



ECOLOGICAL &  
SOCIAL  
SUSTAINABILITY



ANNUAL  
REPORT

2016



# ABOUT YARRA VALLEY ECOSS

**OUR VISION IS** - a vibrant, resilient and sustainable Yarra Valley community.

**OUR MISSION IS** - to create an inspiring educational and recreational facility that will demonstrate sustainable living solutions for the community of the Yarra Valley and beyond.

**OUR ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL,**  
aimed at restoring natural capital in our environment is -

- A rural recreational and training facility that demonstrates innovation and best practice in regenerative land-use, renewable energies and resources, and the local production of food.

**OUR LEARNING GOAL,**  
aimed at developing human capital in our people is -

- A program of activities that inspires and enables the acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed to develop sustainable lifestyles.

**OUR SOCIAL GOAL,**  
aimed at improving social capital in our community is -

- A cooperative enterprise that is owned by the community, managed by the community, for the community and expresses the community's spirit.

**OUR FINANCIAL GOAL,**  
aimed at building financial capital and financial security in our community is -

- A range of integrated enterprises that provides local employment, stimulates the growth of the regional economy and provides income to support our operations.

**OUR VALUES ARE -**

- Care for the Earth, its life forms and ecological processes, as stewards for future generations"
- Care for People, through respect and the provision of opportunity for everyone to reach their potential.
- A Fair Share of the Earth's renewable and non-renewable resources for all members of current and future populations.

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# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



## THE TEAM

### *Left to right*

Bernie Lobert	<b>Treasurer/ Chair Admin Sub Committee</b>
Kellie Gee	<b>Vice President / Upper Yarra Landcare Representative</b>
Tom Neil	<b>Natural Building Centre Representative</b>
Ian Cuming	<b>President and Chair Site &amp; Enterprise Sub Committee</b>
Joe butler	<b>Secretary, Admin Sub Committee and Chair Community Engagement Sub Committee</b>
Simon Woodland	<b>Executive Officer, Sustainability, Yarra Ranges Council ex-officio representative</b>
Ric Butler	<b>(early 2016) Site and Enterprise Sub Committees</b>
Niree Bingham	<b>Community Engagement, &amp; Site Sub Committee</b>

### *Absent*

Cr. Jim Child	<b>Yarra Ranges Council ex-officio representative</b>
Ann Roberts	<b>Yarra Valley Bee Group Representative</b>
Catherine Aulich	<b>Bookkeeper</b>



# STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



## STAFF MEMBERS

Chelsea McNab Office Manager, Community Engagement Coordinator, Schools Program Coordinator  
Shaun Bayly, David St Maur Sheil, Melissa Rae (until Feb 2016).

## SUPPORTERS AND CONSULTANTS

Catherine Aulich of Upper Yarra Valley Bookkeeping, Jon Coe of Jon Coe Design, Geoff Vickers & Lindy Schneider of Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited, Niree Bingham of Niree Bingham Landscape Architect, Nirvana Nirvana, Tom Neil of Silvertop Joinery, Doug from SLF, Ann Roberts from Ann Roberts Graphic Design.

## VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the backbone of ECOSS and we are deeply grateful to all those who have given generously of their time and skills throughout 2016. Including all of our Work for the Dole participants and all the Ecotopia and Spring Fair Festival Volunteers, your assistance is invaluable.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Karen Meulemann Festivals support, Yarra Ranges Council  
Little Yarra Steiner School, Brad Charman Yarra Valley Signs, Paige Diplodocious for all your sound engineering volunteering and expertise, Michelle Fisher for abundance of offerings around festival time, Lisa Stubner for taking care of the Veggie Boxes in Yarra Junction, Ivy Barrett for Office Support, Cath Anthony for unlimited support and enthusiasm, Simon Woodland Yarra Ranges Council.

# WITH APPRECIATION

For the following Partners and Sponsors including; The Andrews Foundation and Yarra Junction Opp Shop.

