



Annual Report 2023/24



Thank you to our sponsors

Environment House Inc


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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 emerging.*

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

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 Program
- City of Bayswater Multi Unit Development Complex Garden and Composting Trial
- Little Critters Garden Play Sessions – 11 X 4 week groups, 193 participants (101 children 2-5 years, 92 parents/caregivers)
- Social Gardening Fridays – 48 sessions held with a growing number of regular attendees
- Saving our Snake-necked Turtle Project – Turtle Trackers Volunteer Team – 29 volunteers
- 55 Central Accommodation Service Gardening for Wellbeing Initiative with Wellness 55 staff and City of Bayswater
- 24-hour waste recycling drop off station diverting approximately 3.5m² per month
- 3 Clothes Swap Events rehoming over 250 items
- 6th year delivering the City of Bayswater Home Composting Program – over 100 households
- 9th year running the City of Bayswater Native Plants to Residents Program – 900 households
- 4th year running the Town of Bassendean Plants to Residents Program – 445 households
- Sustainable Bayswater Events and Activities – 4 events to over 150 people
- Electrify Bayswater – Launched and gathering momentum
- 3 Youth Week Workshops with young people and youth services delivered
- Community Gardens Skill Building Program – 7 Department of Communities funded sessions delivered
- Thank a Volunteer Day Long Table Brunch
- Share and Repair – 11 sessions held, 136 items repaired, and 284kg saved from landfill
- Wetland Conservation Projects
- 35 community workshops & events with over 823 registrations in 23/24
- Participation in the Reclaim the Void project www.reclaimthevoid.com.au
- Yes23 Campaign Community Hub
- Support of local eco businesses through our EcoShop

Environment House Inc Annual Report 2023/2024

Enviro House is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 2015 (WA) and has tax-deductibility status. The Committee of Management for the 2023/24 year was:

Convenor: Rosemary Lynch

Deputy Convenor: Alan Benn

Secretary: Jo Bower

Treasurer: Giorgia Johnson

Coordinator: Rachael Roberts

Ordinary members: Warren Haley, Eleanor Reuvers, Tess Tholstrup, Al Ellis and Glenn Cook.

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.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

At the core of everything we do at Enviro House and beyond 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 35 individuals for our Plants to Residents programs from Bayswater and Bassendean local community members, Chisholm College Students and staff and participants from the 55 Central Wellness 55 Program. Our involvement in the Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle Project also saw us engage a further 22 new volunteer Turtle Tracker Volunteers who patrolled Eric Singleton and Baigup Wetlands in October & November 23. Some of these Turtle Trackers have gone on to become regular volunteers involved in other Enviro House activities.

In December, thanks to a Volunteer Day Grant from Department of Communities and support from City of Bayswater, we held a wonderful Enviro House Volunteer Community Long Table Brunch at Eric Singleton Wetlands (cover photo). This event was attended by over 55 Enviro House, Sustainable Bayswater, Yes Campaign, Cat Containment Campaign and Turtle Tracker volunteers along with representatives from local Friends of Groups. 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 intend to make this an annual event for our volunteer 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.

EH Volunteers at the 2023 Avon Decent Event



2023-2024 REFLECTION

by Rosemary Lynch, Convenor, Environment House

It's a pleasure to reflect what we've been up to at Enviro House this past year, it's been a busy but rewarding time and our commitment to sustainable living remains as strong as ever.

One of the projects that could easily go unnoticed but has continued to have an ongoing impact is our Home Composting initiative. Over 1,100 households have taken part since we started back in 2018 which represents a lot of food waste being put to good use instead of ending up in the bin! Combine that with the City wide adoption of FOGO bins and we can see that the broader community has participated in a drastic and positive change in how compostable waste is being handled.

The Native Plants to Residents Program has expanded, distributing tens of thousands of plants to people in ten suburbs. It's a great way to encourage biodiversity in our urban landscape, and it brings a bit of joy seeing so many people come to collect their plants and head-off enthusiastically to create green spaces.

It has been exciting to see a new initiative launched this year, focused on helping people (and the community) switch to cleaner energy solutions. With Enviro House's extensive history in water and energy audits and our longstanding association with the Switch Your Thinking Program, the Electrify Bayswater Rewiring Australia Project seems like a natural extension. There's been so much genuine buzz around Electrify Bayswater, and it's wonderful to see the enthusiasm behind this campaign continue to gain momentum and expand into Bassendean and other 6054 suburbs.

