



**Sutherland Shire
Environment Centre**

*Annual Report
2017–18*

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre works with others in the community – including business, council, government and residents – to achieve a sustainable environment in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions.



Patron

R.D. (Bob) Walshe, OAM (deceased)

Board Members 2017-18

Tassia Kolesnikow (Chairperson)

John Nelson (Treasurer)

Lyn McLean (Secretary)

Kelly Abeleven

Roger Bramble

Jonathan Doig (Climate Change)

Melinda Millen

Phil Smith (Environmental Education)

Executive Officer

Jenni Gormley

Statement of Purpose

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre will work with others in the community – including business, council, government and residents – to achieve a sustainable environment in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions.

Statement of Functions

The Board agrees that the following list comprises the priority functions of the SSEC:

1. Establish the SSEC as the Peak Environment Group in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions, one that supports low-impact lifestyles, practices and behaviours in the community.
2. Establish efficient communication processes with the community.
3. Develop and conduct education initiatives.
4. Campaign publicly for protecting and improving the quality of the environment in Sutherland and its bio-regions.
5. Support members and local community organisations in their efforts to protect their local areas.
6. Establish efficient information, operation and management systems for Sutherland Shire Environment Centre.
7. Strengthen relationships with Sutherland Shire Council, other councils and other community and environmental organisations.
8. Raise funds to carry out the functions of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre.

For all of the above, the principles of working in partnership with others and in concert with other initiatives apply. Consultation and collaboration are vital elements of effective partnerships.

The overall aim is to create an environment centre! One that is welcoming and useful for the community. And one that models and demonstrates environmental and sustainability values in its decisions, practices and actions.

Chairman's Report

Last year, the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre had a major goal to reinvigorate our centre with an updated focus and new members. I think we can claim some success with the formation of three new subgroups, each of which brings in new campaigns and passionate new members.

A special welcome to our newest subgroup, 'SO Shire' who amongst other things are addressing the catastrophic issue of plastic pollution in our oceans.

New interest in the SSEC has also been sparked by our new EcoSavvy business award, which was initiated this year by Lyn McLean. Certainly some of SSEC's success this year can be attributed to the many hours our Executive Officer, Jenni Gormley has dedicated to redevelopment of the SSEC website, making it easier for the public to see what the SSEC does and to engage with us. I encourage all of you to have a look at our new site if you haven't already.

I extend a sincere appreciation to our marketing and communications volunteer, Reannan Honey for her expertise and suggestions with this redevelopment as well as to our secretary, Lyn McLean who provided many valuable comments on its development.

I may be biased but I think SSEC has always been remarkably effective at fulfilling its stated purpose to support the community in its efforts to protect the local environment and bioregions and develop and promote educational programs and initiatives that do the same.

When you read through the Annual Report you will see an impressive array of activities and campaigns that SSEC members have been involved with. Some have been focussed on local environment; growing meadows or edibles rather than lawns, protecting local areas, like Spring Gully, from developers and campaigning for World Heritage listing for our precious Royal National Park. Other SSEC groups have used conversations, state elections, movie screenings and rallies to motivate action on climate change. Direct action on climate change has also been brilliantly addressed by the installation of over 800 kW of solar in our local suburbs through Sunny Shire's bulk buy programs.

Environmental education, especially for the younger generation, is arguably the SSEC's most essential role. The 'Speaking 4 the Planet' program has done a stellar job to prompt high school and primary school students to think, engage in artworks and drama and speak on environmental issues and it continues to grow, not just in Australia, but internationally with a pilot event in Christchurch NZ.

It is exciting to announce that SSEC will be co-hosting the 2019 conference for the Australian Association of Environmental Education

which will take place at Kirrawee High School over the October long weekend. The convergence of hundreds of environmentalists and High School student participants all focussed on sustainability through learning, citizenship and activism is exciting. I can't think of a better way to spark a wave of environmental activism right on our doorstep!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. P.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

September 2018

**Tribute to our Patron,
R.D. Walshe, OAM**

28 December 1923 – 6 March 2018



“This Remarkable Shire”

For almost 20 years, Bob Walshe was a regular and keen contributor to *Shire Life*, a small community newspaper that Graeme Booth and I published from March 1997 until December 2016.

Bob rarely missed an opportunity to provide an article, even if it meant burning the midnight oil to meet a looming print deadline.

We would energetically exchange ideas about the best word or phrase to use, but there was never debate about the shape of bullets. They *had* to be his preferred shadowed boxes. And I don't think Bob ever wrote an article that did not include a bulleted list.

One of his favourite articles, that was contributed a few times over the years in various renditions, was “This Remarkable Shire”.

The things about Sutherland Shire that Bob cherished explain why we are all here today. Like us, they are wide ranging: environmental, educational, cultural, historical.

I'd like to share part of this article with you today. This version was written in December 2006 and was titled “It's All Here”.

Whether you want vivid experiences for children or excursions for a whole family, or adventures with groups of friends, you can find all you desire right here in the Shire.

Shire residents are the luckiest folk in this big “world city” of Sydney, the favoured 220,000 among 4.3 million! Think of these treasures:

- To the east, splendid beaches*
- To north, mighty Botany Bay*
- To south, beautiful Port Hacking*
- To west, Woronora River and Dam.*

Only a start! There are also:

- Four national parks,*
- The Royal, oldest park of all*
- Three of Sydney’s five rivers, and*
- Kurnell, “birthplace of the nation”.*

If you do nothing else but visit and explore these eight “physical features” of the Shire, say, in January, you’ll have little time to do more.