The  
Hugh Williamson  
Foundation



*The*  
WILLIAM BUCKLAND  
FOUNDATION  
*WBF*



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016

## INTRODUCTION

This year has seen ECOSS take further steps and consolidation towards our ideas of ecological and social sustainability in the place we live. A visit to the site in Wesburn reveals a busy and diverse level of activity that is evidence of our emerging place in the Yarra Valley community. We are slowly becoming a venue and a hub for more community activities

Down in the chooksheds Tom Neil and his workers have been building tiny houses to inspire people to move towards sustainable housing and free themselves from mortgage servitude. Chelsea is busy in the office, updating the website, organizing school groups and two festivals a year. There is a weekly food box scheme that is using our kitchen as a sorting place. The site is clean and busy, especially using our growing band of volunteers. The coming year will see the establishment of a market garden in the field below the sheds. All these activities have come from individuals and groups who have approached ECOSS and found support for their ideas and a place to put them into action. We have developed a process for helping these groups to establish themselves.

We have seen a growth and diversity in our ability to provide community education. During the last year, we have provided horticulture training and have been running workshops in areas such as building with straw bales and hempcrete for people wanting to build with different materials. We have built a "frog bog" and provided a workshop on its ability to attract aquatic wildlife.

Most successful has been the expansion of the schools program, where young people (particularly from the city) can experience and learn about the natural world and the possibility of a sustainable approach to living. This includes the interesting and successful bee workshops run by the Yarra Valley Bee Group.

Looking forward, we have received a grant from the Hugh Williamson Foundation to build a temporary classroom for the school program and other workshops. We will build this facility and at last will have an all-weather venue to be able to deliver our education programs.

The Ecotopia Festival has become one of the major events in the year for the Upper Yarra Valley where community groups can find expression. Our own Spring Fair was well attended despite the threat of rain and has become an event where we can show ourselves. Every year there is more to see.

Our biggest disappointment for the year has been that the nursery was not as successful as we would have liked, especially as we were keen to reduce our reliance on external funding. We are grateful to the Buckland Foundation for their generous support in establishing the nursery and we were able to provide work and horticultural training for three trainees, volunteers and

groups with work obligations. At the time of writing, the nursery is being revitalised while we look for partners.

I would like to acknowledge the support from the members of the Committee of Management who each bring their energy and skill to the governance of ECOSS. We were joined this year by Tom Neil and Ric Butler and both have added their energy to the organization. Niree Bingham has left us to concentrate on other things and we sincerely thank her for her contribution, especially her skills in planning and landscape design.

Thanks to all members of the various communities, volunteers and organisations who have helped us and contributed this year. You are also part of our community.

**Ian Cumming**  
President



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT 2016

Community Engagement continues to be the lifeblood of Yarra Valley ECOSS and 2015 -16 has seen a pleasing increase in community traffic at the Wesburn site. This has been the result of new projects, the introduction of the Schools Program, expansion of the nursery shop, training programs and the co-location of more local environment groups.

The Schools Program has always been part of the vision for ECOSS so it has been very satisfying to see its introduction in Term 4, 2015. The program is coordinated by Chelsea McNab and includes a wide variety of environmental activities, all mapped to the VELS outcomes of the Victorian Education Department. As the schools' involvement increases so does the range of activities being offered, with new ones constantly being planned.

During the last 12 months ECOSS has also run Natural Building Workshops led by builder, Tom Neil, a Native Garden Design Workshop led by Landscape Architect, Niree Bingham, a Grafting Workshop and Horticulture courses which are auspiced by Cire Services (formerly Upper Yarra Community House). There are plans to run more courses in the future.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONTINUES TO BE THE LIFEBLOOD OF YARRA VALLEY ECOSS AND 2015 -16 HAS SEEN A PLEASING INCREASE IN COMMUNITY TRAFFIC AT THE WESBURN SITE.**

Some recent grants have enabled a number of new projects at ECOSS. They range from the small to the grand in concept. A donation from the Yarra Valley Garden Club was used to start the Frog Bog which will be part of the Schools Program. Similarly a small grant from the Yarra Junction Op shop added to the Festival infrastructure. A grant from the Andrews Foundation is being used to build 3 small 'International Homes' or cubbies. The labour for these is provided by local schools looking for hands-on projects suitable for students who struggle with the mainstream classroom. To this point the first cubby, an earth bag house, is almost complete and planning is underway for an indigenous one and a small 'Earth Ship'. A Yarra Ranges Council Community Grant is also being used to construct a Reconciliation Conversation Fire Pit in the Heritage Garden. Indigenous students from Healesville High School and Upper Yarra Secondary College will work on this. The Council is also installing a Disabled Toilet in the cottage later this year.

