



Annual Report 2011

Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc.

T/As Yarra Valley ECOSS

711 Old Warburton Rd, Wesburn P.O.
Box 340, Yarra Junction, Vic, 3797
Tel: +613 5967 2416 www.ecoss.org.au

Incorporated Association #:A0049655B

Ecological & Social Sustainability



UYCEP has a beautiful 7.5 hectare Wesburn site, strong community participation, Council support, and an exciting and achievable Master Plan. We are taking on the big issues of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable lifestyle and job training while meeting new friends, new ideas and forming new partnerships; working hard and having fun. While sharing values and ideas with parks like CERES, we are local and unique

Our Program

- ▷ Encouraging community participation
- ▷ Advancing food and water security and self sufficiency
- ▷ Exploring green technology
- ▷ Integrating hands-on learning for all ages
- ▷ Developing future land management and farm practices
- ▷ Balancing bushfire preparedness with natural habitat restoration
- ▷ Blending arts with horticulture and lifestyle

Want to learn more?

Visit: www.uycep.org.au, email: info@uycep.org.au, telephone: 59672416, visit: 711 Old Warburton Rd Wesburn or write: PO Box 340 Yarra Junction 3797



Garden Gazebo (looking East) is a gathering place with a cob oven uniting classroom with kitchen garden, orchard, arts space and community garden.



Project Design and Construction by Yarra Valley EcoSS

Water Walk (looking South) links entry and upper village with the community hub. Plantings demonstrate sustainable food production using both introduced and indigenous plants along waterway to the rain garden at the hub entry, which also features an iconic wind turbine.

Peach Tree Circle (looking North). Entry paths lead under a naturalistic gateway then through an existing peach tree grove, combining themes of food production and natural beauty. Our goal is to integrate utility, sustainability and beauty.

Village Area Concept Plan

- A. Heritage park
- B. Peach tree circle
- C. Sustainable house
- D. Gazebo, kitchen garden, orchard, and chickens
- E. Community garden
- F. Arts area
- G. Plant propagation and nursery
- H. Indoor and outdoor market
- I. Class and exhibition space
- J. Community resource centre and administration
- K. Community kitchen and green canteen
- L. Rain garden and village green
- M. Rural arts and skills
- N. Water treatment
- O. Farm and horticultural services



Green Canteen (looking Northwest) at the east end of the Hub offers outstanding vistas in many directions for park users relaxing with coffee, tea and locally produced light meals.

To Farm Area

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Presidents Report

Measuring the progress and achievements of the past year has been a rewarding process, a process which highlights significant achievements in some areas, and one which also identifies areas requiring more work. Of course it all requires more work, but so much has been achieved in the last twelve months in the way of consolidation, community engagement, infrastructure and of course team building. The ultimate purpose of ECOSS is to engage the community in the development of sustainable living solutions. The very successful Sustainable Forums and Workshops program has contributed considerably to assisting ECOSS in achieving its vision during the past year, and plans are certainly underway to continue the breadth of offerings in the year to come.

One of the most satisfying accomplishments of 2011 has been the enormous improvements to the ECOSS grounds. The completion of the Community Garden has created a wonderful and practical space for the future, and provided ECOSS with an enduring piece of infrastructure that is specifically designed to encourage the broader community to share and enjoy. Adjoining the garden is the chook run, and the creation of these spaces is all about community engagement. Particularly satisfying was the level of community involvement that accompanied the hard work of the committee in these developments, and in the establishment also of the Information Kiosk, the footbaths and the landscaping.

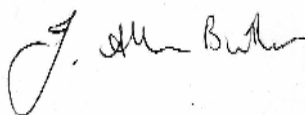
The visual impact now when on site is extremely pleasing, and made more so by the achievements of forums and sessions that have taken place during the year. The Michael Reynolds day long workshop brought many visitors to ECOSS, and using his internationally recognised “Earthship” principles the ‘whimsical wall’ was constructed near the Pizza oven. The Sustainable Food and Ideas Festival also included inspiring speakers on food security and community enterprises. This even also attracted many visitors to ECOSS, and broadened our membership base.