Trips, picnics and explorations this summer will bring home to you the size of this remarkable Shire, but don’t forget the even greater size of - - the mind. The Shire is blessed with a splendid library service, its Core Cultural Centre, which caters to all ages and tastes -- certainly to some interest of every member of the family.

Books galore, of course, but also magazines, newspapers, maps, cassettes, CDs, information videos, and large-print books. And there are photocopiers, fax machines, personal computers and internet services. Oh, and abundant games, toys, activities and story-telling for children.

At the Central Library you’ll find an incredible Notice Board plastered with hundreds of opportunities - the leaflets of community groups offering events, courses, clubs that testify to the Shire’s vigorous social life.

So, think twice before you spend hundreds or thousands of dollars on travel to Perth or Paris or... Don’t push the argument that “travel broadens the mind”. Short trips can do that as well. Everything depends on the observation, knowledge and curiosity the traveller brings to the trip.

The most truly deserving members of Sutherland Shire – I mean those who most deserve to live in this remarkable Shire – are those who explore and observe and intelligently study its many precious places. You will find such active people among Bushwalkers and Cyclists, Bushcare Groups, and members of the Australian Plant Society, Historical Society, Environment Centre, National Parks Association and Precinct Committees.

They have learnt the lesson that it isn't the travel you do that counts, it's what you do with the travel – the active questioning, observing, thinking, learning.

If President Kennedy could say “Ask not what America can do for you, but what you can do for America”, those who are privileged to live in or near this special Shire are duty-bound to ask, “What can I do for the Shire?”

Well, get to know it, read about it, explore it, talk about it, write to friends about it. In visiting places, try to use public transport, use the car only when unavoidable, and do as much walking as possible

And let us adults remember the Golden Rule of Education: example is the best teacher of the young. Let's ask, as we lead our children on exploring trips within the Shire, Do my words and actions show what I VALUE?

See! There's so much to do and say about living-to-the-full in the Shire that I've run out of space and I've scarcely begun!

I'm afraid that today I've had to cull many of Bob's wise words. But I do have some copies of the complete article available for those who would like to read it in full.

This piece of writing also forms the foundation for a new but unfinished book that Bob was preparing.

Entitled *This Remarkable Shire*, it was to a large extent a collection of Bob's writings on aspects of Shire community and history.

I am very happy to be able to tell you that Sutherland Shire Environment Centre has agreed to complete publication of this book.

We look forward to seeing you all at the launch event early next year.

(Eulogy given by Jenni Gormley at the tribute event organized by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and held at Tradies Gynea on

A book is being made up containing all the tributes offered for Bob on the day by his many friends and family. This book will be presented to Sutherland Historical Society at the Eureka Commemoration Dinner on November 30, 2019. The book will then be available on the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre website as a PDF for free download.)

Achieving our Purpose in 2017-18

The “Statement of Purpose and Functions” (upon which this report is based), is the statement that guides all our actions and the implementation of our strategic initiatives.

1. *Establish the SSEC as the Peak Environment Group in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions, one that supports low impact lifestyles, practices and behaviours in the community.*

Community based campaigns and activities supported by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre:-

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2. *Establish efficient communication processes with the community*

We are continuing to make use of social media and email for communication with our members, and are always looking at ways to integrate the many streams of information that currently exist (website, email, Facebook, Instagram).

This year our website has been revamped with considerable input from Reannan Honey and Lyn McLean. The new site more clearly shows the various aspects of local environmental protection with which we are currently involved and will appeal to a younger audience.

The website allows sub-committee convenors to email newposts directly which increases efficiency and ensure that the website can be kept up to date. Coming events are also directly fed into the website. All website posts can be seamlessly shared on the SSEC Facebook and Instagram pages.

The next phase of the website development will bring about an improvement in our online payment facility and membership renewal and an online shop which will be integrated with the Eco-Savvy Business project.

We have made limited use of Facebook's "boost" facility and this has been effective.

Newsletter / eco-news. The weekly Eco-news continues to provide a valuable resource for residents of Sutherland Shire who are interested in environmental matters, bringing all relevant news stories into a single searchable database.

Items of interest and news of coming events is shared via email and social media as required.

3. Develop and conduct education initiatives

The board decided not to allocate an Community Scholarship this year, instead allocating the funds to Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards participation.

- **Speaking 4 the Planet.**



Hi Phil,

Thanks for the photos and welcoming Tanya on the day. She had a wonderful time and came back to the store very inspired to do better with our store's Green Team. She was blown away by the commitment and knowledge of the children who presented on the day! Thanks again Phil and we are looking forward to next year's already! Rachel, Bunnings, Castle Hill

Another successful year for this public speaking, drama and art competition. This year the theme was plastic pollution. For the first time, we included a video component in the Kids 4 the Planet event in May. Here's a link to a video produced by Lakemba Public School.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R6iEvQgyA9-Ucue6rD_GpkBOfqHq2JDa/view?ts=5b1652f9



And here's the logo for future Kids 4 the Planet. This is a composite of a number of entries by students.

The teachers and students at the Speaking 4 the Planet events loved the idea of a video component. So...2019 will see that element added to all events!