We now have a number of local environment groups co-locating at ECOSS. Warburton Environment shares an office with Upper Yarra Landcare and their Regional Landcare Coordinator uses the main site office once a month. The Yarra Valley Bee Group has also been meeting once a month at ECOSS and their bee-hives are housed near the community vegetable garden. Due to the very large number of Bee Group members they have temporarily moved to an alternative location until the ECOSS multi-purpose room is complete. The Food Cooperative, Beans and Bananas, packs and distributes their food boxes once a week from ECOSS. Two local biodynamic farmers are also planning a Market Garden to be located in the lower section of the property. This will begin once infrastructure is complete in Spring.

It has long been an ECOSS dream to have a large multi-purpose classroom on site so that groups would have somewhere to meet, classes or seminars could be held and the local community could hire it as a venue for functions. There was great delight when a recent application to the Hugh Williamson Foundation for a multi-purpose room, a compost toilet and a continuation of the Education Trail was successful. Work will start on these projects soon using a combination of volunteer labour, and professional builders.

Other pleasing recent developments at ECOSS include the involvement of Wesburn Primary School in the care of the ECOSS chooks as part of their Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Scheme. A small group of students and a teacher come in once a week and care for the chooks in exchange for the eggs. Similarly the vegetable planter boxes in Yarra Junction have been 'adopted' by local volunteers and are now newly constructed with thriving vegetables. There is also now a compost project happening with the Woori Yallock Vipassana Centre bringing all their food scraps to be composted on a weekly basis by ECOSS. At the start of 2016 it was decided to renew ECOSS' image by re-branding the organisation and developing a new marketing plan. Accordingly a new brand and logo was selected and launched with a very positive response from the local community. With creative direction from Ann Roberts and design by Justine Powers. Finally the Native Nursery has recently been given a new injection of energy and is being expanded to include more decorative natives as well as re-vegetation species. There are plans to develop a demonstration native garden.

The two ECOSS annual Festivals continue to be a very important part of our Community Engagement. This year's



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT CONTINUED...

Ecotopia Festival was perhaps the most successful with approximately 2,500 or more people attending. The layout was changed this year which meant the festival was concentrated in a smaller area with very positive results. The attractions included the ever-popular Recycled Fashion Parade, wonderful music, food and entertainers. The Spring Fair in October was a smaller family event which promoted our site and our vision. It was also well attended.

We feel very fortunate to have many volunteers who work in all kinds of capacities at ECOSS. They contribute an enormous amount and we would like to thank them most

sincerely. Similarly the Work for the Dole participants are an asset to ECOSS and bring a great range of experience with them. I would also like to thank my fellow Community Engagement Committee members – Chelsea McNab and Niree Bingham. It has been a fulfilling year!

**Joe Butler**  
Community Engagement Chair



# SCHOOLS PROGRAM



This year the Earth Education Program has really taken off. We have annual bookings from Mt Scopus College year 8 students- twice this year. Every Wednesday Wesburn Primary School look after our chickens that they have lovingly adopted and named.

We have Healesville High School students coming every Thursday, who have built the Earthbag cubby- funded by the Andrews Foundation Grant. We have had other visits from Cire After School Care, Wesburn Primary School, Warburton Primary and Yarra Junction Girl guides.

The most popular part of the program is the beekeeping- run by Yarra Valley Bee Group. Also very popular are composting, propagating, and the Great Forest activity- run by Warburton Environment.

The model of schools adopting a project and working it through to fruition has been a particular success, and this aspect of the program will develop more into the future, as feedback from the schools is that the hands on activities are invaluable to those who find sitting in a classroom difficult.

It seems that the weekly bookings are working well and we hope to continue these into the future. Schools are appreciative and only able to come due to the low cost, which means this is not so lucrative for ECOSS, but fulfils the vision and purpose of ECOSS.

The facilitators of the schools program are Joe Butler- ECOSS, Chelsea McNab- ECOSS, Ann Roberts- Yarra Valley Bee Group, and Karina Dougherty- Warburton Environment.

