



Gardening session at The Gables

# Annual Report 2022/23



Environment House Inc

Email: [shop@envirohouse.org.au](mailto:shop@envirohouse.org.au)  
Tel: 08 9271 4488

125 King William St,  
Bayswater, WA, 6053


[www.envirohouse.org.au](http://www.envirohouse.org.au)

*Thank you to our sponsors*



Principal Partner





*We acknowledge the  
Whadjuk Nyoongar people as the  
traditional custodians of this land.  
We pay our respects to their elders  
past, present and future.*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

### ENVIRONMENT HOUSE INC

*At Enviro House, we value collaboration to achieve an environmentally sustainable future. When individuals, groups, councils, schools, businesses, and government work together, we improve well-being and achieve better decision making for present and future generations.*

#### **Overview of Enviro House activities undertaken this past year:**

- City of Bayswater Garden Critters Early Learning Centre Pilot Program
- City of Bayswater Multi Unit Development Complex Garden and Composting Trial
- Little Critters Garden Play Sessions – 98 participants (52 children 2-5 years, 46 parents/caregivers)
- Big Critters Garden Club – 30 participants (19 children 5-11 years. 11 parents/caregivers)
- Social Gardening Fridays – 19 drop in sessions
- Saving our Snake-necked Turtle Project – Turtle Trackers Volunteer Teams
- Anchor Point Youth Futures Care School Garden Project
- 24-hour waste recycling drop off station diverting approximately 2.5m<sup>2</sup> per month
- 5<sup>th</sup> year delivering the City of Bayswater Home Composting Program – 107 households
- 8<sup>th</sup> year running the City of Bayswater Native Plants to Residents Program – 900 households
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year running the Town of Bassendean Plants to Residents Program – 416 households
- Sustainable Bayswater (formerly Transition Town Bayswater)
- Share and Repair – 88 items repaired, and 181.5kg saved from landfill
- Wetland Conservation Projects
- 22 workshops & events with over 385 participants in 22/23
- Participation in the Reclaim the Void project [www.reclaimthevoid.com.au](http://www.reclaimthevoid.com.au)
- Yes23 Campaign Community Hub
- Support of local eco businesses through our EcoShop

# Environment House Inc Annual Report 2022/2023

Enviro House is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 2015 (WA) and has tax-deductibility status. The Committee of Management for the 2022/23 year was:

*Convenor:* Rosemary Lynch

*Deputy Convenor:* Alan Benn

*Secretary:* Jo Bower

*Treasurer:* Giorgia Johnson

*Coordinator:* Rachael Roberts

*Ordinary members:* Warren Haley, Eleanor Reuvers, and Tess Tholstrup.

Our Committee of Management are all hands-on volunteers in the organisation. We are proud of the constructive and positive way we work together to get things done.

Enviro House is the only urban environmental sustainability centre in the eastern suburbs of Perth. Our projects focus on community engagement and education across all sustainability areas; conservation of our biodiversity; sustainable resilient communities; and climate change action.

## VOLUNTEERS

At the core of everything we do at Enviro House is our amazing group of volunteers. We have over 40 regular volunteers working on different projects across the organisation. We are very proud of our culture of inclusion and our ethos of welcoming everyone, without judgement, and appreciating whatever skill set they bring. We also received additional event volunteer support this year from over 30 individuals for our Plants to Residents programs from Bayswater and Bassendean local community members, and Chisholm College Students.

In February and May we held brainstorming and planning sessions with our volunteer teams to generate ideas and gauge interest in different activities and initiatives. A concerted effort has gone into supporting volunteers to generate and drive their own projects and ideas. Communication with volunteers has been enhanced and overhauled with a move to WhatsApp groups based on areas of work or interest enabling quicker responses and greater collaboration and connection. We look forward to continuing and building on this in the New Year.

In May we were treated to a Volunteer Week Event kindly hosted by Community Bank Bayswater, Bendigo Bank. This was a wonderful opportunity for our volunteers to gather, socialise and be appreciated for all that they achieve through Enviro House and in our community. We thank all our volunteers for their commitment, and everything they do to make to Enviro House the vibrant community hub that it is.