On top of all that, we've continued running lots of educational programs, everything from composting and gardening workshops to clothing swaps and our beloved 'Share and Repair' sessions. The collaboration with 55 Central Accommodation and Support Services has been a highlight. Visits to Early Learning Centres and Aged Care facilities provide valuable opportunities for learning and connection. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers, knowledgeable workshop leaders, Garden Coordinator and our capable Project Coordinator, for making these programs possible.

Speaking of gratitude, I have to give a shout-out to our EcoShop team. They're such a hardworking bunch, and always make visitors to our premises welcome. They've really stuck with us through all the ups and downs of the past few years, and we couldn't be prouder.

On behalf of the committee I would also like to mention how deeply grateful we are to Community Bank Bayswater for supporting the Growing Well Program, which has promoted mental health and well-being through nature-based activities for people of all ages.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge our partnership with the City of Bayswater that remains central to so many of the programs that we have running and thank the staff and council for their strong support of the work we do.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, partners, and everyone who's pitched in from sorting waste to tracking turtles! As we head towards our 25th Year of Enviro House we have a lot to celebrate together as we continue in our efforts to shift mindsets and adopt nature positive practices.



Productive garden at The Gables

PROJECTS & COLLABORATIONS

by Nadine Wright Toussaint, Project Coordinator

It has been another extremely busy year across the organisation. We have delivered education and waste reduction initiatives, gardening for food production and wellbeing, workshops and events, started new initiatives, expanded others and grown our Enviro House community of volunteers and supporters. None of this would be possible without our volunteers and the ongoing support from our principal partner Community Bank Bayswater and the City of Bayswater.

We received generous support from **Community Bank Bayswater** again in the 23/24 financial year. With this support we have continued initiatives under the **Bendigo Bank Growing Well Program**. The Growing Well Program encompasses a range of 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 four week program for 2–5 year-olds to explore and learn in our garden, and our Social Gardening Friday sessions for anyone interested in increasing their connection to their community while learning and participating in growing food and sharing a cuppa. This financial year we ran 11 Little Critter groups (up from 6 in 22/23) attended by 101 children and 92 parents/caregivers with consistent positive feedback and a number of returning families. We also held 48 Social Gardening Fridays with 6 to 12 participants each week. Friday mornings are a growing hive of activity and productivity at Enviro House both in the garden and in our EcoShop and a wonderful time for new visitors and volunteers to get involved. We are pleased to announce that Community Bank Bayswater have continued their generous support as our Principal Partner in the 24/25 financial year. We are currently planning a new monthly Enviro House Open House morning tea event as part of the Growing Well Program.

Our close collaborative relationship with **City of Bayswater** has also continued this year. We partnered with the City of Bayswater to deliver the **Home Composting Program** for the sixth year, to another 104 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 1100 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 also. The Home Composting Program will be made available to residents again in the 24/25 financial year.

We worked with the City on and completed the **onsite composting, edible gardening, and waste education program at The Gables, 100-unit apartment complex in Maylands**. This was a trial program which began in 2022 to identify an effective model for onsite waste education and reduction in Multi Unit Development Complexes with no access to FOGO. As well as aiming to reduce waste the program included the installation of raised garden beds, and support for residents to develop their own onsite community garden through gardening workshops and support. The Gables have not only reduced their food waste to landfill and decreased their recycling contamination rates, but they now also have a thriving, productive and connected edible garden and community. It is anticipated that **The Cultivate & Compost, waste reduction, community edible gardening and wellbeing program for Multi-unit Developments in the City of Bayswater** is rolled out to additional complexes 2025.

“The Council of Owners and the Building Manager of our 100-unit apartment complex are very grateful to the City of Bayswater and Enviro House. They have provided us with lots of equipment, plants and invaluable advice in order to create a wonderful edible garden we can share with the other residents. Previously to this program, we were unable to grow our own veggies and herbs, as well as composting our kitchen scraps. Thanks to City of Bayswater and Enviro House we now have a thriving vegetable garden, composting bins and worm farms.”

– Lea on behalf of the Gables, Council of Owners

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

in collaboration with the City of Bayswater continued for the third 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 23/24 financial year 15 Garden Critters Gardening and Waste incursions were delivered to 315 pre-kindy children at 7 Early Learning Centres in the City of Bayswater.

