



Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

Annual Report
2018-19

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre works with local community organisations, businesses, government, and residents to protect and improve their local areas, and to achieve a sustainable environment in the Sutherland Shire and its bioregions.

SSEC is a totally independent, non-government community organisation. It is an incorporated Association guided by a constitution and governed by a Board elected at an Annual General Meeting by members of the Association.



Board Members 2018-19

Tassia Kolesnikow (Chairperson)
John Nelson (Treasurer)
Lyn McLean (Secretary)
Roger Bramble
Kal Glaznig
Sarah-Jo Lobwein
Melinda Millen
Phil Smith (Environmental Education)

Executive Officers

Jenni Gormley (2018-19)
Catherine Reynolds (2019)

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We campaign for the environment • We advocate for sustainability

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.

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Chairperson’s Report

Tassia Kolesnikow

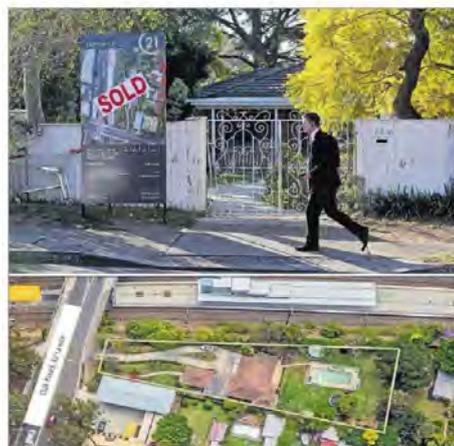
It’s been a high energy year, campaigning to keep the environment up front and centre prior to State and Federal Elections and wrapping up the year with the employment of a new Executive Officer for our Centre. Jenni Gormley’s request to step down as Executive Officer after 15 years was akin to approving the removal of a mature and rare tree specimen! Fortunately, her decision to remain active in the SSEC means that we will not lose the wealth of talent and insight that she contributes.

In the few short weeks that Catherine Reynolds has been in the role, it is clear that we have gained a dynamic and inspired Executive Officer. In addition to tackling the administrative duties of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre, Catherine has ramped up a campaign to halt the proposed extension of longwall coal mining under the Woronora reservoir, which supplies Shire residents with all or part of their water. In doing so, Catherine has greatly raised awareness about this critical issue, with her Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Facebook post receiving well over 198,000 views and attracting 955 new followers to our page (bringing the total number to 1670) and boosting the profile of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre. We intend to utilise our higher profile to increase community engagement and membership to support environmentally beneficial outcomes.

And what magnificent outcomes we’ve had! During this past year, we’ve made tangible progress improving our local environment: We’ve taken plastic off our beaches with clean-ups and prevented it from getting there in the first place, assisting local businesses with alternatives and helping environmentally-progressive businesses to spread the word by sponsorship of the Sustainability Award in the Local Business Awards. We’ve assisted Shire residents to install 373kW of solar on their rooftops and facilitated solar installation on Shire schools.

Thanks to our persistent lobbying, a start has been made on the long awaited Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link (SCATL) with the Sutherland to Kirrawee section (stage 1) to be completed by the end of the year. We’ve helped preserve the preferred route of SCATL (stage 2) and expand green spaces by opposing a housing development on property adjoining Kirrawee station, which council recently purchased to create a new park.

Park for site near brick pit



"BETTER OUTCOME": Sutherland Shire Council has bought the property at 168 Oak Road for \$3 million from developer contribution funds. Main Picture: John Veage

MURRAY TREMBATH

A NEW park will be created next to Kirrawee train station on a site where a 50-room boarding house was controversially proposed.

Sutherland Shire Council has effectively killed two birds with one stone by buying the property at 168 Oak Road for \$3 million from developer contribution funds.

The new park that will take shape on the 1961 square metre site next to the railway line will complement the park being created a few hundred metres away on the brick pit development, South Village.

The council approved the deal at a confidential meeting to avoid other interests learning of its intention and driving up the price.

Cr Kent Johns, who has led a charge for more community facilities around the brick pit development, said, "It's a far better outcome to have open space and a new park there rather than a boarding house".



168 Oak Road, Kirrawee.

"With the amount of development in the area, we need more open space.

"The brick pit park will satisfy some, but not all, of the demand."

The triangular shaped park site, which was advertised as a deceased estate, is occupied by a house and swimming pool.

Local residents protested when a development application was lodged in 2017 for a 50-room boarding house for up to 100 lodgers.

"Please give us a break", wrote one resident, who had lived in the area for 45 years. "We have had enough development (eg brick pit) in

our area."

More than 30 submissions objecting to the plans highlighted existing overdevelopment and traffic and parking problems in the area.

A range of other issues were also raised, including the safety of children and the potential for social conflict with 100 residents in mostly small shared rooms averaging 16 square metres in size in close proximity to each other.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre also opposed the development on the grounds that it would prevent implementation of the Sutherland to Cronulla cycle-walk link along the rail corridor from Kirrawee to Gympie.

The prospects of the boarding house being approved decreased when the state government announced boarding houses in R2 zones, which applies to that area, would be limited to 12 rooms.

The property was advertised for sale this year.

We've strengthened Sutherland Council's submission to the NSW Government calling for better protection of native flora and fauna on Deeban Spit. Significantly, this also prompted a resolution by Councillors to reinstate the Port Hacking Management Committee.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre 's environmental education has gone from strength to strength with a continuation of Nature and Learning sessions delivered to local preschools and playgroups and coordination of multiple Speaking 4 the Planet events, including an event in New Zealand for a second consecutive year. This year, we initiated a 'Writing for the Environment' award which resulted in 55 entries by young Australians wholeheartedly embracing the topic of 'Writing to Change the World'. We have included the winning entry, *The View from the Mereweather Surfhouse* by Alex Talbot in this report and hope you find it as inspirational as we do.

In three short weeks Sutherland Shire Environment Centre will be co-hosting the Active Nature conference on the grounds of Kirrawee High School. This event will bring together Environmental Educators and students from all over NSW to network and share ideas. It will also provide a unique opportunity to identify young Shire- environmentalists who will be invited to join a Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Youth Council which is being formed to ensure our goals remain aligned to future generations.

At the core of our success is the support that we gain from members, who amongst other things enable the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre to remain a registered charity. We couldn't do these things without you!



We campaign for the environment • We advocate for sustainability

Achieving our Purpose in 2019-20

Speaking 4 the Planet

Phil Smith

In 2019, Speaking 4 the Planet events were held in –

- Sutherland,
- Armidale,
- The Hills,
- South West Sydney and
- for the first time - Parramatta, and Kogarah.
- Another Kids 4 the Planet event was held at Lakemba Public School.
- Another first: a full S4P event was held in Christchurch NZ!



These events were supported by the local councils, SSEC, Bunnings and Paddy Pallin. In Armidale, the Catholic Schools Office provided support.

As in previous years, speaking and drama took place at every event. Art (prepared and impromptu) and video categories were included in a few events. This year, we introduced another category - impromptu writing. Students had about an hour to produce a piece of writing - maximum 30 words.



Here are the two pieces adjudged to be the best at the Armidale S4P event (the theme was air pollution).

Winner: Coughing, bandannas ‘protect’ us from the plastic panic in our air. But hope too is in the air, promoting a healthier world. Don’t let toxic people tell you about toxicity. Josie, Armidale Secondary College.

