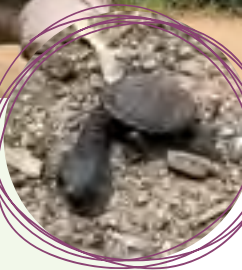
The group then rolled up their sleeves with Sharron and Nadav from the EcoCentre, working in teams to construct custom nest boxes for red-rumped parrots and eastern rosellas which are both hollow-dependent wildlife.

'The EcoCentre team were incredibly helpful in organising our volunteering,' says Keshia. 'Helping out doesn't always require great effort, a lot of money, or infinite resources; sometimes it's lending a hand, or even creating an awareness that wasn't previously there.'

'The team was definitely more bonded after... Everyone was sharing stories about their favourite part of the day, and people felt more comfortable with each other as a result.'

Tree hollows can take up to 100 years to form, so hollow-based habitat is less abundant in urbanised areas lacking mature trees. The nest boxes constructed by the team were installed in Westgate Park and Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve to support native birds.

'There is always an opportunity to help,' Keshia reflected, 'and it's usually right under your nose!'





How Annie's gap year built behind-the-scenes insights

18-year-old Annie Lang was almost through the Bayside Youth Sustainability Leaders program in early 2022 when the idea sparked: why not volunteer at the EcoCentre? Her interest was piqued after meeting Alex and April facilitating different guest workshops for the leadership program.

'Volunteering at the Port Phillip EcoCentre during my gap year has been an invaluable experience,' says Annie, who began a range of weekly activities including answering enquiries, conducting citizen science, joining plantings, workshops and the School Sustainability Festival.

'Not only have I learnt about the importance of Port Phillip Bay for our ecosystem, but I've also been provided with endless opportunities to engage in sustainability and advocacy such as writing letters to Members of Parliament and collecting data to be submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority.'

'I've realised the importance of creating a connected and educated community to foster positive attitudes towards the environment.' Annie noticed that environmental protection requires both information and pathways to take action together.

'I realised that activities entail a lot more effort and 'behind the scenes' work than imaginable, and consequently combine to create effective and productive events.'

'For me, a notable change was a sense of community connection as a result of interacting with passionate people regarding our similar interests. Events such as the Beachkeepers of the Tea Tree allowed me to learn, and see tangible results of my work, all whilst interacting with people from diverse cultures.'

In addition to hands-on skills like ecological monitoring and plant propagation, Annie feels 'endless gratitude for new facilitation skills and behaviour change strategies to apply through my lifetime.'

'For me, a notable change was a sense of community connection as a result of interacting with passionate people regarding our similar interests. Events such as the Beachkeepers of the Tea Tree allowed me to learn, and see tangible results of my work, all whilst interacting with people from diverse cultures.'

- Annie Lang
Port Phillip EcoCentre Volunteer





MAJOR FUNDERS



Our partnerships and networks drive positive systemic environmental changes.



What we achieved

The EcoCentre is more than an organisation; it is a constellation of action and expertise. This past year expanded our research, advocacy, networks and knowledge-sharing, to build cross-sectoral capacity for meeting the decade's water, biodiversity, waste and emissions-reduction imperatives.

With the support of The Ian Potter Foundation, we expanded our Port Phillip Baykeeper work into a multiskilled Impact Team to leverage science, law and our deep community connections to create more effective plans and policies for environmental care. The team's first focus is **Shaping Best Practice under new Victorian Environmental Laws** and establishing **Citizen Science Fit for Legal Use**.

We continued **Futureproofing Port Phillip Baykeeper** by consolidating existing Baykeeper knowledge, expanding citizen science resources and position papers, and engaging our vast networks to identify issues affecting the health of the Bay.

The EcoCentre participated in **strategic panels for ecosystem-scale solutions**, such as Elster Creek Catchment flood management, and coastal management of the Bellarine Peninsula. Our staff applied their scientific, legal and communications backgrounds to prepare **evidence-based advocacy** on behalf of community, covering a range of topics, including plastic pollution, urban forests, urban planning, the Victorian Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022 and the Australian 'product stewardship' schemes that consider how to repurpose materials towards a circular economy to avoid waste.

For the third year, we hosted a monthly online **peer-learning network for Australian Waterkeeper organisations** and fellow water protectors from community, academic and water management sectors. On behalf of these Australian water protectors, we participated in work to compare water laws around the world with the US Clean Water Act 1972.

Together, we advanced research in the marine environment, improved science communications and mentored emerging professionals through partnerships with universities including RMIT University, Monash University, Deakin University, University of Adelaide and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. This work ensured researchers and other stakeholders, like angling clubs and divers, connected around the table. It was an honour to be part of the **Citizen Science Collective**, a cross-sectoral group advising the development of the Victorian Government's forthcoming inaugural Citizen Science Strategy.

We distilled **principles for climate emergency response** with the Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN). Our Executive Officer moderated the **Macnamara Candidates Forum on Climate Change and Energy** organised by PECAN prior to the federal election.

Thank you to our donors and partner organisations who support the EcoCentre to develop partnerships and networks that drive positive systemic environmental changes.



Drive Research

Conduct research and citizen science with community and research institutions

STRATEGY 3.1

Build Networks

Connect our Affiliates and partners, extend collaborations, and leverage collective expertise

STRATEGY 3.2

Advocate for Change

Forge partnerships, consult and advocate to influence government policies, legislation and practices

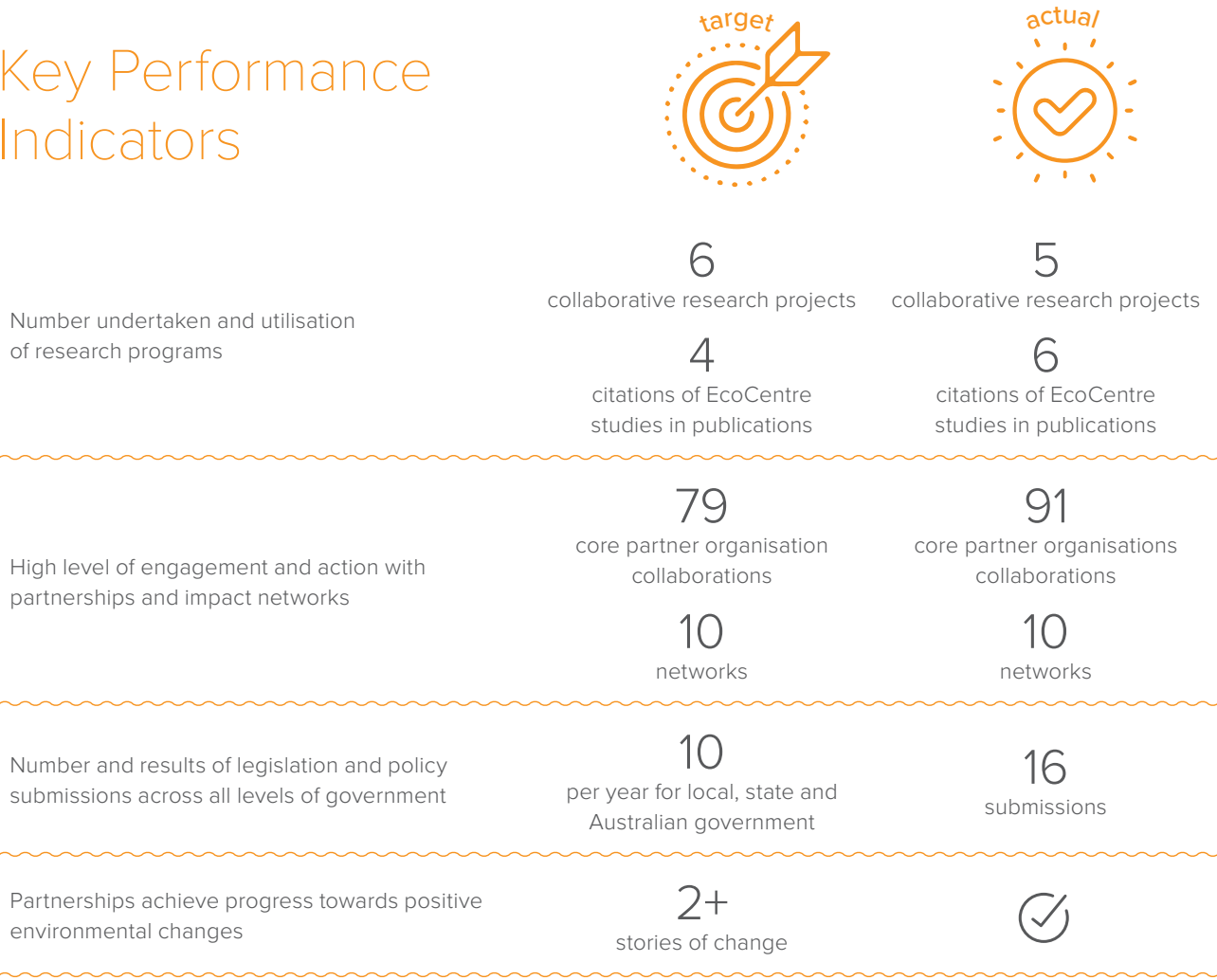
STRATEGY 3.3

Amplify Voices

Aggregate and share knowledge, evidence and stories with stakeholders and decision-makers