A great challenge for ECOSS is to reduce our current dependence on government funding. Whilst we acknowledge the importance of the contribution of government, the destiny of ECOSS is self-sufficiency. The commencement of the initial planning for the development of the Community Hub in the old chicken sheds has taken our vision to a new level. We are so fortunate to have the enlightened expertise of Jon Coe as he continues to light our path towards fulfilling our vision. The Community Hub is integral to successful financial and economic independence, and will be the heart of ECOSS. It is a major project, and in the coming year we are on track to lay down the foundations.

There is activity and life on the site in greater proportions than ever before. The Stepping Into group who use the arts space on Fridays, the development of the Community Arts sculpture project, the buzz of activity from the grounds and site staff and volunteers have all contributed to the expansion and enhancement of the experience of visitors and members of ECOSS. It is beautiful place to just be, as well as do.

So we look to the coming year with squared shoulders, fully expecting that there will be challenges along the way but never losing our commitment and our dedication. The carefulness, professionalism and diligence of the staff and the committee has considerably advanced the progress of ECOSS, and one of the features of ECOSS is in its capacity to continue to attract intelligent, principled and energetic people to be the custodians of its continued development.

Joe Butler



17/11/11

Community Engagement & Events

The park is intended not just to speak to the converted - already committed environmentalists - but to also provide a place that people will visit for a wide range of other reasons. In doing so, it is hoped they will take home an increased awareness of sustainability and its potential to contribute to the quality of their own lives.....

ECOSS Master Plan

The ECOSS vision of creating an ecologically and sustainable community evolved from the Yarra Valley community itself. ECOSS is committed to ongoing community engagement and involvement, reaching the broadest cross section of the community possible. As ECOSS becomes aligned with and reflects local needs, the organisation will receive support to grow and flourish.

ECOSS seeks to engender a cultural shift in the local community where **creative-sustainability** is front and central to our thinking and actions. We will continue to engage individuals and groups in discussions about creative opportunity and action arising from acknowledgement of the environmental crisis. We endeavour to create a positive community spirit where individuals feel that their contributions, perceptions and actions are valued and contribute directly to social and environmental improvement.

2011 - What an active and productive year!

Over 1500 people came through ECOSS' gates to participate in workshops, events, working bees, celebrations and pizza nights.

Community

Engagement is at the forefront of ECOSS' aim to create ecologically and socially sustainable communities, in the Yarra Valley. Over the past 12 months, the themes of sustainable living, sustainable food, sustainable building and transport have guided our events, forums, films and workshops. Our first major event for the year was hosting the **Michael Reynolds** workshops, forum and seminar in February. Michael is famous for his visionary 'Earthships' buildings utilising waste car tyres. Michael contributed his considerable insight to the the panel of the '**Building in a time of climate change**' discussion forum whilst Sioux Dollman led an energetic group of people in the a practical sculpture construction workshop, utilising Michael's construction-from-waste techniques. The day was completed with



The Art of Zero Carbon Living presentation from Michael.

The **Sustainable Food and Ideas Festival** in April was the first major festival/event for ECOSS. It included a fantastic mix of forums, workshops and a market. The Community Enterprise Corner and Food Security Forums were very well attended and the practical workshops gave participants great practical skills and experience. The event created a buzz at ECOSS and into the broader community.

The **Sustainable Design and Building Stories Forum** held at the Upper Yarra Arts Centre in September was booked out. Local sustainable builders, owners and designers shared 'sustainable building stories' of the challenges and lessons learnt with visual images of their projects projected onto the large screen. The partnership with the Arts Centre and local Provedore Warburton Pantry added another level of enjoyment and engagement through local wine and cheese.



The **Moving Planet celebration** was a collaborative effort between ECOSS and local community members committed to creating an event as part of a worldwide action day to Move Beyond Fossil Fuels, with over 2000 events in more than 175 countries! A range of activities had participants enthralled for most of the day. These included: the bicycle parade, bike maintenance, the big community-sing, songs for the earth, the recycled flowerpot labyrinth, electric bicycle demonstrations and bike touring.

