



Sustainable Living solutions

Annual Report 2013



Illustration
Sioux Dollman

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.

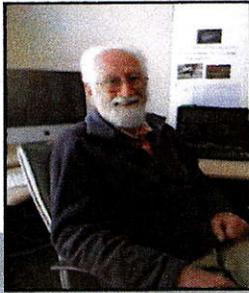
A Fair Share of the Earth's renewable and non-renewable resources for all members of current and future populations.

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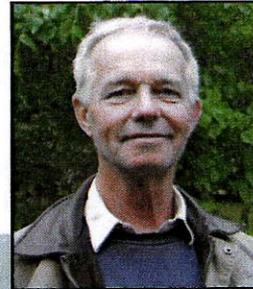
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ECOSS Committee of Mangement



Graeme George*
Acting President



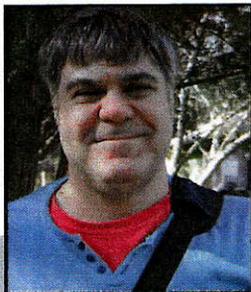
Ian Cuming
Site Sub-committee Chair



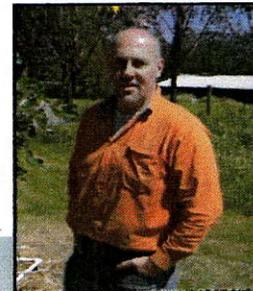
Carin Eisen
Vice President



Michael Hibbert



Bernie Lobert
Treasurer



Michael Zaar



Joe Butler*
Community Engagement Ch.



Sally Brennan

*** New Committee Members since June 30, 2013**

Members resigned since June 30, 2013

Michael Zaar and Sally Brennan

ECOSS Staff



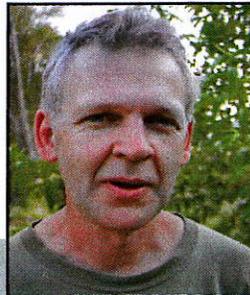
Pre July 2013 Staff

Grant Eastwood
Community Enterprise



Post July 2013 Staff

Matt Daniele
Nursery Manager



Keith Jesse
Sustainable Development



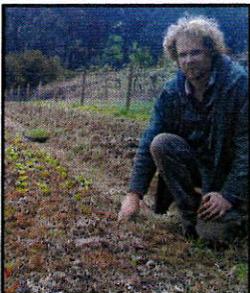
Kevin Nemanic
Site Manager



Charlene Booker
Operations Co-ordinator



Chelsea McNab
Office Administrator



Steve Smith
Market Garden Manager



Catherine Aulich
Bookkeeper



Erin & Gino
Volunteers



Peter Lorback
Native Nursery Manager

Presidents Report

Our focus over the 2012-13 financial year has been on implementing the Community Enterprise Program funded by the William Buckland Foundation and the staging of the Ecotopia Junction Festival at Yarra Junction in April. Both projects were impacted by the discovery of residual asbestos cement sheet fragments around the old chicken sheds which resulted in the closing off of a large part of the ECOSS farm by the Council on the recommendation of their consultants. The site access restrictions meant that the Community Enterprise project had to change direction and our annual sustainability festival had to be held off-site. Never-the-less our volunteers and staff rose to the occasion and achieved great results in both areas. The year also saw some changes at Committee level and a number of changes to our staffing.

Committee of Management

At the AGM held in November 2012 Michael Zaar was elected President, Graeme George Vice President, Bernie Lobert Treasurer, Grant Eastwood Secretary and Joe Butler, Ian Cuming, Carin Eisen, Michael Hibbert and Matt Daniele as Ordinary Members.

David Harper, as Manager, Environment Department, and Mayor Jim Child, as Ward Councillor, O'Shannassy Ward, represented Yarra Ranges Council in an ex-officio capacity.

There were several subsequent changes to the Committee. Grant resigned as Secretary in February on moving to Melbourne, Matt found he was unable to attend CoM meetings due to family commitments and Michael Zaar resigned as President in April. Graeme took on the President role in an acting capacity in April and Robynne Mauer joined the Committee as Secretary in June.