**Chelsea McNab**  
School Program Coordinator

**"THE MODEL OF SCHOOLS ADOPTING A PROJECT AND WORKING IT THROUGH TO FRUITION HAS BEEN A PARTICULAR SUCCESS, FEEDBACK FROM THE SCHOOLS IS THAT THE HANDS ON ACTIVITIES ARE INVALUABLE TO THOSE WHO FIND SITTING IN A CLASSROOM DIFFICULT."**



# FESTIVALS REPORT

## SPRING FAIR OCTOBER 4TH 2015.

The theme of this year was Tiny Houses. We showcased natural building techniques including a Rocket Fuel Stove Workshop, and Tiny House slideshow by Murray Goodchild. Tom Neil introduced some hempcrete and strawbale building techniques.

Local film maker Peter Downey gave a viewing of his film *Anima Mundi*, and Yarra Valley Bee Group showed movie 'More than Honey'. We had 2 Tiny Houses present.

The Little Yarra Steiner school class 3 students displayed their beautiful tiny homes for us.

For the kids we had 'One World Song' with Kurt Shean, and pet rock painting, and propagating. We also held a scarecrow competition, and 'make your own humpee'

All the market stalls were not for profit groups. There were local environment groups including Plastic Bag Free Warburton who were sewing reusable bags all day, Warburton Environment on the Smoothy cycle, and many more represented in our market on the Village Green. As always Yarra Valley Bee group provided a great deal of interest, as did our community garden that looked great on the day.

There was a stage line up all day with local talent including- Rebecca De Bauer performing her original - Reclaiming the Spirit. We had LYSS students April and Tom- classical duo, Tahu Dubs with Maori freedom songs, Sound Mandala on the Kora and Tablas, Marlee Nebauer and Club of Rome.

ECOSS provided delicious baked potatoes and sausages, and other community groups provided delicious healthy food including Koha Café, The Good Brew Crew, Little Yarra Creperie, fresh fruit Ice creams and more.

We were able to sell a great deal of vegetable seedlings and covered the costs of the festival. As usual it was a very successful family day.



## ECOTOPIA EARTH FESTIVAL 2016

The weather gods shone, and the energy in the space was absolutely fantastic. We feel it was the best Ecotopia yet, showcasing what a wonderful community we live in. Every area of the festival was well attended, and loads of positive feedback flooded in.

Some highlights were the famous Recycled Fashion Parade MC'd by Hans Allover, the silent disco in a large inflatable bubble, all the environmental and not for profit stalls, the Main Stage and Green stage performances, Chris Morant Circus, Love Me Like a Reptile snakes and lizards, the beautiful Women's red lotus bell tent, Men's Tipi, and every stall held it's own interest.

We would like to thank our sponsors Yarra Ranges Council, Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited, Cire Services (formerly Upper Yarra Community House) and 3VYV for making this day possible.

The quality of performances, workshops, demonstrations and stalls was high, and all environmentally conscious.

The rubbish at the end of the day equated to 1 wheelie bin of recycling, 1 wheelie bin of rubbish and 1 blue barrel of compost. That is an absolutely amazing outcome from approximately 2500 people's lunches, and approximately 65 stalls.

Ecotopia has been accepted by much of the community as the Annual festival. We are proud that it comes from our energy. Following the festival we were invited to present a slideshow for Yarra Ranges Council as the best festival in the Yarra Ranges.

The festival team consisted of Chelsea McNab, Joe Butler, Niree Bingham, Michelle Fisher and Melanie Allen.



## SOME ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE YEAR



## Yarra Valley Grafting Day and ECOSS Frog Bog Workshops

**What:** Talks, demonstrations and amazing fruit and planting opportunities trees for sale.(Cherries, apples, plums, peaches and pears)

**When:** Saturday 16th July 2016.

**Times:** 10:30-3 for fruit trees 1pm for frogs  
**Where:** Yarra Valley ECOS 711 Old Warburton Rd. Weshburn VIC 3799

*Please park across the road in Wesburn Park.*

**Why:** The most delicious, unique and cheapest fruit trees anywhere! And to learn about frog bogs  
**How much:** \$5 entry for both workshops, Fruit Trees \$15, less if you DIY. Scions \$5

Lunch available for purchase on the day

**Absolute beginners welcome! Be prepared to get muddy!!**





# ADMINISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The Administration sub-committee has responsibility for HR, Finance and Governance.