STRATEGY 3.4

Key Performance Indicators

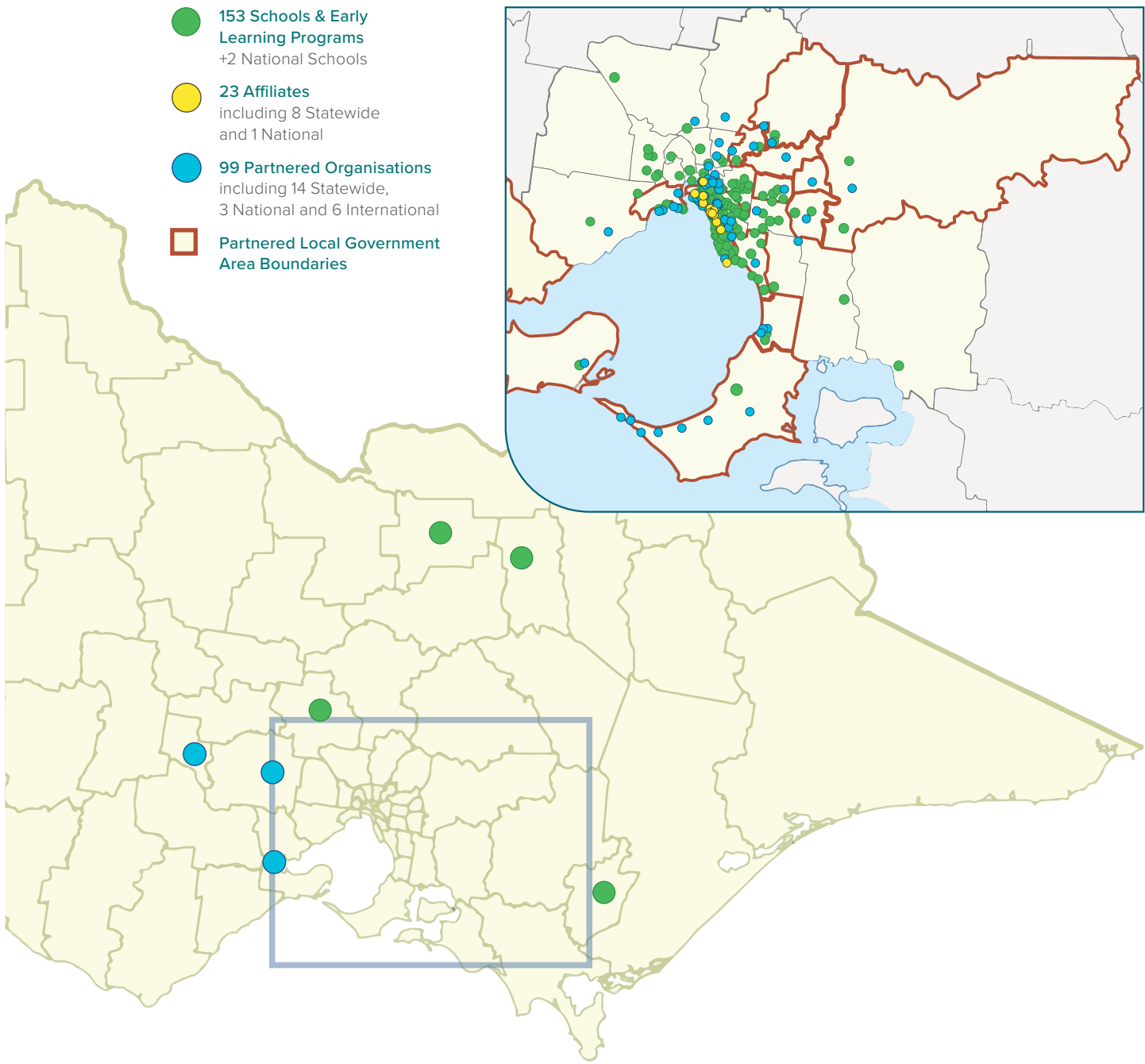


EcoCentre reach map 2021-22

292 collaborating groups

Programs across 128 postcodes & online

831 events & activities





Giving citizen science legal credibility

This project brings together community environment groups, environmental lawyers, researchers and Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) representatives to look at how to apply the new General Environmental Duty (GED) under Victoria's updated environment protection legislation. We are coordinating a range of equipment field tests, peer reviews, legal analysis, stakeholder workshops and feasibility studies to identify key principles for citing citizen science data to enforce environmental law.

Our shared objective is to protect waterways. The initial focus is assessing (a) the legal credibility of existing microplastic pollution evidence collected by communities; and (b) whether the level of knowledge about particular pollution-preventing practices is sufficiently established so as to consider such practices obligatory, reasonable measures to prevent environmental harm.

We kicked off with webinars and workshops by Environmental Justice Australia to help community groups understand the Environmental Protection Act 2017 (Vic) and how it relates to protecting rivers and marine environments.

In spring 2021, a team of four Worcester Polytechnic Institute interns researched global standards for 'significance thresholds' limiting the level of microplastic pollution in waterways. This included reviews of scientific literature and policy papers as well as meeting with the United States Environmental



Protection Agency. Unfortunately, specific limits are still under development in most parts of the world, including Australia.

Together with 18 organisations, we next mapped 50 types of waterways monitoring conducted across Victoria, to understand what data is collected and which methods are used. Of the community-generated data, five robust datasets were identified to test against the process of reporting to the Victorian EPA as the enforcement agency, and viability for communities to bring polluters to court under new laws.

The outcomes will extend beyond the issue of microplastics, as the EcoCentre will share findings and best practice principles with the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, the Victorian Government's Citizen Science Collective, fellow members of the Australian Citizen Science Association and the network of independent Waterkeepers across six continents.

This pioneering initiative is made possible through the generous support of the Ryan Cooper Family Foundation, Pool of Dreams Fund, and sub-funds of the Community Impact Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation and Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation.



Port Phillip Baykeeper

As outlined in the EcoCentre's *Baykeeper Program Framework (2021-2026)*, the **Port Phillip Baykeeper connects everyday Bay users, community groups and organisations to learn about and protect the Bay and its catchments for today and future generations.**

The Baykeeper team combines citizen science and practical action to inform decision-makers, educate our communities and improve coasts, the Bay and its catchments in measurable ways. Your Baykeeper, Neil Blake, identifies issues affecting marine ecology and biodiversity; responds to citizen concerns; builds alliances to deliver evidence-based solutions; and helps set strong policies and uphold environmental laws.

The 2021–2022 year brought new challenges and opportunities to these interconnected goals, often in relatively uncharted waters. The sheer volume of topics and the ongoing demands to secure funds to maintain the Baykeeper Program was especially challenging during COVID. Therefore, we are most grateful to our partner groups, volunteers and funders, including Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, South Melbourne Community Chest, Port Phillip Bay Fund, paid consultations and speaking engagements.

Once, there was no pressing need to fully understand those features of the Bay that seemed so vast and permanent. Now, rising sea levels are displacing our beaches and intertidal habitats; and ongoing urbanisation, in response to population growth, is fundamentally diminishing water quality flowing from catchments to the Bay.

As climate change, pollution and population growth put pressure on the Bay, the Baykeeper links community networks with local knowledge and passion to institutions with technical skill, resources and management responsibilities.

Building knowledge and networks to promote stewardship and influence policy, requires credible, fact-based narrative. Ongoing citizen science data collection to track and detect changes in the health of the Bay over time, grows community knowledge and provides evidence for advocacy. For example, the Baykeeper shoreline shell survey method designed

in 2008 for community members to gain insights into local mollusc populations around the Bay, has evolved to include more nuanced local studies, such as identifying probable prey of Northern Pacific seastars in St Kilda harbour.

Neil's three decades of passion, commitment and relationship building have laid a strong foundation for expanding the team and fostering community care and understanding of marine and coastal environments. This year's work spanned all four Baykeeper Program objectives: knowledge building, stewardship, networks and influence.



Baykeeper Objectives

Knowledge building Collect robust evidence on Bay health and threats using citizen science.

Stewardship Foster personal connection and facilitate active care for the Bay and catchments.

Networks Build capacity of local champions and agencies for ongoing collaborations and advocacy.

Influence Influence decision makers with evidence to improve Bay policy and management practices for a healthy Bay.



Port Phillip Baykeeper: Knowledge building

Citizen science allows simple observations, repeated over time, to provide unique data. The Baykeeper team surveys a range of reference sites from catchment to coast, monitoring biodiversity and threats to the Bay and its freshwater tributaries. The team also designs and tests new methods for scientific rigour and feasibility in the field.