Staff

Due to lack of funding the part time position of Sustainable Projects Officer had to be discontinued and Keith Jesse finished up in that role in January. Keith has made valuable contributions to the development of ECOSS since its establishment as the Upper Yarra Community Environment Park and his ongoing availability for consultation on our IT systems and planning is appreciated. On moving to Melbourne Grant also resigned as Community Enterprise Project Manager in February and Steve Smith resigned as Market Garden Manager in April to take up a position in Melbourne. These changes initiated a review of our operational requirements and capabilities in the light of our site access restrictions to ensure that the available funds were used to best effect in pursuing our broad goals and specific objectives. The positions of Community Enterprise Project Manager and Market Garden Manager were not continued and Peter Lorback was engaged on short-term contracts to develop a Native Plants Nursery and a Workshops and Training program.

Charlene Booker had to relinquish her part-time training position based in our office as Operations Coordinator for health reasons. Her place was taken by Chelsea McNab who is now based in the office every Tuesday as Admin Coordinator. Charlene left behind a very-well organised office that has enabled Chelsea to quickly get to work on a range of community engagement projects.

At 30th June we had two part-time employees - Matt Daniele, Edible Plants Nursery Manager and Kevin Nemanic, Site Manager along with two employed trainees - Ken Balsdon and Andrew Tobin.

We also engage with the following contractors: Peter Lorback from Out There Training - Native Plants Nursery management & Workshop co-ordination, Chelsea McNab - Administration Co-ordination, Catherine Aulich - Bookkeeping and Lyndy McDonald from Even Keel Enterprises - House Cleaning.

Planning

Our annual planning day was again held in February, ably facilitated by Jon Coe and scribed by Keith Jesse. After a detailed SWOT analysis our whiteboards were filled with ideas and suggestions for priorities for the calendar year ahead. Unfortunately our ability to progress most of them were hampered by restrictions on site access, changes to the Community Enterprise program and ongoing negotiations on how the asbestos contamination is to be remedied. The necessary move of our annual festival off-site, however provided a very positive outcome as it enabled us to considerably ramp up our community connections.

Following the Planning Day, Site sub-committee met to review the Vision and Goals for ECOSS. This resulted in re-affirmation of the statements developed in 2010. These have been subsequently added to the website and specific objectives relating to these broad goals have been built into all new staff work contracts.

Work on an Innominate Use application for the easing of Green Wedge Zoning restrictions was put on hold until it became clear what the impact of the asbestos contamination would be on our ability to proceed with our original Master Plan.

Important matters that have been dealt with since the close of the financial year are covered briefly in an appended update to this report.

Graeme George

Vice President, Acting President

Community Engagement Report

As its title indicates the Community Engagement sub-committee is concerned with engaging the local and extended communities in Yarra Valley ECOSS. This can take the form of encouraging participation in ECOSS initiatives or on the other hand facilitating external groups to initiate their own activities at ECOSS. The 12 months from July 2012 until June 2013 saw a gradual increase in both these types of activity as ECOSS continued to build connections particularly with the local community.

The ECOSS Community Nursery has welcomed more volunteers who have helped Nursery Manager, Matt Daniele, to rapidly fill the 2 new igloos with a broad range of organic vegetable seedlings. In June ECOSS, in partnership with UYCH, signed up 3 Trainees who are studying Horticulture with Peter Lorback and working in the Nursery with Matt Daniele. These developments have meant that ECOSS is now a vibrant place, particularly from Tuesday to Friday.

From April this year the Women's Red Tent Group started meeting monthly at ECOSS. There are plans to incorporate a semi-permanent building for them and other possible user groups in the Family and Sculpture Garden which is planned for the front section of the Wesburn site near the Earth Goddess sculpture. The Yarra Valley Bee Group has also started meeting at ECOSS and the Stepping Into arts and craft program for intellectually disabled continues on a Friday. We welcome other community groups and individuals becoming part of ECOSS.

In June Chelsea McNab was employed one day a week as Administration Coordinator in the ECOSS office. This has enabled us to re-introduce quarterly newsletters for our friends list as well as e-bulletins for our members on an as-needed basis. After being trained in website management Graeme George and Chelsea have started to overhaul the ECOSS website (www.ecoss.org.au) and it is now better reflecting the organisation though more work still needs to be done on it. Chelsea is managing our Facebook page and regularly updates it.