Runner-up: Spluttering, we hack to attentive activists. We’re too late... The political leaders are victorious. They prioritise propaganda labelled ‘solutions’, silencing our desperate pleas to save beloved Mother Earth. Bella, Holy Trinity, Inverell.

Each event was evaluated. This year, we simply asked students and teachers to write what they would say to students and teachers not at the events. Here is a sample of their comments -

Students

“Get involved as much as possible and the Earth needs help from us to live. Alone we can do little, but together we can do so much.”

“It’s character building and learning about the world we live in. S4P is a day of advocating for the change you want to see. Do S4P!”

“It really shows how important it is to public speak and to speak out, especially about our environment and how we can save it.”

“You should go to Speaking 4 the Planet because it gives you a voice and you are heard by many people.”

“It is an INSPIRATIONAL experience that will challenge you to make a difference.”

Teachers

“Get your kids involved as it is a great fun and informative day for all children. Remember, they are the next generation of problem solvers.”

“The central message of today was about the air we breathe. We all share one planet and get once chance at living/breathing. By taking just a little step, we can make a massive difference to our planet’s future. Let’s encourage every student to take that step.”

“I would encourage you to get your students involved in S4P. It’s a great message and students love to be a part of solutions and learn some skills along the way. The format of S4P doesn’t create a huge workload for you...in fact, it’s the opposite. All your role entails is to provide the students with the resources/stimulus and let them run with it. They will have many wonderful ideas with a chance to share them with like-minded students from other schools.”

Nature and Learning

Phil Smith

With Katie Denoon, Canopy Officer at SSC, we ran a few more Nature and Learning sessions for parents at -

- Mayflower Preschool in Jannali,
- The Point Preschool in Oyster Bay,
- and the Como Playgroup.

These 30 minute sessions consider the social, physical, mental health, and educational benefits of being in nature, including:

- Nature deficit is linked to obesity, attention disorders and depression and anxiety.
Interaction with nature reduces symptoms of ADD
- Being in nature increases sense of wonder
- Being nature lowers levels of cortisol – an indicator of stress
- Being in nature improves concentration and focus.

We show the video produced to support the World Heritage Listing of the Royal Reserves. *Royal National Park, A Place for Belonging*, reminds people of the beauty and wonder in the backyard of Sutherland Shire.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=11tYQ4g7p-c>

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

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.

Here are some of things parents have said -

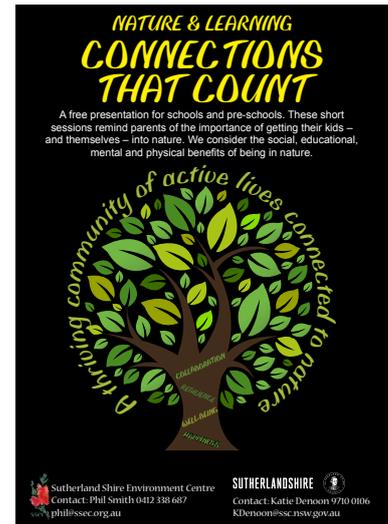
“Very informative and passionate presenters.”

“Inspired me to get out and do more.”

“Inspiration to plant more trees”

“Loved it - excellent presentation - very motivating.”

“I’ll get my kids out more often!”



ActiveNature Conference

Phil Smith

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre is co-hosting an environmental education conference with the NSW Chapter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education. It will be held in October at Kirrawee High School. The event will have a special focus on the role of activism in education programs and initiatives. It will emphasise the importance of active citizenship in sustainability.

This conference will focus on the role of education and educators in -

- building learning pathways towards a deeper understanding of citizenship
- improving understanding of activism in achieving a sustainable world
- strengthening and making more explicit our collective focus on longer term change.

We will ask presenters to tell stories, make links, draw out lessons, highlight achievements and indicate possibilities for strengthening the focus on building active citizenship in education initiatives.

A full Framing Paper for the conference is available on request.

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



WHAT? The 2019 ActiveNature conference will have 3 major pieces, each relating to sustainability: Learning, Citizenship, and Activism. Our 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.

WHEN? 3-5 October 2019

WHERE? Kirrawee High School, Hunter Street, Kirrawee

FIND OUT MORE? www.nswconference.org.au

SPEAKERS/WORKSHOPS/ACTIVITIES: Abstracts are invited for ActiveNature. Closing date is Friday 21 June 2019. Have a read of the conference framing paper on the website.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Organising Committee at conference@aaeensw.org.au

**Make a movie
for the planet!**

Everyone's entitled to 20 seconds of fame. Use your phone, have your say, win great prizes. To find out more visit: activenature.org.au

Writing for the Environment 2019

Phil Smith



In honour of our beloved patron, Bob Walshe, who passed away in March 2018, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre has initiated a **Writing for the Environment Award**. We ran the first National Writing for the Environment competition this year.

55 entries were received from around Australia. The quality of entries was so high the judges, Janine Kitson, Jenni Gormley and Pat Kennedy struggled to find a winner. The writing evoked powerful images – both

personal achievements and challenges in a world where nature is being destroyed, and touched reader's emotions.

The winning entry is by Alex Talbot, *The View from Merewether Surfhouse*. This piece tells of a young woman's passion, concerns and actions to make the world a better place. Her focus inspires and her boyfriend as they gird themselves for what lies ahead: *'Being with Eloise on this morning, Samuel didn't feel defeated, he felt energised.'*

The entry adjudged second is by Ismene Panaretos, *We could start a riot*. The story is of an adult made uneasy by the realisation that it is young people marching to save the planet. Drinking coffee and watching the youth on the street helped this grey-haired adult connect the dots between personal love of the water, news about drilling in the Great Australian Bight and the purpose of rallying. The response: *I ignore the barista and join the parade of people that curls up Elizabeth Street.*

These and many other pieces were moving. Every submission contained at least one element that made the judges sit back and marvel at the care and concern for the environment, and at the quality of the writing itself. Bob Walshe, in whose name the competition was launched, was an author and educator; he wrote powerful non-fiction and poetry; he also ran many courses on writing. He would be intensely proud of what this competition brought forth.

We've taken some good lessons from this year's event to help improve next year's.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Award 2019

Writing for the Environment

Writing was a passion and a skill of our beloved patron, Bob Walshe, who passed away in March 2018. He taught and inspired many people to write and write and write! The origins of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre were in a writing course in the Sutherland Shire.

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Board would like to continue to value the role and place of writing in helping to shape a sustainable world. This is a call to writers and those who want to write. The competition is for people who are Australian citizens and 30 years or younger.

For this inaugural Writing for the Environment Scholarship, the Board would like a piece of writing that is:

- 1000 words
- Original
- Fiction or Non-fiction
- Prose
- Creative and quirky
- Clear in purpose and audience.

The topic for 2019 is *Writing to Change the World*.

Due date: 5 June, 2019. Winner announced in early July.

The winning entry will receive a prize of \$1000. The winner will also be invited to run a workshop on *writing to change the world* at an environmental education conference being held in the Sutherland Shire in October 2019.

Submit via email to Phil Smith phil@ssec.org.au

The judging panel will comprise a representative of the Board of SSEC and two writers. By submitting your piece of writing, you give permission for the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre to publish it on its website and elsewhere as appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Smith on the email above or on 0412 338 687.