This year has seen a significant change in our staffing levels. After finishing their Certificate III in Horticulture, all three of our trainees went on to other jobs, which was a pleasing aspect of the positive role that this program has played in the career prospects of our trainees. Thanks to Ken Balsdon, Kevin Nemanic and Andy Tobin for all of their hard work and dedication. In December, we took on a staff member, Shaun Lodge through IPAR (injured workers looking to get back into the workforce) for 13 weeks to assist in the nurseries. Due to the change in scope of our nurseries, Shaun Bayly, our Community Enterprise Manager, David St Maur Sheil, our Business Development Manager and Melissa Ray, who undertook nursery administration did not see out the financial year. We thank them for their efforts and their commitment to growing the nurseries and their oversight of our trainees, volunteers and Work for the Dole participants.

Chelsea McNab expanded her role of Office Manager and Community Engagement Coordinator to take on the important role of Schools Program Coordinator and has increased the number of schools visiting the site. She continues to network and organise new activities that promotes our name and our vision into the wider community.

From January to April 2016, Chelsea McNab was again employed as Festival Director to run our fourth Ecotopia Junction festival, held at the Recreation Reserve in Yarra Junction on 10th April. Michelle Fisher was again employed from January to April 2016 as Festival Administrator to program the music stage, co-ordinate infrastructure and to assist and support Chelsea in her role. Niree Bingham was again employed as Stallholder Coordinator from January to April. The festival was a huge success with greater numbers of attendees, more stallholders and more activities than the previous year. It has now become a fixture on the festival calendar,

As at 30 June 2016, we employed one part-time staff member and one contractor.

These are:

- Chelsea McNab - Office Manager, School Program & Community Engagement Co-ordinator
- Catherine Aulich - Bookkeeper

We have ensured that award wages are being paid, that correct superannuation and work cover payments are being made. New position descriptions have been written and new contracts have been drawn up. We have also had ongoing performance reviews of all of our staff and where necessary have taken appropriate action.

David St Maur Sheil, Chelsea McNab and Joe Butler took on the task of inducting our new volunteers and Work for the Dole participants. They are made aware of their OH&S and other responsibilities and the reporting mechanism

for all incidents. Our volunteers contribute an enormous amount to the overall running of YV ECOSS and I would again like to thank them for their ongoing support and commitment to this organisation, which would not be able to function without them.

We have continued our monthly BBQ to foster better communication between the Committee of Management, staff and volunteers. Volunteers in particular can talk about any concerns they have in an informal setting and hopefully feel they are valued. As a way of thanking our volunteers, we also gave them free double pass movie tickets.

Shaun Bayly and David St Maur Sheil ensured that outdoor staff have followed the correct work procedures in line with our OH&S and emphasised the importance of incident reporting. We again reviewed our OH&S manual to keep it up to date. We introduced our smoking policy so that smoking was only allowed in one designated area and no smoking was to occur when schools visited the site.

We paid for two staff members to do a First Aid course and updated and expanded our First Aid kit. We also appointed a Fire Warden for the crucial summer fire period.

We again ran Horticulture Taster courses in partnership with Cire (Upper Yarra Community House), which saw increased activity on the site and Cire ran a Certificate II in Horticulture. We also agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding with Cire that set out the way we would work together and outlined each organisations responsibility.

Our partnership with Tom Neil saw us running a number of Sustainable Building courses in straw bale and hempcrete design and concepts. They were well attended and the participants gave us positive feedback.

We gained a number of new tenants. These were the Yarra Valley Bee Group, Upper Yarra Landcare and the Yarra Ranges Landcare network. As well, woodworkers Tom Neil, Dan and Nirvana started using the site for some woodworking projects.

Financial planning has as always been a priority for this sub-committee. We have undertaken quarterly budget reviews with subsequent reporting to the Committee of Management. We have actively followed up on outstanding accounts and debts and reduced these or put payment plans into place.

We bought a cash register for our shop and introduced EFTPOS facilities to increase sales.

