

ECOLOGICAL & SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



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 IS—

aimed at restoring natural capital in our environment is:

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

OUR LEARNING GOAL IS—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 CAPITAL IS—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 IS**—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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note from Our Executive Officcer03A Note from Our President04Committee of Management05Staff members & Volunteers06ECOSS Community07-08Photos09-10Key Programs & Events11-12Promotions13Partners & Sponsors14Environment & Sustainability15-16A Note from Our Youth Worker17-18	About Yarra Valley ECOSS	01
Committee of Management05Staff members & Volunteers06ECOSS Community07-08Photos09-10Key Programs & Events11-12Promotions13Partners & Sponsors14Environment & Sustainability15-16	A Note from Our Executive Officcer	03
Staff members & Volunteers06ECOSS Community07-08Photos09-10Key Programs & Events11-12Promotions13Partners & Sponsors14Environment & Sustainability15-16	A Note from Our President	04
ECOSS Community07-08Photos09-10Key Programs & Events11-12Promotions13Partners & Sponsors14Environment & Sustainability15-16	Committee of Management	05
Photos09-10Key Programs & Events11-12Promotions13Partners & Sponsors14Environment & Sustainability15-16	Staff members & Volunteers	06
Key Programs & Events11-12Promotions13Partners & Sponsors14Environment & Sustainability15-16	ECOSS Community	07-08
Promotions13Partners & Sponsors14Environment & Sustainability15-16	Photos	09-10
Partners & Sponsors14Environment & Sustainability15-16	Key Programs & Events	11-12
Environment & Sustainability 15-16	Promotions	13
	Partners & Sponsors	14
A Note from Our Youth Worker 17-18	Environment & Sustainability	15-16
	A Note from Our Youth Worker	17-18
Annual Finanial Report 19-29	Annual Finanial Report	19-29





Front Cover Photo: Year 11 Cire Community School art project Above Photo: Fynn Staggard helps with the concrete pour for the pottery studio slab

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

My role as Executive Officer at ECOSS is broad and diverse. I oversee the day to day running of the office, apply for grants, keep communications alive- Facebook, Website, Mailchimp, Phone and Email, and engage with the public as they arrive.

I manage volunteers within the office space, and once I've secured funding for a new project, I will brief either the Youth Workers or Site staff on the plan, and oversee the low level budgeting of it.

I manage and oversee the schools programthis includes the 'Hands on Learning' program and the 'Earth Education' program.

This year I feel that both of these programs have really found their feet. Underpinned by great support, these programs have developed to a point whereby we can see the physical and emotional benefits from the attending students. The site is benefiting from the creative input from the school programs and I feel we really have built our social and creative capital.

The Coop building has been a massive task, yet the rewards have been rich. Much of the community has leapt on board to participate or run workshops, dance, hold conferences and learning activities. Having this large space has been a landmark event for ECOSS.

I couldn't do my job without the incredible support from Joe and Ric Butler, Phoebe, Sam, Renee, Andrew, Melanie, Geoff, Bernie Murray, Bernie Lobert, Catherine Aulich, Tom Neil, Ian Cuming, Nirvana, Gauri Ma, and all other volunteers and Committee of Management.

—Chelsea McNab



"WHAT MAGIC CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU THROW TINY HOUSES, BD & ORGANIC FARMING, NURSERIES, SCHOOL KIDS WITH LOADS OF ENERGY, A GORGEOUS PIECE OF LAND AND WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS TOGETHER. THIS ALCHEMICAL MIX SHOULD BE BOTTLED AND PROMOTED!"

-Chelsea

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This year has seen ECOSS maintain the momentum gained from the hard work over the last couple of years. Our focus has moved to offering the site as a hub where organizations which share our ideals can have a venue to work and express themselves. Various local schools, environmental and social organizations are beginning to see Ecoss as a centre for their activities and these will be mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report. I would like to show some new initiatives that will greet someone who takes a walk around the site.

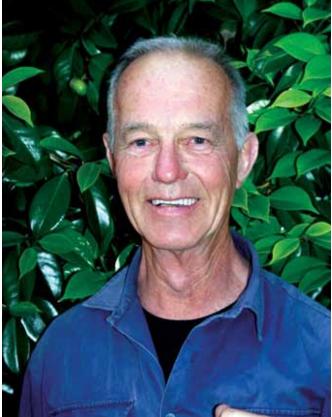
Silver Tyne Garden, a small professional market garden, is being established behind the chook sheds. Here is an example where land can be made available to grow organic vegetables for the local community. The land is used by Tobias and Josh and they can develop a small business which benefits their customers and brings in more than just the rent to ECOSS. They have already set themselves up with a solar system and have been able to invest in their business because they have some land. Such a project brings interest, resources and enthusiasm and serves as a place where we can demonstrate ecological sustainability.