Tassia Kolesnikow
Chair

Writing for the Environment Award 2019 submission

The View from Merewether Surfhouse

Alex Talbot

Samuel removed his socks and shoes before he stepped onto the sand. When was the last time his feet had been in open air? He shivered at the sand's coolness. It would have been about three months ago, the last time he was on this beach with Eloise. A strong northerly wind blew as they walked the shore. He walked on her left, ocean-side, so he could feel the small waves that crept onto the shore slide over the top of his feet. He was careful not to wet the rolled-up cuffs of his pants. It was May and they were both rugged-up, in knits and jackets. Samuel had flown up from Melbourne to Newcastle for the weekend, and that weekend had coincided with the 2019 Federal election. He was grateful to be in Eloise's presence on the morning after the result was announced.

Every morning at 7 a.m. Eloise walked from her rented apartment in Cooks Hill to the end of Bar Beach, in the sweet-spot after her first coffee and before breakfast. Crashing on her living-room couch, Samuel had woken up early to ask if he could join her on her walk. She'd said yes, but warned him that an extra part of her morning ritual was to pick up trash that had found its way to the ocean's shores.

'Sure, the polls were predicting a landslide Labor victory...' Eloise said, pausing to pick up a coke-can and stuff it in a large canvas bag. 'But you shouldn't listen to the polls, you should listen to people.'

'We weren't listening to Queensland' Samuel sighed. He helped to lift a rock with a torn IGA plastic bag stuffed under it, for Eloise to collect.

'Exactly. We're in bubbles, you more-so than me, I can't even imagine the Melbourne echo-chamber. You start to think everyone must feel as deeply about the environment as you do, and then we're shocked to learn that people could have anything else on their mind. I'm not sure what the post-election atmosphere will be like here. Newcastle's a contradictory place, it's an art-centric, student-run town, with nature reserves and perfect beaches, but it's also one of the largest coal exporting ports in the world.'

Samuel turned from her and stepped into the shallow water, leaning down to splash his face with sea water. He did this three times over, each time feeling more soothed, more composed. Eloise joined Samuel in the shallows, and he linked his arm through hers. Way out to sea Samuel could narrowly make out white sails. A small sailing boat was taking advantage of the wind, heading north to warmer waters.

He gestured toward it. 'What do you say El? Can we pack it all in and sail away together? Please?'

She untangled her arm from his and moved to continue walking. 'No', she said, looking back at him. 'We have to stay. We have to make things better where we are. No sailing away, no moving to New Zealand. We cannot give up.'

He ambled behind her while she strolled confidently ahead, each equally inclined to suddenly become engrossed in their own anxious thoughts. He relished this about their friendship, that they could be alone, together. Their shared tendency to overthink, to question everything, was the reason they had become close allies back in high-school.

Further down the beach Eloise spotted three discarded beer bottles and startled a seagull as she darted to collect them. Samuel smiled to himself, knowing she did this every day, not needing to be asked to do it, nor encouraged. It was just instinctual to her. As she picked up one of the bottles, brown liquid slipped from the bottle's mouth onto her jeans, but she didn't seem to notice.

As they neared the Merewether end of the beach, Samuel realised Eloise hadn't said a word in over ten minutes. He wondered if her usual morning beach clean-up wasn't always this frantic, this urgent. He thought about how much she had put into weeks leading up to the election, campaigning for the Greens and fighting with her parents – who ran a florist in town and had been voting Liberal since before she was born. He had not looked at her closely enough, under her brave facade, she was shattered. Her eyes were dewy and downward cast.

Samuel wanted to break the silence. Eloise was now clutching a full bag of trash in her left arm, and trying to fold a broken abandoned camping chair with her free hand.

'Please let me carry some of that', he said gently.

'No Sam, we need your arms for the trash we missed, for the stuff we find on the walk back.'

He stepped towards her and kissed the top of her head. Her surprise allowed him to take the rubbish from her slackened grip.

'Let's go up to the Surfhouse first – I will buy us breakfast.' He nudged her foot with his. 'We're going to need strength for the revolution.'

'That actually sounds really nice.' Eloise smiled for the first time that morning and together they walked toward the stairs of the cafe.

They placed their rubbish on the edge of Merewether Surfhouse and were met with sympathetic smiles from the staff. Eloise picked a table lit up by the morning sun and a spritely teenage waitress took their coffee orders.

Being with Eloise on this morning, Samuel didn't feel defeated, he felt energised.

Sutherland Climate Action Network (SCAN) Greg and Judy Walker

SCAN has been involved in actions organised by **STOP Adani**, including attending workshops, taking part in campaigns and a door knock in the vicinity of Scott Morrison's residence. The fight goes on. Market Forces, a very effective organisation in this fight, has the support of individual members of SCAN.

SCAN is a member of the **Climate & Energy Working Group of the Nature Conservation Council**. This provides contact with similar groups around the state and a sharing of information and resources. SCAN has supported the NCC's submission regarding the air pollution from Mt Piper, Eraring, and Vales Point Power Stations.

We were involved in campaign to inform the Sutherland Shire community about the environment and energy policies of the various parties in both the **NSW State and Federal elections**, handing out leaflets at various locations: railway stations, shopping centres, E-waste collections, Cronulla Easter Fair, markets, and by discussing the issues with the public at market stalls. SCAN members in Bundeena screened the 350.org film "Accelerate".

In October SCAN displayed a series of posters of alternative energy and industries at the Bundeena Maianbar Sustainability Festival.

ACCELERATE
ONLINE PREMIERE



Members of SCAN have supported the **School Students for Climate** in the CBD and Cronulla rallies. We are advertising and supporting the School Students' rally in the Domain on Friday 20 September.

SCAN participated in the “Sharing Solutions: *Community answers to the big questions*” evening organised at Cronulla by the local branch of the Greens. Members of SCAN also addressed a meeting of the local branch of the Labor party. The branch subsequently sent a submission to the Labor Party conference supporting an Energy agenda based on a transition to Renewables.

SCAN participated in consultation on **Sutherland Shire Council’s** Proposed Integrated Transport Strategy.

SCAN played an active role in preventing a rescission motion to the Sutherland Shire Council’s Department of Environment’s proposal on the Marine Sanctuaries. This was of particular relevance to the area in Port Hacking called Deeban Spit, which is a nesting site for endangered migratory birds.



SCAN arranged a meeting where **Illawarra Residents for Responsible Mining** explained the danger to Sydney’s water supply” and particularly Sutherland Shire’s water supply by the expansion of coal mines.

Since then SSEC has joined the Protect Our Water Alliance (**POWA**). There is a separate report about our local POWA campaign.

Protect Our Water Alliance POWA

Greg Walker

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre has joined Protect our Water Alliance (POWA). POWA arose from a 'Protect our Water Forum' held in Wollongong in February 2019. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre delegates, Greg Walker and Jenni Gormley, attended their first POWA meeting at Club on East on 20 July 2019. The meeting included many other environmental groups from regions spanning Sydney's entire water catchment area. The purpose of the meeting was to expand the number POWA's affiliated groups and develop a campaign to protect our water.

The situation facing POWA and residents in the Sydney catchment can be summarised as follows.