This year, **Baykeeper Citizen Science** included dune profiling and coastal plant mapping; researching fragile air breather snails to document the new-found colony at St Kilda; and ongoing monitoring of synthetic turf shedding from a sports field, then communicating findings to management agencies to increase the 'state of knowledge' for synthetic turf management and resolve the issue in accordance with (or improving) industry standards. New grab-and-go Baykeeper Citizen Science Kits including new data sheets and a *Baykeeper Reference Site Guide*, support educators and volunteers from the EcoCentre and partner groups who adopt a beach

169
citizen science surveys



and contribute meaningful data to the bigger picture.

Installing new **penguin-proof plant guards** designed by the Baykeeper will increase revegetation success on St Kilda breakwater to provide a renewable source of penguin nesting material as well as breakwater stabilisation. Baykeeper Neil and marine biologist Fam also travelled across the catchment, field-testing the Microplastics Collector with a Pump (MCWAP) by measuring microplastics below the surface of creeks with the Yarra Riverkeeper.

Many spotted Baykeeper Neil hosting the **Keep Victoria Beautiful Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Awards** online. Other engagements included a Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre stormwater panel discussion, talking urban creeks with the Banyule Nillumbik Teachers' Environment Network, presenting on citizen science to the **Coastcare Regional Forum**, and presenting on synthetic turf to Kingston Residents Association and the Sweltering Cities forum in Brunswick.



Port Phillip Baykeeper: Stewardship

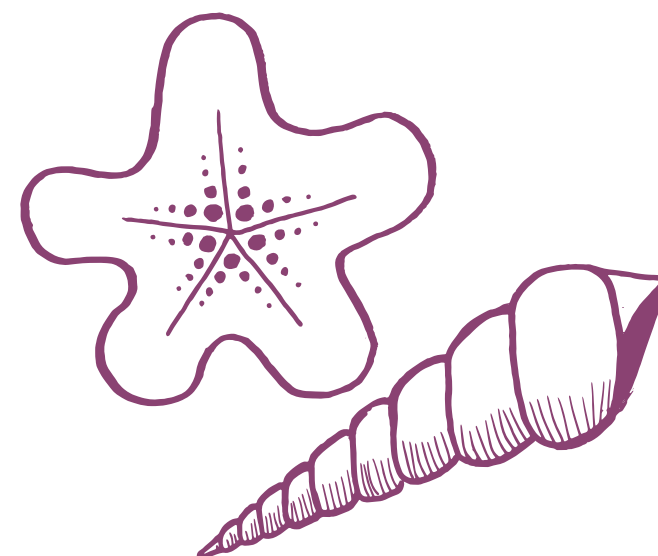
To foster love of our coastal and marine environment, the Baykeeper hosted **walks and talks** with local Scouts and the Photography Studies College; conducted education sessions for the **Dromana Bay Little Nippers** program; gave presentations on natural coastal histories of Williamstown for **Melbourne Design Week** and St Kilda for **Open Nature**; and mentored the EcoCentre's **Multicultural Bay Ambassadors**. The Baykeeper trained more than 100 volunteers as **Port Phillip Beachkeepers**, who measured, monitored and expanded habitat for foreshore flora and fauna.

'The EcoCentre team made myself and my sister both feel so welcome and appreciated.'

We will both be back because of the reward of being engaged!'

— Beachkeepers volunteer

Captain Trash (the musical pirate and Baykeeper's identical second cousin) loves to talk about all the ARRGGHHs: reduce, reuse, recycle, repair, refuse and remove litter. The Captain spoke with visitors to the **Frankston Waterfront Festival** and at Conservation Volunteers Australia's **Sea to Source** event in St Kilda; and during visits to schools and kindergartens in search of who replaced his rubies with plastic rubbish!





Port Phillip Baykeeper: Networks

Along with maintaining international and national affiliations through regular Zoom meetings with Waterkeeper Alliance and representatives of the Australian Waterkeeper organisations, your Baykeeper has been involved as an honorary committee member of the Australian Coastal Society Victorian Chapter, and Friends of Darebin Creek. New relationships were generated through guest speaking engagements, including at Albert Park Angling and Yachting Club, and Hobsons Bay Wetland Centre.

'It's a pleasure to hear all the wonderful things going on and be inspired during network calls. Especially when we hear about how we might be able to make a difference and influence together.'

**- Rachel Lopes,
Moonee Creek Chain of Ponds**

The longstanding commitment to cross-sectoral collaborations was rewarded with an invitation to contribute to a forum of local and state government agencies, exploring the potential to establish a **Bellarine Regional & Strategic Partnership (RASP)**. RASPs are a relatively new concept with potential to play a key role in coastal management and policy setting across Victoria.

Hosting **Student Placements** remains a rewarding way to partner with the education sector and engage with youth. In addition to providing tangible support to the goals of the next generation, we were able to advance our own areas of research.

A team from RMIT University investigated Port Phillip Bay's annual spawning aggregations of snapper in proximity to the region where Baykeeper beach audits recorded the highest concentrations of microplastics. Worcester Polytechnic Institute students considered 'how much is too much?', seeking international precedents for maximum loads of microplastics in waterways. Work experience students constructed beach audit quadrats, joined coastal monitoring, analysed microplastic samples and produced film clips documenting the experience of fieldwork.



Port Phillip Baykeeper: Influence

Keeping a finger on the policy pulse remained an essential task for the Baykeeper. This included attending the various DELWP forums relating to the **Victorian Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022 and marine spatial planning; understanding the merging of the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority with Melbourne Water; and attending the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria's 'Environment Protection Act in action – One year on' webinar.**

As always, the Baykeeper team welcomed media opportunities to share knowledge in the wider community, with the potential for flow-on influence to encourage behaviour change and related policy settings. Mainstream media opportunities included discussing plastic pollution with 9News, and the summer influx of lion's mane jellyfish in the Bay on

ABC Radio Drive and with The Age newspaper. Community radio discussed Bay news and issues with us during regular segments on 3RRR Radio Marinara, and interviews on 3CR Community Tuesday Hometime.

The Baykeeper worked with the wider EcoCentre Impact Team to prepare 16 oral and written submissions on a range of public policy issues affecting local, state and national environmental matters. The EcoCentre was also represented in a number of advisory groups, including work on flood management in the Elster Creek Catchment and litter in Waterways of the West.

#BeABaykeeper

Our aim is a healthy, biodiverse Port Phillip Bay and coast, cared for by all. Over the next five years, success looks like:

- increased protection of waterways from pollution
- more climate resilient coastal ecosystems
- Victorians who care for and have a personal connection to Port Phillip Bay

Baycare work is diverse, hands-on and collaborative. Please get in touch to join the science, storytelling, advocacy and practical action!





Developing Australia's first citizen science lab

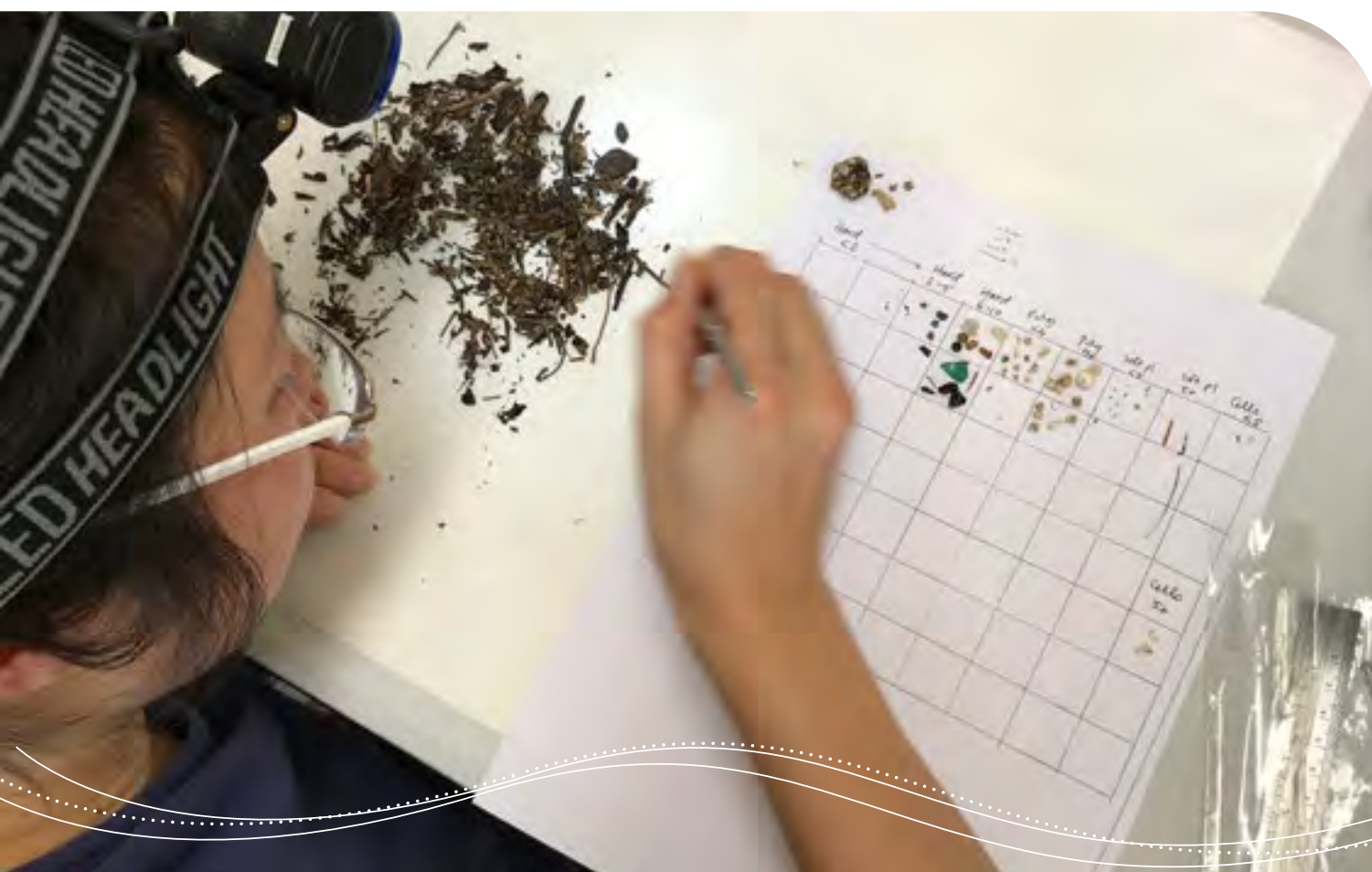
As the scale of scientific experiments continues to grow, researchers have needed to find ways to collect the vast amount of data, leading to the development of citizen science. Such projects allow people from all walks of life to collaborate and help gather data in engaging ways, building answers to big scientific questions.