Events in 2018 took place in Lakemba, Sutherland, The Hills and Armidale. Instead of a Liverpool event, we held a South West Sydney competition that involved Liverpool, Camden and Campbelltown Council. Again, I contracted Curious Works to make a video of the event.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1v_cziAqKJRbsO-8eCm-kK0pI_A1QGf_I

Two more events linked to the 2018 theme are scheduled: Orange in November, Parramatta in April 2019.

In Christchurch, NZ, the environment department sponsored a pilot of a Speaking 4 the Planet competition. It was very small... but it is a start to seeing this idea take off overseas!

A package was developed to support teachers and students. Again, Paddy Pallin and Bunnings provided wonderful support through gifts and prizes. Councils continued to support the events in all local government areas where they took place. In Armidale, the Catholic Schools Office, the local Toastmasters group and Southern New England Landcare offered great support.

For the evaluation of each event, I used a target. Students were asked to place a star on each of the three targets provided. Overwhelmingly, students placed their stars near the centre. An evaluation report is being prepared. It will be available in October.

Here are the targets from the South West Sydney event in June.



Speakers, performers and artists assisted again at the 2018 Youth Eco Summit.

Events are already being planned for World Environment Day 2019.



• **ActiveNature Conference 2019**

report by Phil Smith and Jenni Gormley

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre is working with Australian Association for Environmental Education (NSW Chapter) to host the 34th Environmental Education Conference in Kirrawee in 2019.

The Conference will be held 3-5 October 2019 at Kirrawee High School and will be launched at the AAEE(NSW) Annual General Meeting and Greed Ed Drinks event on 4 October 2018, also at KHS.

34th NSW Environmental Education Conference
ACTIVENATURE
 LEARNING, CITIZENSHIP, ACTIVISM FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The 2019 ActiveNature conference will have 3 major strands: Learning, Citizenship, Activism. All relating to sustainability.

The conference will focus on the role of education in bringing about meaningful change at household and government levels – changes from the kitchen to the cabinet that strengthen communities and protect nature. find out more? www.nswconference.org.au



The ActiveNature conference will include a **“Make a Movie for the Planet!” Video Competition**. Anyone over the age of 13 is eligible to submit a video about the key themes of the conference:

- pathways to learning, citizenship and activism for sustainability
- active IN/FOR/BY nature.

You don't need any fancy equipment. Your phone will do the trick!

The videos will be used for promoting the conference. They will also be shown at the conference. By submitting your video, you and/or the person you video agree that the Conference Committee can use them in those ways.

Everyone is invited to enter. Use your phone, have your say, win great prizes. To find out more visit: activenature.org.au



4. Campaign publicly for protecting and improving the quality of the environment in Sutherland Shire and its bioregions

a. Shire Bicycle User Group (Shire BUG)

SCATL

report by Tassia Kolesnikow

Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link (SCATL) – there has been no official announcement of when this project will commence. We have been requesting a meeting with Cronulla MP, Mark Speakman for an update since July but have not been given a date despite repeated emails and phone calls.

Australian Bicycle Summit

Tassia attended the Australian Bicycle Summit in June 2018. The Keynote talk delivered by Dale Bracewell, Director of Transportation and Planning in Vancouver was a highlight. Sydney should strive to increase cycling like Vancouver which has greatly benefitted from a government that actively assists with the implementation of useful and safe cycling routes. If a city like Vancouver with similar topography and much worse weather than Sydney can increase cycling as a mode to 23% in the inner city, there really shouldn't be any reason why Sydney can't do the same.

The session 'Best Practice& Next Practice: connecting people and places in our cities and regional centres" was conducted by an all-female panel which was inspiring given that women cycling for transport are underrepresented.

In particular, it was heartening to see the dedication and energy that Kim Santarossa, a teacher at Canterbury P.S. is putting into encouraging students and their parents to use bikes as a mode of transport to and from school and beyond. If cycling as transport is normalised amongst this segment of society, it will bolster its use overall.

Tassia posed a curly question to Teagan Mitchell, Assistant Director Road Transport Strategy, Freight, Strategy and Planning from Transport NSW, asking why the Transport Office is failing to invest even 2% of transport infrastructure funds into cycling infrastructure, 2% is the current transport mode share of cycling, when they have a stated that they want to increase cycling as a mode of transport. Teagan attempted to offer a 'politician's answer quoting that so many millions of dollars have been spent on specific projects but when pressed was unable to hide that this amount was above a dismal 0.2% of transport funds. Teagan conceded to Tassia after the session that this underfunding was indeed pathetic. The take home message is that we need to persist with asking our state and

federal governments to spend more on cycling infrastructure. It should at the very least be on par with the % of trips taken on bikes.

Charles Black from CycleLifeHQ made a good case for obtaining additional funds for cycling infrastructure by creating partnerships with businesses that stand to gain financially from increased cycling.

Tassia joined a tour of the popular amenities under Barangaroo that cater for LendLease, WestPac and other large businesses in the area. The amenities include extensive bike storage, gym and shower facilities with free towel service. Wouldn't it be great if all businesses with 100 or more employees were required to provide something similar!

Shire Rides

report by Jenni Gormley

We have continued to schedule rides within Sutherland Shire on an ad hoc basis. While the number attending has been low this is acknowledged as a contribution to increasing awareness of cycling as an alternative means of transport within Sutherland Shire.