Up in the sheds are a couple of tiny houses under construction. These are houses on wheels that can provide a solution for the problem of unaffordable housing and reducing our consumption and environmental footprint. A small company has been formed to build and test these small, custom-made dwellings and ECOSS had been able to rent shed space. Lucky that chicken sheds have high roofs!

On the top of the shed roof is the planned site for 30 KW solar panels that will make us independent for electricity. This is a project where we are working with the Yarra Ranges Council, who are also working with other local community groups to demonstrate that community-owned solar and water generation is possible.

There are three main reasons that have made these things possible. The first is that there has been a stable group of staff and volunteer workers who are on site most of the time. This allows us to manage projects, keep the gates open and provide a welcome to visitors. This includes the hard work of the Committee of Management, which keeps all the machinery maintained and oiled.

The second factor has been the completion of a classroom and community space in the top chicken shed – labeled "The Coop". Ric Butler, Tom Neil and their team have put together



a room with demountable walls which is big enough for a bush dance and has allowed us for the first time to be able to host many activities, especially in cold weather. This has extended our range a lot and can serve as a classroom, meeting place or just somewhere to keep warm.

The other projects on the ECOSS site are too many to mention and hopefully the reader will catch up with them elsewhere in this report. Thanks are extended to our partners, The Upper Yarra Community Enterprise, CIRE Services, Yarra Ranges Council and Yarra Valley Permaculture. We are also grateful to the Hugh Williamson Foundation for their help building the Coop and the Rota-loo.

I encourage you to read through this report and discover all the things that are happening at ECOSS.

-lan Cuming



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

















The team

Left to right	
Bernie Lobert	Treasurer/ Chair Admin Sub Committee
Kellie Gee	Vice President / Upper Yarra Landcare Representative
Tom Neil	Natural Building Centre Representative
Ian Cuming	President and Chair Strategy & Planning Sub Committee
Joe Butler	Secretary, Admin Sub Committee and Chair Community Engagement Sub Committe
Simon Woodland	Executive Officer, Sustainability, Yarra Ranges Council ex-offico representative
Ric Butler	Strategy & Planning Sub Committee
Nirvana	Strategy & Planning Sub Committee (early 2017)
Absent	
Ann Roberts	Yarra Valley Bee Group Representative
Vicky Harris	Shop Manager
Niree Bingham	Community Engagement & Site Sub Committee

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Staff Members (Above left photo)

Chelsea McNab:Executive Officer, Schools Program CoordinatorGeoff Lawrence:Youth WorkerBernie Murray:Work for the Dole Co-ordinator

Supporters and Consultants

Catherine Aulich of Upper Yarra Valley Bookkeeping (photo above right), Jon Coe of Jon Coe Design, Geoff Vickers & Lindy Schneider of Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited, Ann Roberts from Ann Roberts Graphic Design, Cire Services Training Staff, Jacob Wood of Justice Connect, Gauri Ma Grace, Sam Watson and Phoebe Lines from Bear & Moon Productions, Judd Zekas of Yarra Valley Hosting, Peter Lorback, Derry Talvainn of Artema Design, Simon Oates for Ecotopia contributions, Craig McDowell of Adventure Developments, Sandy and Michael Rutledge of Rutledgeav.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are the backbone of ECOSS and we are deeply grateful to all those who have give generously of their time and skills throughout 2017. Including all of our Work for the Dole participants and all the Ecotopia and Spring Fair Festival Volunteers, your assistance is invaluable.

Our particular gratitude to the tireless and versatile Andrew Olive (photo above right).

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, Simon Woodland Yarra Ranges Council, Santha Press for funding advice, Yarra Junction Op Shop, Ben's Shed, Upper Yarra Museum, Kath Gannaway of Mountain Views Mail, 3VYV FM, Renee Nowad.

ECOSS COMMUNITY

WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH OUR CORE VISION TO ENABLE SUSTAINABLE LIVING SOLUTIONS IN THE YARRA VALLEY IS OUR MAJOR GOAL OF ENGAGING OUR EXTENDED COMMUNITY IN THE LIFE, ACTIVITIES AND PLANS AT ECOSS. WE CONTINUE TO EXPAND THE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPATING GROUPS AND HAVE SEEN A HUGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE SITE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

Staff and Committee

ECOSS is now very well served by 3 part-time staff. Our Executive Officer, Chelsea McNab has created strong directions and new impetus at ECOSS over the last few years. This year she has been joined by Bernie Murray who has brought Horticultural skills to the Work for the Dole Coordinator's role and Geoff Lawrence as a very valuable Youth Worker working with the School Groups.

The Committee of Management is made up of 8 members who continue to put in many voluntary hours. This year Niree Bingham and Ann Roberts were reluctantly farewelled from committee and Vicki Harris joined briefly followed by Nirvana for a short time.