- Catchment dams are currently at low levels and level 1 water restrictions are in place.
- The operations of three mining companies in the Illawarra are of immediate concern: Metropolitan mine is moving to extend its longwall mining under Woronora reservoir; Wollongong Coal is proposing to reopen and expand the mine at Russell Vale; Dendrobium mine is mining close to the Cataract and Cordeaux reservoirs and is applying to extend its operations in the area to 30 years. Its CEO claimed that rejection of its proposal, will threaten the closure of all mining in the Illawarra together with Blue Scope Steel at Port Kembla!
- The Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment is due to deliver its final report by the end of the year. Its 'Initial report on specific mining activities at the Metropolitan and Dendrobium coal mines' (12 November 2018) documented serious impact concerns.

POWA's strategy calls upon individual organisations to work on awareness campaigns within their local regions and liaise with their local MPs. Water NSW has raised concerns and called for curbs on mining in the catchment, some Councils have expressed their concern and media reports are helping to build community awareness.

A current local initiative that is having an impact was launched by Bundeena residents and now is moving into the wider Shire, and has proved a very effective means of raising community awareness.

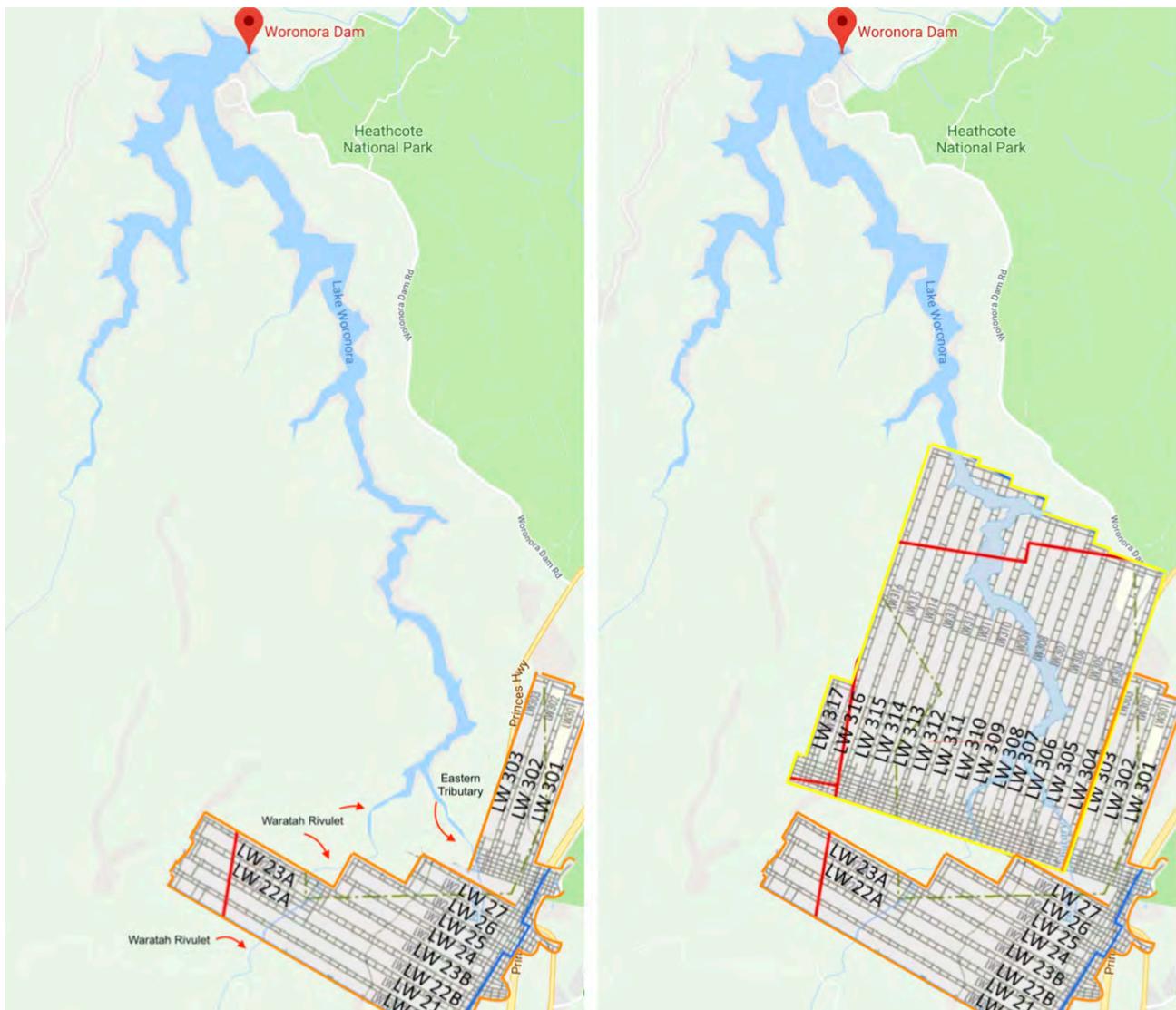
The first stage involved a Facebook discussion / awareness activity, conducted by Catherine Reynolds, on the Metropolitan Mine proposal to extend longwall mines under the Woronora Reservoir. The second stage involved the circulation of a petition at local markets, shops and events conducted by a small team of supporters. The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre has since built on the initial Facebook post, and promoted the petition. The post on the SSEC Facebook page has had almost 199,000 views and has been shared over 2000 times. The petition has to date raised over 3000 signatures.

The third stage of the campaign involves lobbying MPs - backed by the size of the response to the petition. The final proposed stage will be the formal presentation of the petition to State to the NSW Parliament and the Minister.

The feedback on Facebook and in person, at petition gathering, is typically one of: a lack of awareness and astonishment, followed by anger that mining is proposed to go under a water reservoir. Very few have declined to sign!

For evidence on the impact of mining in the catchment area see:

<https://www.protectourwateralliance.org/damage-to-the-catchment>



Save Our Shire (SOS)

Neil de Nett

Report on the past year's development issues in Sutherland Shire and planning changes introduced by the state government that invariably favoured developers and ever increasing forced development. I believe a slower paced natural growth would be more acceptable to the community. Under this frantic rush for more and more highrise buildings all over Sydney, and the downgrading of the low density zones, eg. reduced landscape requirements, environmental considerations are brushed aside. And those unfortunate residents who are directly adversely affected by development permitted by the new rules are on their own. No help from council, no help from the state government.

Unfortunately, in Sutherland Shire, there is no Shire wide community based organisation to represent and stand up for residents about the rampant overdevelopment. The most recent group was Shire Watch Independents, started by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and CROSS, a Precinct Committee and Progress Association organisation. Sadly Shire Watch is now defunct.

Save Our Shire (SOS) a branch of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre, was formed in 2013 to alert residents of the drastic changes proposed in the Draft Local Environment Plan 2013. Our concerns were well founded, as despite 2200 submissions against the draft plan, the Mayor further increased the development potential by the process of a Mayoral minute. SOS continued after the LEP was gazetted in 2015, primarily as a facebook page to provide information about development issues for residents.

In September last year, various resident action groups all over Sydney that battled against the overdevelopment of their suburbs were greeted with this response by the Planning Minister, Anthony Roberts, that 'Overdevelopment does not exist'. How do you have a conversation with a person with that attitude?