*"I love being around a group of people passionate about our environment, and wanting to proactively do something good in this world. I'm in my happy place at Enviro House, and love meeting different people, with common values regarding the environment and disadvantaged groups."*

- Alex Ellis



Enviro House, Sustainable Bayswater and local Wetland group volunteers and supporters with Community Bank Bayswater Board and Staff. May 23

## SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS AND MILESTONES

We received generous support from **Community Bank Bayswater** in the 22/23 financial year. With this support we established the **Bendigo Bank Growing Well Program** to enhance mental health and wellbeing by providing opportunities for individuals to connect to their community and the environment. The Growing Well Program encompasses a range of new and existing Enviro House initiatives which provide opportunities for individuals to engage in meaningful environmental initiatives, develop new skills, and to strengthen and support our community to be resilient and efficient in their response to climate change at a local level. These initiatives have included our Little Critters Garden Play sessions for 2–5 year-olds and their caregivers, Big Critters Afternoon Garden Club for 5-11 year-olds, a Wetlands Walking Group and our Social Gardening Friday sessions. We are pleased to announce that Community Bank Bayswater have continued their support as our Principal Partner in the 23/24 financial year.

We ran six, four-week **Little Critters Garden Play** groups in the 22/23 financial year. These sessions were attended by 53 children aged 2-5 & 46 parents/caregivers. This four-week program provides children and their caregivers an opportunity to enjoy an hour of activities in our garden. This includes feeding the chickens and worms, watering the garden, learning how plants grow and learning about the frog life cycle, picking and eating fresh food, and nature-based crafts. The broad ranging educational components including growing healthy food, composting, and caring for nature, benefit both children and the accompanying adults while being active and having fun outdoors. The program also provides the opportunity for participants to make friends and connect with their local community and Enviro House.

Our child-friendly garden is an ideal venue for this popular program and amongst all the positive feedback provided from parents and grandparents, we often hear how excited a child is to be going to the garden 'from the moment they wake up' that day. One grandparent even told us the Little Critters had been instrumental in preparing their grandchild for attending kindergarten as they had missed out on these opportunities to participate in groups with other children during COVID. The Little Critters Garden Play Program has continued to expand in the new financial year with up to four sessions offered per week. Thank you to our Little Critters Educators, Lara O'Neil and Kylie Mac Mahon and our wonderful volunteers for enthusiastically welcoming the Little Critters into our garden.



Following on from the Garden Upgrade project in 2022, our garden has continued to flourish and increasingly become a place of learning, engagement and connection. As part of the Bendigo Bank Growing Well Program, we have established a regular **Social Gardening Fridays** drop in morning for anyone interested in increasing their connection to their community while learning and participating in growing food and sharing a cuppa. These sessions are a relaxed opportunity for individuals to connect and socialise through gardening, with the aim of reducing isolation and increasing both physical and mental wellbeing whilst learning new skills. These sessions always include a friendly inclusive morning tea and great conversations. Social Gardening Fridays is regularly attended by people of all ages. Launched in February 23, 19 sessions have been held with 4 to 10 individuals in attendance each week.

Enviro House continues to support **local wetland groups in Maylands and Bayswater**, working with the City of Bayswater to achieve significant conservation outcomes. This includes Friends of Eric Singleton Wetlands, Baigup Wetland Interest Group and Friends of Maylands Samphires. In the 2023 planting season the City of Bayswater with volunteers planted 20,000 new native plants into wetland and bushland areas. We have also been working on greater collaboration with other local wetland groups through involvement with the Cat Containment Policy campaign, auspicing of grants for groups with support from City of Bayswater and providing Enviro House as a venue for meetings and activities.

The **Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle (SOSNT) Project** led by Dr Jane Chambers and her team at Murdoch University has been a new project for us to participate in this year. Working with the SOSNT Team and the City of Bayswater, we have had the opportunity to recruit and coordinate a team of Turtle Tracker volunteers. Turtle Trackers patrol local wetlands to record sightings of turtles, protect turtle nests and ensure that nesting female turtles can nest and return to the wetlands safely. Over the 2022 nesting season (Sep – Nov) our team of 14 Turtle Trackers recorded 76 turtle sightings and protected 13 nests across Maylands Lakes, Gobba Lake and Eric Singleton Wetlands. This fabulous citizen science project is assisting in the conservation of this threatened species and gathering crucial information to best help protect it into the future as well as raising community awareness. We are thrilled to be coordinating Turtle Trackers again this year with 29 volunteers Turtle Trackers on board currently patrolling at Baigup Wetlands and Eric Singleton Wetlands.