Volunteers and Work for the Dole

ECOSS volunteers play a critical role in maintaining the grounds, working in the nurseries, helping at events and assisting in the office. Similarly our Work for the Dole participants come with a wide variety of skills and often assist in building projects as well as site maintenance, nursery work and admin. At times they have even painted signs and cooked meals. One of the most ambitious ECOSS projects – a multi-purpose classroom large enough to hold 100 people - was completed this year by a great team of volunteers and WfD participants led by 2 Committee members. Through their dedicated efforts The Coop was born at ECOSS!

The Coop

The Coop has been busy since its creation and has proved the Committee's decision to build it a very sound one. Funding for The Coop was obtained from the Hugh Williamson Foundation and building took over 8 months as it was a very part-time operation using volunteer and Work for the Dole labour. It was officially opened on May 12 with speakers and an informal social event (photo on opposite page top). This was followed by a Bush Dance which was very well attended. Over 6 months in 2017 it has been used as a classroom, a meeting place for community organisations, a venue for dance classes, fundraising events and workshops have been staged there and even a wedding and a birthday party have been held there!

The Community Pottery Studio

In 2016 a group of local women—Lucy Pierce, Melani Daymond and Chelsea McNab—saw the need for a Community Pottery Studio in the area and ECOSS was seen as the logical venue. Since then many hours of voluntary labour have gone into creating this studio. Concrete had to be poured, walls erected, plumbing and power installed and much fundraising has also had to go on in order to achieve their plans – a challenging but rewarding project. A lot of free pottery equipment including wheels and kilns were sourced from local schools that didn't need them any more and also local community members who were not using their equipment. The interest





from the community has been high. Once open the studio will be used to give pottery classes as well as being available for personal member use.

Workshops

This year several arts workshops were held at ECOSS in collaboration with Yarra Ranges Council. These included Botanical Eco-dying, Felting and Fashion Upcycling. Lantern-making workshops were held in The Coop as part of the Winter Festival held in Warburton. Over 80 children participated in these workshops. As part of ECOSS' commitment to the Arts there is an Art Competition and Exhibition planned for the Spring Fair in 2017. A Natural Building workshop has also been held with more planned for the future.

Co-locating groups

Over the last 3 years ECOSS has attracted a number of NFP local sustainable organisations who now co-locate at the ECOSS site.

Warburton Environment is a strong local advocate for the environment and it is particularly committed to the creation of The Great Forest National Park.

Upper Yarra Landcare works tirelessly in the community to re-vegetate and raise awareness around the need to protect our physical environment.

Tiny Houses2GO are currently building 2 tiny houses on site with more planned. The group is working with the welfare organisation, Anchor, to investigate the possibility of using some of these tiny houses for social housing in the area (Photo opposite below left). Silvertyne Biodynamic Market Garden is now well established at ECOSS and contributes to the Schools Program (Photo opposite below right).

The Natural Building Workshop group offers training in alternative building techniques.

Beans and Bananas Organic Food Co-op uses ECOSS as its distribution site.

The Warburton Makers Group which works particularly with young people to re-make and re-purpose objects has recently approached ECOSS about the possibility of locating on site.

These organisations contribute to the educational offerings at ECOSS as well as bringing a significant energy to the place.

Wesley Mission and Interchange

There are now two organisations working with people with an intellectual disability attending ECOSS every week. They work in the community garden and are also making a Native Bee Wall. They add a welcome enthusiasm to the work in the garden.

Beyond the site

The ECOSS vegetable boxes placed in the Yarra Junction shopping centre are well-tended by our volunteer, Lisa Stubner.She maintains the boxes and encourages the public to pick any vegetables or herbs they wish to. ECOSS runs the very highly-regarded Ecotopia Earth Festival in Yarra Junction and encourages the whole community to participate. There are plans to run some of our Schools Programs off-site, possibly in local schools.

unteer hours

hours in 2016/17

000+ work for the dole

1200+ people have visited the Coop in the six months

since it opened



4 11

Community Pottery Studio under construction

> Students rendering inside the earth bag cubby



Flying Fox at Ecotopia

RLA.J.





Macrame making at Ecotopia

KEY PROGRAMS & Events



THE NUMBER OF KEY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT ECOSS DOUBLED THIS YEAR REACHING MORE PEOPLE Both in the local community and beyond. The variety of initiatives have attracted Diverse audiences via events, workshops, schools projects and celebrations.

Schools Program

This year the Schools Program has been very successful. Popular activities for schools have been 'Bees and Honey' facilitated by the Yarra Valley Bee Group, 'Tall Trees' with Karina Doughty from Warburton Environment, "Worm Spaghetti" composting activity and 'Propagation' after which they take home their punnet of seeds. The Discovery Tour has tripled in size now that we have so many projects on the go. Students have loved seeing the Tiny Houses and the beginnings of Silvertyne Farm. There are many more activities to choose from. One of our 'regular' schools is Mt Scopus College. They attend twice a year and always give very positive feedback. We are aware of the prohibitive cost of buses but we hope we will have a lot more visits from local schools next year and we are considering starting a program where we take our program into schools - an 'incursion program'.