We were pleased to see the opening earlier this year of the “missing link” in the Woolooware Bay Cycleway, meaning that bike riders and pedestrians using the shared path between Taren Point Bridge and Sharks have a separated route all the way.

b. First National Park

report by Bob Crombie

2018 was a quiet year for *First National Park*. In correspondence to us, dated 28th May 2018, the NSW Government reiterated its stance on the Tentative Listing Of the Royal Reserves, “...that the only potential pathway for the inclusion of Royal National Park and Reserves on the Australian World Heritage Tentative List may be as part of a serial nomination, which could identify a collection of sites under new theme; the evolution of protected areas and conservation philosophy.”

The Government does not believe that the claim for the Royal Reserves as per The Lake District in England and the British industrial sites World Heritage Areas, “that it is associated with ideas of universal significance, that it “directly stimulated a landscape conservation movement of global importance” has been substantiated.

FNP needs to regather and begin pursuit of the serial nomination pathway in response to this. At the same time, NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley has promised to expedite the forwarding of our proposal to a federal Labor government should it get into to power, and to recommend tentative

listing. He said that he had already had talks with the Federal opposition leader Bill Shorten and received support from Mr Shorten on this matter. *FNP* will continue to promote its aims with Luke Foley and Bill Shorten of the Labor Party at the appropriate times relative to the next state and federal elections.

Bob Crombie has spoken to a number of groups over the year including committees for the Blue Mountains and Kuringai Chase National Parks. These groups continue their support for the aims of *FNP*.

c. Sunny Shire

report by Jonathan Prendergast

Sunny Shire was created in May last year and started with the launch of a solar bulk buy scheme at an event in Bundeena.

We have an active web page, Facebook page and Facebook group to promote solar, batteries, efficiency and EVs.

Rooftop Solar Bulk Buys

This saw Bulk Buy 1 popular beyond our expectations, so we had to stop Bulk Buy 1 at 51 registrations, get a second local solar company, then run Bulk Buy 2 until the end of 2017.

Bulk Buy 1 saw 201 kilowatts of solar installed for 37 shire families. Bulk Buy 2 reached 286 kilowatts for 40 households.

In 2018 we launched Bulk Buy 3, which has so far seen 49 installations reaching 322 kilowatts of solar. Our first 12 months saw facilitation of \$1 million per annum of investment in solar power by Shire families using local solar companies.

These initiatives have seen one of the solar companies take on a new employee and apprentice, with both companies having more continuous work streams and losing less time quoting on hundreds of jobs that go nowhere. Both solar companies have agreed to provide a contribution to Sutherland Shire Environment Centre per installation.

Energy Efficiency Bulk Buys

In 2018 we also launched hot water heat pump and LED bulk buys. This has seen 10 highest quality Sanden Eco Heat Pumps installed by an Illawong plumbing company, and numerous halogen downlight replaced with quality LEDs.

Such initiatives could be extended, using local suppliers to promote pool heat pumps and other home energy products including high efficiency air conditioners that have the added benefit of reducing air pollution by replacing wood fires.

Crowd Funded Solar for Community Groups

We also partnered with national community energy revolving fund, CORENA, to run a crowd funding campaign for 5kW of solar for an Engadine community day care. We are seeking other Sutherland Shire community groups who may be suitable for solar to reduce their energy bills and make our community stronger through solar.

Future Ahead

With an reliable revenue stream, Sunny Shire is considering engagement of a project officer to assist running its programs and growth. This could be a local university student studying a relevant course in renewables.

Sunny Shire already provides knowledgeable, independent advice on electricity retailers, products as well as general tips via email and Facebook. This is especially valuable in such a turbulent energy market. Victoria, South Australia and Queensland state governments have all recently launched solar and battery finance or subsidy programs. If such programs were introduced in NSW, Sunny Shire would ensure that Shire residents and businesses were well-informed on how to make the most of them.

d. Nature and Learning: Connections That Count

report by Phil Smith

SSEC and SSC have run 3 Nature and Learning sessions for P&Cs in Sutherland: Kirrawee HS and pre-schools in Cronulla and Engadine. Parents and teachers loved them!

These are run by Katie Denoon, Canopy Officer at SSC and Phil. Katie's enthusiasm inspires people to want to plant and plant and plant! And the video of Royal National Park, A Place for Belonging, reminds people of the beauty and wonder in the backyard of Sutherland Shire.

We have a raffle and give away a t-shirt and a day pass to RNP. Everyone gets a seedling.

The events focus on the social, learning and health benefits being in nature. There are lots; here are a few:

1. Nature deficit is linked to obesity, attention disorders and depression and anxiety. Interaction with nature reduces symptoms of ADD

2. Being in nature increases sense of wonder
3. Being nature lowers levels of cortisol – an indicator of stress
4. Being in nature improves concentration and focus.

SSEC has produced a [Google map](#) of “Family Walks in Sutherland Shire” that parents and teachers can add to including photographs.

The events also promote the importance of tree canopy. Katie provides information on what Council is doing; this includes providing advice on trees indigenous to specific areas of the Shire.

Each event is evaluated. A collated report is being slowly put together.



Kirrawee High School, February 2018

e. Bewildering Sutherland

report by Bob Crombie

The campaign for bewildering, and community gardens on public lands in Sutherland Shire has been quite successful. On 22 May 2018, Bob Crombie received a letter from The Mayor Councillor Carmelo Pesce saying that “Council would be interested in working with you to develop a policy/guideline that would provide direction to community groups in the establishment of gardens on public land” and to “liaise with David Ackroyd for advice with the development of the Community Gardens on public land guideline/policy.” David and Bob are gathering various policies and guidelines from around Australia in preparation for writing them for Sutherland.