In November 2018 the state government embarked on a new program to up-zone existing zones to allow increased development. Georges River Council was allocated \$2.5 million dollars to draft a new Local Environmental Plan. Sutherland Shire and Canterbury Councils were next in line.

When this plan was posted on the SOS facebook site it resulted in the highest number of viewers to date. Over 6400 viewers, numerous shares and comments. No supporters.

The rush to develop did not bring a Merry Christmas to residents of the Opal Tower. The first public crack in big developments to make the headlines was a disaster. A litany of bad workmanship was exposed and the investigation is on-going.

The site at 10-14 Merton Street, Sutherland - between St Patrick's Primary School and Sutherland Public School - was used by the Labor Party to illustrate a promise to end spot rezoning. Council planning staff have recommended the council not support the latest of many revisions to the plans, which still provide a maximum building height and floor space ratio (FSR) well above the limits set down in the local environmental plan (LEP). This site has a history.



Why must developers continually seek to over-ride the planning controls to maximise their profits? And so often councils and state planners oblige them. The only brave attempt to publicise the plight of residents in Sutherland Shire affected by the overdevelopment in their suburb was initiated by Andrew Large in the form of a public meeting in Kurrajong St Sutherland in February this year.

I quote Andrew's letter to residents –

February 5

Dear fellow Shire residents,

We would like to invite you to a community meeting at which Sutherland Shire residents will discuss their very real concerns about over development. We have arranged the gathering after overwhelming community concern about two closely spaced development applications recently proposed in Kurrajong Street, DA18/0692 and DA18/1457.

Discussions with residents both locally and further a-field in the electorate of Miranda have brought to light Shire wide concerns about the continuous and accelerating over development imposed on us, together with a lack of suitable supporting infrastructure.

The meeting will be held at 4pm on Saturday the 23rd of February at 2 Kurrajong St Sutherland, 2232. We hope that you will be able to join us. Please feel free to invite others and distribute the attached flier.

Andrew Large

Sadly, this attempt to rouse shire residents to action did not achieve its aim.

An interesting proposal for a swimming pool on the rocks at Jibbon Beach in Bundeena surprisingly attracted a lot of interest. It was largely an environmental response, from all over the Shire. People do care about their environment.

There were 3500 viewers for this proposal on our site, a lot of interest for what is essentially a local issue.



Figure 33. Aerial showing the approximate location of the proposed pool area by the red dotted line (Source: Six Maps, annotated by H21).

There have been many developments throughout the Shire, particularly townhouses, that have diminished the amenity and lifestyle of existing neighbours. The various developments are too numerous to address here.

All too soon those affected residents are the forgotten victims.

A Flash to the Past

When the government proposed to build an airport at Towra Point in 1968 Shire residents showed their mettle and reacted in force. People power stopped it dead. The council at that time actually supported the residents! To reinforce how stupid governments can be, later alternative sites for an airport were Wattamolla (in Royal National Park) Maddens Plains (fog capital of NSW) and Holesworthy (unexploded bombs and shells).

SSEC was an active participant in the Holesworthy campaign and that battle was also won by the people.

Where has people power gone? We need it now.

Eco-savvy Business

Lyn McLean

Sustainability Award

For the second year in a row, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre sponsored the Sustainability Award in the Local Business Awards.

We had some superlative entries from some superlative businesses, and it was hard to choose our winners. But here they are.

Bella Cibo - Winner



This gourmet Italian Restaurant provides takeaway and home delivery service.

They say, 'our goal is not just to get as close as possible to a zero waste business, but to also create long-term sustainable business practices that can show other businesses that you can reduce costs, and become more profitable by adopting practices that don't harm our future generations.'

'Together we can all work towards sustainable small business and a more sustainable future.'

Just a few of the great environmentally friendly practices that the business has adopted are:

- Using ONLY 100% plastic-free, compostable packaging – straws, stickers, coffee cups, food boxes, pasta containers etc
- Recycling: cardboard, cooking oils, tins, bottles
- Providing a discount for customer who bring their own containers and / or coffee cups
- Sending food scraps for commercial composting
- Sourcing local, environmentally sustainable produce
- Using palm-oil free produce
- Using less harmful cleaning products.

Congratulations, Bella Cibo! You're a great example to cafes and restaurants everywhere!

Address: 1/7-9 White St, Jannali and 8/27 Mansfield Ave, Caringbah;
<https://www.bellacibo.com.au/>

The Point Preschool – Highly Commended



Director of the preschool, Catherine Lee told us, 'We are so honored to receive the Highly Commended Environmental Sustainability Award. We have been established since 1956 as a very small-not-for-profit, community-based preschool and this award belongs to all the children, families, teachers and educators, staff of The Point Preschool and wonderful community who continue to support us. Our children are our most precious gifts and we will continue to strive to make the world more beautiful for them.'

This outstanding childcare centre has implemented so many wonderful environmentally sustainable practices that it's impossible to list them all here. But here are a few of their great initiatives:

- Installed water tanks and take steps to minimise use of water
- Established a vegetable, bush tucker and herb garden
- Take children on regular nature walks
- Purchase products from fair trade
- Use natural, chemical-free products, including cleaners
- Provide natural materials for play
- Recycle and purchase recycled products
- Compost food
- Avoid use of disposable plates, cups and cutlery
- Collect and recycle fluorescent globes
- Reduce the use of plastics
- Minimise use of electricity
- Participate in tree planting, bush care and clean-up activities.

'We believe a sense of wonder, belonging to and love of the natural environment, living things and animals is critical for young children to develop lifelong respectful, positive and proactive attitudes towards protecting our environment, caring for all living creatures and creating a sustainable environment,' the Preschool says.

The preschool is clearly succeeding in its goal to encourage a love of the environment in the children who attend. This is what 5-year-old Delilah told us:

'We are just trying to make the world beautiful for everyone. That's caring for country and this is Dharawal Country. We care for each other too.'

Address: 89R Greenpoint Road, Oyster Bay NSW 2225;
<https://thepointpreschool.com.au/>

Plastic-free Sutherland Shire

The Eco-savvy business team was also hard at work during the year working on the Plastic-free Sutherland Shire Project which you'll read more about elsewhere.

First National Park

Bob Crombie

World Heritage Listing for the Royal Reserves

This project has come to somewhat of a standstill due to political inertia in the government. Their contractors presented them with a possible route for World Heritage Listing, but it involves a lot of work and cooperation with Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks. Dr Geoff Mosely is of the opinion that this cooperation is unlikely to come about and World Heritage Listing would not be achieved via this route.

Despite the fact that our group has presented reasonable alternatives to achieve our aim, the government refers them to the OEH / National Parks and Wildlife Service who reject them on what we believe is simply a difference of opinion. That our route has been taken successfully by a number of other countries is not fully considered by them. The basis of our argument is as follows (*italics added later for this report*):

“In September 2017 *First National Park* wrote to the NSW state and federal governments informing them of a development in World Heritage Listings, the nomination and listing of the English Lake District, and how this supported the case for World Heritage Listing of the Royal Reserves (Royal and Heathcote National Parks and Garawarra State Conservation Area, the RRs). We would like to draw your attention to further developments in World Heritage Listing that also support our case for World Heritage Listing of the Royal Reserves:

“Britain has nominated for World Heritage a judicious mixture of natural, built and industrial sites and many of these have now been placed on the World Heritage List.”