Our 'Hands-On Learning" Schools Program where school groups come weekly and participate in building or other physical activities has grown rapidly this year. We now have a strong partnership between ECOSS and Cire Community School. Many projects have almost come to fruition including the Earth Bag cubby, the Koori cubby, the Frog Bog and the Biofiltration System. We see these as major achievements as they have all been built by students, particularly students from Cire Community School. We obtained funding from FRRR to employ our Youth Worker, Geoff Lawrence, to run our Hands-On Learning programs which he has done with great effect .We needed the expertise of a professional Youth Worker due to the challenging nature of some of the students. We look forward to another positive year of school visits in 2017/18.

Festivals

Approximately 3000 people attended the 2017 Ecotopia Earth Festival with young families and older community members very evident. It was once again judged to be a very successful day with a wonderful mix of music, the Recycled Fashion Parade, children's entertainment, environmental information, gourmet food and a flourishing community market area. This year's theme was Nature Tourism. Some of the highlights – many local businesses contributed to the event in a variety of ways. Over 89 stalls of local produce, artisans and activities were present at the event. This was a large increase over other years and indicates the high regard with which Ecotopia is held in the local business and arts community. We raised \$1075 from the Silent Auction and this will go back into the next festival in the form of better signage. Every year we bring the rubbish from the event back to ECOSS to do an audit. This year the entire rubbish from the day was 2 recycling wheelie bins, 1 almost-full rubbish bin, 1 blue compost bin and a lot of cardboard which we shredded for compost. This was despite having 2 more food vendors this year. We feel very proud of this effort. At the end of the day the site was left spotless - a great effort. As always we were very fortunate to have a wonderful team of volunteers doing preparation before the day as well as working in all sorts of capacities on the day. This year the SES, CFA and DELWP all had a presence at the festival as did Yarra Valley Radio 3 VYV and the new media enterprise, Yarra Valley Live TV, came and filmed on the day. This film will go onto channel 31. Ecotopia was very well supported by our local media.

The 2016 Spring Fair was also very well attended with approximately 2,000 people present. There were many local artists providing music as well as impressive speakers in the Speaker's Tent. Some of the workshops and activities offered included a talk on Restorative Horticulture, a Yarra Valley Bee Group workshop on beekeeping, a natural building workshop, greenstick furniture making, Petals of Peace, Campaign Letter Writing with Karina from Warburton Environment, environment group displays and children's activities.

Reconciliation Week

This year we held our first Reconciliation Week event. We are aware of the controversy regarding Reconciliation Week events but feel it is important to acknowledge our indigenous people and share education and information around their issues. We are actively seeking to increase our partnerships and collaboration with local indigenous groups. We feel very lucky to have met Michelle Atwell, a Wayapa Wuurrk practitioner, and to be able to offer this practice to the community free. The day included a Wayapa Wuurrk (earth mindfulness practice – how to connect to country), an open discussion around a fire , music with Murray Goodchild and Toby Eccles told a story of his interest in indigenous practices and culture. Vicki Basedo eco-dyed some prayer flags and all participants put their thoughts about Reconciliation down on paper. We offered a Native BBQ with Emu, Crocodile, Wallaby and Kangaroo sausages. Peter Lorback made burgers with native mint and put up a display of bush foods. We will definitely make this an annual event.

Other events

The Opening of The Coop included a Bush Dance which about 40 families attended. It was a great night of dancing led by the bush band, The Bushwahzee. The annual heritage fruit tree grafting day was held again in winter and about 25 people attended and learnt the art of grafting. Two Certificate 2 Horticulture courses were held at ECOSS in 2017. The first was with a group of VCAL students from Cire Community School and the second was a community course through Cire Training. There were also 2 Horticulture Taster courses run as an introduction to Horticulture. The Coop also hosted a Trivia Night as a fundraiser for the Pottery Studio and a Film night showing local producer, Peter Downey's, films. There have alo been monthly Open Mic events led by Peter Lorback.



3,000+ people attended ecotopia in 2017

14,000+ student visits for educational activities in last 12 months

PROMOTIONS













HANDMADE FELT BOOTS - CREATED BY YOU Owned and an opportunity of the same interview of the same



WHEN SATURDAY I JULY 2017 DIAM - 147M WHERE FLOUG CORE STALE - 713 CLO MARKULTION RO WEIRORN 1771 COST : STUB INFERIORS, ALL MATHELIAS NEQUERD WHO : TOO AND EXERTIONE ELSE, BUTTARE FOR HELINNIEL LINGUISHING AND MIRE TO DO NOW EMARL OR ROLD AND THE WERE TO DO NOW EMARL OR ROLD ZIENCEN TO BOOK YOUR MARE AND MALA 158 DEPORT TO ENSURE TOUR MARE AS THEY ARE ELEMETED!