The culmination of the Community Engagement Sub-committee's work is the annual ECOSS Festival. This year it was decided to hold the festival off-site and make it a community festival while still maintaining our environmental theme. It became the Ecotopia Junction Festival. Chelsea McNab was the Coordinator, assisted by Carin Eisen and a small team.

Ecotopia Junction was part of a suite of festivals starting with the Warburton Forest Village Valley Festival in February, followed by the March Healesville Autumnfest and finally Ecotopia Junction in April. With the support of the Yarra Ranges Council, Mayor Jim Child, Upper Yarra Community Enterprise (Bendigo Bank), Ecotopia Junction brought together community organisations and businesses including the Upper Yarra Museum, the Yarra Centre, Ben's Shed, UYCH, Amanda's Cafe, Village Greens, the CFA and Eastern Regional Libraries. The festival showcased the best the Yarra Valley has to offer in terms of living a healthy, harmonious life while treading lightly on the Earth. Next year we hope to present a bigger and better Ecotopia Junction Festival bringing together even more local community groups, businesses and organisations.

Building on the momentum of the last 12 months ECOSS intends to continue extending our community relationships by providing a place which is inclusive and vibrant and offering ideas for living in a truly sustainable way .We would like to thank all the people who have been involved in ECOSS' activities over the last 12 months and most particularly we would like to thank sub-committee members Charlene Booker and Chelsea McNab for their contributions.

Carin Eisen- Chair, Community Engagement Sub-committee, July 2012 to April 2013

Joe Butler- Chair, Community Engagement Sub-committee, May 2013 to June 2013)



Paul Fox's Beekeeping



Volunteers with Matt.

Festival

Report

Ecotopia Junction was the name of this year's ECOSS Sustainability Festival. The decision to hold the festival 'off site' proved to be a very successful one, as it enabled us to engage many sectors of the community that the festival may not have otherwise reached.

The organising committee was Chelsea McNab- Coordinator, with Carin Eisen as Assistant Coordinator, Joe Butler- Jack of all trades, Michael Zaar, and Michelle Fisher.

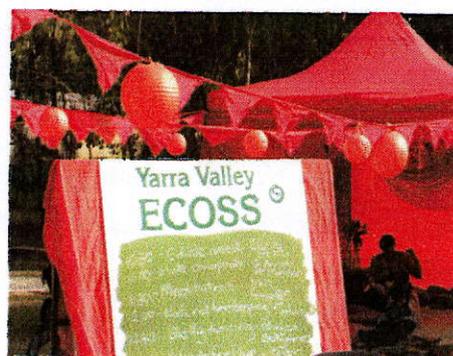
The festival was located in the Yarra Junction Parklands area, including the Upper Yarra Museum as the host to the children's activities.

The rear of the Belgravia Leisure Centre became home to the wholesome food court, and the river flat area home to the healing area and the River Temple Stage. This was a pedal powered stage run by 'Future Spark' that was host to many different talks on healing modalities, drummers with all abilities, and also powered the sewing machine where Jo was making recycled men's ties bunting flags. The 'Good Chaibrations' tent was homely selling chai and cake, the Australian Breastfeeding feed and change space was here, also the Women's Red Tent.

This area was also the home of the Art stalls and a live demonstration tent for healing modalities.

There were lots of stalls lining the pathway towards the Warburton Rail Trail, where every bike rider had to slowly make their way through the middle of the festival and were offered free bike maintenance by COG café.

Julian Warner's Tiny House parked in the middle of the festival was definitely a highlight, with tours and talking non-stop all day.



The Upper Yarra Museum was host to all the children's activities, with old time play activities, blacksmithing, bird painting and lots more. They were thrilled with the energy of the festival and would love to do it again.

Ben's Shed came and held a sausage sizzle right behind their shed. They sold out of sausages very quickly and were also thrilled and would love to be involved again.

The Skate Park was a central feature and was a great place for the kids to play all day- with first aid tent standing by! It was right by the main stage so everyone got to enjoy the music whilst playing.

The Main Stage was opened by American Indian Indigenous man Lakoda. He performed a blessing on the land, and played flute. Local talent filled the stage all day, including bands from Little Yarra Steiner School and Upper Yarra High School. The sun shone all day despite weather warnings, powered the stage all day. A big highlight here was the Recycled Fashion Parade.