Thank you as always to Joe Butler and Catherine Aulich who have worked hard this past financial year, to attend meetings and do the follow up activities associated with this sub-committee.

**Bernie Lobert**  
Chair Administration Sub-Committee

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2016

The Treasurer and Committee of Management members submit the financial report of Yarra Valley ECOSS Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the association during the financial year have not altered.

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

## OPERATING RESULT

The profit/(loss) for 2015-16 amounted to \$(6,864)  
In 2014-15: \$38,371

## INCOME FROM GRANTS, PARTNERSHIPS, SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

In 2015-2016, Yarra Valley ECOSS obtained a total of \$122,884 in grants and \$7,755 in donations and sponsorships from various sources (refer to note 9/10/11/12) for end of financial year adjustment explanations. We continue to receive generous ongoing support from our partner organisations, including Yarra Ranges Council, who supported us with the annual partnership agreement funding, funding support for our 2016 Ecotopia Junction Festival, and supported one of our Native Gardens Workshops. Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited (Bendigo Community Bank branches at Warburton and Yarra Junction), along with Cire Services Inc. (formerly UYCH Inc.) also provided sponsorship for our 2016 Ecotopia Junction Festival. Generous donations were received from the Yarra Junction Op Shop, the Upper Yarra Valley Garden Club Inc., and Doug MacMillan.

Details

- September 2015: Yarra Ranges Council – Partnership agreement funding (\$15,000)
- September 2015: Yarra Junction Op Shop – Donation (\$1,000)
- September 2015: Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited – Sponsorship of disabled toilet facilities at Spring Fair 2015 (\$170)
- November 2015: Yarra Ranges Council – Native Garden Design Workshop (\$250)
- January 2016: Doug MacMillan – Donation (\$1,250)
- January 2016: Yarra Ranges Council – Festival & Events sponsorship for the 2016 Ecotopia Junction Festival (\$10,000)
- March 2016: Upper Yarra Valley Garden Club Inc. –

Donation towards Frog Wetland project (\$1,000)

- March 2016: Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited – Sponsorship of Ecotopia 2016 (\$3,000)
- April 2016: Cire Services Inc. – Sponsorship of the 2016 Ecotopia Junction Festival (\$300)
- May 2016: The Andrews Foundation – Tiny Houses Project (\$5,000)

## RENTAL INCOME

The Warburton Environment Group continued as tenants in the Arts Space and were joined by Upper Yarra Landcare. The Yarra Valley Bee Group became a regular tenant as did Yarra Ranges Landcare. At the end of 2015 we welcomed woodworkers Tom Neil, Dan Amrein & Nirvana. We set up a formal MOU arrangement with Cire Services Inc. for them to use the site for horticulture certificate and taster courses for which we received an annual flat rental amount. Our schools program continued to bring school excursions on site and this was a pleasing development in the use of the site. We also earned income from rental of our stretch tent and smoothie bike. Our rental and school program activities brought in a combined income of \$10,162, which was a substantial increase from \$1,445 in financial year 2014-15.

## NURSERY INCOME

In the 2015-16 financial year, our Nursery sales were \$58,616, which increased compared to \$33,807 from 2014-15.

## WORK FOR THE DOLE INCOME

We took on Work for the Dole participants for the first time this financial year who worked in the nurseries, the shop, and did site and maintenance work. We received \$1,870 from Sarina Russo Job Access Pty Ltd and \$4,800 from Employment Services Group.

## MEMBER INCOME

Income from membership fees generated \$518 in 2015-16.

## FUTURE INCOME

The ongoing financial aim of Yarra Valley ECOSS is to become financially sustainable within the next few years. We hope to generate sufficient income from all our activities; which includes our Community Nurseries and shop, School Visits and Rental income, to be able to pay our ongoing wages and operational expenses.

Thank you again as always, to Catherine Aulich our bookkeeper, who has worked tirelessly and provided invaluable support throughout the year.