71 PHLEN 33 BEAULI COM DR 0421 778 277

ecoss



WITH APPRECIATION

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



THE HUGH WILLIAMSON FOUNDATION

















ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Our on-going environmental and sustainable projects are our priority. All activities and training on site must have a sustainable element as we attempt to engage the community and all ECOSS visitors in working towards a greener future.

The Site

The last 12 months have seen a lot of work go into the grounds at ECOSS. There has been significant landscaping happening, paths constructed and the community garden has been developed with biodynamic composting and green crop planting. The frog bog project is well advanced now due to the efforts of the Class 7 Cire students and a very successful frog census evening was held with the students. Recycling has continued to be a priority both at festivals and on site. Bins have been upgraded and a mulcher has added to our composting ability. Many of the building materials used in Schools Program projects have been gathered on site (eg. oak poles for framing and t-tree fence rails and poles from the lower part of the property and clay for rendering). One of the major ongoing schools projects is the EarthShip Building which is based on the architect, Michael Reynold's, design and is being constructed entirely with recycled materials The Yarra Ranges Council installed new toilets this year which use a much more environmentally-friendly septic system. The Silvertyne Biodynamic Market Garden run by Tobias Mager and Josh Tucker has been a very welcome addition to the projects at ECOSS. Importantly ECOSS continues to be an organic site.

Biofiltration System

At ECOSS we always intended to implement a progressive Water Waste Treatment System. This has come in the form of our Biofiltration System. This completely natural system of drainage running into a series of planted swales, relies upon uptake of nutrients from specific wetland species. The swales are designed to slow the flow of water to allow time for nutrient uptake before the water flows to the next swale and eventually runs into our dam. This system is now treating run-off from the Pottery Studio which includes minerals and metals from glazes and the run-off from the guttered ends of the chicken sheds. Melbourne Water funded this project and we received donations of plants from Australian Ecosystems. The Class 9 Cire students worked on this project, including designing the signage and fencing and ultimately have seen it through to completion. The students presented

this project at the opening of The Coop multipurpose room. ECOSS is grateful for all the work as well as the sponsorship involved in this project.

Native Nursery

The native nursery has been managed and developed by Andy Tobin over the last few years. He has generously volunteered his time to expand the nursery's range of plants to now go beyond revegetation plants to more decorative native plants suitable for domestic gardens. Increased sales have reflected the wisdom of this decision. He is assisted in the nursery by Kellie Gee who is the President of the local Yarra Valley Landcare group, a co-locating organisation at ECOSS. Kellie uses the re-vegetation plants in the nursery for Landcare re-veg projects in the local area. ECOSS also continues to grow a small quantity of organic vegetable seedlings.

The Compost Toilet and Solar Project

As part of the Hugh Williamson Foundation sponsorship we received, we have been able to build a mobile compost toilet. The rota-loo component of the toilet was generously donated by Kiel Industries who manufacture rota-loos. Being mobile we hope to be able to rent the toilet for local events. The toilet will also be part of our Education Trail as there will be signage explaining the way it works and its environmental advantages. It services the lower part of the property where a toilet near The Coop was much needed. We are now working towards our first large-scale solar energy project in partnership with Yarra Ranges Council. We have received a grant of \$10,000 from the Power Shop but must raise another \$20,000 to make it possible. The project involves placing 30 solar panels on the roof of the lower chicken shed. It would significantly reduce the site's carbon footprint, pay for our power and possibly raise some money with 'buy back'. And of course it would also become part of our Education Trail with suitable signage.

\$4600 worth of native plants sold in 2016/17

Most building materials have been sourced onsite or recycled

Only 2 recycling wheely bins, 2/3 rubbish bin and 1 compost bin created at the whole Ecotopia festival

ecoss | Annual Report 2017 16

A NOTE FROM OUR YOUTH WORKER

Year 8 Healesville Secondary College followed on from their successful EarthBag Cubby construction last year with a much more ambitious project, building an "Earthship"! The conceptual design was already in place, thanks to Chelsea and Nirvana, and Clay piles in place, ready to be pounded in to the awaiting used tyres. With a footprint 4 times larger than their previous achievement, these young people had a mammoth task on their hands. The newly opened Coop provided an excellent facility in which to learn from experienced builders all around the world, using the projection screen to watch 'streamed' peer-to-peer educational videos on relevant techniques and learnings and to provide context for this method of converting what would previously have been considered "waste" products in to a sustainable building.