Film Screenings and panel discussions at the Upper Yarra Arts Centre in Warburton have strengthened partnerships with local and international organisations. **Anima Mundi** was co-presented with WOCT the local filmmaker Peter Downey. The amazing film **The Economics of Happiness** was inspiring and thought provoking has connected ECOSS to ISEC (International Society for Ecology and Culture). The panel discussions have been important venues for discussion and engagement.

Expanding community engagement and **building community capital** are key priorities for ECOSS in 2012. The coming year will build upon the great success we have had with events in this year. We have a whole raft of programs in the planning including monthly **ECOSS Open Days** with workshops and working bees on food preserving, straw bale building, bee keeping, and organic gardening. The **2012 Sustainable Food and Ideas Festival** has morphed into a 2 day event planned for last weekend in April

and John Seed's Deep Ecology Workshop will be part of this celebration. More films and events are also in the pipeline. ECOSS' vision is to continue to engage community, create, support and showcase sustainable solutions and living for all!

We are currently seeking funding for a **Creative Community Sustainability Project** which aims to engage community groups, businesses, organisations, farmers and individuals from across the Yarra Valley community and beyond in discussions and practical actions towards the development of a

locally sustainable and enriching culture. The Program will see the development a series of Forums and Workshops over the next 3 years focusing on the critical sustainability questions and actions. The Forums will 'engage the head' and see a range of community groups and opinion leaders create strategic plans around locally critical issues. The workshops will 'engage the heart' in hands- on projects of



community building, sharing and skill development. These Forums and Workshops will be modelled upon the successful 'Creative Climate Community' events run at ECOSS in 2011.

ECOSS recognises that engagement with community at all levels – partnering bodies, local businesses, community groups and individual community members – is fundamental to creating a sustainable organisation. ECOSS will continue to engage constructively and promote inclusiveness, empowerment, creativity and mutual respect in all that we do. The ECOSS Vision will be further embedded within the community so that ECOSS can better help carry forward the community's impulse towards sustainable living solutions for all.

Donna Swan & Carin Eisen – ECOSS Community Engagement and Events

The Village Hub – Site Report

.....design consideration is informed by the site and its physical characteristics and provides a response that will harmonise as well as expand the park's potential.
ECOSS Master Plan

The ECOSS Site has come along in leaps and bounds in the last year. The site is looking loved and cared for due to the hard work of our Site Team and volunteers.

The Site team has been busy establishing the first stages of the ECOSS Masterplan, along with the ongoing maintenance of our large site.

ECOSS is custodian of a site upon which it will be possible to manifest our vision for a community farm. Upon this land, we will be able to establish and demonstrate a sustainable approach to farming, gardening and food production. It will be possible to show a combination of approaches to this world-wide issue, from established wisdom to the newest technology.

Much of the planning has already been done and we are beginning our staged approach to development as resources become available. The first stage of this plan (which can be seen in Jon Coe's beautiful sketches and Concept Plan) is the **Community Garden and Greenhouse**, along with a strategy for collecting water from rooftops and hard surfaces into tanks and a dam. The second stage will be detailed planning for the establishment of an **orchard of heritage fruit trees**. The space needed for the processing of food has been integrated into the planning for space in the Community Hub, situated in the chicken sheds. Over the year, we have been able to employ two people and some volunteers to build this vision and slowly improve the infrastructure and equipment. Now we are very proud of what we see when we come in the front gate.



The ECOSS site is a large area and presents many challenges for development and maintenance. As resources become available, we have been slowly able to improve the chicken sheds for the Sustainable Food and Ideas Festival in April. Repairs to the roof and the installation of electricity to the sheds have made them a more suitable site for

events and we can begin to see their tremendous potential for the Community Hub. The development of the garden and greenhouse has been

made possible by the hard work of Barney Dyer and our new site Manager Kevin Neminic as well as many dedicated volunteers. The fencing and establishment of garden beds with vegetables has been the first manifestation of our plans for the larger vision of a farm. It has also seen the establishment of the **Community Nursery Enterprise** – the first steps for a business selling vegetables, native plants and herbs. Plans are underway for the construction of a 400mgl dam for market garden irrigation (constructed with capital works funds from Yarra Ranges Council). We have secured a range of equipment including a 4WD tractor, ride on-mower and rotary hoe. We all agree that the site looks fantastic and we are grateful for the work done by many willing hands.