The practice of citizen science can increase our scientific and environmental knowledge, produce large and diverse datasets and influence policy and decision-making. From discoveries as large as locating new exoplanets and rediscovering thought-to-be-extinct species to cataloguing complete environmental ecosystems, citizen science has played a hidden role in countless studies worldwide. About 30% of EcoCentre volunteer hours were dedicated to citizen science to understand local waterways, wildlife and climate change.

The expanded volunteer spaces at the redeveloped EcoCentre will present the unique opportunity to build one of the world's first citizen science labs. To develop this concept, a team from Worcester Polytechnic Institute joined us to research the potential for such a facility.

The team interviewed the world's two existing citizen science labs (in the US and Europe), met with EcoCentre scientists and educators, university researchers, community groups, Waterkeepers and the Victorian Government. The resulting report recommended specific equipment to support a range of project and resource opportunities identified for the citizen science lab, both as a local hub and contributor to worldwide research.

To learn more about how to partner with the EcoCentre in creating Australia's first citizen science lab, contact Executive Officer April Seymore.



What citizen science can teach engineers

Since 2017, the EcoCentre has partnered with Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a private research university in Massachusetts, USA. Through their Global Projects Program, WPI engineering and science students complete an immersive, team-based project with a sponsoring organisation, aiming to address an issue at the intersection of technology, society and the environment.

In autumn 2022, Ashley Burke, Brent Ditzler, Jack Charbonneau, Maddie Sanborn and Will Lapointe volunteered with the EcoCentre to help develop plans for Australia's first citizen science lab, at the new EcoCentre.

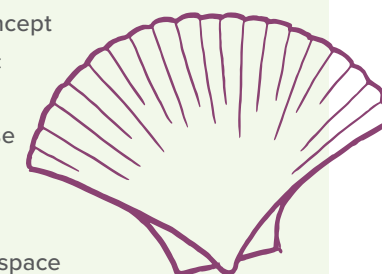
After their specialised technical studies, the concept of citizen science was novel. Their aim over 14 weeks was to identify citizen science opportunities within the EcoCentre's partner network and across Australian citizen science, then identify the equipment needed for current and future citizen science projects based around a laboratory hub.

In preparation, the students interviewed leadership from the world's two existing citizen science labs in Pittsburgh, USA and Leiden University in the Netherlands. In Australia, the team then joined a variety of citizen science fieldwork and data analysis with the EcoCentre and partners such as Tangaroa Blue Foundation, the Yarra Riverkeeper and members of the public.

'We were surprised to discover,' the team wrote in a blog post, 'how citizen science projects allow for impactful data collection, often only involving common household items [as equipment for collecting data]. After volunteering at different events, we realised that we actually didn't fully recognise the true impacts of citizen science on the scientific community.'

Maddie is a biomedical engineering major. She highlighted the value volunteers feel by gathering unique insights for questions no one person could

answer alone. 'It is a powerful concept to play a role in valuable scientific research, knowing that the data you are collecting would otherwise be unavailable to researchers.'



The cross-sectoral collaboration impressed Jack, who studies aerospace engineering. 'The level of community engagement ... the focus on micro and macro issues, and partnership with other organisations is something I have never experienced in the charity sector before,' says Jack. 'Data drives changes and I realised there are countless people and stories behind any data.'

In consultation with EcoCentre scientists and educators, university researchers, community groups, Melbourne Water and the Victorian Government, the WPI team recommended specific equipment to support a range of project and resource opportunities identified for the citizen science lab, both as a local hub and a global link in knowledge building.

'Participating opened my eyes to how influential citizen science is,' says Brent, a chemical engineering major. 'My hopes are that this new lab is able to grow the community and networks the EcoCentre already has, but also to break borders – to bring people all over the world together, collecting data that answers shared questions.'





MAJOR FUNDERS



*The EcoCentre is an **effective**,
efficient, **inclusive** and
innovative organisation.*



What we achieved

Our Strategic Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2021-24 are core documents that guide the EcoCentre's work to ensure outstanding people, best practices, strong finances, excellent governance and skilled change management.

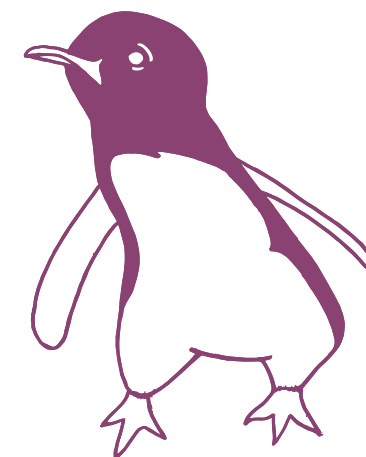
Flexibility and hybrid delivery modes were key to navigating lockdowns, public health protocols, facility relocation and evolving global practices for working and learning remotely. The EcoCentre Committee of Management collaborated online and in person to refresh governance practices and policies, including our commitment to child safety and wellbeing.

To support the next phase of redevelopment, we relocated to the Cora Graves Centre with its spacious hall for talks and meeting room for our Affiliates to convene. The all-abilities gardening group quickly rolled up their sleeves with a focus on small-space gardening, as well as cooking fresh meals together in the well-equipped community kitchen.

The EcoCentre redevelopment went to tender through City of Port Phillip, to appoint a builder meeting the rigorous environmental standards for a carbon-neutral deconstruction and build. We are excited to watch the site redevelopment from directly across the road at 38 Blessington Street.

In anticipation of expanding impact and reach through the future EcoCentre hub, we also expanded our organisational structure with an Ops & Community Action Manager (Lisa Horler) and an Impact Team Leader (Michelle Fisher), and developed resources to prepare for recruiting our next generation Baykeeper to work alongside Neil Blake.

Thank you to our donors and partner organisations who support the EcoCentre to be effective, efficient, inclusive and innovative.





Outstanding People	Best Practice	Strong Finances	Excellent Governance	Manage Change
Recruit, retain and support a skilled, diverse and fulfilled staff	Ensure high quality in planning & review, management, communications and operating systems	Sustain a strong financial position, supported by long-term planning, with a range of income sources, and robust financial systems	Maintain a diverse, qualified and engaged Committee and best practice governance	Continue high-impact programs and engagement while transitioning to the future EcoCentre
STRATEGY 4.1	STRATEGY 4.2	STRATEGY 4.3	STRATEGY 4.4	STRATEGY 4.5

Key Performance Indicators

High levels of satisfaction with funders, government agencies, project partners and Affiliates sustained



95% of stakeholders report high level of satisfaction with the quality, conduct and innovation of our work



98% stakeholder satisfaction *next full evaluation in 2024

Financial targets achieved

Annual Budget achieved

Off target

5-Year Financial Plan implemented

In progress

Staff and Committee members skilled, effective and satisfied

90% employee satisfaction score
Satisfactory score on Committee evaluation
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Plan developed and implemented

Full evaluation 2023

Full evaluation 2023

In progress

Transition to the future EcoCentre planned and implemented effectively

Change Management Plan implemented, meeting 80% of milestones as scheduled

On track (with COVID adjustments)

Our new net-zero EcoCentre

Construction of our new community environment will soon be underway!

At a time when Australians are increasingly seeking ways to reconnect and create tangible change, the EcoCentre's team, with its growing volunteer force and expert network, is equipped to scale up community-led recovery for the climate, health and economic challenges ahead. However, our cottage facilities were no longer fit for purpose.

With excitement, we worked closely with the Victorian Government and City of Port Phillip to progress their development of a 'world leadership'

rated sustainable community hub, which will triple our capacity and model sustainable practice. Part of this work involved planning for Australia's first citizen science lab. With technical interns, government and community organisations we considered what role the lab can serve for our network of volunteers, advocates and decision-makers.