“John Penrose, the tourism and heritage minister said, “Few places can match the wealth of wonderful heritage we have available in the UK. ... (*the places now listed*) are fantastic examples of our cultural and natural heritage, and I believe they have every chance of joining famous names like the Sydney Opera House and the Canadian Rockies to become world heritage sites.”

Maeve Kennedy, 22 March 2011, *The Guardian*, Australian edition

The British industrial sites have now been inscribed because they were representative of a genre of cultural heritage, and *the British thought that they were important enough to nominate*. It is interesting to note that not all World Heritage sites are superlative in nature and superlative characteristics may not by themselves be sufficient or even necessary. They may be of global importance because they are representative of a genre.

Which sites are nominated for the World Heritage List largely depends upon who takes the initiative. The World Heritage Convention is international in character, but the nomination of a potential site starts at the national level. The Convention recognizes that countries should possess different characteristics regarding their political, cultural and economic circumstances. *The World Heritage Committee also recognized that countries must be willing to participate*.

The World Heritage Committee signaled in the 1990s that it was looking to widen the range of sites included on the list particularly into the areas of industrial archaeology and cultural landscapes.

That the Royal Reserves are of National Significance has been recognized by listing on the National Heritage Register and *National Parks and Wildlife Service contracted experts have come to the conclusion and reported that it would be worthwhile for the Government to pursue a new World Heritage theme for them recognizing their outstanding cultural heritage values.*

We engaged World Heritage expert Dr Geoff Mosley in 2017 to review the reports submitted to the New South Wales Government.

On July 9, 2017, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the English Lake District on the World Heritage List in relation to its significance in the history of the protected landscapes/seascapes system that forms the basis of the National Parks of England and Wales.

That Britain has further successfully nominated a number of industrial sites, as well as the English Lake District, for their cultural heritage values adds more weight to our argument that the course of action of developing a new theme is no longer needed and that the Australian Government can safely place the Royal Reserves onto its Tentative List For World Heritage Listing right now and then spend the time necessary preparing their nomination. The nomination of the Royal Reserves would also benefit from the World Heritage committee's ongoing interest in cultural landscapes.



That the World Heritage Committee has seen it to be very appropriate to inscribe on the World Heritage List examples of early mining, and sites relevant to the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, such as factories (e.g. Derwent Valley Mills) and transport, surely then it is also appropriate to include on the World Heritage List sites significant to the development of protected areas, the conservation of natural areas, and the development of one of the most important concepts in the history of conservation - national parks. At Royal National Park a whole new approach to recreation - a breakthrough - developed. Instead of public parks being man-made in grassy landscapes inside cities, we now had a new kind of park - a national park, which was much larger in area and essentially natural. It was the experience of this that inspired the development of a widespread system of national parks devoted to nature conservation as well as a distinct type of recreation.

First National Park will continue its campaign for World Heritage Listing of the Royal Reserves as per our report by Dr Geoff Mosley presented in his book *The First National Park: A Natural For World Heritage*, and fully support all efforts of the Federal and State Governments in this regard.

In letters dated 19 March 2018, we requested: (1) the NSW State Government recommend to the Australian Federal Government that it place the Royal Reserves (Royal and Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area) onto Australia's Tentative List For World Heritage now; (2) the Federal Government place the RRs onto Australia's Tentative List For World Heritage now."

It seems that a change of government to one more supportive of our presentations is the best scenario for us to further our aims. That the present government is now making moves to consider the creation of more national parks in the country may be a sign that its perspective is beginning to change, and it may become more supportive our case and reconsider its stance.

First National Park received letters in 2018 from Sutherland Shire Council and Wollongong City Council expressing their continuing support for our campaign for the World Heritage Listing of the Royal Reserves and notifying us that they had written to the relevant state and federal politicians asking them to expedite this matter.

Cawley's Bridge conversion to a multi-purpose bridge

This project is progressing slowly but still going. The Southern Branch of the National Parks Association have incorporated the idea in their planning and politicking and are looking to have it included in various appropriate national park and conservation area plans of management. Various local conservation groups are supporting the idea in their activities and it is gaining support in Wollongong City.

Sutherland Shire Council Community / Verge Gardens Policy and Guidelines

This project is presently with David Ackroyd, formerly of Sutherland Shire Council, who is writing the policy and guidelines. Unfortunately, David resigned from the council while in charge of the project, but he still has connections there and has agreed with them to continue with his work on the policy and guidelines from late August 2019 when he returns from an overseas trip, and finalise them as soon as possible after that.

Wildlife Movement facilitation

This project has achieved its aims and is now closed.



Sunny Shire

Jonathan Prendergast

Solar Bulk Buy

Since the last Sutherland Shire Environment Centre AGM, Sunny Shire has installed 373 kW. In total, 1.2 MW solar has been installed on 162 Sutherland Shire rooftops as part of Sunny Shire's bulk buy program. This makes Sunny Shire the third most successful volunteer community energy project in Australia, in terms of capacity of renewables installed. The first is Hepburn Wind in VIC with 4 MW of wind power and the second largest is Mt Alexander Sustainability hub with 2 MW of rooftop solar.

Solar For Schools

Sunny Shire continues to advocate and support installation of solar on schools. Current conditions are excellent, with low prices and 50% funding by the Department of Education. A 100kW system which can be purchased by schools for \$50,000 can save \$20,000 per year. Port Hacking is out to tender. Sunny Shire are also supporting Gymea Bay, Laguna Street and Jannali High who are making positive progress.

The Sunny Shire Kid's Pilot, a project to educate children & parents about solar power at preschool in Grays Point was unsuccessful in attracting funding from NSW Community Projects but alternative sources of funding for this great initiative are being considered.

A Solar for Schools info night event was held last night, Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Stapleton Hall 2 in Sutherland. A report for this was unavailable prior to printing.

Home Batteries

Sunny Shire Bulk Buy are intending to include a battery product but are currently working on problems with battery add-ons for existing PV systems and inverters. Sunny Shire is also targeting community groups for solar funding such as the Engadine occasional care centre – we are considering a competition with battery as prize.

Virtual Power Plant

We have continued to advocate for Virtual Power Plants which combine hundreds of solar and battery systems to support the grid and deliver payment to owners of the systems. The NSW government abandoned its promise for a virtual power plant, claiming it has transferred money to solar panels on houses. It is likely that the money the NSW government receives from selling poles & wires will go towards financing roads & public transport.

Ausgrid has signed up Reposit for their Virtual Power plant. This is good news as it will help move things forward and offer incentives to individuals who participate.

AGL is offering small reduction to energy bills to customers if they take part in virtual battery scheme. Sunny Shire is working with a contact at ANU who may include Sunny Shire in their study on potential Virtual Power Schemes that utilise homes with household batteries.



SEPT
11

Solar for Shire Schools - Info Night

Public • Hosted by [Sunny Shire](#)

SO Shire

Sarah-Jo Lobwein

SO Shire is a volunteer non-profit group and joined Sutherland Shire Environment Centre in late 2018. SO Shire aims to collaborate with community and business to promote and achievable sustainable solutions, to clean up pollution directly through community clean up events, to educate, and to stimulate discussion about plastic pollution.

SO Shire runs three big community clean ups per year (usually Clean Up Australia Day, Plastic Free July and one other) and smaller scientific data collection clean ups.