An introductory talk on this matter was given to the public at Club on East in Sutherland by David Ackroyd and Bob Crombie.

The talk on *Bewildering* given in 2009 by Bob Crombie to the *Friends of the Botanic Gardens* was directly inspirational for the setting up of the *Verge Garden Projects Australia – pers. comm.* Peter Olds, Coordinator VGPA, 25 June 2018, and it has since then assisted greatly in the preparation of various council policies and guidelines on community and verge gardens throughout Australia e.g. the excellent *Farmers of the urban footpath – design guidelines for street verge gardens*, Russ Grayson, Community Gardens and Landcare coordinator, City of Sydney. Russ Grayson is on the project control group for the *Sustainable Streets Demonstration Project* at City of Sydney. David Ackroyd and Bob Crombie will likely use these excellent guidelines adapted for Sutherland Shire.

Bob Crombie, Phil Smith and David Ackroyd will prepare a *Sutherland Community and Verge Gardens Seminar* for the public once the guidelines and policy have been prepared and approved by Sutherland Shire Council.

f. Wildlife Corridors Project

report by Bob Crombie

Bob Crombie has been delivering presentations to various groups on this matter and received excellent support. Various community groups were present at the *Friends Of Royal National Park* presentation. They expressed keen concern to take up this cause in their interests. *Friends of Royal* are going to pursue this matter with respect to the wildlife corridors servicing Royal and Heathcote National Parks and Garawarra State Conservation Area, and wildlife movement within the reserves themselves. They will promote the consideration and application of these matters directly into the plans of management for these reserves.

The Southern Sydney Branch of the National Parks Association was very receptive and has immediately begun incorporating the principles into a number of conservation plans and programs that they have been involved in, including plans of management for various conservation reserves and the F6 Freeway planning. They have referred the information I supplied on to other conservation groups.

Phil Smith and Bob Crombie have only made preliminary preparations for the redevelopment of Cawleys Bridge over the F6 Freeway at Helensburgh as a Multi-purpose Bridge to service the needs of the community and wildlife. The Roads and Maritime Services have provision within their acts and policies to fund and carry out such a redevelopment.

There are various rope ladders and bridges to facilitate movement of wildlife across road and rail barriers that are readily and relatively cheaply available.

We will be looking at gaining support from Wollongong University on these matters.

g. Eco-Savvy Business

report by Lyn McLean

This year, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre launched its Eco-Savvy project – a project aimed at encouraging Shire businesses to become more environmentally sustainable or, to put it another way, to put the ECO back into the ECONomy.

With this aim in mind, the Centre sponsored the new Sustainability Award in the **2018 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards**.

The award was presented at a dinner attended by 700 Shire business people on 22 August in which I spoke briefly about the award and the importance of sustainable business practices. The Centre's banner was on display throughout the evening and our logo projected onto the screen.

The winner of the Sustainability Award was Mr Paisley's café in North Caringbah for outstanding commitment to reducing impact on the environment: <http://www.mrpaisleys.com.au>. It's worth a visit!



And our runner up, receiving a Highly Commended certificate, was Cheeky Wipes for making available environmentally-friendly products to reduce impacts on landfill <http://www.cheekywipes.com.au>

Our other finalists, also contributing to environmental sustainability in their businesses, are featured on our website.

Our website also contains suggestions about how businesses can become more eco-savvy as well as some suppliers of eco-savvy packaging and products.

The Local Business Awards process brought the Centre into contact with a wonderful group of Shire residents working to protect our environment and we'll be working much more closely in the future. That's the SO Shire group – more on the group later.

Meanwhile, here are some tips about how you can encourage eco-savvy business in the Shire.

You can:

- patronise eco-savvy businesses
- refuse plastic bags (Take your own instead!)
- take your own mug/reusable food container

- where possible, return packaging to the store/market stall for reuse
- let store owners know that they can find suppliers of environmentally-friendly packaging on our site.

We're looking forward to seeing the trend towards eco-savvy business grow over the coming year.

h. Sutherland Climate Action Network

report by Tassia Kolesnikow. scan@sutherlandcan.org.au

Sutherland CAN continued to punch above its weight organising and participating in protests, rallies, film screenings and other activities to promote real action on climate change and a transition to renewable energy. Here's a summary:

Transition to Renewables

Sutherland CAN members promoted and attended the **#Time to Choose - Rally for Renewables on March 24th** in Sydney's CBD to send a strong message to polluters and politicians alike. We had a good time dressing up too!



Sutherland CAN members disseminated information at Bundeena monthly Saltwater Markets about the Nature Conservation Council's Repower campaign as well as Solar Citizen's renewable energy campaign.

Pushing Politicians to Commit

In the lead-up to the **November 24 Queensland election**, Sutherland CAN members joined **GetUp's phone calling campaign** to voters in marginal seats to ask them to put the LNP last on the ballot to stop the \$1 billion handout of tax payer funds to Adani for his proposed mega mine. The success of this campaign has been seen as a real turning point in the fight to make politicians accountable to the people they represent rather than promoting the interests of billionaires and big coal companies.