Subscribe to our newsletter to hear about inspiring new programs and events launching in 2024. To learn how to support the facility fit-out and innovative new programming, contact our Executive Officer April Seymore.



The last summer garden party at the historic EcoHouse, December 2021. Left to right: Port Phillip Mayor Marcus Pearl, April Seymore, Lisa Paton, Trevor White.

Celebrating joint funding for the EcoCentre redevelopment with our Members of Victorian and Australian Parliament, and City of Port Phillip Councillors in 2021. Left to right: Nina Taylor MP, Josh Burns MP, Hon Martin Foley MP, April Seymore, Pam O'Neil, Cr Peter Martin, Cr Katherine Copsey, Mayor Louise Crawford.



1998

City of Port Phillip
and community initiate
concept of a local
environmental hub



1999

EcoCentre formally
launched in St Kilda
Botanic Gardens



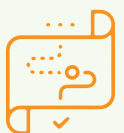
2003

EcoHouse retrofit:
from 1-star to 5-star



2005

EcoCentre becomes
fully independent and
community-managed



2022

Temporary relocation
for redevelopment

Two decades of the EcoHouse



EcoCentre Founding Director Neil Blake with
retrofit project manager Peter Barker (2002)

After more than two decades of success and growth the EcoCentre community farewelled the humble brick 'EcoHouse' in preparation for a purpose-built and world-leading sustainable building on the same site.

The EcoHouse originated as the residence for the Park-keeper of the St Kilda Botanic Gardens. That 1966 brick veneer building had an energy efficiency rating of less than one star. Decades later, it was retrofitted to become the 5-star EcoHouse— which was state of the art in 2003.

Since then, public awareness and design efficiency have moved along swiftly, as has the scientific imperative and community commitment for climate and nature protection. Accordingly, the EcoCentre network of volunteer action, expertise and cross-sectoral collaboration has truly outgrown the cottage premises. As we prepare for the redevelopment, our community shared many photos and memories of our historic building.

Take a walk through the memories online at padlet.com/PPEC/EcoHouse

Community investments and strategic activities

Some activities conducted each year are strategic investments. These are selected to provide considered value on behalf of our members. These activities involve knowledge-sharing, network building and practical support that accelerates sustainability in our daily lives, business best practice and government systems. They typically involve a mix of work funded by donations and expertise volunteered by our tireless team.

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

- » **Affiliate and partner support:** attending partners' annual general meetings and events; facilitating strategic planning workshops for community groups; supporting project development; writing letters of recommendation; and co-signing advocacy letters to protect waterways and climate
- » **Building the next generation of advocates:** mentoring students and pre-service teachers; participating in research projects; hosting 21 internships and work experience students; speaking at career symposiums; and providing professional references
- » **Building community connections:** community radio hosting and podcast interviews; attending ceremonies and celebration events; speaking at film screenings; and providing volunteer support and social inclusion activities, including lockdown adaptations
- » **Community outreach initiatives:** providing resources and research to the media; partnering with local artists; responding to community enquiries and reports of dead or injured wildlife; and peer-reviewing citizen science
- » **Cross-sectoral relationship building:** collaborative consulting for government and government agencies by attending events and co-design workshops; science communication support to research labs; connecting with health care, researchers and educators about the role of environmental education in mental health; serving on consultative panels, brainstorming sessions and

forums; gathering and communicating evidence of synthetic turf pollution to relevant state and local government agencies

» **Ecosystem-scale thinking:** mapping current and potential wildlife corridors with community naturalists; providing expert testimony; advocating for integrated water management and biodiversity in the Elster Creek Catchment; and aligning citizen science methods between various groups

» **Knowledge gathering and research on key issues:** literature reviews and leveraging networks to design informed position statements and background papers for community and decision-makers; hosting and attending round tables; sharing data to the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability; mapping 'state of knowledge' for pollution prevention measures

» **Providing equipment and space:** hosting the Repair Cafe and Climate Conversations; securing a grant for marquees to help facilitate COVID-safe outdoor events; sharing tools; providing meeting rooms, Zoom tech support and advice

'The EcoCentre has been a foundational place for a long time and has helped a lot of careers and understanding. Our organisation is set up like the EcoCentre – a constellation of many organisations, all lifting each other up. The more you can help each other out, the stronger you are – a worth that you can't put a value on.'

– **Kade Mills,**
Victorian National Parks Association



Affiliate Organisations



EcoCentre Affiliation is open to not-for-profit groups engaged in environmental projects, or projects aimed at building and strengthening communities and include an environmental component. We provide a physical hub (and Zoom support) for 23 Affiliate groups to conduct meetings, trainings and webinars. We cross-promote Affiliate events and share resources within this action network. Following are annual highlights from several of our diverse Affiliate organisations.

Affiliates in action



Beach Patrol / Love Our Street

BeachPatrol is a group of volunteers who raise awareness and empower communities to reduce plastic pollution and other litter in our environment. They engage communities around plastic pollution, empower citizens to collect pollution data and collaborate with community groups and change makers to improve policy. BeachPatrol and Love Our Street chapters are organised by local postcodes and currently cover more than 40 suburbs.

- » BeachPatrol's Litter Stopper app started feeding directly into DELWP's LitterWatch program, allowing them to add to the bigger picture by providing data to the state government for their analysis and policymaking.
- » The Litter Stopper app indicates that 5,432 volunteers spent almost 8,000 hours collecting 16,663 kilograms of litter, including 7,750 glass containers, 13,213 plastic containers, 10,930 cans and almost 6,000 personal protective equipment items (mostly masks).
- » The Spring Clean Your Patch, held in September 2021, engaged the broader community to collect and record litter, with their beach or street cleans involving six secondary school sessions and eight corporate groups.

BeachPatrol is always eager to welcome new volunteers, or you can start your own beach clean-up group (or Love Our Street chapter in your suburb). Head to their website to register your interest in forming a group, and follow them on social media.

[Beachpatrol.com.au](https://beachpatrol.com.au)
[Facebook.com/BeachPatrolAustralia](https://facebook.com/BeachPatrolAustralia)



Climate for Change

Climate for Change has a focus on helping people to have conversations about climate change with their peers. Their approach is based on social research that explains that people process and respond to information – to make sense of it, make decisions about it and take actions around it – through conversations with people they trust.

- » Since 2014, Climate for Change has trained more than 350 volunteer facilitators, who have facilitated more than 1,350 Climate Conversations within trusted social networks, directly engaging over 11,500 people.
- » In 2021, the fellows who participated in their Fundraising and Communications Fellowship, a four-month leadership program, helped coordinate Climate for Change's annual peer-to-peer campaign, which raised over \$250,000.
- » Over the past two years, they have established new partnerships with organisations such as the Jewish Climate Network, Glen Eira Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Environment Centre NT and the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network, to assist them with replicating their communication model.

Climate for Change members collaborate and work constructively together regardless of geographical boundaries, demographics or political differences. There are many ways to get involved!

climateforchange.org.au



Elsternwick Park Association

The Elsternwick Park Association is a community group with a vision to create a beautifully designed and maintained wetland and parkland in newly renamed Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve. They aim to learn together and help to create and care for the incredible 13-hectare regenerated wetland and wildlife reserve, and community gathering place.

- » Their Plant Lab, which is their very own plant and seed propagation facility, is now firmly established with the volunteer team conducting weekly activities. Many of the plants being grown are rare and often locally extinct.
- » 2021–2022 saw the reignition of the Waterwatch group with their monthly water-quality testing and macro-invertebrate surveys. Monthly litter collections have also been ongoing and a great way to educate the local community about caring for the new wetlands.
- » This year, they supported the development of a Nature Ambassador program with Elwood Primary School. The program runs across the whole school and encourages kids and parents to get actively involved in activities in the reserve.

The Elsternwick Park Association, which will be changing its name next year to reflect the reserve's new name, always welcomes new members and volunteers. For more information visit the Facebook

facebook.com/groups/elsternwickparkassociation
elsternwickpark.org



Jewish Ecological Coalition / Jewish Climate Network

JECO was established in 2003 to deepen Jewish commitment to sustainability and to work with individuals and organisations to prevent and repair environmental damage.

- » Our Jewish Climate Network comprises parents, teachers, doctors, rabbis, philanthropists, business owners – people from across the spectrum of the community who are deeply concerned about climate change and are also excited about the benefits and opportunities of embracing clean energy and low emission technologies, and the role our community can play in bringing that future to fruition.
- » Our Climate Conversation Program gets right to the good stuff – what we can and must do, and how to do it together. We can facilitate a Climate Change Conversation for your friends, family and colleagues that will inform and inspire.
- » The monthly St Kilda Repair Cafe wants to show how much fun repairing things can be and how easy it often is to do so. By sharing skills and know-how, the cafe builds a community as well as diverting waste from landfill.