A long-term outcome from the festival was the vegetable planter boxes that we placed in the main street on the day – Thanks to Niree Bingham for applying to Zagamis and the Yarra Ranges Council, and thanks to Matt Daniele for planting these and all the organisation.

We estimate an attendance of about 3000 people, and predict that this could become a very popular annual festival if it continues.

Chelsea McNab, Festival Coordinator



Administration Report

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

The 2012-13 year has been challenging due to a large number of staff changes and the resulting workload this has created for this volunteer sub-committee involving termination entitlements, sourcing appropriate contractors and trainees and finalising the position descriptions, contracts, award conditions and pay rates.

We developed a policy on Staff Liaison and Staff Reporting so as to clarify the liaison role and make the reporting relationships clear. We made staff aware of our preferred how to pay methods and introduced time sheets. We introduced tighter financial and governance procedures, including that all contracts must be signed by two Committee of Management members, one of whom must be the Treasurer; that receipts are issued for all donations; that bank reconciliation and bank statements are presented at each Committee of Management meeting and that Committee of Management minutes are signed off by the President.

There has again been an emphasis on OH&S policies and procedures and we have reviewed and updated our OH&S manual. Our new contractor staff and trainees have undergone an induction process and made aware of their responsibilities and the reporting mechanism for incidents and near misses. We have developed Safe Work Plans so we can access the hothouses in the asbestos effected parts of the site.

Financial planning has been a priority for this sub-committee and we have undertaken quarterly budget reviews with subsequent reporting to the Committee of Management. Some of the money from the Buckland Foundation grant has again been put into a term deposit for part of the year to earn interest. We have actively followed up on outstanding accounts and debts and reduced these or put payment plans into place.

Thank you to Joe Butler, Sally Brennan and Michael Zaar who have worked so hard in this past financial year, in a voluntary capacity, to undertake the huge workload associated with this sub-committee and to Catherine Aulich for her meticulous work in managing our finances.

Bernie Lobert

Chair, Administration Sub-committee

Site Report

Most plans for ongoing development of the site had to be put on hold due to the discovery of fragments of asbestos cement sheeting during preparation of ground for planting crops in 2012. The fragments come from the cladding of the old chicken sheds. As our landlord, Yarra Ranges Council commissioned consultants to survey the site to assess the level of contamination. This resulted in two-thirds of the property being fenced off - including the two sheds and their surrounds, the new dam, the site of the newly constructed Nursery polyhouses and the middle and lower paddocks. A subsequent investigation cleared the paddocks of contamination but access has yet to be arranged, so preparations for the establishment of the farm area remain on indefinite hold. The Committee of Management established a Task Force, led by Steve Smith, to document the history of this contamination, back to the time when the farm was leased by Council to the Upper Yarra Community House. We are indebted to the Council and to the UYCH for making correspondence and reports available for this study and to Mark Thomas for his advice on site contamination issues and assistance with dam water quality testing.

While planting out the demonstration Kitchen Garden near the house in 2013 a few more AC fragments were found in one spot. This resulted in the whole of the Kitchen Garden and Community Garden area being fenced off as a precaution, despite the fact that no other fragments have been uncovered over the several years that this area has been cultivated, nor had any been found during the consultant's original survey of the property.

Since the consultant's investigations the Council has been considering a range of options for remediation of the site, the favoured one being capping with geotextile fabric and 400 mm of clean fill, which would be facilitated by demolition of the two sheds. Site sub-committee had begun researching various options that we consider to be within our values, to offer a sustainable alternative for remediating the site, rather than a short-term expedient solution. We believe that we are in the right place at the right time to show our credentials and work together with all parties involved. We particularly argued for retention of the two shed structures, but have accepted that the top shed is not in good enough condition to be used as a frame for buildings for public use. At the close of the financial year no decisions had been made on the way forward.

A window of fine weather enabled a 4 megalitre dam to be constructed during the 2012 winter, but this was not completed before the area was sealed off due to some AC fragments being found on the newly constructed wall. The dam filled quickly with subsequent rain and temporary overflows had to be put in place pending completion of inflow and overflow weirs. The dam water was later tested and found to be suitable for irrigation, with no indications of cross-contamination with leachate from the adjacent old Council tip site.

