



## The Western Region Environment Centre's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

# *ANNUAL REPORT*

*December 7<sup>th</sup> 2017*



**We need your help**

Volunteers to assist in the office, with our web site and Facebook and general campaigning are very welcome (free coffee & bikkies too!)

# Board of Management

## Office Bearers

Chairperson: Lindsay Swinden  
Secretary: Linda Scott  
Minutes Secretary: Andrea Barnett  
Treasurer: Catherine Ryan

## Board Members

Lolita Gunning (TTTDAG)  
Graeme Hodgson (TTTDAG)  
Betty Richardson (Community)  
Erin Richardson (Community)  
Bronwyn Riddell (Shoestring Gardening)  
Jos & Helen van den Berg (Friends of Steele Creek)  
Karin Wylie (Community)

## Working Group Coordinators

Finances: Catherine Ryan  
Don't Waste The West: Harry van Moorst  
Policy: Graeme Hodgson & Erin Richardson  
Membership: Helen and Jos van den Berg

## Staff (Part time)

Director: Harry van Moorst

# Thanks to our Major Sponsors: you!

Without the support of the community the Centre could not survive. We thank all our members and sponsors for their financial support over the past year. We hope you will continue to provide support in the forthcoming year.

Thanks also to Wyndham City Council for its support



# OFFICE BEARERS



**Lindsay Swinden**  
Chair



**Linda Scott**  
Secretary



**Catherine Ryan**  
Treasurer



**Harry van Moorst**  
Director

## Directors Report 2016-17

As always many thanks to our wonderful and committed Board members and office bearers. Without their dedication and skills WREC could not function and the West of Melbourne would be environmentally poorer.

To all of our supporters, thanks very much and we trust you will continue to be with us in the struggle to protect our environment, for ourselves and those who come after us.

This is a brief report of some of the activities this year. It has been a stressful year in many ways, what with the local issues such as the waste mountain in Werribee and Council's decision to triple its size over the next few decades along with the even larger waste mountain in Ravenhall (the other side of Wyndham) to similarly expand the landfill. There are currently community appeals against these expansions (see below) taking up much of our time and resources. The Ridiculous and undemocratic proposal to put a Youth Detention Centre in the middle of the growth area for Wyndham's Education Precinct and the South Werribee growth area also took some of our efforts during the year.

Nevertheless, WREC managed to complete the pilot "Soft Plastics" project and to hold a successful Electric Vehicle Expo as part of Weerama. In addition members participated in the Beach Patrol cleanups (primarily organised by the Werribee River Association and Crossroads Uniting Church.

We continue to represent our views, analyses and recommendations to the EPA as members of their Community Reference Group and we participated in the Community Reference Group for the Werribee Waste Mountain. In addition there have been many consultations regarding waste management and resource recovery issues over the past 12 months that we have participated in.

One of the highlights of the year has been our partnership with Environmental Justice Australia (EJA – a transition from the Environment Defenders Office – which was defunded by the current troglodytes in Canberra). As part of this WREC has hosted an EJA lawyer who spends 1 day/week (and many hours at the EJA offices) assisting WREC with the legal aspects of our work. This has made it possible for WREC to establish a greater presence and impact with regard to the waste management issues we have been heavily involved with over the past decade. The worker from EJA (Dr Chris Atmore) has provided valuable legal assistance as well as appearing on behalf of WREC at hearings. This relationship will be even more important for

WREC (and the communities we work with to get better environmental and community outcomes) over the next year when we will face 3 VCAT hearings in the first 5 months: One in the first quarter with regard to the Wyndham Council's intention to triple the size of the current waste mountain, (with EPA support); another involving the Ravenhall landfill with similar concerns as the Werribee landfill (on the border of Melton and Wyndham) and a totally separate hearing related to a seriously contaminated old Nufarm chemical site in Fawkner – all of these will involve WREC as a major participant. The expert assistance of EJA will be vital to these hearings.

A related aspect of our joint work with EJA is the new legislation and practices of the EPA resulting from the Inquiry. The value of the new legislation has yet to be determined and much of it will lie in the detail, which has yet to be revealed. There is much work to be done to turn EPA onto the kind of body that we (and some people in the EPA) want it to be (perhaps EPA will even start to realise its role in combatting greenhouse gas emissions from industry and waste facilities).

But ultimately of even more importance are the overriding issues of Sustainability, climate change and resource limitations (summed up in our Ecological Footprint which is amongst the greatest in the world). If we don't recognise these as crucial to the planet's future then we will fail to also manage the issues of waste and resource management.

Hopefully in 2018 we will be able to devote more time to these underlying issues instead of spending as much time on "sustainable waste management" as defined by the Government, its agencies and the EPA.

Meanwhile, we thank you for your support and hope you will continue to assist us to protect our environment for the benefit of our community and subsequent generations.

## **Treasurer's Report 2016-17**

The WREC Board is committed to ensuring that the important work being done in local waste management is able to continue and so continues to monitor the financial health of the organisation very closely.

WREC continues to meet its financial obligations and the Board has again found it necessary to reduce the wages of its Director to remain financially viable but as at 30 June 2017, WREC has met all financial requirements (refer to the financial statement attached).

The WREC Board thanks all our volunteers and supporters who have helped over the last year to ensure that WREC's financial position and its ability to make a difference for the environment in the West, is strong. We look forward to your continuing support.

**Catherine Ryan: Treasurer**

## **WREC Public Fund**

Our public fund is a registered charity and is listed on the Australian Register of Environmental Organisations. The WREC Public Fund has its own governance committee, separate from WREC, which oversees and monitors the distribution of funds received as donations to ensure that the use of these funds aligns with WREC's mission statement and that such use complies with the government's requirements for such funds. The fund is able to accept tax deductible donations so any donations made of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

**WREC**

*28 Ridge Dr  
Wyndhamvale 3024*

**Financial Statement  
July 2016 through June 2017**

<b>Income</b>	
Interest received	\$0.19
Fundraising	\$340.00
Transfer from Public Fund	\$20,500.00
Reimbursements	\$965.87
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$21,806.06</b>
<b>Outgoings</b>	
Campaign activities	\$3,224.04
Dues & Subscriptions	\$190.00
Insurances	\$826.75
Office Supplies, inc postage	\$198.58
Bank Charges	\$2.00
Wages & Salaries, inc SGC Super	\$13,657.40
Internet & phone	\$2,290.18
Utilities	\$2,509.39
<b>Total General/Activity Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,898.34</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/ Deficit</b>	<b>(\$1,092.28)</b>

**WREC**

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**Assets & Liabilities  
July 2016 through June 2017**

<b>Assets</b>	
Cheque Account	\$1,735.04
Public Fund Account	\$2,013.96
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Total Cash On Hand	\$3,799.00
Other Assets	
Co-op shares	\$10.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,809.00</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Tax Liabilities (GST)	(\$213.00)
Payroll Liabilities	(\$480.81)
Superannuation payable	(\$312.53)
PAYG Withholding Payable	\$0.00
Utilities	(\$170.00)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(\$1,176.34)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,632.66</b>