The Community Arts has been a big theme for this year. We have seen the construction of an amazing and whimsical ferro-cement sculpture by Sioux Dollman and her crew of volunteers. The Woven Tree of Dreams with local School children. The artistic and sculptural development of the site will continue this year with the theme will be taken into the new year when Dakini (her title) and Sioux Dollman begin the



construction of a Living Earth Sculpture. This project will be led by these inspiring local artists and will involve the community learning the skills to make an earth sculpture in your own garden.

In 2012, we want to establish an **Orchard for food production** and the preservation of **heritage species**. This work is being done elsewhere and an ECOSS orchard will be a valuable complement to spreading the awareness of this valuable resource, as well as eating the delicious fruit. Substantial developments in **Stormwater Harvesting and reuse**. Earthworks for the establishment of the farm's **keyline contour landscaping** will proceed as permits and resources become available. And of course there is always the ongoing maintenance of the site, a job which cannot be ignored and which is made possible by the employment of our Site Manager, Kevin and his team of volunteers.

We have come a long way and are making good progress in establishing the site at ECOSS to be able to fulfil our vision for an organisation which can be a beacon for a sustainable living in the Yarra Valley.

Ian Cuming – ECOSS Site Coordinator

Training Programs and Workshops

*A Place To Combine Learning and Fun....
ECOSS Master Plan*

We ran a range of sustainability workshops and training programs in 2011, formal and informal. There is benefit in working within the official education structure - it brings funding, is nationally accredited and recognised. Informal training on the other hand can be spontaneous and make the most of local knowledge and skills. Often 'learning by doing' is the best form of learning.

ECOSS has plans to develop a range of informal sustainability training programs – based around the development of the ECOSS Site and the development of **Sustainable Living Solutions**. These programs and workshops will be synergistic with community demand and opportunity. Programs and Workshops in the planning include:

- Affordable Strawbale Construction
- The Living Soil - Farming with beneficial microbes
- The Permaculture approach to Sustainable Living
- The new sustainable energy economy – distributed systems.
- Sustainable Transport – Options for the Yarra Valley
- Re-localising food production and demand.
- Ferro-cement sculpture
- Creative Cob Oven construction.

The workshops run will depend on community interest both in their instigation and attendance.

The Upper Yarra Community House (UYCH) is the principle partner for the delivery of accredited training at ECOSS. UYCH has run the Certificate II in Horticulture at the ECOSS site for well over a decade.

Many graduates of this program have moved on to higher education and work in the horticulture industry. Our Site Manager Kevin Nemenic is a good example. Kev completed the Cert II in Hort. earlier this year and with the skills developed in this program and his knowledge of ECOSS was successful in becoming our first **Community Enterprise Project Worker**. Kev is 'rapt'



with his role at ECOSS and is keen to impart his enthusiasm for '**active learning**' to site volunteers and workshop participants.

This past year has seen UYCH broker the participation of the **Community College Gippsland** with their delivery of the Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture at ECOSS. The involvement of CCG brings to ECOSS one of the largest Community Colleges in Victoria, and one of the most successful providers of training in horticulture and agriculture. CCG took over the McMillan TAFE campus in Warragul two years ago, with the associated affiliation of the University of Melbourne, students can be assured of world class standards of training.

UYCH is committed to actively embedding training into the development of ECOSS, and believes that the organisation is up to the hurdles that *Skills Victoria* throws our way. The challenge for UYCH is to remain true to the standards of quality and learning support that every student deserves whilst managing our relationship with the new Victorian training regime.

There will be dynamic and creative sustainable living learning opportunities at ECOSS in 2012. How they will manifest will be a function of community engagement and creative serendipity!

Community Enterprise

Optimise economic vitalityCreate a community hub that harnesses and puts to best use the commitment and skills of its community...