Our Site Manager, Kevin Nemanic, with the help of our volunteers and work placement people, has kept the accessible grounds around the upper part of the property in good shape with regular mowing and progressive clean up of weeds and dead vegetation. The Community Garden area was maintained to give volunteers and work placement people some sustainable gardening experience until the area was closed off. Likewise, the Kitchen Garden was remodelled and planted out in June by Erin and Gino to demonstrate good garden design, with a wide range of interesting heirloom plants on show. Regrettably these plantings have had to be let go because of access restrictions.

Maintenance of the restricted areas around the sheds, dam and lower paddocks has been managed by Council using licensed contractors to slash grass and blackberries. Spot removal of noxious Ragwort to prevent re-infestation has been undertaken by ECOSS personnel.

Plans for the building of a Family Garden with a Yarra Ranges Council Grant were also put on hold pending clarification of the extent of asbestos contamination. A suitable site has been identified using the Heritage Garden area adjacent to the Earth Goddess sculpture. A concept plan has been sketched out and the funds rolled over to the new financial year.

Site sub-committee is highly indebted to Jon Coe for his vision and planning contributions to Site development, to sub-committee members Michael Zaar and Graeme George for their help with the oversight of Site matters and to Kevin Nemanic and his team for the high standard of grounds maintenance attained during the year.

Ian Cuming

Chair, Site Sub-committee



Community Enterprise Report

The Enterprise sub-committee has worked its way through a difficult year that has posed some real challenges. Our successful grant for a three-year project funded by the Buckland Foundation was based upon developing a market garden and nursery where local young people could be trained and encouraged in horticulture. These community enterprises were to be a plank upon which we were to build our vision for a sustainable future. These businesses were both to be sited at the ECOSS premises at the Old Warburton Road. Sites were chosen for the gardens and the greenhouses and the Yarra Ranges Council provided funds to construct a dam, which would ensure that water could reach both projects and the proposed heritage orchards below the chicken sheds.

The discovery of residual asbestos cement sheet fragments in 2012 put severe brakes on the development of the Community Enterprise and the site in general. This immediately changed what we could achieve within the ECOSS site, certainly in the short term and possibly in the long term. This also meant that our business plans have had to evolve in a slightly different direction and our first response was to locate the market garden elsewhere, at a local biodynamic farm, over the winter of 2012.

Steve Smith began the market garden off-site and it started to evolve into a successful local food distribution scheme with weekly food boxes being delivered to customers. However, the extra travel time and off-site expenses made the operation uneconomical. Steve's decision to leave gave us the opportunity to redeploy the funds, so the off-site Market Garden was wound up in April. Steve worked reduced hours for a month and Erin Lysaught and Gino De Laroche, initially engaged to assist with deliveries, were contracted to assist Steve with the harvesting and closure of the gardens.

Knowing that there was a strong demand for locally-sourced indigenous plants we started a Native Plants Nursery on-site at ECOSS as an alternative enterprise. Peter Lorback was contracted to take on this new project and to develop an associated training program in Horticulture Certificate 3 in association with Upper Yarra Community House and Community College Gippsland. Three trainees commenced in late June, one being our Site Manager Kevin. This is a significant step towards fulfilling our objectives under the Buckland Foundation project.

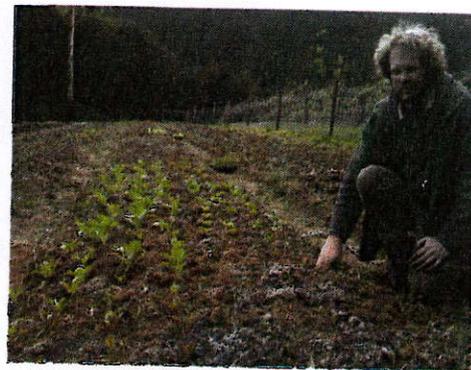
Re-establishment of the Market Gardens at ECOSS remains an option at some future time.

During 2012 access to the half-completed greenhouses was negotiated with Council to allow Matt Daniele to finish construction and begin the production of organic seedlings and fruit trees for the spring 2013 season. The environment in the two nurseries is providing training and encouragement to trainees as well as volunteers and we are looking forward to advancing upon the great start-made last summer in providing high quality local plant material for sale.