SO Shire also hosts film screenings, sustainability supplier forums and presentations, including school visits and excursions. Auditing, consulting and advisory services for businesses are available through Plastic Free Sutherland Shire - these promote sustainable practices, and enable businesses to connect with local suppliers and services which offer environmentally friendly products. There is also a sustainable business certification program. We are currently designing comprehensive toolkits that can be downloaded from our website. Our single use plastic free poster and website have tips including steps to avoid the common 7 single use plastics.

We promote waste reduction of all single use products, not just single use plastics. We promote BYO bags, cups, containers, bottles, and sustainable reusable or compostable alternatives such as metal straws and compost collection systems.

This year, SO Shire volunteers assisted the Sutherland Environment Centre's Eco-Savvy volunteers in assessing the finalists for the 2019 Sutherland Shire Local Business Sustainability Award. These finalists and other local businesses contributing to environmental sustainability are featured on our social media pages, our website and toolkits.

SO Shire has been working over 12 months on an appropriate business support model and sustainability certification program for our local businesses and schools. As part of this process, SO SHIRE volunteers initiated talks with Mark Speakman MP and members of the Cronulla Chamber of Commerce to promote a new initiative, Plastic Free Cronulla. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre board member Kal Glaznig worked on the website as part of his university course assessment. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and Plastic Free Sutherland Shire are no longer working with Plastic Free Cronulla, which has been taken up by Kal Glaznig.

SO Shire has engaged in a range of positive initiatives, participated in events and has given a number of presentations over the last year. Some of these include –

- a screening of the Ocean Film Tour at Cronulla in December 2018
- a screening of the Rubber Jellyfish Film at Cronulla in December which included stalls and displays promoting alternatives to single use helium balloons, including stalls by Boomerang Bags Sutherland Shire. The screening was promoted in the Leader:

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/5791766/rubber-jellyfish-screening-in-cronulla/?cs=1507>

- SO Shire attended the Clean Up Cronulla family fun event at Dunningham Park in January to raise awareness about litter and plastic pollution.
- attended a field visit to Deeban Spit in response to Sutherland Shire Council's submission to the State government Marine Park proposal.
- attended the Towra International Wetlands Clean Up for the 30th Anniversary of Clean Up Australia Day in March 2019. Towra is a significant site for native coastal and intertidal vegetation, wildlife and migratory animals including shorebirds displaced by Sydney's airport runways who now rely on this last remnant estuarine wetland ecosystem. Wetlands (mangroves, salt marsh, Sea grasses habitats) are important estuarine ecosystems, natural filtering systems, feeding and nursery habitats for native wildlife. There were seven volunteers and a ranger from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service participating in our clean up. SO Shire collected 183kg, 27+ bags over 2.5hours. For more information see <https://ssec.org.au/clean-up-australia-day-towra-point/>
- provided information about various political parties waste and pollution policies over the SO SHIRE and Plastic Free Sutherland Shire social media networks in the lead up to the elections.
- hosted a beach and dune clean up for the Shire Shred at Wanda in association with Cronulla Surfing Academy, Headspace Miranda, Belong Inc. and Sutherland Shire Council. There were 29 volunteers. Among the many items collected were 205 cigarette butts. Together with War On Waste Sutherland Shire, SO Shire also had an information and reusable product stall.
- in June SO Shire gave a presentation to the Southern Sydney branch of the National Parks Association discussing simple solutions the sea drowning in plastic, and how to empower individuals and communities to change behavior.
- in June met with Sutherland Shire Council Waste and Social Media departments about possible co-hosting of events such as a free public screening of the movie Blue.
- in July SO Shire attended the Plastic Free July Clean Up at Kurnell. This was the second year of the clean up, and it ran in association with Sea Shepherd Marine Debris Campaign – there were over 70 volunteers from local and Sydney wide, and 205.2 kg of debris collected, including 455 cigarette butts. All the items collected were counted and entered in the Tangaroa Blue Foundation's Australian Marine Debris Database. This citizen science database provides scientists, government agencies, communities, and organisations valuable data on the state of marine debris for education, policy and research purposes. The Leader ran a story on the event: <https://www.theleader.com.au/story/6297213/photos-sand-and-sea-clean-up-was-heaps-successful/>
- in August SO Shire attended the Blue screening at Event Cinema in Miranda. This was hosted by Wyralla Rd Kindergarten, TLC, Giggles ELC, and Happy Feet Childcare centres. Sarah-Jo Lobwein presented on plastic free and local sustainability issues. The SO Shire and Plastic Free Sutherland Shire display table was managed by Brett Lobwein. The following week SO Shire visited Wyralla Rd Kindergarten for a waste and sustainability audit and is currently working with them to create more sustainable practices in their business.
- unfortunately the Peloton against plastic film screening was cancelled due to poor ticket sales.
- SO Shire did arrange a 2040 film screening with CIVIC disability and WOW Sutherland Shire.
- in August SO Shire attended a AIDE 5-day Dive expo as part of Sydney Boat Show. We presented six school seminars, coordinated a marine children activity stall and presented on

behalf of SO Shire for the Marine Rescue forum on plastic pollution with AUSMAP and Strawkle.

- in September SO Shire attended the Boat Harbour Ocean Outfall Clean Up for SEAWEEK, together with Sutherland Shire Tangaroa Blue Volunteers. These particular clean ups are to collect data on possible debris from the local outfall at Kurnell, including small micro plastic sieving. This data will be logged on Tangaroa Blue Foundation's AMDI (Australian Marine Debris Initiative) database and with the Clean Ocean Foundation.

- Obtained whale tail sculpture from Science Museum to reuse

Upcoming event and presentations include –

- September 22 for the World Clean Up Day there will be a possible mangrove clean up Towra Point with NSW National Parks and Tangaroa.

- SO Shire and Plastic Free Sutherland Shire are aiming to release toolkits on the website for individuals, businesses and schools by end of the year.

- SO Shire is also organising the first single use plastic free market – possibly at Kurnell, or a school fete may be the focus.

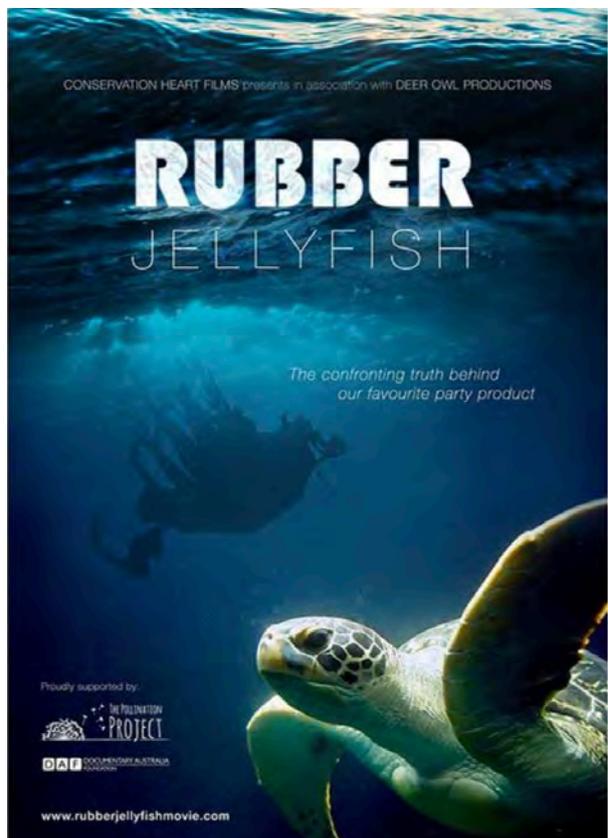
- a future outdoor screening or fair food forager event is planned for Summer 2020

- the SO Shire Seaside Scavenge will be on 8 December, 2019, and will involve a Clean Up, second hand clothes and items, food, music, and the promotion of the mug library. There will be prizes from local businesses and Northies pub is involved. The event details has been already been promoted on social media.