ECOSS Master Plan

The **ECOSS Business Plan**, completed in July this year, has identified **Community Enterprise** as a critical component towards realising its vision to create sustainable living solutions:

ECOSS will localise & synergise skills & knowledge sharing and creating employment through providing a business hub for local community organisations, Non Government Organisations (NGO's), community enterprises & artisan workshops. This will have 3 primary aims:

- **Social:** Community engagement, skill development and training, employment opportunity.
- **Environmental:** Creating sustainable living solutions in food production, sales and consumption.
- **Financial:** Creation of a successful and expanding community business that financially and strategically supports the core objectives of the ECOSS project.

Thanks to seed funding from Upper Yarra Community Enterprise (UYCE) we were able to appoint a **Community Enterprise Coordinator** one-day-a-week for most of 2011. To capture the potential of our existing infrastructure and synergies with training partners, we commenced by establishing the Food Enterprise Program, the first stage being the **ECOSS Community Nursery**. A full report, **ECOSS Sustainable Food Project – A Community Enterprise**, can also be downloaded from the ECOSS website.

We had been working with Sarina Russo Job Access for nearly 12 months to secure subsidised nursery staff and succeeded in procuring a two-day-a-week worker, Kevin Nemanic, in July 2011. Several short-term work-



experience clients, through a partnership with **Careforce Services**, have supported this position. We have also been able to purchase a tractor with assistance from UYCE and a rotary hoe with assistance from Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs. Water, a vital resource, is being addressed through the planned construction of a 4 megalitre dam during the coming summer, thanks to funding from a Yarra Ranges Council Community Infrastructure grant.

With the Community Garden now planted out for a summer harvest, Kevin has turned his focus to preparing for a herb garden. We will shortly commence selling produce through local businesses such as *Village Greens* in Yarra Junction and **Healesville Organic Farmers Market**, operated by **Permaculture Yarra Valley**. Future surplus could be sold through *CERES Fair Food* & the *CERES Permaculture Nursery* in East Brunswick.

Other components of the Food Enterprise under development are egg & honey production, bushfoods and a *heritage variety orchard*. As such, the Community Nursery is seen as *Stage 1* of plans for a Farm Cooperative, which will harness the potential of ECOSS's 18-acre site. Ian Cuming, Committee member and local biodynamic farmer, and Graeme George, convener of Permaculture Yarra Valley, represent the core of an advisory group to the Farm Cooperative and are of great assistance in lending their knowledge & skills.

The **ECOSS Farm Cooperative** will form a foundation stone for a **Community Food Network**, the seeds of which are establishing across the Yarra Valley. Potential stakeholders in such a project include Permaculture Yarra Valley & Healesville Organic Farmers Market, Agribusiness Yarra Valley, Community Harvest, Koha Café, other Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) enterprises at Gladysale & Mt Toolebewing, and Live & Learn Environmental Education.

ECOSS completed the Yarra Ranges Council *Sustainable Business Program* during the past year which has proved a valuable networking opportunity. We have become a member of the Yarra Valley Regional Food Group and have begun promoting our activities through Yarra Ranges Regional Marketing.

Engagement with grass-roots community in ‘turning up and getting dirty’ (a quote from the inspiring film *the Economics of Happiness*) is largely focused on the spring and autumn seasons when weather conditions are most favorable to volunteers. Through the scheduled Open Days one Saturday each month in 2012 we will extend awareness of and participation in the Community Nursery, as well as provide opportunities for direct marketing of produce and potentially the inception of a monthly farmers market.

We have recently been granted seed funding from Chris Templer, our local government Councilor, for a **Backyard Revolution** project aimed at encouraging community to produce food at home. We will be taking from the inspiration of Community Harvest by providing seedlings at 2012 Sustainable Food & Ideas Festival.

The great success of the 2011 Sustainable Food & Ideas Festival provided impetus and a mandate from our community. The Festival was a showcase for the diverse & knowledgeable primary producers & educators throughout the Yarra Valley, and the **Sustainable Food Forum** was a critical success which attracted highly regarded participants in Kirsten Larsen from Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab, Christian Nielsen from Live & Learn Environmental Education, and Graeme George from Permaculture Yarra Valley. In 2012 we have planned for a 2-day event at which we will showcase the progress of this enterprise and to engage community in our plans for the Farm Cooperative and the Community Food Network.