We would like to acknowledge all the participants in this enterprise for their work and vision in planning and building for the future, despite the obvious difficulties – Grant Eastwood for his energy in establishing the project, Steve Smith for his dedication to food production and his invaluable contribution and research in dealing with the contamination issue, Matt Daniele and Peter Lorback, whose perseverance has seen the establishment of the two nurseries, the members of the Enterprise sub-committee Bernie Lobert and Graeme George, without whose dedication, the project may have faltered and David Harper, who has been our invaluable link with Yarra Ranges Council. Thanks to all!

Ian Cuming

Chair, Enterprise Sub-Committee



- April 2013: Yarra Ranges Council - Festivals & Events grant (\$5,000) for the Ecotopia Junction festival.
- April 2013: Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited (Warburton & Yarra Junction and District Bendigo Bank[®] branches) - Festival Grant (\$3,000) for the Ecotopia Junction festival.

Site Rental income

The "Stepping Into" program continues to use the Art Room every Friday under an arrangement now formalised with Upper Yarra Community House Inc. Unfortunately, since the end of 2012, Gippsland Community College College is no longer utilising space at ECOSS on a regular basis, which has meant a significant reduction in our budgeted rental income.

We have two new regular user groups on site - the Yarra Valley Bee Group and the Red Tent women's group. Our rental activities brought in a combined income of \$3,941, which is well down from the previous financial year's rental income of \$9,000.

Nursery income

In the 2012-13, the Edible Plant Nursery sales were \$11,657 and the Market Garden (which ceased operating in May 2013) had sales of \$6,790. We were hampered in earning more income from our Market Garden and Nursery by adverse site conditions. Hopefully these will have been resolved by the end of the next financial year.

Member income

Income from membership fees generated \$377 in 2012-13, with 24 members at 30th June.

Thank you 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 2013

	Note	2013	2012
		\$	\$
INCOME			
Grants	9	185,714	136,664
Project Sales		18,853	0
Rental Income		3,941	7,715
Misc. Income		164	2,125
Events and Workshop		2,245	924
Training		0	1,100
Donations and Sponsorship	10	13,370	364
Interest		1,350	0
Membership		377	236
		226,014	149,128
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries	2	158,074	93,225
Materials and Contracts	3	28,765	35,120
Costs of Project Sales		13,150	0
Utilities		3,489	1,293
Depreciation		3,972	8,748
Other	4	16,329	14,104
		223,779	152,490
Net Profit / (loss)		2,235	(3,362)

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	57,214	82,515
Trade and other receivables		3,900	4,442
Inventory		750	0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		61,864	86,957
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and equipment	7	9,268	13,240
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		9,268	13,240
TOTAL ASSETS		71,132	100,197
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for employee entitlements	12	3,990	5,379
Grants Received in Advance	11	53,177	80,874
Trade and other payables	6	4,045	6,259
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		61,212	92,512
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for employee entitlements		0	0
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES		61,212	92,512
NET ASSETS		9,920	7,685
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained profits		9,920	7,685
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		9,920	7,685

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Retained Earnings \$	Financial Assets Reserve \$	General Reserves \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 th June 2011	11,407			11,047
Profit attributable to members	(3,362)			(3,362)
Balance at 30 June 2012	7,685			7,685
Profit attributable to members	2,235			2,235
Balance at 30 June 2013	9,920			9,920

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

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers including GST		39,492	8,021
Grants receipts		176,588	201,342
Payments to suppliers and employees including GST		(242,731)	(151,457)
Interest received		1,350	0
Net cash provided by operating activities	8	(25,301)	57,907
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		0	0
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(0)	(5,255)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(0)	(5,255)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings		0	0
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		0	0
<hr/>			
Net(decrease)/ increase in cash held		(25,301)	52,652
Cash at beginning of year		52,515	29,863
Cash at end of year	5	57,214	82,515

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 2013

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Association Incorporations Reform Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Victoria and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 107	Cash Flow Statements
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB 116	Property, Plant and Equipment
AASB 117	Leases
AASB 118	Revenue
AASB 1031	Materiality

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**
Assets with an effective life less than 25 years are depreciated in a general small business pool using diminishing value (Referenced from CCH Australian Master Tax Guide 49th Edition 7-540 - Small Business Depreciation Pools)
- d. **Leases**
A lease agreement exists with Yarra Ranges Council and is currently on hold over whilst a new lease is 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.
- 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)**
The association is registered for 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.