- unfortunately the Cook Community Classic stall planned for 1 December will have to be cancelled - a missed opportunity for community engagement due to lack of volunteers.

- SO Shire is organising ongoing promotion of plastic free initiatives and consulting with businesses, the Plastic Free Sutherland Shire Instagram and Facebook has more details.

- SO Shire will also be presenting at the 2019 NSW Environmental Education Conference *Active Nature*, and has a stall there too.





Web: <https://www.soshire.org>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/so_shire/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SOSShire/>

Web: <https://www.soshire.org/plastic-free-sutherland-shire>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/plasticfree_sutherlandshire/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PlasticFreeSutherlandShire/>

We campaign for the environment • We advocate for sustainability

Treasurer's Report

Accounts of SSEC - June 30 2019

The 2018/2019 Financial Year saw the Centre return a profit of \$11,992 which is a decrease from the \$21,745 profit as reported last year. This is due to a reduction in revenue which is somewhat offset by a reduction in overall expenditure.

As a result of a reduction in donations received, grant income, and fund raising event income, the Centre's income decreased to \$71,206. The decrease in donations is in part due to the timing (delay) in receipt of a donation from the LEAF Trust. We did however see small increases in income from Subscriptions and Net Annual Rental Income associated with the Merton St property.

Overall expenditure declined to \$59,213 compared to prior year (\$67,639). This was due to a further reduction in Interest associated with the Merton St Mortgage; a slight increase in Rates & Strata fees associated with the office property at Merton Street; and, a reduction in expenditure associated with Environmental Projects, Consultant Fees and General Expenses.

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 continue to seek ways of generating income, obtaining new members, and seeking further donations however, we there is an element of financial security for the Centre as a result of rental income generated from the Merton St premises.

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.

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 the accounts free of charge.

I would also like to thank past and current donors and financial supporters of the Centre, whose support and vision have enabled the Centre to be financially independent.

I again would also 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 2019 the accounts of the Centre showed an operating surplus (profit) of \$11,992 compared to an operating profit in the previous year of \$21,745.

INCOME

Total Income for the year was \$71,206, which is approx. 20% down when compared to the prior year (\$89,384).

Items of note within Income of the Centre included:

- Slight Increases in
 - Gross Profit from Rental Income; and,
 - Subscriptions
- Decrease in:
 - Fundraising Events;
 - Grants; and
 - Donations (delay in timing of commitment and receipt of Leaf Trust Grant)

EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure for the year of \$59,213 was a decrease when compared to the previous financial year of \$67,639.

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

- Consultant Fees – due to a reduction and restructuring of services provided
- Environmental Projects expenditure – a small decrease over prior year
- Interest – decrease due to the average loan amount outstanding over the year being smaller than prior year.
- Printing & Stationery; and,
- General Expenses.

BALANCE SHEET

Turning to the Balance Sheet, the property purchased in 2002 and our healthy bank balances dominate the Balance Sheet of the Centre.

The Centre has continued to pay down the loan thereby decreasing the loan amount outstanding from \$11,217 to \$6,038.

Our Bank balances (approx \$46,000) remain healthy and provide a sound footing for Campaign support, works associated with grants and other activities.

IN CLOSING.... Thank You

This will be my last year in the role of Treasurer of the Centre and I would like to thank current and past members of the Centre for their support. I'd also like to thank all Board members that I have had the pleasure of working with over many years.... The Shire has been very fortunate in having such a talented group of people willing to commit the time and effort required to support the Centre and advance its' causes.

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to have held this position and having the opportunity to work with so many talented and committed, socially responsible and environmentally caring individuals. Thank you all.

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

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

2018 \$	Note	2019 \$
INCOME		
OTHER INCOME		
491	Subscriptions	654
13,770	Donations	90
909	Grants	-
2	Interest Received	7
4,650	Fund Raising Events & Other Income	48
69,561	Gross Profit From Rental Operations	70,405
<u>89,384</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>71,206</u>
EXPENDITURE		
60	Bank Charges	14
32,487	Consultants Fees	28,396
118	Conference	-
3,682	Depreciation	3,638
500	Donations	-
Environmental Projects		
1,247	Scan	1,006
450	First National Park Campaign	54
1,484	Speaking 4 the Planet	-
2,273	Environmental Education	-
409	Spring Gully Protection	-
1,697	Sutherland Environment Film Festival	-
1,815	Eco News	2,146
1,500	Eco Savvy Businesses	1,592
169	Nature & Learning	3,183
120	Sunny Shire	228
64	Other (Veg-in & Ridge Action)	-
-	SO Shire	661
-	AAEE Conference	663
-	Over Development	68
<u>11,228</u>		<u>9,601</u>
3,000	General Expenses	164
395	Insurance	-
1,796	Interest	781
320	Meeting Expenses	277
333	Postage	328
179	Printing & Stationery	1,353
12,880	Rates & Strata (Merton Street)	13,476
68	Subscriptions & Licences	260
591	Telephone & Internet	924
<u>67,639</u>		<u>59,213</u>
<u>21,745</u>	Profit / (Loss) before income tax	<u>11,992</u>
<u>21,745</u>	Profit / (Loss) for the year	<u>11,992</u>
542,685	Retained Earnings at the beginning of the financial year	564,430

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

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019**

2018 \$	Note	2019 \$
	MEMBER'S FUNDS	
564,430	Retained Earnings	576,422
<u>564,430</u>	TOTAL MEMBER'S FUNDS	<u>576,422</u>
	Represented by:	
	ASSETS	
	CURRENT ASSETS	
333	Cash on Hand	321
11,174	Public Gift Fund	12,074
38,646	Main Account	34,551
-	Trade Debtors	-
227	Other Debtors	122
435	Prepayments	12,407
1,028	GST on acquisition	3,723
<u>51,843</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>63,198</u>
	NON CURRENT ASSETS	
	Fixed Assets	
506,353	Building - at Cost	506,353
53,168	Furniture & Fittings - at Cost	53,168
(33,550)	Less Prov'n Depreciation	(37,188)
<u>525,971</u>	Total Fixed Assets	<u>522,333</u>
<u>525,971</u>	TOTA NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>522,333</u>
<u>577,814</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>585,531</u>
	LIABILITIES	
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
-	Accrued Expenses	-
2,168	GST on supplies	3,071
<u>2,168</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>3,071</u>
	NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	
11,217	Loan - Commonwealth Bank	6,038
<u>11,217</u>	TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>6,038</u>
<u>13,385</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>9,109</u>
<u>564,430</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>576,422</u>

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

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

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

Revenue and Other Income

Investment Property revenue is recognised on an accruals 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.