An excellent foundation was laid before transport, staffing and behavioural issues got in the way of further work at Yarra Valley ECOSS this year. Further discussions with School Management indicate a keenness to resume work together as soon as practicable. The impressive rammed earth, tyre wall that was created by HSC students and staff has served as an excellent basis for other school groups to build upon.

A similar pathway was forged by a smaller group of students from HICSA in association with Eastern Health. Thankfully, the Aboriginal Architect designed "Koori Cubby" was of a smaller size than the Earth Ship. A stonemason taught the group how to lay a dry stone wall and timber for the building was taken directly from a stand of oak trees onsite. This addition to our 'Cubbies of the World' projects is an aesthetically pleasing result that has seen additional contributions from a later school group, this year.

Mount Lilydale Mercy College VET students (Year Eleven) attended a five session, weekly program in Term Three that saw work progress on the Earth Ship and Koori Cubby, conversion of a shed in to an outdoor Café Bar, as well as achievements in Agriculture, Art and Catering. A busy and productive period indeed!

Our strongest Partnership within the Schools Programs remains Cire Community School. Three different groups have joined us throughout the entire year. Year Seven and Eights have further developed the Frog Bog. This is becoming a centrepiece at YV ECOSS of which we can all be proud. We started the year with ponds established



and water plants in place. Further plants have been selected on an excursion to a Local Native plant nursery and included in landscaping works. Fencing around the perimeter of the Frog Bog area has been created by the students using timber sourced on site. An Earth Ship style Day Bed is being constructed adjacent to ponds. Students have contributed to Melbourne Water's state wide Frog Census. Term Three concluded with an evening in which the students' parents joined us at ECOSS and included an educational presentation on local waterways and biology by Peter Preuss.

Cire Community School's Year Nine group undertook the creation of a Bio Filtration Plant. This now cleans the water that runs off our site before it enters the Dam. A variety of reed plants were sourced and planted along a specially constructed swale. Fencing of the area has been undertaken by students, in a similar style to the Frog Bog's. Much thought has gone in to creating suitable habitat for local wildlife and managing erosion of soils. Two of this group's students communicated the specifics of our project, to the wider Community, by way of Educational Signage and presenting at the Opening of YV ECOSS' new Facility, the Coop. New projects in progress include an outdoor Kiosk / Bar for the cooking and distribution of Barbecued goodies. As with all of the groups from Cire, contributions have been made to a demonstration wall using Poured Earth techniques as well as Gardening and Horticultural activities. Research, design and work on these projects have mainly been conducted when the weather has been adverse. ECOSS' undercover facilities have certainly been a boon this year.

Year Eleven students from Cire have also created lasting works that impress those that visit us. The Architectural Signage that spells out our name and greets people as they enter is a result of their creativity and efforts. Students are also creating a well-constructed Day Bed in the Earth Goddess Garden. This is being made of old tyres and includes decorative recycled bottles that are imbedded in the render.

A testament to the Community Connections established by the Students in our Programs was evident when two of the Senior Students elected to carry out their Work Experience with ECOSS. Several other participants in our Schools Programs have also elected to join us for additional activities, as volunteers, this year. We are very proud of all the social and educational outcomes achieved by the young people this year and look forward to continued growth and development that best suits the needs of participants and associated Schools.

-Geoff Lawrence

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2017

TREASURERS' REPORT

The Treasurer and Committee of Management members submit the financial report of Yarra Valley ECOSS Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

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 for 2016-17 amounted to \$36,792 2015-16: \$(6,864)

Income from Grants, Partnerships, Sponsorships & Donations

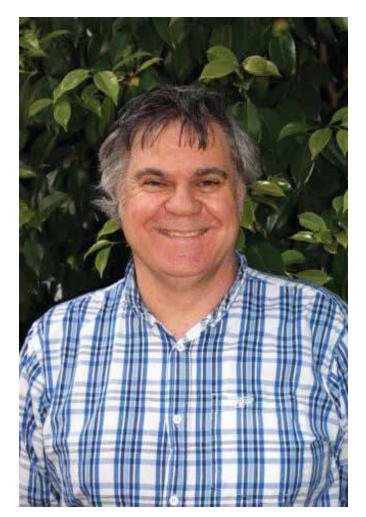
In 2016-17, Yarra Valley ECOSS obtained a total of \$92,932 in grants and \$14,562 in donations and sponsorships from various sources. We continue to receive generous ongoing support from our partner organisations, including Yarra Ranges Council, who supported us with the annual partnership agreement funding and funding support for our 2017 Ecotopia Junction Festival. Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited (Bendigo Community Bank branches at Warburton and Yarra Junction), along with Cire Services Inc. also provided sponsorship for our 2017 Ecotopia Junction Festival.