Find resources, including our new podcast, book a Climate Conversation or find out more about the Repair Cafe by visiting these websites.

jcn.org.au
stkildarepaircafe.org.au



Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network

The Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN) was formed in 2019 by 11 environment and community groups within the Port Phillip municipality. This year has been their busiest to date, given community frustration with an ongoing lack of action on a strong national response to counteract accelerating climate change, and the May 2022 federal election.

- » In July, PECAN joined the Metro Community Power Hub, funded by Sustainability Victoria, to support community action on renewable energy. As their flagship project, they chose to develop the first Port Phillip community battery.
- » Following long prompting from PECAN, in November, council resolved to prepare a Climate Emergency Action Plan in time for the 2023/24 Budget and Council Plan. This work is underway at present and PECAN will continue to advocate on the issues they see as important to climate change mitigation.
- » The Beyond Gas Network, initiated by PECAN, grew significantly this year and took on a range of activities around the May election, including briefing papers on gas issues for candidates.

Anyone can join the PECAN subscriber list by going to the PECAN website listed below. If you are part of a Port Phillip environmental group and would like to join PECAN, please email them at pecan.org.au@gmail.com.

pecan.org.au



Seedlings Nature Playgroup

The Seedlings Nature Playgroup brings together a community of families to connect children to nature through exploration and unstructured play. Their aim is to build a sense of belonging and a love and appreciation of nature and sustainability in children. By building this awareness and appreciation of the natural environment, the playgroup also encourages more families to become environmentally conscious.

- » The Seedlings Nature Playgroup now has over 600 families in its community and continues to grow each year.
- » In 2022, they established a fortnightly playgroup for babies at the St Kilda Botanic Gardens, which supports and brings together new and growing families to experience the benefits of nature.
- » When COVID-19 restrictions allowed, playgroups were able to continue meeting throughout the pandemic and provided an opportunity for families to connect with their children, community and nature.

All playgroup sessions are free and no materials are required, ensuring they are accessible to all. For more information, you can find them on Facebook by searching for Seedlings Nature Playgroup, Port Phillip, or email about subscribing to the mailing list. seedlingsplaygroup.portphillip@gmail.com



St Kilda Bike Kitchen

The St Kilda Bike Kitchen is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run organisation that provides people with the opportunity to learn how to build, maintain and repair their own bicycles. Their mission is to grow and support a vibrant and welcoming community, while nurturing ecological sustainability and personal wellbeing, and promoting bicycles as fun, safe and accessible forms of transportation.

- » The St Kilda Bike Kitchen was established in February 2020, just as the pandemic was kicking off, however, they still managed to operate several consistent public workshops, including at the Peanut Farm Farmers' Market and the Port Phillip EcoCentre's Repair Cafe.
- » They have started offering 2.5-hour courses on basic bicycle maintenance at the Alma Road Community House and doing bike checks for evening commuters at the pop-up on Fitzroy Street.
- » This year, with the assistance of Josh Burns MP, they received a Stronger Communities Grant, which was used to purchase equipment to assist with workshops and education courses.

For more information, or if you would like to get involved with any of their projects, please contact the St Kilda Bike Kitchen at stkbikekitchen@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page. facebook.com/stkbikekitchen



#StopAdani Macnamara

#StopAdani Macnamara aims to prevent the Adani corporation from creating a coal mine in central Queensland. This mine, if allowed to go ahead, would allow for the export of millions of tons of thermal coal directly through the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef to Adani ports in India, while simultaneously emitting millions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

- » This year, #StopAdani Macnamara continued to work with other groups to prevent the Adani coal mine in Central Queensland. They continued to put pressure on insurers and banks to stop financing the Adani corporation.
- » Stopping the Adani mine is a critical step in stopping coal exports from Australia, so #StopAdani Macnamara has expanded their focus to include all thermal coal mines. As such, they are taking on a new name – Move Beyond Coal.

Taking on Adani and the coal lobby has seen the creation of a movement the likes of which Australia has rarely seen before. To join the movement or to create your own action group, head to the #StopAdani website.

stopadani.com/stopadani-macnamara_action_group_boswxrc



South Port Uniting Church – Simply Living Project

South Port Uniting Church has been part of the South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Albert Park, and Middle Park community for over 160 years, providing a range of local community outreach and support programs, including the Simply Living Community Garden.

- » In 2022, the South Port Uniting Church adopted a sustainability statement: 'We are a community in Christ, who in faith are committed to a sustainable future that respects all life. We take responsibility and act with compassion, care, and kindness to unite our community with a shared purpose of hope for the future. We will move forward together with inspiration, clarity, and love in our hearts. We do this taking the law to "love one another" seriously and while we vision together for the future, we believe that time to act is now.'
- » In the last 12 months, they have been able to resume their community activities in and around the Simply Living Community Garden, including workshops, social cooking sessions and community seed exchange.
- » This year, the South Port Uniting Church has recommenced working with other gardeners and churches, both locally and further afield, to enhance their knowledge and improve their gardening practices for the greater good of the community.

For more information about the Simply Living Community Garden, please visit their website or get in contact Janet the Simply Living Project Worker at janet.hoare@southportuniting.org.au. spuc.org.au/port-melbourne-congregation/community-garden/



Tangaroa Blue Foundation

Tangaroa Blue Foundation is an Australia-wide not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the removal and prevention of marine debris, which is one of the major environmental issues affecting our planet. They coordinate the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDII), an on-ground network of volunteers, communities, organisations and agencies around the country, monitoring the impacts of marine debris along their respective stretch of coastline.

- » In the last 18 months, their ongoing Operation Clean Sweep program has grown to almost 100 partner sites, of which all businesses have taken the pledge of Zero Pallet Loss from their sites.
- » They are halfway through the second phase of their Let's Strain the Drains project, funded by Sustainability Victoria's Recycling Victoria Communities Fund and supported by their partners at the Cleanwater Group and the Melbourne, Wyndham, Hobsons Bay, Merri-bek, Kingston, Maribyrnong and Greater Dandenong councils, as well as the Vicinity Centres in the City of Hume, and the University of New South Wales.

» Tangaroa Blue Foundation is also excited to announce a new AMDI Database and accompanying mobile app, which is currently being built. Tangaroa Blue's current database has over 2,000 partner organisations, which have contributed more than 21 million litter items to the database since 2004.

Explore their website to get involved with a Tangaroa Blue Foundation project near you.

tangaroablue.org



Westgate Biodiversity

Westgate Biodiversity and Bili Nursery's mission is to protect and enhance the natural environment of the Sandbelt Region of Melbourne, using indigenous plant species of local provenance, and to care for the indigenous plants and fauna within Westgate Park. Their vision is that indigenous vegetation is valued, understood and the preferred choice for public and private landscapes, and that people are actively engaged with nature, both in Westgate Park and beyond. The incredible parkland has been restored from a landfill site to a biodiverse and peaceful landscape and wetlands.

- » In partnership with the EcoCentre, Westgate Biodiversity hosted corporate volunteer groups and excursion groups, which included sessions monitoring, weeding, planting, and building nest boxes for eastern rosellas and red-rumped parrots
- » The Bili Nursery provided plants for a number of community planting days at the Elwood Canal, St Kilda West Park, Moran Reserve and numerous other sites across the parklands and councils surrounding Port Phillip Bay.

To get involved with Westgate Biodiversity, the Bili Nursery and all their projects, including planting days, weeding and pruning, litter pick-ups and nest box building, visit their website to find out more.

westgatebiodiversity.org.au

Our collaboration network

Major partner

We value the City of Port Phillip's longstanding, substantial and collaborative support since 1999. Council launched the EcoCentre and provides us with our council-managed building and an annual funding agreement to cover basic operational costs, enabling us to build new partnerships for diverse programming and impacts. We are excited to work together to build the future EcoCentre community hub in Port Phillip.

Major funding

- » Bayside City Council
- » City of Stonnington
- » Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- » The Ian Potter Foundation
- » Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- » Community Impact Foundation – Pool of Dreams Fund
- » Ryan Cooper Family Foundation
- » Victorian Government – Port Phillip Bay Fund

Project funding

- » Australian Communities Foundation – BB & A Miller Fund
- » Australian Communities Foundation – Keith & Jeannette Ince Fund
- » Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
- » Australian Government – Volunteer Grants

- » Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation
- » Coastcare Victoria
- » CommBank Community Grants
- » Community Impact Foundation
- » Deakin University
- » Diversicon Environmental Foundation
- » Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning
- » Ethical Jobs
- » Lenko Family Foundation
- » Photography Studies College
- » South Melbourne Community Chest

Government agency collaborators

- » Agriculture Victoria
- » Coastcare Victoria
- » Environment Protection Authority Victoria
- » Melbourne Water
- » Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group
- » Parks Victoria
- » Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
- » Sustainability Victoria
- » Victorian Department of Jobs, Regions and Precincts
- » Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- » Victorian Fisheries Authority

Advisers and Ambassadors

- » Mitty Williams, The Kimberley Foundation
- » John Spierings
- » Kenneth Harrison AM KSJ
- » Nick Moriatis
- » Trevor White