Reclaim the Void workshop participants

In December 2022, **Enviro House** registered to support the **“Reclaim the Void – weaving country whole” project** by offering community workshops and setting up a rug hub. The “Reclaim the Void” project was born from the pain and grief of Indigenous elders in the Leonora community arising from the gaping mining holes left all over their country. The idea was conceived to symbolically “seal” one of the mining holes with an artwork expressing the story of country. The art chosen for this project consists of thousands of hand-made circular rag-rugs woven from discarded fabric.

The rugs are being woven by people from all walks of life and backgrounds in communities all over the world. We joined in this bold cross-cultural project, promoted and ran a free public workshop comprising of 3 x half day sessions on the Enviro House deck (starting in late June), and were able to send a pile of completed rugs from the workshop and also dropped off to the EH rug collection hub on to the Project Co-ordinator in Denmark WA. Our promotion of the Project continues and more workshops are planned. More information on Reclaim the Void can be found at [www.reclaimthevoid.org.au](http://www.reclaimthevoid.org.au) Thank you to Joanne Eggleston for the photo and words above and for driving our involvement with this project.

**Our workshop calendar and community events** were well received again this year, providing access to a wide range of topics. Enviro House organised 22 workshops catering to over 385 participants on a wide range of topics for all age groups. Sessions included Starting a Veggie Garden, Guided Flora Walks, Close Encounters with Critters from Kanyana, Nest Box Building with Recycology, DIY Wicking Beds, Intro to Permaculture and Bush Foods for Beginners. Thank you to Robyn Brown for coordinating our busy calendar.

**Sustainable Bayswater (formerly Transition Town Bayswater)** organised a range of events this year including a very successful olive harvest and pickling event in response a quarantine area being declared by DPIRD as part of the efforts to stop the spread of the significant invasive pest, Queensland fruit fly (Qfly). These two community events prevented citrus from our garden and also olives from Riverside Gardens going to landfill. Additionally, the Sustainable Bayswater team hosted a free film series and an event for Clean Up Australia Day which removed 40kg of rubbish from Maylands. The group also established the Baylands Party Kit which community members can hire for free, avoiding the use of single use items. Borrowed 9 times since September 22, this Party Kit has helped local community members avoid purchasing over 700 single use items.

Sustainable Bayswater continued to hold the monthly **Share and Repair Sessions** on the first Saturday of every month. This year they held 11 Share and Repair sessions seeing 88 items repaired **which diverted 181.5kg from landfill.**

Our long-standing relationship with the **City of Bayswater** is one of active partnership and co-operation. This strong relationship enables us to identify projects where our input can make a difference, work with the community to find solutions and have the support of the City when we need it. We also work very closely with the City to develop and support new programs and initiatives.

Enviro House partnered with the City of Bayswater to deliver the **Home Composting Program** for the fifth year, to another 107 households. The program supports householders to compost at home, providing participating households with a free composting education workshop and a free composting system of their choice. Established in 2018, this program has now been delivered to over 1000 households within the City. The outcomes show a significant reduction not only food waste, but other waste streams going to landfill, with increased recycling and changes to household habits resulting in positive health and wellbeing outcomes. Of the participating households who responded to this year's final evaluation survey, 88.5% reported having greater awareness about the food waste they produce, 73% indicated an active reduction in the quantity of food waste they produced, 85% indicated changes to shopping habits to reduce packaging waste, and 90% indicated that their motivation to recycle correctly had increased over the course of the program. The Home Composting Program will be made available to residents again in the 23/24 financial year.

*“We hardly use our red lidded bin. Putting organic materials back into the garden. Our plants benefit from the composted waste and we save on buying additional compost” – Home Composting Participant, June 23*

While there has been steady interest from residents for the Home Composting Program since the introduction of FOGO, it has been identified that the program is now most needed in Multi Unit Developments (MUDs) which are not currently eligible to receive the FOGO bin system. With over 100 MUDs in the City of Bayswater and, many without the FOGO service, a substantial portion of food waste is still being sent direct to landfill and a considerable number of residents have not yet received the benefits of the Home Composting Program.

Following on from the success of the Home Composting Program, Enviro House worked with the City and the residents to develop and trial an **onsite composting, edible gardening, and waste education program at The Gables, 100-unit apartment complex in Maylands** with great success. Since the implementation of the initiative, representatives from the Council of Owners and the Maintenance Manager have stated that there has been an improvement in correct waste sorting, particularly with recycling due to additional signage and education. A battery collection has also been added to avoid this hazardous waste going to landfill.