Highlights:

• July 2016: Hugh Willamson Foundation - The Coop, Sustainable Toilet & Nature Trail (\$50,000)

- September 2016: Yarra Ranges Council Partnership agreement funding (\$15,000)
- September 2016: Yarra Junction Op Shop – Donation (\$2,000)
- November 2016: Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited – Sponsorship of Ecotopia 2017 (\$3,000)

 November 2016: Cire Services Inc. –
 Sponsorship of the Bush Survival School activity 2017 Ecotopia Junction Festival (\$300)



- January 2017: Yarra Ranges Council Festival & Events sponsorship for the 2017 Ecotopia Junction Festival (\$10,000)
- February 2017: FRRR Youth Program grant (\$19,500)
- February 2017: FRRR Cert II Horticulture (\$20,978)
- April 2017: Melbourne Water Rural land program Biofiltration System (\$7720)
- April 2017: Melbourne Water Sponsorship of 2017 Ecotopia Junction Festival (\$300)
- May 2017: Department of Social Services Strengthening Communities for equipment (\$5,000)

Rental income

The Warburton Environment Group, Yarra Ranges Landcare Group, and Upper Yarra Landcare continued as tenants. The Yarra Valley Bee Group, Eastern Health, and the Yarra Junction Girl Guides all became occasional users of our site. We welcomed Tiny House 2 Go to share space at our site. We again set up a formal MOU arrangement with Cire Services Inc. for them to use the site for horticulture certificate courses for which we received an annual flat rental amount. Our schools program continued to bring school groups on site, from Cire Services Inc., Healesville High School, Mt Lilydale Mercy College, Wesburn Primary School and Mt Scopus Memorial College. We also earned a small amount of income from the rental of our stretch tent and smoothie bike. Our rental and school program activities brought in a combined income of \$14,755, which was an increase from the 2015-16 in financial year.

Nursery & Shop income

In the 2016-17 financial year, our Nursery & Shop sales were \$8,752 which was a significant reduction compared to the previous financial year. This was attributed to a change of focus from nursery production to more community engagement activities such as having school groups on site and other educational activities.

Work for the Dole income

We again took on Work for the Dole participants who did site and maintenance work and were instrumental in the finishing of The Coop meeting space. We received \$16,166 from Sarina Russo Job Access.

Member income

Income from membership fees generated \$141 in 2016-17.

Future income

The ongoing financial aim of Yarra Valley ECOSS is to become financially sustainable. We hope to generate sufficient income from all our activities; which includes school visits and rental income to be able to pay our ongoing wages and operational expenses. We will also be applying for DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status in the next financial year which will give us greater access to funding opportunities.

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

Bernie Lobert

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note		
		2017	2016
		\$	\$
INCOME			
Grants		92,932	122,884
Project Sales		8,752	58,616
Rental Income		14,755	10,162
Misc. Income		7,305	678
Events and Workshop		6,390	12,308
Training Incentives		16,167	19,532
Donations and Sponsorship		14,562	7,755
Interest		337	62
Membership		141	518
		161,341	232,515
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries	2	37,703	111,021
Materials and Contracts	3	47,674	29,621
Costs of Project Sales		10,801	48,283
Utilities		5,899	11,636
Depreciation		4,428	8,991
Other	4	18,044	29,827
		124,549	239,379
Net Profit / (Loss)		36,792	(6,864)
	-		

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	52,440	19,942
Trade and other receivables		10,824	3,088
Inventory		9,406	15,929
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		72,670	38,959
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and equipment	7	57,526	20,980
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		57,526	20,980
TOTAL ASSETS		130,196	59,939
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for employee entitlements	10	1,731	444
Grants Received in Advance	9	34,428	6,888
Trade and other payables	6	7,295	2,657
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		43,454	9,989
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for employee entitlements		0	0
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES		43,454	9,989
NET ASSETS		86,742	49,950
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained profits		86,742	49,950
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	-	86,742	49,950

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Earnings \$	Assets Reserve \$	Reserves \$	Total \$
56,814			56,814
(6,864)			(6,864)
49,950			49,950
36,792			36,792
86,742			86,742
	Earnings \$ 56,814 (6,864) 49,950 36,792	Earnings Assets \$ Reserve \$ \$ 56,814 (6,864) 49,950 36,792	Reserve \$ 56,814 (6,864) 49,950 36,792

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

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers including GST		60,336	113,770
Grants receipts		128,920	31,079
Payments to suppliers and employees including GST		(116,121)	(237,261)
Interest received		337	62
Net cash provided by operating activities	8	73,472	(92,350)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		0	0
		-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(40,974)	(10,175)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(40,974)	(10,175)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings		0	0
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		0	0
Net(decrease)/ increase in cash held		32,498	(102,525)
Cash at beginning of year		19,942	122,467
Cash at end of year	5	52,440	19,942

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 2017

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 :

Presentation of Financial Statements
Statement of Cash Flows
Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
Materiality
Interpretation of Standards
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.