This year we also worked with the City to deliver initiatives to **students at both Embleton and Noranda Primary Schools**. We delivered 3 Organics Matters Incursions to 70 year 4 students and 2 Garden Critter Gardening Incursion to 45 Kindergarten children. We were also involved with a fantastic verge planting and activity morning with 300 pre-primary to year six students at Embleton Primary in partnership with City staff.

Planting morning at Embleton Primary



This year we were invited to deliver 3 Gardening and Waste incursions to 40 pre-schoolers at 2 Early Learning Centres located in the Town of Bassendean. These Centres had heard about our Garden Critters Program and engaged us directly to deliver these sessions to support their onsite sustainability initiatives. These sessions were very well received by children and staff. This highlights both a need for the service at centres and schools outside the Bayswater area and an opportunity for Enviro House to establish and promote a fee for service program model as an income source. We intend to expand this service in the new year.

Thank you to our amazing educators Lara O'Neill, Julie Fort and Kylie Mac Mahon for their incredible work delivering these programs to Early Learning Centres and Schools throughout the year.

Over the past year, we delivered 4 ***Gardening for Wellbeing*** sessions to 13 participants of the **Wellness 55 program at 55 Central Transitional Accommodation Service** in Maylands, in partnership with the City of Bayswater and 55 Central staff. As part of this initiative, we installed garden beds, compost bins, and worm farms, helping participants establish an edible garden on-site. The garden has become a valuable resource, not only for growing food but also for enhancing wellbeing and fostering community connection. Staff collaborate with residents to incorporate home-grown produce into their daily and weekly meals, creating a meaningful impact.

Our partnership with 55 Central has extended beyond the gardening program. One participant, involved in the Workplace Development Scheme to pay off court fines, was supported by 55 Central staff to re-oil our deck as part of the initiative. Additionally, 55 Central staff and residents generously contributed their time to help set up our *Plants to Residents* program. Looking ahead to 2024/25, we are excited to continue working with 55 Central on new gardening and other projects and look forward to a strong, ongoing partnership.

In partnership with the ***Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle (SOSNT)*** team, led by Dr. Jane Chambers from Murdoch University, we were proud to continue our involvement in this vital conservation project for the second year. Working alongside the SOSNT team and the City of Bayswater, we successfully recruited and coordinated a team of 29 passionate Turtle Tracker volunteers. Turtle Trackers patrol local wetlands to monitor turtle activity, protect nests, and ensure nesting female turtles can safely return to the wetlands. During the 2023 nesting season (September – November), our volunteers **recorded 32 turtle sightings, patrolled for 205 hours and protected 11 nests** at Eric Singleton and Baigup Wetlands

This citizen science initiative plays a crucial role in the conservation of the threatened snake-necked turtle by collecting valuable data and raising community awareness. We are excited to continue coordinating the Turtle Tracker program, with volunteers currently patrolling the Eric Singleton Wetlands, contributing to the protection and future of this increasingly threatened species.



Snaked-necked Turtle at Eric Singleton



Our workshop calendar and community events were well-received again this year, offering participants access to a diverse range of topics. Enviro House organised 35 workshops and events, attracting 823 participants—a significant increase from 22 workshops and 385 participants in 2022/23. Sessions catered to all age groups and included topics such as *Heat Proofing Your Garden*, *Starting a Veggie Garden*, *Guided Flora Walks*, *DIY Wicking Beds*, *Visible Mending*, and *Designing a Family-Friendly Bushfood Micro-Forest*.

A key highlight this year was the screening of *MAMMUNG*, followed by a Q&A with Dr. Noel Nannup. The film explores the Noongar people's memory of sea-level rise 10,000 years ago and the cultural significance of this change through the dreaming story of *MAMMUNG*, the whale. This powerful event, held in collaboration with the City of Bayswater, attracted over 120 attendees. Another standout event was the *Echidna Storytime* morning, led by Enviro house volunteer and Kanyana educator Julie Fort. Children and caregivers enjoyed meeting Elle the Echidna and four of her friends for crafts, storytelling, and an educational session. Elle had a wonderful time foraging for termites in the waterwise native garden, delighting all present.

Our workshop offerings expanded in 2024, thanks to close collaboration with Rebecca Cooper, Environment Officer for the City of Bayswater, along with the City's Waste and Sustainability teams. These partnerships enabled us to offer more workshops at reduced ticket prices, reaching a broader audience through joint promotions. Thanks to Robyn Brown for coordinating our Workshop Calendar from 2019 through until December 2023. Our events calendar has been coordinated by Nadine Wright Toussaint since January 24.