The Gables also report that the introduction of a community garden on site has led to a more connected community of residents with many of them enjoying and utilizing the produce. Further, 20% (n=20) of the units are now collecting and composting their food waste onsite using the compost bins, worm farms, and bokashi bins supplied, reducing up to 1/5 of their food waste annually. Waste sorting, composting and the edible community garden are now part of the culture of The Gables, it is anticipated that this momentum will grow into the future and an indication of what may be achieved at other Multi-unit Development in the City. **The Cultivate & Compost, waste reduction, community edible gardening and wellbeing program for Multi-unit Developments in the City of Bayswater** is anticipated to be rolled out in 2024.



*“First of all, I’d like to say how thankful we are to Enviro House and the City of Bayswater for all the equipment, plants, and advice you have provided us with.... the veggies are thriving, and we now also have passion fruit vines, chokkos, rosemary, lemon grass and thyme growing. Personally, I find it very enjoyable to head down to the garden, and our household of four fills roughly 5 compost caddies per week”.*

*“It definitely feels like there is more of a community spirit present now, and the WhatsApp group I’ve created for the interested residents is working well.”*

*- Lea, Council of Owners at The Gables*

### **The City of Bayswater Garden Critters Program for Early Learning and Childcare Centres**

in collaboration with the City of Bayswater continued this year. The program aims to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children through engagement in gardening activities and healthy eating as well as support centre waste reduction and household waste education. The program includes an interactive Wriggly Worm incursion and a hands-on Garden Grow incursion for children to learn about organic waste and growing nutrient dense healthy food in a fun and interactive way. The City provided the centres, not already equipped with their own edible garden, with garden starter kit which included two raised garden beds, soil and plants. Additionally, centre staff received training and composting hardware to compost on site, and waste coaching and support was provided to assist in the reduction of waste and increase recycling.





Over the 22/23 financial year 28 Garden Critters Gardening and Waste incursions were delivered to 335 pre-kindy children at 9 Early Learning Centre and 4 Garden Critter Gardening and Waste incursions were delivered to 56 kindergarten and pre-primary school children at Embleton Primary. Thank you to our amazing educators Lara O'Neill, Miho Armstrong and Kylie Mac Mahon for their incredible work delivering this program.

This year we also worked with the City to deliver initiatives to **secondary students at AnchorPoint Youth Futures School and Chisholm College**. We delivered 6 gardening, compost and waste sessions to approximately 20 secondary students at AnchorPoint Youth Futures school in Bayswater helping them to maintain and grow an edible garden onsite. We were also involved with the development and delivery of the **Chisholm College Sustainability Symposium** in partnership with school staff and the City. This symposium engaged

with 300 year 9 students at the school in December 2022. Enviro House staff and volunteers along with Robyn Brown from Waste Is My Resource delivered Waste Auditing, Gardening, composting, Water and Energy Auditing and Food security workshops over this four-day event.

Enviro House delivered the **City of Bayswater Native Plants to Residents** program for the eighth consecutive year in 2023. The aim of the program is to encourage local residents to grow more native plants to improve biodiversity and support water efficient gardening. Over this time, this program has distributed 58,000 waterwise native plants to residents.

This year, 10,000 plants were distributed to City of Bayswater residents with 900 households participating. 8,000 plants were distributed to households at the plant collection day events in June and from Enviro House. 2,000 early release promotional plants were distributed to residents at the very successful City of Bayswater Plants to Residents Launch Event at Bardon Park in May 23. This event was extremely popular with 2,000 plants collected by residents in less than an hour. There are plans to make the launch event even bigger in 2024!

This year Enviro House delivered the **Town of Bassendean Plants to Residents program** for the third year, with just under 9,000 plants distributed throughout the Town to 416 households. Two stalls were also held in the Town to distribute early release promotional plants and sell tickets to the collection day events. The main collection of plants was held at the Town Depot with support from Town of Bassendean staff.

Feedback from residents and Councils about both Plants to Residents programs has been extremely positive and we look forward to delivering the programs again next year.

*"So many birds and bee varieties now visiting my garden! Plants from 3 years ago were used to plant out the North facing side of my house and now provides natural insulation, significantly reducing the need for cooling/heating on that side of the house. Plans next year are to replace 60% of lawn on verge with natives. I think it's important to note that I hadn't gardened before collecting plants from this program. It's transformed our property and restored habitat on our huge block. Super grateful."*

- *City of Bayswater Resident, 2023*





In June 2023 the Enviro House Management Committee endorsed the Voice to Parliament and unanimously agreed to become a **Yes23 Campaign Bayswater Community Hub**. Throughout the campaign we distributed materials, facilitated a dedicated WhatsApp group, and provided Enviro House as a venue for meetings and events. Many of our volunteers attended training about the Voice, answered questions from the public, and provided a safe space and a cup of tea to those distressed by negative public sentiment both during and since the referendum. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who threw so much energy and emotion into supporting the Yes23 campaign. Wobble boarding in all weather, door knocking, being at polling booths and hosting Yes23 signage. We hope that some small comfort can be drawn from knowing that our local community, the electorate of Perth, showed a majority to vote Yes.