On August 2, Sutherland CAN members attended the launch of the NCC Policies for the 2019 NSW election & Beyond, "A Cleaner Greener NSW" at NSW Parliament House. (Copies available for inspection)

On March 27 Sutherland CAN attended a **Q&A session with NSW opposition Leader, Luke Foley** and Heathcote candidate, Maryanne Stuart and posed the following question: "The NSW target of zero emissions by 2050 had no clear path and was lacking in policy to implement renewable energy. In fact, there had been bipartisan support in allowing Springvale coal mine to stay open and continue polluting the Cox's river that contributes to Sydney's water supply in order to 'keep the lights on'. NSW was lagging behind the rest of Australia with only 3% solar and 4% wind. What would Labor do to change this?"

Sutherland CAN has been assisting the Nature Conservation Council with their 'Solar for Schools' initiative by approaching local P&C's and contacts with the Teachers Federation.

Opposition to Coal Seam Gas (CSG)

In October, Sutherland CAN members joined the Newcastle Wilderness Society for a visit to the Pilliga to hear first-hand from the community about the threat CSG poses to residents and farmers.

Sutherland CAN hosted two well attended screenings of the 'The Bentley Effect' – a documentary on the successful campaign to prevent CSG in the Northern Rivers.

- Over 60 people attended the screening at Bundeena Public School on March 7 with guest speaker, grazier David Quince from Tambar Springs and former Gunnedah Shire Councillor who has been fighting CSG in North West NSW.
- Over 80 people attended the screening at Engadine Uniting Church on 9 March with guest speaker, David Chadwick, a farmer from Coonamble Shire on the edge of the Pilliga, reliant on water from the Great Artesian Basin which is under threat from Santos CSG.

The indefatigable Col and Bill Ryan continued with their **weekly vigil at Martin Place every Friday**. Joining the Sydney Knitting Nannas and others to raise awareness of Santos damaging CSG project.

No New Coal



Stop Adani – this monster mine planned for the Gallilee Basin in central QLD and headed by a Indian mining billionaire is at the forefront of the climate action movement for very good reasons: It will wreck the Great Barrier Reef, drain and pollute billions of litres of precious water from the Great Artesian basin and accelerate climate change by supplying enormous amounts of coal.

Sutherland CAN members jumped wholeheartedly into supporting the Stop Adani campaign by:

- Participating in ‘Stop Adani’ human signs at North Wollongong and Bondi Beaches on October 7.
- Attending the **Sutherland Farmers Market on multiple Saturdays** and the **Bundeena Sustainability Expo on October 29** to speak to people about the issue and collect signatures on petitions and completion of hundreds of postcards addressed to Federal Treasurer, Morrison asking him to allocate \$1 billion dollars of public money to specific works rather than for support of the Adani mine.
- Joining the Galilee Blockade and attending the Downer AGM to pressure the Board to drop their contract to build infrastructure for Adani or suffer continued protests and disruptions to their business. A little over a month later, Downer announced that it had parted ways with Adani.

Sutherland CAN members joined ACT: **Frontline Action on Coal** and helped shut down the largest coal port in the world at **Newcastle on September 15**. The incorrigible Bill Ryan was arrested for his actions – proving that age (Bill is 95 years old) is no barrier for activism!



With a Shire PM, there is new incentive for local action. Sutherland CAN members promoted and joined hundreds of protesters in **Cronulla on September 8** for the **'Coal out of Politics' rally** while other Sutherland CAN members attended the 350.org Global Day of Action event on Sydney harbour.

Attendees of the rally were invited to take action on stopping Adani and 30 people showed up to find out how by attending a screening for **'A Mighty Force' on September 15** which covered plans for a **'StopAdani' doorknock in Morrison's Port Hacking neighbourhood**, scheduled for **October 7**



Education and Liaison

Sutherland CAN members continue to update their skills in networking and campaigning, attending workshops by the Wilderness Society (November 2017) and the Nature Conservation Council (October 2017).

Tassia Kolesnikow delivered presentations on climate change and renewable energy to the Riverwood VIEW club (September 2017) and the Woollooware Probus club (February, 2017).

Sutherland CAN members attended the Climate and Energy Working group monthly online meetings with the Nature Conservation Council and other Climate Action Network groups around NSW to assist each other in strategy development and actions.

i. Free Trade

SSEC continues to support the work of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network in its opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership trade deals. These deals would have deleterious impacts on employment, environment, health,

SSEC is a member of AFTINET. We have provided submissions at various stages of the trade deal discussions

j. Clean and Renewable Energy Summit

report by Roger Bramble

On his own accord Roger attended the Australian Clean Energy Summit in July. The following is a summary of the relevant aspects for SSEC and members.

Successive Federal Governments have failed to create long term certainty on the best position for Australia, its economy, environment and society with regards to the energy mix. This aspect of policy was front and centre with the succession of climate related policies from the Howard Government's Renewable Energy Target Scheme (RETS), to Rudd's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CRPS), then Gillard's Cap and Trade Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) or the Carbon Tax, then Abbott's removal of the Carbon Tax and insertion of the Emissions Reduction Fund and Direct Action, and finally Turnbull's to and froing on energy sourcing preferences, and the National Energy Guarantee (NEG) right up to his departure from office.

Not only was this issue made clear at the summit but the impact of the growth of both on and off grid renewables to the management of the National Energy Market (NEM) was made clear as the market has not developed in step with the growth of renewables. This fact alone is jeopardising energy security as market positions are not always as clear as in a less distributed supply position where large generators supply is trackable.

