



Werribee River Association Inc.



Working for the Werribee River since 1981

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Annual Report

For Annual General Meeting Thursday 19th October 2017

During 2016-2017 the Werribee River Association continued strategic advocacy for change and improvement on many catchment and wider matters, cooperation and partnership with a range of organisations and groups, and a wide range of initiatives to achieve WRivA's purposes.

1. Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning

At the AGM held on the 20th October 2016 we presented our strategic plan for review by members and sought their opinion and ideas on moving forward.

A facilitated activity was conducted, outlining the WRivA Strategic Plan 2015-2018, and capturing input from meeting participants on:

- Additional activities to facilitate Strategic Plan objectives
- Members nominating specific activities they wish to be involved in during the year ahead
- Identifying Strategic Plan activities for highest priority/focus in the year ahead

Registration as a Charity

WRivA attained registration as a charity as of January 1st 2017, and work will continue to achieve DGR status.

Financial Management

WRivA determined that a review of its financial operations was needed in line with the needs of a modern organisation, and has undertaken a number of initiatives to better plan for its future. See our financial report at the end of this document.

New Programs

Publicity Program - At the AGM WRivA created a Publicity Program Manager position on the committee, to undertake a publicity and marketing role.

Coastal Program – At the committee meeting of 19th January 2017, WRivA created a Coastal Program Manager position on the committee, to undertake initiatives to research and protect the Wyndham coastline.

2. Sponsors of WRivA's Programs

At the 2016 AGM Mim Holmes, Melbourne Water Corporate Partnership Manager, presented WRivA with a symbolically large cheque to represent the grant made by Melbourne Water to WRivA, enabling us to facilitate our Riverkeeper programs.

WRivA is pleased to receive sponsorship from Holcim Lafarge Werribee to carry out plantings and litter clean-ups on the Werribee River and surrounds.

Grants from City of Wyndham and Western Water have enabled WRivA to strengthen its capability.

We were also pleased to receive a substantial donation from Werribee Garden Club.

WRivA Annual Report 2017

3. Membership of Waterkeeper Alliance

WRivA continued its affiliation with Waterkeeper Alliance, first undertaken in 2014. Affiliation entitles WRivA to host the role of Werribee Riverkeeper.

WKA has conducted an annual conference in the USA, which WRivA has attended for four years. As the organisation is growing, it has been decided that the 2018 conference in Buffalo, New York will be the last annual conference. From the 2019 year conferences will be held every two years, with an opportunity for regions to host their own conference in the alternate year.

Attendances at conference by our Werribee Riverkeeper have been very important to understand the international status of waterways, and to learn from many fellow Waterkeeper organisations and individuals. Comparisons and contrasts can be made of our waterways, their management and their future.

The new arrangements may bring about change in programs and governance of WKA, and enable new experiences and growth for our Waterkeeper role, and networks to be made or strengthened.

4. Telling Our Story to Others

Major opportunities to tell others of our work which occurred were:

- a) The Victorian Landcare Magazine Summer 2017 Issue 68 in early 2017, featured a story on the Werribee Riverkeeper entitled called "A Day in the Life of a Riverkeeper." The two page spread was a comprehensive coverage of many aspects of the Werribee Riverkeeper's role and activity.
- b) The City of Wyndham Iramoo Ward Newsletter April 2017, carried a story about WRivA under the title of 'Local Heroes'.
- c) On ABC Radio 774 Tue 29 May 2017, the Werribee Riverkeeper took part in a conversation with Jon Faine on 'Circles of Litter', referring to our research on where take away food is discarded at various points away from take away food outlets.
- d) On ABC Radio on-line Wed 30 May 2017 the 'Circles of Litter' story was carried and readers were asked to comment on the article, and give their own experiences.
- e) At the Ecocity World Summit Thur 13 July, Prof. Allan Rodger presented a paper on 'Indigenous Ecosystem Corridors and Nodes: Managing the Urban Forest', in which some before and after photos of WRivA's work featured.

5. Participation & Submissions

Bay West

Future port facilities in Port Phillip Bay were discussed by the State Government during the past year and WRivA took part in consultations on possible sites. The final recommendation presented to government nominated the coastline of the Western Treatment Plant west of the Werribee River at Werribee South.