**Bernie Lobert**  
Treasurer

**INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants	9,11	122,884	152,312
Project Sales		58,616	33,807
Rental Income		10,162	1,445
Misc. Income		678	71
Events and Workshop		12,308	5,407
Training		19,532	0
Donations and Sponsorship	10,12	7,755	14,977
Interest		62	719
Membership		518	573
		<hr/> 232,515	<hr/> 209,311
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Salaries	2	111,021	117,531
Materials and Contracts	3	29,621	17,630
Costs of Project Sales		48,283	7,632
Utilities		11,636	5,541
Depreciation		8,991	1,946
Other	4	29,827	20,660
		<hr/> 239,379	<hr/> 170,940
<b>Net Profit / (Loss)</b>		<hr/> (6,864)	<hr/> 38,371

\*This Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	19,942	122,467
Trade and other receivables		3,088	7,289
Inventory		15,929	13,793
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		38,959	143,549
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant and equipment	7	20,980	19,797
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		20,980	19,797
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		59,939	163,346
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provision for employee entitlements		444	2,831
Grants Received in Advance	11,12	6,888	98,693
Trade and other payables	6	2,657	5,008
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		9,989	106,532
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provision for employee entitlements		0	0
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		0	0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		9,989	106,532
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		49,950	56,814
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained profits		49,950	56,814
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		49,950	56,814

\*This Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



## **STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	<b>Retained Earnings \$</b>	<b>Financial Assets Reserve \$</b>	<b>General Reserves \$</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>	18,443			18,443
Profit attributable to members	38,371			38,371
<b>Balance at 30 June 2015</b>	56,814			56,814
Profit/Loss attributable to members	(6,864)			(6,864)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	49,950			49,950

This Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## **CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2016 \$</b>	<b>2015 \$</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers including GST		113,770	61,485
Grants receipts		31,079	193,173
Payments to suppliers and employees including GST		(237,261)	(207,122)
Interest received		62	719
Net cash provided by operating activities	8	(92,350)	48,255
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		0	0
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(10,175)	(15,255)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(10,175)	(15,255)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings		0	0
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		0	0
Net(decrease)/ increase in cash held		(102,525)	33,000
Cash at beginning of year		122,467	89,467
Cash at end of year	5	19,942	122,467

This Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

### **NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The committee of management of the Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc. have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the association is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports. Therefore this financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to meet the needs of the members and satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the committee of management have determined are appropriate to meet the disclosure requirements of :

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 1048	Interpretation of Standards
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

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

**a. Income Tax**

The association is exempt from income tax.

**b. Fixed Assets**

Plant and equipment and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**c. Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Equipment and Furnishings	30%
Farm Plant and Equipment	30%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

**d. Leases**

A lease agreement exists with Yarra Ranges Council and is currently on hold over while a new lease is being negotiated.

**e. Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

### **NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**f. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**g. Revenue**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised upon the delivery of goods to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**h. Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**i. Comparative Figures**

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

### **NOTE 2: SALARIES**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
— Wages and Salaries	96,814	105,670
— Provision for leave Entitlements	0	118
— Superannuation	9,011	9,522
— Other	2,543	1,515
— Work cover	2,653	706
	111,021	117,531

### **NOTE 3: MATERIAL AND CONTRACTS**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
— Program Administration Expenses		0
— Events	12,267	10,880
— Workshop	8,112	0
— Site Expenses	9,242	6,750
— Contractors	0	0
	29,621	17,630

### **NOTE 4: OTHER**

2016 \$	2015 \$
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**NOTE 3: MATERIAL AND CONTRACTS**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
— Program Administration Expenses		0
— Events	12,267	10,880
— Workshop	8,112	0
— Communications	2,651	2,479
— Audit and bookkeeping	14,821	11,155
— Insurance	1,568	1,997
— Other Administration Expenses	2,141	1,975
— Security	0	1,102
— Subscriptions / Membership	5,156	0
— Marketing	2,339	453
— Sundry	1,151	1,499
	<u>29,827</u>	<u>20,660</u>

**NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Petty Cash	301	266
Cheque Account	12,088	120,568
GST Account	1,134	1,290
Debit Card Account	210	343
Grants Account	6,209	0
	<u>19,942</u>	<u>122,467</u>

The effective interest rate on short-term bank deposits was 0.00% to 1.85%; these deposits have a maturity at call and 3 months.

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to equal items in the balance sheet.