NOTE 2: WAGES AND SALARIES

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
— Wages and Salaries*	143,209	85,709
— Provision for leave Entitlements*	(1,389)	0
— Superannuation	10,649	7,516
— Other	1,350	0
— Work cover*	4,255	0
	<u>158,074</u>	<u>93,225</u>

NOTE 3: MATERIAL AND CONTRACTS

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
— Program Administration Expenses*	0	5,945
— Events	12,048	3,901
— Workshop	585	0
— Community Arts	0	4,311
— Site Expenses	16,132	8,012
— Contractors*	0	12,951
	<u>28,765</u>	<u>35,120</u>

NOTE 4: OTHER

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
— Communications	1,817	1,817
— Audit and bookkeeping	9,678	5,866
— Insurance*	838	3,605
— Other Administration Expenses*	1,272	0
— Security	898	818
— Marketing	379	680
— Sundry	1,447	1,318
	<u>16,329</u>	<u>14,104</u>

* changes in software in FY 2012-13 have resulted in some expenses being recorded in a different classification

NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Cheque Account	54,461	45,326
GST Account	2,573	6,996
Debit Card Account	179	193
Short-term bank deposit	0	30,000
	<u>57,214</u>	<u>82,515</u>

The effective interest rate on short-term bank deposits was 4.4%; these deposits have a maturity at call.

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

57,214	82,515
--------	--------

NOTE 6: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	198	0
Revenue received in advance	53,177	80,874
Superannuation payable	1,516	3,183
Net GST and PAYG	2,331	3,076
	<u>57,222</u>	<u>87,133</u>

NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Equipment and Furnishings:		
At Cost	8,617	8,617
Accumulated depreciation	(6,054)	(4,956)
	<u>2,563</u>	<u>3,661</u>
Farm Plant and Equipment:		
At Cost	20,542	20,542
Accumulated depreciation	(13,837)	(10,963)
	<u>6,705</u>	<u>9,579</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>9,268</u>	<u>13,240</u>

NOTE 8 : CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit / (loss)		
Profit / (loss)	2,235	(3,362)
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows		
— Depreciation	3,972	8,748
— Provisions for employee entitlement	(1,389)	2,197
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries		
— (Increase)/decrease in trade and term debtors	542	(4,442)
— (Increase)/decrease in Stock	(750)	0
— Increase/(decrease) in grants in advance	(27,697)	54,789
— Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(2,214)	(23)
	(25,301)	57,907

NOTE 9: GRANTS RECEIVED 2012-13

	\$	\$
Opening balance (Income received in Advance 11-12)		80,874
<u>add:</u>		
William Buckland Foundation - Opportunities for Rural Youth Through Innovative Social Enterprise	135,000	
Yarra Ranges Council - Partnership Grant	13,506	
Yarra Ranges Council - Festival Grant	5,000	
Yarra Ranges Council - Water Grant (Dam construction)	1,511	
Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Ltd - Festival Grant	3,000	
Total received 12-13		158,017
<u>Less: Income received in advance</u>		-53,177
Adjusted Grants Total		185,714

NOTE 10: DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS RECEIVED 2012-13

	\$
Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Ltd - Nursery Infrastructure & Uniforms	9,870
Yarra Ranges Council - Ward funding Cr McCrae	500
Yarra Ranges Council - Ward/Mayoral funding Cr Child (Festival)	3,000
	13,370

NOTE 11: INCOME RECEIVED IN FY 12-13 UNSPENT AT 30 JUNE 2013

	\$
William Buckland Foundation - Opportunities for Rural Youth Through Innovative Social Enterprise	40,251
Edible Nursery Infrastructure	5,000
Native Nursery Infrastructure	2,800
Project administration	4,792
Yarra Ranges Council - Community Development (Goddess Sculpture)	334
Total Income in Advance 12-13	<u>53,177</u>

NOTE 12: PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE**Annual leave entitlement balance at 30th June 2013**

Employee	\$
Kevin Nemanic	1,222.40
Matt Daniele	2,767.69
Provision for Annual Leave	<u>3,990.09</u>



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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
UPPER YARRA COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT PARK INCORPORATED
Report on the Financial Report**

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

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

Independence

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

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view, in all material respects of the financial position of Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc. as at 30 June 2013 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Emphasis of Matter

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

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc., to meet the requirements of the Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Name of firm: Quality Financial Solutions Pty Ltd

Name of partner: David Petersen

Address: 1 Pymm Avenue, Eltham North. Vic., 3095

Dated: this 14th day of November 2013



Our Community

Thank you to the people who contributed to ECOSS in so many ways over the past year.