Central West Forests

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council was directed by government to investigate the Central West Forests during 2017, and to report on their findings. WRivA submitted comments on why the forests are important to the Werribee River catchment and how the forests should be managed in order to ensure the health of the Werribee River and its growing urban population.

Environment Management Plan for Port Phillip Bay

WRivA took part in discussions on the Environment Management Plan for Port Phillip Bay in 2016-2017, and was consulted along with other interested groups to comment on draft versions of the plan. The EMP was approved by government and resulted in a number of initiatives including the PPB Fund, which WRivA has taken part in with other partners, and may apply to itself in the next round of funding.

Healthy Waterways Strategy

A consultation process was used by Melbourne Water to refresh its Healthy Waterways Strategy during 2017, commencing with the Maribyrnong River. These method used was one of multiple location workshops and took quite a number of hours. The same model of consultation is being used on the Werribee River, and is considered by WRivA to be of very high importance for the purposes of involving multi partners who traditionally have not been involved in understanding that their work impacts on the standard of waterways in Melbourne.

K Road Cliffs

A City of Wyndham plan for future conservation of the Cliffs, including drainage and reduced car parking has been created, as part of a consultative process. WRivA was active in ensuring that the process became one of wider consultation and has approved the plans for the future.

6. Program Highlights

Beach Patrol 3030

WRivA's premier litter program is now in its third year of operation and has gathered a huge amount of litter and rubbish from seven sites on the coastline and on the Werribee River.

BP 3030 cooperated with Transition Wyndham to show the movie 'A Plastic Ocean'.

The program cleans-up, gathers data and advocates for litter smart laws and notes Victoria finally approved a ban on supermarket style plastic bags but no detail at time of writing.

Education Programs

WRivA commissioned Cave Mann productions to create a plastic awareness theatre performance which was shown to ten schools.

WRivA contracted in two teachers for our education programs to take our message into schools, working with three schools on or near the Werribee River and three near Kororoit Creek.

WRivA also part sponsored the Carranballac College Kids Teaching Kids Conference. Arron Wood, KTK Director & Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor opened the conference, and 150 students from five schools enjoyed their day of fun and educational activity. Thanks to Holcim, Melbourne Water and Carranballac College for their great support.

Friends of Cobbledick's Ford

A new program for WRivA which started in 2017, was Friends of Cobbledick's Ford Reserve, with an aim to concentrate on conservation and cleanliness of the area.

Melb University Citizen Science

A nutrient testing project of nutrients inputs to Port Phillip Bay was conducted by WRivA as part of a combine Melbourne and Monash universities citizen science project

Publicity & Marketing

As part of WRivA's approach to publicity and marketing, the first 'Winter Forum' was held in June to take its messages to membership and to promote those to others.

Then, in October the first bus tour of the Werribee River system was held, when fourteen members were guided around the catchment by the Werribee Riverkeeper.

A new brochure, stickers and membership leaflets were commissioned and created.

Take2

WRivA pledged to take part in activities of Take2, the Victorian Government's climate change pledge initiative to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and keep the global temperature rise to under 2 degrees.

To that end WRivA:

- Circulated a petition to Federal Parliament for zero greenhouse emissions as per the Paris Agreement
- Held a screening of 'Before the Flood' movie
- Conducted a talk 'Introduction to Climate Change' presentation by Anthony Verhoef of The Climate Reality Project Australia

Waterwatch

WRivA completed three full years of monthly water quality testing at Bungey's Hole Werribee, on the Werribee River. To celebrate that achievement, courtesy of a grant from the City of Wyndham, WRivA has engaged a consultant to prepare a report on the data gathered, to interpret the data, and to recommend ways to improve the work.