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 2017

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.

NOT	E 2: SALARIES	2017	2016
		\$	\$
—	Wages and Salaries	32,193	96,814
—	Provision for leave Entitlements	1,288	0
—	Superannuation	3,058	9,011
—	Other	639	2,543
—	Work cover	525	2,653
		37,703	111,021

<u>N01</u>	E 3: MATERIAL AND CONTRACTS	2017 \$	2016 \$
_	Program Expenses	28,379	0
_	Events	10,185	12,267
_	Workshop	0	8,112
_	Site Expenses	9,110	9,242
_	Contractors	0	0
		47,674	29,621



<u>NOT</u>	<u>E 4: OTHER</u>	2017 \$	2016 \$
_	Communications	2,276	2,651
_	Audit and bookkeeping	10,157	14,821
—	Insurance	1,484	1,568
_	Other Administration Expenses	992	2,141
_	Security	0	0
_	Subscriptions / Membership	271	5,156
_	Marketing and Community Engagement	1,465	2,339
_	Sundry	1,399	1,151
		18,044	29,827

NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Petty Cash	255	301
Cheque Account	13,991	12,088
GST Account	2,568	1,134
Debit Card Account	1,219	210
Grants Accounts	34,407	6,209
	52,440	19,942
The effective interest rate on short-term bank deposits was 0.00% to 1.55%; 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.	52,440	19,942
NOTE 6: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	4,009	1,550
Superannuation payable	1,261	425
Net GST and PAYG	2,025	682
-	7,295	2,657



NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2017 \$	2016 \$
Equipment and Furnishings:		
At Cost	8,617	8,617
Accumulated depreciation	(7,958)	(7,738)
	659	879
Nursery Plant & Equipment:		
At Cost	4,037	4,037
Accumulated depreciation	(1,776)	(1,211)
	2,261	2,826
Leasehold Improvements		
At Cost	59,793	21,393
Accumulated depreciation	(9,087)	(6,418)
	50,706	14,975
Farm Plant and Equipment:		
At Cost	5,863	20,542
Accumulated depreciation	(1,963)	(18,242)
	3,900	2,300
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	57,526	20,980
NOTE 8: CASH FLOW INFORMATION	2017 \$	2016 \$
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit / (loss)		
Profit / (loss)	36,792	(6,864)
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows		
— Depreciation	4,428	8,991
 Provisions for employee entitlement 	1,287	(2,387)
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries		
 (Increase)/decrease in trade and term debtors 	(7,736)	4,201
— (Increase)/decrease in Stock	6,523	(2,136)
Increase/(decrease) in grants in advance	27,540	(91,805)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	4,638	(2,350)
	73,472	(92,350)



NOTE 9: GRANTS / DONATIONS IN UNSPENT AT 30 JUNE 2017

	\$
Yarra Junction Op Shop	680
Yarra Ranges Council – Heritage Garden	225
The Andrews Foundation – Tiny Houses Grant	1,610
FRRR – Youth Program Grant	11,748
Hugh Williamson Foundation - The Coop, Sustainable Toilet & Nature Trail	17,909
Department Social Services – Equipment Grant	2,003
Melbourne Water – Rural Land Program – Biofiltration System	253
Total Grants in Advance 16-17	34,428

NOTE 10: PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE

Annual leave entitlement balance at 30th June 2017	
Employee	\$
Bernadette Murray	448
Chelsea McNab	978
Geoffrey Lawrence	305
Provision for Annual Leave	1,731

NOTE 11. REVIEWER'S REMUNERATION	2017 \$	2016 \$	
Reviewer Fee	·	925	880

The reviewer for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 is Quality Financial Solutions Pty Ltd

NOTE 12. ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is: 711 Old Warburton Road Wesburn VIC 3799



1 Pymm Avenue, Eltham North, VIC 3095 T: 03 9439 9839 F: 03 9439 9839 E: info@qtsaccountants.com.au www.qfsaccountants.com.au

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE PRACTITIONER'S REPORT ABIN 23 076 116 320 TO THE MEMBERS OF UPPER YARRA COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT PARK INCORPORATED

Report on the Financial Report

We have reviewed the accompanying annual financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss or other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Presidents' declaration.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the annual financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 to the extent noted in Note 1. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standards on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including : giving a true and fair view of Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc. financial position as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC Regulation).

ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.



Lightly Rottad by a schema approved under Professional Standards Leonation

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 2017 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 2017 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 Note1 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

N

Director

David Petersen

Certified Practicing Accountants

29 12 day of Nosember 2017 Eltham. this .



Annual Report Produced by

Joe Butler

Original Design by

Ann Roberts of Anne Roberts Graphic Design

Redesigned and Updated by

Derry Talvainn of Artema Design

COSS | Annual Report 2017 31