Benefactors

- » Anonymous (East St Kilda)
- » Sarah Brenan
- » Ann Byrne
- » Bruce Easton
- » David Robinson
- » Iain Stewart
- » Anonymous (Melbourne)
- » Liz Fenwick
- » Keith and Debby Badger
- » In memory of Tony Flude
- » Keshia Warland on behalf of Toyota Motor Corporation Australia
- » Marguerite Hall

Consultants

- » Advantage Books
- » Audienceware
- » Bourke and Bouteloup Architects
- » Ethical Investment Services
- » Full Proofreading Services
- » Gio Fitzpatrick, naturalist
- » katejonesdesign

Affiliate organisations

- » Animal Liberation Victoria
- » Beach Patrol Australia
- » Brighton Playroom
- » Climate for Change
- » Christ Church Community Centre
- » Earthcare St Kilda
- » Elsternwick Park Association (EPA)
- » Elwood Floods Action Group
- » Environment Education Victoria (EEV)
- » Global Landcare
- » Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO)
- » Kids in Nature Network (KINN)
- » Marine Care Ricketts Point
- » Mary and Basil Organic Community Garden
- » Port Phillip Bicycle Users' Group (BUG)
- » Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN)
- » #StopAdani Macnamara
- » South Port Uniting Church
- » St Kilda Bike Kitchen
- » St Kilda Community Gardens Club
- » Tangaroa Blue Foundation
- » Veg Out Community Garden
- » Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Landcare and Nursery

Partner organisations

- » 3CR Tuesday Hometime
- » 3CR Out of the Blue
- » 3RRR Radio Marinara
- » Albert Park College

- » Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club
- » Anti-Toxic Waste Alliance
- » Australian Citizen Science Association
- » Australian Coastal Society Victoria
- » Balcombe Estuary Reserve Group
- » Banyule City Council
- » Bayside City Council
- » BeachPatrol/Love Our Street
- » Bellarine Catchment Network
- » Boston Museum of Science
- » Boon Wurrung Foundation
- » Bunjil's Biik
- » Canopy of Care
- » Caulfield South Community Garden
- » Chris Cassar Photography
- » Citizen Science Lab – Leiden University
- » City of Greater Geelong
- » City of Kingston
- » Citywide
- » Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Victoria
- » Conservation Volunteers Australia
- » Cool Australia
- » Deakin University
- » Dive2U
- » Diveline Scuba Centre
- » Dromana Bay Life Saving Club
- » Earthcare St Kilda
- » Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning (EASL)
- » Ecolink
- » Elwood Scouts
- » Environmental Justice Australia
- » FieldTech Solutions

- » Frankston City Council
- » Friends of Darebin Creek
- » Friends of Jawbone Marine Sanctuary
- » Friends of Red Gum Triangle
- » Gasworks Arts Park
- » Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria
- » Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre
- » Headspace Bentleigh
- » Hobsons Bay City Council
- » Hobsons Bay Wetland Centre
- » Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria
- » Knox City Council
- » Lord Somers Camp and Powerhouse
- » Manningham City Council
- » Marine Education Science and Community (MESAC)
- » Maroondah City Council
- » Melbourne Design Week
- » Melbourne Down Under
- » Melbourne Nature Journal Club
- » Melbourne Polytechnic
- » Mornington Peninsula Shire
- » Newtecpoly Pty Ltd
- » Nillumbik Shire Council
- » Open Nature/ Open House Melbourne
- » Polperro Dolphin Swims
- » Port Phillip Men's Shed
- » Port Phillip Multifaith Network
- » Port Phillip Youth and Family Services
- » Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (PRACE)
- » Reptile Encounters
- » Roots & Shoots Australia
- » RMIT University
- » Rye Community Group
- » Salvation Army Youth Services

- » Serene Kitchen
- » Spider Crabs Melbourne
- » Stonnington Youth Services
- » Sweltering Cities
- » Tangaroa Blue Foundation
- » The Citizen Science Lab (Pittsburgh)
- » This Week in St Kilda
- » Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Inc. (TLfS Inc)
- » University of Adelaide
- » University of the Third Age Port Phillip (U3A)
- » Veolia
- » Victorian National Parks Association
- » Waru Sustainable Schools Alliance
- » Waterkeeper Alliance
- » Werribee Riverkeeper
- » Whitecliffs Foreshore Reserve
- » Whitehorse City Council
- » Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Work for the Dole
- » Yarra Energy Foundation
- » Yarra Ranges Shire Council
- » Yarra Riverkeeper
- » Zoos Victoria

Schools and early learning centres

- » Albert Park College
- » Albert Park Kinder
- » Albert Park Primary School
- » Altona Early Education Centre
- » Armadale Primary School
- » Aspendale North Kindergarten
- » Balcombe Grammar School Mornington
- » Bayswater South Primary School

- » Beaumaris North Primary School
- » Beaumaris Primary School
- » Beaumaris Secondary College
- » Berendale School
- » Bialik College
- » Black Rock Pre-School
- » Black Rock Primary School
- » Blackburn High School
- » Boroondara Park Primary School
- » Boroondara Primary School
- » Brentwood Secondary College
- » Brighton Beach Primary School
- » Brighton Grammar School
- » Brighton Primary School
- » Brighton Secondary College
- » Brookville Kindergarten
- » Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre
- » Camberwell Girls Secondary School
- » Camberwell Grammar School
- » Camberwell Primary School
- » Candlebark
- » Catholic Ladies' College
- » Catholic Regional College St Albans
- » Caulfield Grammar School
- » Caulfield Primary School
- » Charles La Trobe P-12 College
- » Chelsea Heights PS
- » Cheltenham Primary School
- » Coburg West Primary School
- » Cornish College
- » Elsternwick Primary School
- » Elwood College
- » Elwood Primary School
- » Elwood Primary School
- » Fintona Girls' School
- » Firbank Grammar School

- » Firbank Grammar School
- » Gardenvale Primary School
- » Gardenvale Primary School
- » GEKA Centre Road Kindergarten
- » Glen Eira College
- » Glenferrie Primary School
- » Haileybury College, Brighton
- » Hampton Primary School
- » Hillcrest Christian College
- » Holmesglen Institute
- » Homeschooling Education Network (HEN)
- » Hornbrook Children's Centre
- » Huonville primary school
- » Kamaruka Education Centre
- » Kensington Community Children's Centre
- » Kilbreda College Mentone
- » Killara Primary School
- » Kimmba Bilingual Early Learning Centre
- » Kinderclub Early Learning Centre
- » Kindergartens and Early Learning Centres
- » Korowa Anglican Girls' School Early Learning Centre
- » Lady Forster Kindergarten
- » Lauriston Girls' School Kindergarten
- » Leap Ahead Learning Pre-prep
- » Mac.Robertson Girls' High School
- » Malvern Early Learning and Childcare Centre
- » Malvern Primary School
- » Margaret Thomas House
- » Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools
- » Melbourne Girls Grammar School
- » Melbourne Girls' College

- » Melbourne Graduate School of Education
- » Middle Park Primary School
- » Monash Science School
- » Mother of God Primary School
- » Mount Lilydale Mercy College
- » Mount Scopus Memorial College
- » Mount St Joseph Girl's College
- » Mount Waverley Secondary College
- » Mt Eliza Primary School
- » Mungkarta Homeland Learning Centre
- » Newmark Primary
- » Notre Dame College Shepparton
- » Oakleigh South Primary School
- » Olive Phillips Kindergarten
- » Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception
- » Our Lady's Primary School
- » Overport Primary School
- » Poet's Grove Family Children's Centre
- » Port Melbourne Primary School
- » Preshil The Margaret Lyttle Memorial School
- » Princes Close Child Care Centre
- » Renown Kindergarten
- » Reservoir High School
- » Ride Avenue Pre-School (Benalla)
- » Ripponlea Primary School
- » Rossbourne School
- » Ruyton Girls' School (Kew)
- » Sacré Cœur
- » Sandringham College (Junior School)



- » Sandringham East Primary School
- » Sandringham East Primary School
- » Sandringham Primary School
- » Solway Primary School
- » South Melbourne Park Primary School
- » South Melbourne Primary School
- » St Bernadette's Primary School
- » St Columba's Primary School, Elwood
- » St Finbar's Primary School
- » St Finbar's Primary School, Brighton East
- » St James Catholic Primary School, Brighton
- » St James Catholic Primary School, Brighton
- » St Joan of Arc School, Brighton
- » St John's Kindergarten, Sandringham
- » St John's Primary School in Clifton Hill
- » St Joseph's Primary School, Malvern
- » St Joseph's Primary School, Black Rock
- » St Kilda & Balaclava Kindergarten
- » St Kilda Park Primary School
- » St Kilda Park Primary School
- » St Kilda Primary School

- » St Leo the Great Primary School
- » St Louis de Montfort's School, Aspendale
- » St Mary's Primary School, Hampton
- » St Mary's Primary School, Malvern East
- » St Mary's Primary School, St Kilda East
- » St Mary's Primary School, Brighton
- » St Marys Preschool Brighton
- » St Michael's Grammar School
- » St Peter's Kindergarten
- » St Peter's Primary School (Keilor East)
- » St Scholastica's School
- » Star of the Sea College
- » Sunnyside Kindergarten East Malvern
- » Thornbury High School
- » Toorak Primary School
- » University Park Primary School
- » Valkstone Primary School
- » Vermont Primary School
- » Victoria University
- » Warrnambool East PS
- » Westbourne Grammar School
- » Wesley College
- » Westall Secondary College
- » Western English Language School
- » Williamstown Primary School
- » Windsor Primary School
- » Winter Street Early Years Service