Some outstanding figures on the growth of renewables were presented with large project investments occurring Australia wide. Figures were presented showing that renewables will easily be able to provide base load energy and that coal or gas generated electricity can be entirely replaced under the right settings without impact on industry and the economy. However recent electricity price increases and impacts on industry and the economy indicate that some adjustment will be required to move forward.

Substantial variance persisted amongst renewable industry leaders on the ability of their renewable focus to deliver the clean energy outcomes sought when compared to rival renewables sources. For instance, pumped hydro developers from Tasmania declared that only their technology would deliver the base load required and intermitted renewables never would. This divergence in views at times didn't aid what should have been a more unified position on a strong inclusion of renewables in Australia's energy supply mix from all renewables advocates.

So where is the future for renewables in Australia?

The summit outlined that renewables are the present and the future. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) the Australian Government's renewables financing department has committed to over \$5.3 billion in projects in just over 6 years of operation and sees investment only growing if the policy settings are favourable. Other local and global factors within and across industries also will aid renewables growth and improvement as an all seasons energy provider including corporate power purchase agreements (PPAs), virtual networks, green bonds, artificial intelligence, block chain technology and others enabling decentralised energy exchanges and trading between individuals.

Overall the summit producers requested that a sound policy position be developed with the overriding theme for the government to support clean and renewable sources above fossil fuels sources. If the Australian Government can agree on a balanced and rational position on the mix of renewables and other energy sources the future for renewables growth can be secured without forcing unhealthy impacts upon industry, the economy, the environment and on Australians, and industry can make the investments needed for longer term market security.

5. *Support members and local community organisations in their efforts to protect their local areas*

SSEC offers valuable support to local community environment groups through financial sponsorship, provision of equipment, setting up/hosting of websites, networking, wording of petitions, artwork for brochures, etc. SSEC also fields phone calls from a range of Shire residents concerned about a wide variety of environmental problems and supported in their

concerns about how to protect our beautiful shire from those who would destroy it.

Other valuable assets that are provided to the community are our Public Gift Fund (charitable) status, public liability and volunteers insurance, incorporation and banking and PayPal facilities.

This year we are pleased to welcome SO Shire, The Bewilderers, Eco-Savvy Business and Nature & Learning.

6. *Establish efficient information, operation and management systems for Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

Our new website allowed for a much more collaborative approach with sub-committee convenors able to email news posts directly to the website. This also allows for more efficient sharing of important information with our members, either via Facebook or through email.

7. *Strengthen relationships with Sutherland Shire Council, other councils and other community and environmental organisations*

- Our relationship with NPA (Southern Sydney) remains very important to us, especially in relation to illegal bike riding in Royal National Park, the
- We support NCC's new "Solar for Schools" campaign and 'attend' monthly online meetings of the Climate and Energy Working group. We continue to support NCC "SOS Green Spaces" and "Repower NSW" campaign.
- We are pleased to have a representative on Nature Conservation Council's Sustainable Population committee as well as the Climate and Energy Working Group.
- Our relationship with Sutherland Shire Council continues to grow. We are liaising with council to create guidelines for community groups to plant gardens in public spaces, and also to improve cycling facilities throughout the Shire.
- With both State and Federal elections looming we are approaching both sitting representatives and those who would replace them with our policy recommendations.
- Submissions were made on many plans and proposed legislations including: a submission asking for the TPP-11 trade agreement to be rejected, Expansion of Marine Parks, Sutherland Shire Development Control Plan 2015 - Amendment 1, Royal National Park Draft Plan of Management Discussion Paper, Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Reform Opportunities.

8. *Raise funds to carry out the functions of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

The SSEC website provides for online membership and donation payments using Paypal and/or credit card facilities. Use of Eventbrite and Square streamlines collection of payments for attendance at events.

We continue to closely monitor our expenditure to ensuring our continued long-term viability. We are grateful to our members and donors for their support and to Perpetual Trustees.

Treasurer's Report

The 2017/2018 Financial Year saw the Centre return a profit of \$21,745 which is an increase from the \$6,366 profit as reported last year. This is seen as a good result that has been achieved through a slight increase in revenue and further close management of expenses and a reduction in expenditure associated with Environmental projects.

Despite a reduction in subscription and grant income and donations received, the Centre's income rose to \$89,384. This increase was predominantly driven from an increase in net annual rental income associated with the Merton St property and a modest increase in income from Fund Raising Events.

Overall expenditure declined to \$67,639 compared to prior year (\$81,446). This was due to a further reduction in Interest associated with the Merton St Mortgage (with the Centre making further one off repayments to reduce the loan balance outstanding); Rates & Strata fees as a result of reduction in quarterly fees of the office property at Merton Street; and, a reduction in expenditure associated with Environmental Projects.

The Centre will continue to be grateful for the generosity of all our other supporters over many years and actively encourages past and prospective donors to continue to support the Centre.

Attached you will find further commentary and analysis of Year End Financial Statements.

SUMMARY

The Centre continues to pursue the goal to generate "sustainable, long term" income from its' operational activities (subscriptions, fund raising and donations). We do however continue to struggle in obtaining new members, and as such continues to rely on a donations and grants which can be somewhat variable. However, with the rental income generated from the Merton St premises the Centre financial position is relatively sound.

SPECIAL MENTION

The Management Committee would like to thank Chris Allen and the team from Boroughs Assurance Chartered Accountants who graciously provide their services to audit of the accounts free of charge.

I would also like to thank past and current donors and financial supporters of the Centre. In particular, I will call out Bob Walshe, whose support and vision have enabled the Centre to be largely financially independent.