With the outcome of the referendum, Enviro House extends our solidarity and support to all heartbroken by the result. Enviro House will continue to look for ways to support Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to walk together toward justice, healing and truth. The urgency to close the gap and to address issues impacting First Nations people remains.

## OUR PEOPLE

### Part-time staff and volunteers

Enviro House relies on its fabulous volunteer team and part time staff to deliver projects and keep the doors open. In 2022-23 **43 regular Volunteers** contributed their time, energy, and passion to our EcoShop, Sustainable Bayswater and projects.

There have been **9 part-time and casual staff over 2021-22**. Nadine Wright Toussaint as Project Co-ordinator, Kayleigh Bodycote as EcoShop Manager, Lara O'Neill as Garden Co-ordinator and Education Project Officer, Robyn Brown as Workshop Co-ordinator, Su Chew as our Bookkeeper, Miho Armstrong and Kylie Mac Mahon as Educators working on Little Critters and Education Centre projects, Warren Haley overseeing shop accounts and administration and Chris Mathews as our wonderful cleaner.

A review of the EcoShop in early 2023 the Committee assessed that a paid Shop Manager was no longer viable in the 2023/24 financial year and the position came to an end on June 30, 2023. Thank you to Kayleigh Bodycote for her work as Shop Manager and almost two years in the role which saw us through the uncertainty of COVID-19, the upgrade to the cloud-based point of sale system and for overseeing development of our current online store. We wish Kayleigh all the best for the future.

Our Committee Members contributed many volunteer hours over the past twelve months providing a wide range of skills to the organisation. Rosemary Lynch in the role of Convenor in 2022/23 providing invaluable communication, web and IT support; Jo Bower, our Secretary, supporting on the ground projects and ensuring our administrative functions and volunteer co-ordination run smoothly; Alan Benn, as our in-house energy and water auditor, also providing organisational wide support for all projects and initiatives; Giorgia Johnson for her finance skills and organisational support; Warren Haley for overseeing shop administration and providing support to EcoShop volunteers and staff; Eleanor Reuvers providing specialist landscape architect skills, Tess Tholstrup for HR support and active engagement with Sustainable Bayswater and Rachael Roberts as our Co-ordinator overseeing funding, projects, collaborative relationships and identifying the opportunities that arise in our community to develop local responses to improve environmental sustainability.

## Enviro House EcoShop

Our **EcoShop** has continued to provide an informal point of contact for people from many different backgrounds seeking support, advice or simply a conversation about living sustainably. Volunteers and the public regularly report their appreciation for the non-judgemental and relaxed culture at Environment House. Volunteers kept the EcoShop open to the public five days a week over the year along with our online store which is available to customers 24/7 and receives an average of two orders a week. Thank you to Pamela Bell for maintaining our online store.

Throughout the year our Shop Manager, Kayleigh Bodycote and the Shop Committee Working Groups explored new local suppliers and initiatives to raise awareness about the EcoShop. Enviro House also participated in a project with Curtin University Strategic Marketing Students who provided some creative ideas for new initiatives. Staff time was also committed to exploring the establishment of an on-site coffee trailer, utilising our existing trailer, and a training program for young people in collaboration with local schools and youth services to support youth employment and as an additional income stream. Unfortunately, without being able to secure additional grant funding and with new cafes opening close by this idea has been abandoned for now. Thank you to Shop Committee and Shop Working Group members Warren Haley, Pamela Bell, Peelang Lee, Tess Tholstrup, Colleen Mack and Joanne Eggleston for all your ideas and your energy putting them into action throughout the year, and to all of our Shop Volunteers keeping us open 5 days a week.