7. Working with Melbourne Water

Main areas of work with Melbourne Water were:

- Environmental DNA Platypus Surveys
The collection of DNA samples from the Werribee River continued during 2017.
- Healthy Waterways Strategy
During the year WRivA also took part in Melbourne Water workshops on values of waterways and a refresh of the Healthy Waterways Strategy
- Treatment Flightlines
Participated in and undertook the art initiative, 'Treatment Flightlines' at Western Treatment Plant
- Platypus Alliance
Agreed willingly to participate in a state-wide alliance working on the banning of platypus unsafe nets used in Victoria

8. Working with City of Wyndham

In another busy year of interaction with the City of Wyndham, WRivA worked on:

- Membership of the Environment & Sustainability Portfolio
- Taking part in discussions on the City Forest and Habitat Strategy
- Reviewing draft plans for Wyndham Park
- Soft engineering stormwater outlets Werribee
- Seniors Week Planning & Activity
- Commencing the first year of the Presidents Park River Islands planting project

9. Working with Western Water

WRivA has continued to develop a relationship with Western Water and has received funding for our marketing programs through their grants process.

WRivA is also discussing the likelihood of sharing water quality with Western Water.

10. Working with Environmental Justice Australia

WRivA is working with EJA on the rollout of the Yarra River Protection Act, and the likely implications for the rivers of Melbourne's west.

11. Working with Community

Schools Clean Up Australia Day

For the eighth consecutive year, students and staff at Carranballac College Point Cook carried out a litter pick-up activity at over 40 sites in Point Cook on Clean-up Australia Day.

Year P-2 students work on their campus sites, 3-4 students work on campus surrounds and 5-9 students worked on sites external to the campus in reserves, parks, creeks and wetlands.

Over 1400 students took part this year, making a total of over 10,400 student hours over eight years.

Trends in rubbish collected show building materials and household items down over time, while take away food packaging, bottles, cans and plastic bags remain steady.

National School Tree Day

Also for the eighth consecutive year Carranballac College students have taken part in National Tree Day activities. Over eight years now a total of over 2200 plants have been planted by students on Cheetham Creek site, using plants from City of Wyndham and Melbourne Water.

Corporate Responsibility Days

For the fifth year in a row, WRivA carried out a corporate planting day with staff from Holcim Werribee. This year worked was carried out on Presidents Park River Islands in conjunction with City of Wyndham. Work by Holcim resulted in 4500 indigenous species were planted to increase habitat and density of native riparian bushland.

For the second year, Holcim staff conducted a clean-up activity on the Werribee River at Guyra Court/Prouse Place Werribee. The huge amounts of rubbish collected now show that this particular area of the river requires a healthier riparian bushland zone, improved stormwater initiatives, controls on access, smart litter laws, and regular enforcement.

12. Activities

Community Interactions

Kayak lower Werribee River Tour Melbourne Water Staff Sun 8 Jan 2017

Pacific Plaza Hoppers Crossing WRivA information stall Sat 21 Jan 2017

Wyndham Ladies Probus Wed 1 Feb 2017

1st Werribee Guides Wed 8 Feb 2017

Wyndham Rotary Fun Run Sun 5 Mar 2017

Frogs of Wyndham Point Cook Sat 18 Mar 2017

Little River Fair Sun 19 Mar 2017

Platypus Mural Werribee Melbourne Water Mon 20 Mar 2017

Joeys 1st Werribee Mon 20 Mar 2017

Bat Night City of Wyndham Fri 24 Mar 2017

Lower Werribee River Tour – Waterwatch Team Sat 25 Mar 2017

Ecolinc Festival Bacchus Marsh Sun 26 Mar 2017

Werribee Garden Club Fri 31 Mar 2017

Lower Werribee River Tour – Melbourne Water Staff Thur 18 May 2017

'Camping by the Werribee' Art Purchase City of Wyndham Mon 3 Jul 2017

Building Blocks City of Wyndham Talk Mon 7 Aug 2017

Metro Assembly Western Sunshine Wed 4 Oct 2017

Discussions at office of Joanne Ryan MP Lalor Thur 5 Oct 2017

Werribee River System Tour Sat 14 Oct 2017

Note: Regular Beach Patrol 3030, Waterwatch and school activity also took place.