EcoCentre People

Committee of Management

- » Pam O'Neil, President
- » Jan Cossar, Vice-President (February – present)
- » Lis Fenwick PhD, Vice-President (October – January)
- » Nicholas Capes, Treasurer
- » Deb Sykes, Secretary
- » Janie Maxwell MD
- » Isabel Robinson
- » Ian Gray AM
- » Josh Reid Jones
- » Elliot Costello

EcoCentre Public Fund managers

- » Louise Kyle
- » Michele New
- » Nicholas Capes

Staff

- » April Seymore, Executive Officer
- » Cécile van der Burgh PhD, Education Manager
- » Lisa Horler, Operations and Community Action Manager
- » Michelle Fisher, Impact Team Leader

- » Neil Blake OAM, Port Phillip Baykeeper
- » Fam Charko, Marine Biologist
- » Nadav Zisin, Community Engagement Coordinator
- » Reiko Yamada, Project Manager for Climate Change & DEI
- » Deb Punton, Gardens and Early Learning Educator
- » Alex Hoffman, Educator
- » Didi Salamy, Communications and Marketing Coordinator
- » Allison Shanahan, Educator
- » Ben Francischelli, Educator
- » Ben Kowaluk, Educator

- » Ella Ryan, Educator
- » Heather Maginn, Educator
- » Malcolm Dow, Educator
- » Peter Kelly, Educator
- » Sharron Hunter, Educator
- » David Giles, IT Specialist

Multicultural Bay Ambassadors

- » Catalina Mardones Martinez
- » Jiani Zhang
- » Justine Nikiciuk
- » Nethmi Nagahulla

Above and beyond volunteers

- » Josie Jones, Mermaid photographer
- » Allan Pringle, Compost engineer
- » Janine Stabryla, Compost engineer
- » Annie Lang, Admin all-rounder
- » Caroline Price, Reception
- » John Hillel, Repair Cafe volunteer coordinator
- » Margot Brock, Worm whisperer

- » Michelle Humphreys, Admin all-rounder
- » Mick Meehan, Propagation leader
- » Oscar Baldacchino, Youth keynote speaker
- » Ella Simons, Youth keynote speaker
- » Tammy Taylor, Deep Time Walks
- » Stephen Cramond, Dune profiling field tests
- » Judy Muir, Beach nature reporting
- » Peter Lindner, Geography curriculum advice
- » Dr Yung En Chee, Expert advice on urban ecology

Interns

- » Alexander Almazan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Ashley Burke, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Brent Ditzler, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Chenxin Tu, Australia National University
- » Drew Solomon,

- » Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Jack Charbonneau, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Jacob Morin, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Madison Sanborn, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Sophie Clarke, Monash University
- » Travis Thompson, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Will Lapointe, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- » Elena Poletta, RMIT University
- » Harry Jackson, RMIT University
- » Kayla-Elizabeth Mountain, RMIT University
- » Nick Crowley, RMIT University

Work experience students

- » Tien Le
- » Giovanni Vadoros
- » Kian Ashari
- » Lukas Duffy
- » Jett Hornage
- » Jacob Dorman



Treasurer's report

2022 was a very challenging financial year for the EcoCentre with the continuing existence of COVID in the community, and a resulting operating loss of \$132,252 (compared to an operating surplus of \$93,806 in 2021).

As with the prior financial year, the current year revenue streams were affected by the ongoing presence of the COVID epidemic and its associated restrictions for our clients and our staff. The significant difference, however, was that we received no government subsidies (i.e. Jobkeeper) in the current year versus \$405,000 in the prior year. However, non-Jobkeeper revenue increased by 14% on the prior year, which was a very positive result.

Although new roles were added in anticipation of expanded work, and costs were incurred during site move, the payroll expenses were kept at much the same level as prior year. The continuing investment in our highly qualified, skilled and dedicated staff is essential for the success of our ongoing impact.

Other expenses were also well-controlled at \$134,935 compared to \$190,161 in the prior year. The

main reduction was in professional service costs for consultants or partner organisations paid under the terms of grant deliverables.

During the year, we vacated our traditional home in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens and accordingly wrote-off the final \$23,068 of its capital value in our books.

Although the income from our ethical investment fund increased compared to the prior year, its capital value diminished along with the general decline in value of most investment funds worldwide at June 30 2022. This resulted in a fair value loss on our investment of \$174,385.

Accordingly, our final total comprehensive loss for the year was \$329,705. However, our balance sheet remains very strong with net assets of \$1,404,838.



Nick Capes
Treasurer

Statement of profit or loss

and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2022

		2022	2021
		\$	\$
Revenue	4	841,492	1,144,992
Other income		20,000	-
Employee benefits expense		(852,511)	(855,146)
Depreciation and amortisation expense*	13	(6,298)	(5,879)
Other expenses		(134,935)	(190,161)
Normal operating surplus for the year - before additional depreciation adjustment due to change in estimate of useful life of the Association's building		(132,252)	93,806
Depreciation adjustment - change in useful life*	13	(23,068)	(178,488)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		(155,320)	(84,682)
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax			
Fair value gains/(loss) on investments		(174,385)	91,189
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		(174,385)	91,189
Total comprehensive income for the year		(329,705)	6,507

*The depreciation and amortisation expense for the year consists of two separate components. The first component being the annual depreciation of the Association's Building and Plant and Equipment of \$6,298 (2021: \$5,879) before the change in estimated useful life of the Association's building. A separate depreciation component of \$23,068 (2021: \$178,488) exists due to the change in estimate of the useful life of the Association's building that was applied in financial year 2021. Please refer to note 13 in the full Financial Statements for a detailed explanation of the matter.



Detailed income and expenditure statement

for the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Income		
City of Port Phillip other grants	347,788	317,181
Other grants	205,026	196,389
Consultancy Income	121,607	122,743
Donations	92,428	63,573
Investment Income	41,760	24,017
Membership	1,663	59
Seminars & Education	28,446	15,720
Product sales	2,774	210
Government Subsidies	-	405,100
Total Income	841,492	1,144,992
Less: Expenses		
Employee benefits expense		
Salaries and Wages	771,911	770,816
Superannuation	73,390	75,670
Workcover	7,210	8,660
Total employee benefits expense	852,511	855,146
Depreciation & amortisation expense		
Depreciation	29,366	184,367

Other expense		
Accounting and audit fees	32,790	23,685
Bank charges	597	547
Cleaning	4,061	3,840
Computer expenses	26,270	12,184
Consumables	850	3,043
Electricity	1,316	1,747
Insurance	7,632	5,037
Equipment and materials	5,605	10,140
Other operating expenses	-	320
Printing, postage and stationary	4,860	7,164
Professional services	20,651	94,090
Repairs and maintenance	363	44
Seminars and training	2,825	5,192
Sundry Expenses	19,506	14,906
Subscriptions	2,697	4,861
Telephone	4,912	3,361
Total other expense	134,935	190,161
Total expense	1,016,812	1,229,674
Other income	20,000	-
	20,000	-
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(155,320)	(84,682)

Statement by members of the Committee

We, Pamela O'Neil and Nick Capes, 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 and performance of the Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc during the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2022.

Dated:

Pam O'Neil
Pamela O'Neil (President)

Nick Capes
Nick Capes (Treasurer)



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

Phone: 03 9690 5700
Facsimile: 03 9690 6509
Website: www.morrrows.com.au

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

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2022 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association to comply with the financial reporting provisions of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Your financial future,
tailored your way



Morrrows Audit Pty Ltd
ABN 18 626 582 232
AAC 509944

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation



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

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

The committee of management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, and for such internal control as the committee of management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee of management is responsible for assessing the the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



MORROWS AUDIT PTY LTD

Adrian Fong

A.M. FONG
Director

Melbourne: 2/09/2022

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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 2022 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 me by the committee of management to compile the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on the special purpose Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement.

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



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Melbourne: 2/09/2022

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EcoCentre contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

The EcoCentre's work is underpinned by the scientific imperative of the United Nations Climate Agreements and informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 global ambitions contributing to a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet,

now and into the future. The goals recognise that a thriving society must develop in parallel with a healthy planet.

As part of our *Monitoring and Evaluation Framework*, the EcoCentre assesses our projects, programs and practices for positive, negative or neutral contributions to the SDGs.





Artist's render by Bourke and Bouteloup architects

New EcoCentre launching in 2023/24

Bunurong/Boon Wurrung Country
c/o 38 Blessington St, St Kilda
VIC 3182, Australia


Incorporated Association No. A0038897K

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

www.ecocentre.com

Email info@ecocentre.com to find out more
about our team and our initiatives.

P: 03 9534 0670

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