In recent years there has been increased competition from local, mainstream, and online businesses selling similar products as well as external influences such as COVID, household financial pressure, low foot traffic and increased costs which have led to a decrease in shop sales and profit. The Shop Team and Management Committee have continued to explore ways to try to address this. Post COVID, despite regular customers, new visitors, and an extreme fondness for the EcoShop shop profits have continued to decline. In early 2023 an in-depth review of the EcoShop, was undertaken by the Management Committee and staff examining sales trends and a stock review, local and mainstream competitors, turn over, income and expenditure. Following this review, it was deemed no longer viable to pay for a Shop Manager into the new financial year.

In July 23, Joanne Eggleston was contracted to work with a core group of shop volunteers to take this review further and propose a plan for how the EcoShop may continue to run effectively without a paid Shop Manager. An extensive assessment of shop stock and sales figures has taken place. The focus has been to reduce the items carried significantly to make this manageable, and select items which sell well, are less available in mainstream stores and align well with our ethos and aims. Roles and responsibilities have been defined and assigned to EcoShop volunteers, Project and Garden staff to make the EcoShop manageable moving forward. This model of operation is currently being trialled by the Shop Team – Pamela Bell and Warren Haley with support from Projects Coordinator, Nadine Wright Toussaint. Thank you to Pamela Bell, Warren Haley, Joanne Eggleston, Rosemary Lynch, Jo Bower and Rachael Roberts for your dedication to the review process and to the Shop Team, for keeping the EcoShop running smoothly.

## Our Garden

*By Garden Coordinator, Lara O'Neil*

The Enviro House garden has continued to evolve over the past year with the help of old and new volunteers with increased regular attendance on Friday mornings which has been promoted as 'Social Gardening Fridays'. Gardening tasks are followed with scrumptious morning teas and chatter on the deck with Eco Shop volunteers. Throughout the week Eco Shop and other volunteers have also cared for the garden, chooks and worms.

Continual soil enhancement, seedling planting, seed harvesting, germinating and seedling raising have enabled steady crops of seasonal vegetables, herbs and beneficial flowers. A new reticulation system has been installed with improved water efficiency by Novak at Bayswater Landscapes and, donations from local businesses have been obtained to assist in the purchase of new tools and supplies

There have been bountiful, quality oranges and mandarins provided by our trees despite nearby sightings of Queensland fruit fly by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (placing our garden in a quarantine zone) who supported us with regular baiting. The front bathtub wicking bed has been labelled as a community share garden and filled with popular crops including, cherry tomatoes, silverbeet and herbs.

Bushtucker seedlings were sold to the public in Autumn and planted in the front garden along with other local native shrubs. The side garden has grown well since its establishment in 2022 and provided a variety of colourful blooms in Spring.

Substantial progress has been made on a garden signage project with beautiful designs by Emma Nolan, a volunteer graphic design student, to inform visitors of how key features (e.g., wicking beds and worm farms) work, suitable chicken food and our garden ethos. This will soon be finished with suitable signs installed. An increase of plant labelling has been placed across the garden to aid in identification too. Ongoing maintenance and enhancements by volunteers have included improved paths, Ollas for water supplementation and chicken coup repairs and installations for hen wellbeing. Thank you to all of our regular Garden and EcoShop Volunteers who have taken care of the garden throughout the year.



## Website, Social Media and Marketing

Our online presence has continued to expand with our website providing information on our activities. We now have over 6,900 people following our Facebook page and our Instagram has grown to 965 followers this year. Our Instagram is used for EcoShop promotion and garden activity updates, both of which are popular in this format. Subscription to the email newsletter has also grown to 1684 subscribers with between 30-40% of people opening the newsletter and accessing information. 14 newsletter editions were created and distributed in 22/23.

**Website:** [www.envirohouse.org.au](http://www.envirohouse.org.au) **Facebook:** *Environment House / Perth Ecoshop & SustainabilityServices*  
**Instagram:** *envirohouse* **Twitter:** *HouseEnviro*



## 24 Hour Recycling Waste Station

Our 24 hour recycling drop off station has now been running for over four years and continues to be increasingly popular and well utilised by the community. We receive more than 1800 visits to our recycling station annually and divert around 2.5 cubic meters of plastic and other waste monthly. We recently counted the number of plastic lids received weekly and estimate over 780,000 lids are received and process by our volunteers for recycling annually! Our wonderful Tuesday volunteer team Ros Hayes, Sandy Newby, Jo Bower, Alexandra De Laurentis and Tess Tholstrup have overseen and expanded this initiative over the year, recently adding a very successful Clothes Swap Event which they intend to now hold three times per year.