Skill Building and Networking

Source Reduction Workshop Wed Feb 22 2017
 Riverwalk Estate Werribee discussions Thur 1 Jun 2017
 WKA Conference Utah Co. USA 7-10 Jun 2017
 'Western Water Community Discussions Melton Tue 4 Jul 2017
 Aromar Revi from India UN's Sustainable Development Goals Tue 11 Jul 2017
 Ecocity World Summit Welcome Wed 12 Jul 2017
 VEAC discussions on Central West Forests Daylesford Tue 1 Aug 2017
 AWA Dinner Thur 4 Aug 2017
 Monash Uni Research Training Sat 5 Aug 2017
 Waterkeepers discussions Fri 11 Aug 2017
 Litter Audit Training Port Phillip Baykeeper Fri 18 Aug 2017
 Building Blocks City of Wyndham Walking Tour Sun 20 Aug 2017
 Platypus Festival Toolern Ck Sat 7 Oct 2017
 Kids Teaching Kids VIP Sponsor Function Melbourne Wed 11 Oct 2017

13. Participation/Observation Rates

Participation Rates

Major activity days held by WRivA or in conjunction with other organizations have yielded good numbers of participants and others who have interacted with, or have been exposed to our key messages:

Participants in WRIVA Activities					
Description of Activity	Participants or Observers	Notes			
Beach Patrol & Other	1000				
Clean Up Australia Day	1550	CuAD + Point Cook Carranballac College			
Ecolinc Festival	250	Bacchus Marsh			
Education programs	3000	Theatre and classroom programs			
Fun Run	1000	Wyndham Rotary			
Information Stall	200	Little River Fair			
Information Stall	500	Pacific Plaza Hoppers Crossing			
Planting activities	100	Presidents Park Werribee + CC College			
River Tours	40	Werribee River			
Talks	300	Winter Forum, Probus, Building Blocks, Movies			
Total	7940				

14. Communications

Facebook Page

The Werribee River Association Facebook page has been maintained since March 9 2011, and has featured a posting on average every few days.

Members are encouraged to submit material for posting or comment.

Date	Likes	Increase
Mar 9 2011	0	
Oct 2012	94	94
Oct 2013	178	84
Oct 2014	285	107
Oct 2015	621	336
Oct 2016	1112	491
Oct 2017	1415	303

Twitter

Twitter activity began on 7th June 2014 as @werribeerivkeep with a tweet on the success of the June platypus survey from the Werribee Riverkeeper.

Date	Tweets	Increase	Following	Followers
Jun 7 2014	0			
Oct 2015	444	444	178	137
Oct 2016	567	123	228	192
Oct 2017	763	196	275	267

Newsletter

The Werribee Riverkeeper newsletter is now in its sixth year of publication.

It has served WRivA well, reflecting our work and carrying our messages to over 400 recipients.

The newsletters are sent as PDFs to members, friends, NRM organizations, government officers, and others.

Comment, suggestions and/or material from members are always appreciated.

The newsletter is available from our website and promoted on Facebook.

Website

The current WRivA website is being reviewed. We expect to soon launch a new format and a rewrite of all major pages. All newsletters and recent reports are available there. Modern features such as membership application and renewal will be included, plus a member's only capability.

Comment, suggestions and/or material from members are always appreciated.

News Print Media

Articles or mentions featuring WRivA or relevant business in the local press have been:

Oil Spill Wyndham Star Weekly Wed Thur 19 Jan 2017

River Rubbish under Fire Star Weekly p10 Wed 1 Feb 2017

WCC Iramoo Ward Newsletter Apr 2017

Millions Spent on... Wyndham Star Weekly 21 Jun 2017

...River Trail Wyndham Star Weekly Wed 19 Jul 2017
 Clean Love of Waterways Starweekly p17 Wed 26 Jul 2017

Postal Mail

Very little postal mail is received in our PO Box 74 during the year, only about three-four items per month.



Email

Currently, WRivA's email address is werribeeriver@gmail.com

In the near future we will have an email address based on werribeeriver.org.au

In this year's annual report we have discontinued the practice of providing the statistics of Gmails received and sent.

15. Membership and Organisation

WRivA currently has 78 financial members, which has grown from Attendance at 9 ordinary meetings averaged 7.7 compared to 5.5 in the previous year. Committee members held 4 separate marketing and finance meetings in 2017.

The Association determined that the annual subscription of \$20 (or \$30 for families) becomes due on 31 October each year. The Association also determined that any new member who joins between 31 January and 31 July pays a reduced subscription for that membership year of half the normal annual subscription. Further any new member who joins after 31 July in any year pays no annual subscription for that membership year.

16. Thank you.

WRivA wishes to thank all of its members and committee for contributing to its purpose over the past calendar year.