19,942	122,467
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**NOTE 6: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	1,550	670
Superannuation payable	425	2,663
Net GST and PAYG	682	1,675
	<u>2,657</u>	<u>5,008</u>



## **NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Equipment and Furnishings:		
At Cost	8,617	8,617
Accumulated depreciation	(7,738)	(7,361)
	<u>879</u>	<u>1,256</u>
Nursery Plant & Equipment:		
At Cost	4,037	4,037
Accumulated depreciation	(1,211)	0
	<u>2,826</u>	<u>4,037</u>
Leasehold Improvements		
At Cost	21,393	11,218
Accumulated depreciation	(6,418)	0
	<u>14,975</u>	<u>11,218</u>
Farm Plant and Equipment:		
At Cost	20,542	20,542
Accumulated depreciation	(18,242)	(17,256)
	<u>2,300</u>	<u>3,286</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>20,980</u>	<u>19,797</u>

## **NOTE 8: CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit / (loss)</b>		
Profit / (loss)	(6,864)	38,371
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows		
— Depreciation	8,991	1,946
— Provisions for employee entitlement	(2,387)	118
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries		
— (Increase)/decrease in trade and term debtors	4,201	5,205
— (Increase)/decrease in Stock	(2,136)	(13,793)
— Increase/(decrease) in grants in advance	(91,805)	27,014
— Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(2,350)	(10,606)
	<u>(92,350)</u>	<u>48,255</u>

#### **NOTE 9: GRANTS RECEIVED 2015-16**

	\$	\$
Opening balance (Income received in advance 14-15)		98,693
<i>add:</i>		
Yarra Ranges Council - Partnership Grant	15,000	
Yarra Ranges Council – Ecotopia Junction Festival 2016	10,000	
The Andrews Foundation – Tiny Houses Grant	5,000	
<b>Total received 15-16</b>		<b>128,693</b>
<i>Less: Income received in advance</i>		<i>-5,809</i>
<b>Adjusted Grants Total</b>		<b>122,884</b>

#### **NOTE 10: DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS RECEIVED 2015-16**

	\$
YJ Op Shop Donation	1,000
Doug MacMillan	1,250
Upper Yarra Valley Garden Club Inc. – Frog Bog	1,000
Yarra Ranges Council – Native Garden Design Workshop	250
UYCE Ltd – Warburton and Yarra Junction Bendigo Community Bank – Ecotopia & Spring Fair	3,170
Cire Services Inc. – Ecotopia	300
Other miscellaneous donations	1,864
<b>Total received 15-16</b>	<b>8,834</b>
<i>Less: Income received in advance</i>	<i>-1,079</i>
	<b>7,755</b>

#### **NOTE 11: GRANTS RECEIVED IN FY 15-16 UNSPENT AT 30 JUNE 2016**

	\$
The Andrews Foundation – Tiny Houses Grant	3,192
Yarra Ranges Council – Heritage Garden	2,617
<b>Total Grants in Advance 15-16</b>	<b>5,809</b>

#### **NOTE 12: DONATIONS RECEIVED IN FY 15-16 UNSPENT AT 30 JUNE 2016**

	\$
Upper Yarra Valley Garden Club – Frog Bog	400
YJ Op Shop Donation	679
<b>Total Donations Income in Advance 15-16</b>	<b>1,079</b>

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#### **NOTE 13: PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE**

##### **Annual leave entitlement balance at 30th June 2016**

Employee	\$
Chelsea McNab	444
<b>Provision for Annual Leave</b>	<b>444</b>

#### **NOTE 14. REVIEWER'S REMUNERATION**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Reviewer Fee	880	840

The reviewer for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 is Quality Financial Solutions Pty Ltd

#### **NOTE 15. ASSOCIATION DETAILS**

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:

711 Old Warburton Road

Wesburn VIC 3799

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INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE PRACTITIONER'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF UPPER YARRA COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT PARK INCORPORATED

**Conclusion**

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the annual financial report of Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc. does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

all material respects, the Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards as noted in Note 1 and the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

**Emphasis of Matter**

The committee has determined that Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc. is a non-reporting incorporation association. The financial report has been prepared in accordance with special purpose reporting framework in order to meet the requirements of the members. Our conclusion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Basis of Accounting**

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc.'s financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act and to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Quality Financial Solutions Pty Ltd

David Petersen

Director

Certified Practising Accountants

Eltham.

this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016