We are looking forward to a productive and creative Community Enterprise year ahead.

Grant Eastwood - ECOSS Community Enterprise Coordinator



Planning & Infrastructure

The Master Plan has been prepared to establish the Upper Yarra Community Environment Park as a place that inspires the people of the Upper Yarra to participate in the sustainability revolution and respond to the challenges of climate change and responsible resource management. The finished Master Plan can be seen as a compass, directing the development of the park...

ECOSS Master Plan

Social and infrastructure capital are critical components in the creation of Sustainable Living Solutions. We have seen a significant investment in ECOSS by the community over the last year – through support for our Sustainability

Forums and Workshops and practical actions in the maintenance and stewardship of the ECOSS site. Creating a vibrant community sustainability centre that will inspire changes in our lifestyles takes significant planning and foresight –

much of which goes on in the background. Considerable work has already gone into the creation of site development strategies and planning for the Sustainable Community Hub.



Progressing the Master Plan: The 2009 Master Plan includes a 'Staging Implementation Approach' (9.2, P 54) whereby the Park will develop incrementally over a number of years. This year has seen significant progress on the ECOSS Action Plan, with a Planning Application in development to see the 2009 Master Plan adopted as the primary ECOSS reference and planning document with the Yarra Ranges Council.

The Central infrastructural development proposed in the Master Plan is the creation of the **Sustainable Community Hub**. The Hub will be a magnet for sustainable community creativity and action. It will host a cross-section of community groups committed to the creation of sustainable living solutions. A draft practical brief and

Development Principles for the hub have been developed in consultation with the local community (see appendix).



Concept Planning for the Hub is well under way with the support and guidance of landscape designer John Coe. Jon's designs are unique in their potential for creative development in the realisation of construction. In other words they are guides to the creative community construction process – utilising community energy and reclaimed materials.

2012 will see the substantial progress in the development of the ECOSS Site especially the creation of community infrastructure. Securing Planning and Building permits we will engage the community in a process community building. We already have plans for community wall bale construction days. The community hub will be built by the community – for the community. It will look to a different building paradigm – in the style of Michael 'Earthship' Reynolds, - harnessing community creativity and energy.

Keith Jesse – ECOSS Sustainable Design Coordinator

Community Capital

The plan provides ways that the areas intrinsic values natural and community capital can be responsibly harnessed to support the ongoing operation of the park and the local economy.

ECOSS Master Plan

Financial grants linked to core strategic projects are essential for the timely development of ECOSS. ECOSS will be a significant player in the facilitation of the development of the Sustainable Yarra Valley. There are many potential project partners with whom we have great synergies of purpose and who have seen fit to invest in ECOSS. But its not only about financial investment – community and environmental capital is created through the committed actions of volunteers. We estimate that this 'alternative economy' is worth at least as much again if it is translated into \$ terms.

We have received generous ongoing support from our partner organisations in this past financial year, having been successful in attracting around \$130,000 in grant funding.

Yarra Ranges Council

- Annual Partnership Agreement \$13,000,
- Festivals and Events Grant \$5,000,
- Infrastructure grant \$20,000

Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited

- Food Enterprise Project \$9000
- Tractor purchase - \$8000

Macpherson Smith Community Alliance

- Sustainable Community Coordinator Creative \$40,000

Salvation Army (\$5,000) for infrastructure for the community garden.

DPCD Volunteer grant (\$5,000) to employ a site person to supervise volunteers.