Items collected include plastic bottle caps, lids and containers, metal caps and lids, bread tags, plant labels, pens and markers, oral care including electric toothbrushes and chargers. Plastic waste was distributed to CLAW Environmental, Bread tags to Bread tags for Wheelchairs, oral care items, pens and markers to Terracycle. We also have additional collection bins for Donut-Waste, collecting plastic beer clips, and Fairgame Australia, collecting used sporting equipment for reuse by remote communities or for recycling.

Thank you to all the volunteers throughout the year who have assisted with the daily sorting and monitoring the waste station. Particular thanks to Ros Hayes, Sandy Newby and Tess Tholstrup for volunteering their time to transport materials to CLAW and Fairgame Australia and for supervising Chisholm College students who assist with sorting the plastic lids and containers throughout the year. Thank you also to Angelo Lopez for setting up new shelving in our expanded sorting area.

## Coffee Grounds

The Coffee Ground to Ground Project is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year. Coffee grounds are collected from local cafes and are left outside Enviro House for the community to collect and use in their composting systems and gardens, diverting them from landfill. Thank you to local resident Jeremy Hamilton who has volunteered his time to this initiative this year.

## A Meeting Place

Enviro House provides our building and facilities to community groups to use for meetings and events free of charge. Baigup Wetlands Interest Group and Sustainable Bayswater have been regular users of our centre this year. Yes23 Campaign Bayswater, Friends of Claughton Reserve and City of Bayswater staff have also used our deck and facilities to conduct meetings, events, and activities this year.

## Chisholm College's Christian Service with Enviro House

We have continued our strong relationship with Chisholm College hosting year 10-12 students to volunteer with us as part of the Chisholm Care Program. Between April and June, we had over 30 students complete work experience hours to support the Plants to Residents Programs both in preparation activities and volunteering at collection day events. Students have continued to volunteer with us fortnightly assisting with the waste and recycling station, in the garden and weeding works at the Eric Singleton West site. We would like to thank Chisholm College for their ongoing involvement and support.

## Sustainable Bayswater

*by Alex Ellis*

Sustainable Bayswater has been very busy again for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. We currently have 11 active committee members, and 5 additional 'Share and Repair' team members. We hosted 20 events over the financial year, including 11 Share and Repair sessions (which diverted 181.5kg from landfill and repaired 88 items), all these events involved 328 people.

We have 380 followers on Instagram and have made 65 posts on Instagram. We have 700 likes and 811 followers on Facebook. In June 2023, FB reach was 1095 (up 103.2%) and Instagram reach was 403 (up 58%); FB followers are 80% female with 85% in Perth; Instagram followers 70% female with 80% in Perth, most followers are aged 35-44.

We collaborated with City of Bayswater Library to co-host the launch of the City of Bayswater Seed Library, through a free screening of the documentary "Edible Paradise" on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 (50 attendees). Other film screenings held this financial year, both at the Civic Centre, were 'Metamorphosis' and 'Regenerating Australia'. *Metamorphosis* was screened on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 with a Guest speaker from Clean Slate, Vivienne Glance, and 30 attendees. *Regenerating Australia* was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with a panel discussion afterwards of local experts Miho Tanabe, Alan Benn, Jane Chambers and Aimee Smith (28 attendees).

During May 2023, we decided to change our name from Transition Town Bayswater to **Sustainable Bayswater**, to better reflect what our group does, and make it easier for people to understand. This was soft launched during the Regenerating Australia screening, with a more formal launch held 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and an article in the Perth Voice (reported in next year's report).

One of our members created a '**Party Hosting Kit**' to loan out to locals, Enviro House now hosts this and from launch in September 2022 until end of the year, 9 parties used the kit, with 774 single-use items avoided.

We hosted our annual Clean Up Australia Day event, this year in Maylands (26/03/2023) with 12 attendees and 40kg rubbish collected (5 full bags and a bike frame).

We provided a submission to the City of Bayswater on their 2023 Draft Bike Plan, with comments and solutions to improving ride-ability in the City (04/05/2023). One of our members applied for a WA Bike Month grant (\$2,000) which was successful and allowed the hosting of three events during Bike Month (October 2023) – reported in next year’s report.

We coordinated our inaugural Baysie Olive Oil Harvest with picking on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (9 attendees), and 70kg olives harvested. Due to the Q-fly pandemic, we were unable to take them to be pressed into Olive Oil, but instead held a Pickling event on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, (21 attendees) and 150 jars filled, ranging from 220g-1kg (total: 90kg).