In particular thanks must be given to Terry Scott and Neil Tolliday who have decided to stand down from committee membership and allow the younger generation a chance to gain great experience and support the future of WRivA.

John Forrester

President

Thursday 19 Oct 2017

Werribee River Association (Reg No A0017169K)

INCOME & EXPENSES

October 2016 - September 2017

	TOTAL
INCOME	
Awards	500.00
Donations	825.00
Grants	46,402.68
Membership	1,145.00
Program Fees	22,825.00
Total Income	A\$71,697.68
GROSS PROFIT	A\$71,697.68
OTHER INCOME(LOSS)	
Interest income	497.26
Total Other Income(Loss)	A\$497.26
EXPENSES	
Advertising and marketing	
Advertising	68.00
Promotional Clothing	1,037.30
Promotional Materials	3,184.32
Sponsorship	500.00
Total Advertising and marketing	4,789.62
Bank charges and fees	20.00
Catering / Refreshments	1,453.62
Community Program Delivery	3,756.52
Conferences	2,335.09
Education Program Development	5,248.00
Educational Program Delivery	22,641.40
Insurance	754.20
Office expenses	242.93
Plants	6,388.20
Postage & shipping	124.00
Printing, stationery & supplies	279.54
Subscriptions	253.51
Travel expenses	481.89
Venue Hire	244.58
Website	219.25
Total Expenses	A\$49,232.35
NET EARNINGS	A\$22,962.59

Note

Funds from previous financial year:

Cash Account: \$42,824.02 which included Melbourne Water Grant of \$30,000
 Future Fund (Term Deposit): \$14,558.71
 Total Opening Funds: \$57,382.73

Closing bank account balances as at 30 Sept 2017:

Cash Account: \$59,390.32
 Future Fund (Term Deposit): \$20,000.00
 Petty Cash Account: \$ 454.26
 Public Fund Account: \$ 500.74
 Total Closing Funds: \$80,345.32

Cash Basis Wednesday, 18 October 2017 09:36 PM GMT+11

1/2

Robyn Thomas
 Treasurer - Werribee River Association
 Dated: 18 October 2017



JOHNEY ROSEN
ACCOUNTANTS &
BUSINESS ADVISERS

PARTNERS
Gary Johnsey NTA&F ATI
Nicole Rosen B.Bus FCPA

18 October 2017

The Treasurer
Werribee River Association Inc
P O Box 74
Werribee Vic 3030

The QuickBooks file and bank accounts have been reconciled and reviewed and in our opinion represent a true and fair recording of the movements in the receipts and payments of the Werribee River Association Inc. for the period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.

Nicole Rosen FCPA
Partner

Werribee River Association (Subscribed)

PROFIT AND LOSS

October 2016 - September 2017

	TOTAL
INCOME	
Awards	500.00
Donations	
Donations (non-DGR)	825.00
Total Donations	825.00
Grants	46,402.68
Membership	
Membership - Corporate	50.00
Membership - Family	585.00
Membership - Individual	510.00
Total Membership	1,145.00
Program Fees	22,825.00
Total Income	A\$71,697.68
GROSS PROFIT	A\$71,697.68
OTHER INCOME(LOSS)	
Interest income	497.26
Total Other Income(Loss)	A\$497.26
EXPENSES	
Advertising and marketing	
Advertising	68.00
Promotional Clothing	1,037.30
Promotional Materials	3,184.32
Sponsorship	500.00
Total Advertising and marketing	4,789.62
Bank charges and fees	20.00
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Website	219.25
Total Expenses	A\$49,232.35
NET EARNINGS	A\$22,962.59

Werribee River Association (Subscribed)

BALANCE SHEET
As of September 30, 2017

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash Account	59,390.32
Future Fund (Term Deposit)	20,000.00
Petty Cash Account	454.26
Public Fund	500.74
Total Current Assets	A\$80,345.32
Total Assets	A\$80,345.32
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY	
Shareholders' equity:	
Net Income	22,962.59
Opening balance equity	57,382.73
Retained Earnings	
Total shareholders' equity	A\$80,345.32
Total liabilities and equity	A\$80,345.32

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Support the Waterways. Help our work!
Join the Werribee River Association.