Sustainability Victoria

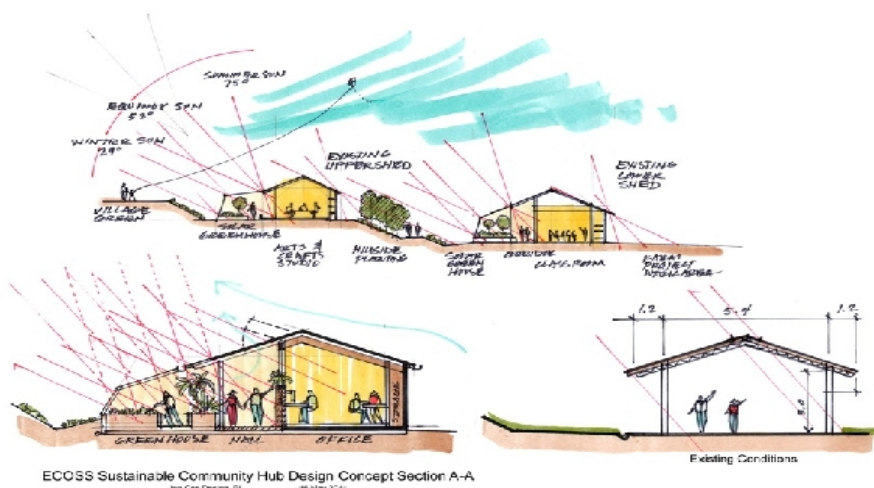
- Climate Communities Project \$40,000

ECOSS is also working towards generating self reliance in income generation. One of the purposes of the Community Enterprise Project is to create a core income stream. We have raised income this year from site rental (\$1,500) and memberships (\$375).

Looking Ahead:

ECOSS aims to become increasingly financially self sufficient over time. We plan to run a number of practical workshops in the coming year and conduct a range of other revenue raising activities.

We are negotiating with Sarina Russo to secure funding for a graduate of the Horticulture course run by UYCH at ECOSS to become a groundsperson and to develop the **ECOSS Community Nursery**. When fully operational, the nursery will sell native plants, herbs and vegetable seedlings. This enterprise has enormous potential to generate income that can then be reinvested into growing the nursery and other ECOSS enterprises.



We intend to enter into an adjustment agreement with Meredith Torpey who runs a Horses for Health program and she will use the middle paddocks and part of the bottom chicken shed. Melba Support Services' Stepping In program will be using the Art Room every Friday. Gippsland Community College are planning to use the site for their horticultural training programs. The Upper Yarra Community House will run a number of workshops and a horticulture course next financial year. These site activities are expected to bring in a combined future income of \$9,000 per year.

We look forward to working effectively with our Project Partners in 2012. We expect to see continuing financial investment in ECOSS and the further expansion of the in-kind economy. We will begin the process of triple bottom line accounting to acknowledge and account for this 'alternative economy' that will underpin our success. We look forward to developing the framework and metrics for this new accounting framework and especially seeing positive outcomes for our partners and the community and increased momentum towards the creation of a truly sustainable community.

Bernie Lobert – ECOSS Administration Team Leader

Thank You to our Community of Supporters

We are extremely grateful to all of our active supporters in the community. Special thanks are owed to:

ECOSS Committee of Management: Joe Butler, Marg Leslie, Michael Hibbert, Michael Zaar, Carin Eisen, Sally Brennan, Ian Cuming, Bernie Lobert.

ECOSS Staff and Consultants : Jon Coe, Grant Eastwood, Donna Swan, Catherine Aulich, Keith Jesse, Barney Dyer, Kevin Nemanic, Dakini Maddock, Simon Mclachlan, Sioux Dollman, Peter Wadsworth, Carole Anne, Julie Davidson.

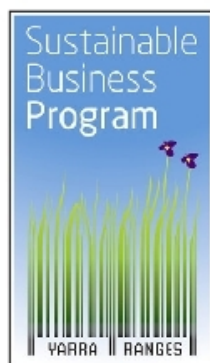
ECOSS Site and Festival Volunteers: Anna Rispoli, Alan Seppings, Carole Seppings, Tamara,

ECOSS Partners and Associates: Sally Brennan (UYCH) Graeme George (YVP), Christian Nielsen (Live and learn), Alison Fogarty (YRC), Geoff Vickers (UYCE), Ellen Mitchell (Sustainability Victoria), Meredith Torpey ()

And thank you to all our other supporters and fellow travellers seeking to develop sustainable living solutions.