We have collaborated with City of Bayswater, Enviro House and other stakeholders re: a Tree Mapping and Informative sign project within City of Bayswater, hoping to create a ‘Tree Spotters’ team of volunteers. We have been in communication over 2022/23, put forward a proposal to the City of Bayswater, and are hoping to commence a ‘Tree Spotting’ pilot area by end-2023.

One of our members applied for Sustainable Bayswater to be a community partner with Rewiring Australia and was successful. This is fantastic news, and the team is busy working with the City of Bayswater on this exciting project.



# Friends of Maylands Samphires

by Jo Bower

Enviro House has had a special focus on the Maylands Samphires at Clarkson Reserve since 2012. This year we received a further SALP grant to work with Apace on weed control and revegetation with samphires propagated at the Apace Nursery, using seeds and cuttings collected on our site.

The Friends group took part in an invertebrate study onsite by Biologic Environmental Survey, offered pro bono to our group. The survey identified more than 100 species of terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates from samples collected in September 2022.

With a grant from DBCA, we produced new signage with thanks to local resident Mike Clarke for the photos. There are four informative signs with Corten steel bases and a rectangular sign showing some birds of the saltmarsh with their Noongar names.

One of our aims is to join up isolated areas of naturally occurring saltmarsh vegetation and then to tackle new areas. Other grants from DBCA to CoB are extending the areas of focus. We are working closely with CoB staff and Apace to conserve this threatened ecological community.

We took part in two community planting sessions and held regular weeding sessions in our focus sites, with special thanks to Kate, Julie and Carolyn for their commitment.





## Baigup Wetlands Interest Group

*by Rosemary - Coordinator BWIG.*

Baigup Wetlands Interest Group had two grants under the auspices of Enviro House during the past financial year.

One of these was the Better Bayswater Grant funded by the City of Bayswater. The project delivered five environmentally related events, each presented by an authority in that field;

1. Noongar uses of Bush Tucker - presenter Belinda Cox - from Djirriy Dreaming
2. Brighten Your Day with More Birds - presented by Rachel & Mike Green
3. Fight the Bite presented by Ryan Janes - Senior Scientific Officer Medical Entomology, Department of Health
4. From Lightning Swamp to the River: Linking spaces to save species by Dr Jane Chambers - Academic Chair of Environmental Science, Management and Sustainability at Murdoch University.
5. Creative by Nature Art Exhibition held at Ellis House Arts Centre organised by R Lynch - Chairperson BWIG

The community benefited from an improved knowledge and understanding of our precious natural flora and fauna including an increasing awareness of what Baigup and the other reserves within the CoB have to offer as well as some of the challenges faced.

The Brighten Your Day with Birds event was held on the back deck of Enviro House making use of the proximity to Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary for a guided walk after the talk.

The other grant with Enviro House is the River Bank erosion grant and this Small Grants Program with DBCA obtained through Lisa Baker's office is ongoing. In November we will be planting of salt hardened Juncas plants.

Thanks to Su Chew for her care and diligent bookkeeping and also to Nadine Wright Toussaint for input into these events and for attending various meetings and assisting with promotion.

BWIG appreciates the support from Enviro House very much.



## OUR FINANCES

Environment House Inc was audited by Australian Audit and received a management letter outlining completion of the audit of the 2022-23 financial statements for the Environment House Inc. with an unqualified Audit Opinion for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

The Committee of Management has determined that the financial scrutiny provided by the audit at a cost of \$2,500.00 is important for our ongoing governance and provides community confidence in our administration of the organisation.

### **The Environment House Inc Management Committee**

Rachael Roberts, Warren Haley, Alan Benn, Jo Bower, Rosemary Lynch, Giorgia Johnson, Eleanor Reuvers, and Tess Tholstrup.

Presented at our Annual General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

### **INCOME SOURCES**

**In 2022/23 Environment House received income and funding from the following sources:** City of Bayswater & Community Bank Bayswater as our key sponsors; fee for service Project Delivery; Plants to Residents plants sales; donations; grants; and the customers of our EcoShop. With these funds we have been able to operate our EcoShop as an education centre and support forty volunteers on the ground delivering projects in our community – it is difficult to calculate the in-kind contribution of these activities given the breadth of skills and amount of time given freely by so many people, but we estimate the figure to be between \$300,000 - \$400,000 a year. Our projects in 2022-23 are outlined in Diagram 1 (following page)

# ENVIRONMENT HOUSE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS 2022/2023

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION IN KIND:  
~ \$350,000 a year