Finally, I again would like to make special mention and extend my thanks to Jenni Gormley for her commitment and effort in completing and tracking financial activities on a weekly basis.

OPERATING SURPLUS

At 30 June 2018 the accounts of the Centre showed an operating surplus (profit) of \$21,745 compared to an operating profit in the previous year of \$6,366.

INCOME

Total Income for the year was \$89,384, which was a small increase when compared to the prior year (\$87,812).

Items of note within Income of the Centre included:

- Increases in
 - Gross Profit from Rental Income - which reflects the full years income (income less management fee and repairs/maintenance) associated with the rental of our premise; and,
 - Fundraising Events – which increased with income coming from events like the Film Festival
- Decrease in:
 - Grants – prior year included a major grant for the production of the First national Park video.
 - Subscriptions and Donations which both reduced when compared to prior year.

EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure for the year of \$67,639 was a decrease when compared to the previous financial year of \$81,446.

Major areas of variation in expenditure over last year are seen in:

- Environmental Projects expenditure – a significant decrease over prior year
- Interest – decrease due to the average loan amount outstanding over the year being smaller than prior year.
- Rates & Strata Fees – reflecting the full years reduction in strata fees reduced due to installation of individual air conditioning facilities for the office
- General Expenses – due to the Centre funding the Tribute to Bob Walshe.

BALANCE SHEET

Turning to the Balance Sheet, the property purchased in 2002 and its associated mortgage continue to dominate the Balance Sheet of the Centre.

The Centre has had continued to pay back the loan thereby decreasing the loan amount outstanding from \$35,421 to \$11,217.

Our Bank balances (in excess of \$49,000) remain healthy and provide a sound footing for Campaign support, works associated with grants or other activities.

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

2017 \$	Note	2018 \$
	INCOME	
	OTHER INCOME	
836	Subscriptions	491
17,178	Donations	13,770
5,000	Grants	909
5	Interest Received	2
2,091	Fund Raising Events & Other Income	4,650
62,702	Gross Profit From Rental Operations	69,561
87,812	TOTAL INCOME	89,384
	EXPENDITURE	
277	Bank Charges	60
32,487	Consultants Fees	32,487
766	Conference	118
3,690	Depreciation	3,682
100	Donations	500
	Environmental Projects	
137	Scan	1,247
7,735	First National Park Campaign	450
283	Stop CSG - Sutherland	-
5,111	Speaking 4 the Planet	1,484
-	Environmental Education	2,273
1,947	Spring Gully Protection	409
-	Sutherland Environment Film Festival	1,697
1,916	Eco News	1,815
-	Eco Savvy Businesses	1,500
-	Nature & Learning	169
-	Sunny Shire	120
-	Other (Veg-in & Ridge Action)	64
32	ACE Safety	-
195	Eureka	-
6,504	Healthy House	-
32	Kaima Way	-
23,891		11,228
157	General Expenses	3,000
300	Insurance	395
2,530	Interest	1,796
357	Meeting Expenses	320
91	Postage	333
543	Printing & Stationery	179
15,585	Rates & Strata (Merton Street)	12,880
155	Subscriptions & Licences	68
517	Telephone & Internet	591
81,446		67,639
6,366	Profit / (Loss) before income tax	21,745
6,366	Profit / (Loss) for the year	21,745
536,319	Retained Earnings at the beginning of the financial year	542,685
542,685	Retained Earnings at the end of the financial year	564,430

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
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**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2018**

2017 \$	Note	2018 \$
	MEMBER'S FUNDS	
542,685	Retained Earnings	564,430
<u>542,685</u>	TOTAL MEMBER'S FUNDS	<u>564,430</u>
	Represented by:	
	ASSETS	
	CURRENT ASSETS	
293	Cash on Hand	333
20,262	Public Gift Fund	11,174
27,134	Main Account	38,646
725	Trade Debtors	-
652	Other Debtors	227
-	Prepayments	435
1,293	GST on acquisition	1,028
<u>50,359</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>51,843</u>
	NON CURRENT ASSETS	
	Fixed Assets	
506,353	Building - at Cost	506,353
53,168	Furniture & Fittings - at Cost	53,168
(29,868)	Less Prov'n Depreciation	(33,550)
<u>529,653</u>	Total Fixed Assets	<u>525,971</u>
<u>529,653</u>	TOTA NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>525,971</u>
<u>580,013</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>577,814</u>
	LIABILITIES	
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
-	Accrued Expenses	-
1,907	GST on supplies	2,168
<u>1,907</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>2,168</u>
	NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	
35,421	Loan - Commonwealth Bank	11,217
<u>35,421</u>	TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>11,217</u>
<u>37,328</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>13,385</u>
<u>542,685</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>564,430</u>

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 June 2018

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual 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 significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in preparation of this financial report.

Income Tax

Exemption from income tax has been obtained by virtue of Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997

Property

Freehold land and buildings are shown at cost.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia holds a mortgage over the property at Suite 4, 2 – 4 Merton Street, Sutherland.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

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

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

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvements

Revenue and Other Income

Investment Property revenue is recognised on an accrual basis based on the current monthly rental amount due.

Interest revenue is recognised when received.

Revenue from membership subscriptions is recognised when received.

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

Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The amounts of GST recoverable from and owing to the ATO are identified in the balance sheet.

John Nelson
Treasurer
September 2018