Building Community Partnerships

EcoSS is committed to creating strong relationships across sectors in order to provide programs that deliver greater community resilience and a sustainable community culture in the Yarra Valley. We are grateful to the following organisations and community groups for their foresight and support for ECOSS:



LIVE & LEARN
Environmental Education





Attachment 1

Financial Statement 2010-2011



Upper Yarra Community Environment Park Inc.
Trading as Yarra Valley ECOSS

Income Statement

for year ended 30th June 2011

	\$	\$
Income		
Grants	124,980.45	
Fee Income	389.09	
Misc. Income	2,534.50	
Training Income	2,768.75	
Total Income		130,672.79
Expenses		
Operational Expenses	11,282.59	
Employment Expenses	66,221.22	
Marketing	1,718.81	
Site / Maint. / Gardens	9,315.73	
Festival Expenses	5,593.18	
Misc Expenses	3,218.56	
Depreciation Expense	7,171.23	
Total Expenses		104,521.32
Net Surplus		26,151.47

Balance Sheet

as as 30th June 2011

	\$	\$	\$
Assets			
Cash at Bank		29,863.61	
Equipment / Furnishings	7,904.09		
Less: Accum Dep Equ/Furn	(2371.23)	5,532.86	
Tractor	16,000.00		
Less: Accum Dep Tractor	(4800)	11,200.00	
Total Assets			46,596.47
Liabilities			
Unpresented Cheques		1,706.22	
GST Collected	1,114.42		
less: GST Paid	(679)	435.42	
Accrued Employment Expenses		4,628.90	
Provision for Annual Leave		2,561.00	
Total Liabilities			9,331.54
Net Assets			37,264.93
Equity			
Association Equity		11,113.46	
Add: Net Surplus		26,151.47	
Total Equity			37,264.93

Attachment 2:

Community Hub Development Principles

(August 2011)



	Sustainable Development Principle	Context/Discussion
1	Embed ECOSS Vision in process and practice.	ECOSS vision and values expressed through design, construction and use.
2	A Social Project as much as an architectural statement.	Building is a means to an end – not the end in itself. Focus on 'software' as much as 'hardware'. Invest in people and community. Build capacity.
3	Organic Process	Staged Design and Construction, Holistic Organic Architecture. Non-linear, Flexible, Evolving design and use.
5	Creative Community	Integrate and support creative thinking, design and learning processes.
6	Sustainability learning	Training and learning opportunities integrated throughout the building project. An iterative process.
6	Zero Waste	Work from existing conditions, utilise local expertise, reuse 'waste' materials in innovative ways, use low energy natural materials.....
7	Sustainable Energy	Utilise locally sourced energy. Capture ambient energy. 'Distributed' energy networks.
8	'Open Source' process and design	Make the project learnings freely available for others to utilise and adapt. Helping 'bootstrap' sustainability.
9	Research focussed	Explore, Create, Record, Learn, Share.

Attachment 3

Master Plan Implementation Schedule

Action Number	Description	Order of Commencement	Responsibility
1	Brief Council on Master Plan and seek adoption.	1	Com
2	Expand roles and responsibilities of Sub-Committees to include tasks for implementing the Master Plan	2	Com
3	Finalise audit of skills (particularly with relevant community groups)	3	Com
4	Commission Business Plan	2-3	Strategic Planning Sub Committee
5	Hold pre-application meeting with Council for initial development stages	3	Strategic Planning Sub Committee
6	Commission the preparation of planning application	4	Strategic Planning Sub Committee
7	Prepare detailed design and associated plans for the proposed development.	5	Strategic Planning Sub Committee
8	Prepare planning report.	5-6	Strategic Planning Sub Committee
9	Lodge planning application (with report and relevant town planning drawings).	7	Strategic Planning Sub Committee
10	Identify potential strategic partnerships with local businesses, schools, research institutions.	4	Training and Education Sub Committee
11	Activate Enterprise Committee	4	Enterprise Sub Committee
12	Investigate additional funding and sponsorship sources	5	Enterprise Sub Committee
13	Develop education strategy	3-4	Training and Education Sub Committee