Committee of Management:

Graeme George, Bernie Lobert, Joe Butler, Ian Cuming, Robynne Mauger, Michael Hibbert, Carin Eisen, Michael Zaar (until May 2013), Sally Brennan (until Nov 2012), Jenny Davies (until Nov 2012),

Staff:

Matt Daniele, Kevin Nemanic, Chelsea McNab, Peter Lorback, Catherine Aulich, Chelsea McNab (from June 2013).

Keith Jesse (until Feb 2013), Grant Eastwood (until Feb 2013), Steve Smith (until May 2013), Charlene Booker (until May 2013).

Supporters, Consultants and Sub-Committee Members:

Jon Coe of Jon Coe Design P/L, Christian Nielsen of Live and Learn International, Stuart Ryder, Geoff Vickers, Mark Thomas.

Partners and Sponsors:

Yarra Ranges Council, UYCH Community College, Upper Yarra Community Enterprise, William Buckland Foundation

Special thanks to –

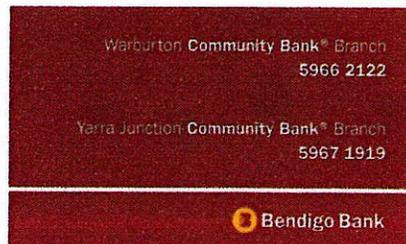
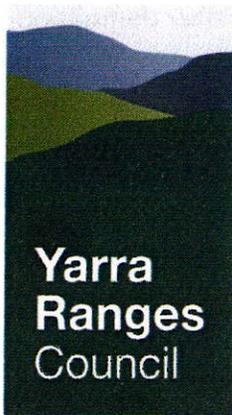
Grant Hooper from ANZ Trustees for William Buckland Foundation
David Harper, Environment Dept, Yarra Ranges Council
Karen Meuleman, Community Development, Yarra Ranges Council
Jon Coe of Jon Coe Design
Mark Thomas, Environmental Consultant

All the Ecotopia Junction Festival volunteers. Your assistance was invaluable!
Most importantly the **volunteers** who help in the grounds and the nursery on a weekly or occasional basis. You are the backbone of ECOSS.

OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

The
**WILLIAM BUCKLAND
FOUNDATION**

WBF



ECOSS Annual Report 2012-13 - Update

Since the close of the financial year the following significant activities have taken place -

- A structural report on the condition of the lower chicken shed was commissioned in July. G & L Snow P/L reported that the structure was sufficiently sound to warrant retention and made a number of recommendations on its use as a community hub.
- In August Jon Coe and the Site sub-committee developed a strategy for remediating the asbestos contamination with an associated new concept plan for the site that would provide for any council funds spent on remediation to be used in a way that benefitted both parties as a demonstration of best practice. A major part of the new concept plan is to use the site of the upper chicken shed as a Car Park after demolition of the shed structure.
- A fourth option for remediating the site has been under discussion by Council - a surface clean-up and an ongoing management plan to cope with any future discoveries of more asbestos.
- Council has agreed to fund training in Asbestos Removal for our Site Manager.
- We asked for a review of the decision to close off the whole of the Community Garden but our request for access was denied and the area remains out-of-bounds. Plans for development of this area for our demonstration Kitchen Garden and Forest Garden have had to be put on hold.
- Our planned workshop program did not attract sufficient numbers to run, however the Yarra Ranges Council adopted our Bee Keeping workshop as part of their free Live It Up series and the workshop, held at ECOSS was quickly booked out.
- Attention has been given to building our membership and financial members are now receiving regular updates on progress at ECOSS, invitations to member-only events and discounts on seedlings purchased on site.



Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc.

T/A Yarra Valley ECOSS

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Incorporated Association #: A0049655B

ABN : 50 216 218 657