EnviroHouse contributed to the applications for and delivered three very well received workshops under two Department of Communities funded Youth Week Grants in April. These workshops were aimed at connecting young people to the environment around them in a positive way. Under the City of Bayswater Youth Advisory Council Youth Week project EnviroHouse delivered a *Wild Photography: Mobile phone nature photography and wetland walk workshop* at Eric Singleton Wetlands and a *Grow Your Own Edible Garden workshop* at EnviroHouse. Perth Inner City Youth Service (PICYS) engaged EnviroHouse to facilitate and Gardening, Wicking Bed and Worm farming Workshop at PICYS in West Leederville.



Youth Week Nature Photography Workshop

This year we also received three **grants for additional projects and activities:**

- **A Department of Communities Thank A Volunteer Day Grant** which we used to host an end of year volunteer thank you long table brunch event for our volunteer community.
- A Department of Communities Community Garden Grant for the **Community Garden Skills Building Program**. This has enabled us to offer a range of workshops upskilling our and other community garden volunteers and community members young and old in productive edible gardening (*see Garden Report for more details*). This project is due to be completed in October 24. Thank you to our dedicated Garden Coordinator Lara O’Neill for overseeing this project.
- **A Better Bayswater Grant for the Write In Your Place: Nature Writing Workshop Series**. This project is due for completion in October 24. As part of this project a successful two day writing workshop for adults was held in June 24 facilitated by authors Dr Sarah Drummond and Yann Toussaint. Three workshops for children and young people and an additional workshop for adults to be delivered in the new financial year.

Enviro House continues to support local wetland groups in Maylands and Bayswater, working closely with the City of Bayswater to achieve meaningful conservation outcomes. Key collaborations include the *Friends of Eric Singleton Wetlands*, *Baigup Wetland Interest Group*, and *Friends of Maylands Samphires*.

During the 2023 planting season, the City of Bayswater, alongside volunteers, planted **25,000 native plants** in wetland and bushland areas.

We are also fostering greater collaboration among local wetland groups by:

- Supporting the *Cat Containment Policy* campaign
- Auspicing grants for wetland groups with assistance from the City of Bayswater
- Providing Enviro House as a venue for meetings and activities

These partnerships help strengthen conservation efforts and deepen connections within the community.

Sustainable Bayswater organised a variety of events and initiative this year including:

- **Electrify Bayswater:** in partnership with Rewiring Australia. Launched March 24 with the goal is to transition the energy use in the City of Bayswater from fossil fuels to cheaper and cleaner electricity (see Electrify Bayswater report).
- **Monthly Share and Repair Sessions:** 11 sessions held and 136 items fixed saving 284kg from landfill.
- **Bike Month Grant Events – Oct 23:** Provided a free bike repair afternoon with People On Bicycles and a free Baysie Bike Tours event attended by over 20 riders, showcasing the places to ride in Bayswater. Both events supported by the Bike Month Grant from Department of Transport.
- **2 free Community Movies:** *The Motherload* and *the Green Lie* both attended by over 30 community members.
- **Clean Up Australia Day:** Removing **14 bags of rubbish** from Morley.
- **Baylands Party Kit:** Launched to reduce single-use waste, the kit allows community members to borrow reusable party supplies for free. Since September 2022, it has been borrowed multiple times this year helping the community avoid purchasing more than 880 single-use items.

In 2024, Enviro House proudly delivered the **City of Bayswater's Native Plants to Residents program for the ninth consecutive year**, continuing to encourage local residents to grow native plants, improve biodiversity, and promote water-efficient gardening. Since its inception, the program has distributed **68,000 waterwise native plants**.

This year, **10,000 plants** were distributed to approximately **900 households**: **8,000 plants** were provided during plant weekend in June at Enviro House and **2,000 early-release plants** were distributed at the *Plants to Residents Launch Event* at Crimea Park in May.

The launch event was a tremendous success, with all 2,000 plants collected in under two hours, drawing residents who had never participated before. Many attendees expressed their intent to attend the main collection weekend, further expanding the program's reach. The June collection weekend also ran extremely well, with City of Bayswater staff attending this year, which was a great opportunity to engaging with residents, strengthening community connections and add to the event's positive atmosphere. In response to the program's growing popularity, the City has budgeted for even more plants in 2025 to engage more households.

2024 also marked our **fourth year** delivering the *Town of Bassendean Plants to Residents* program. Nearly **8,000 plants** were distributed to **445 households**. Two promotional stalls were held to offer early-release plants and sell tickets to the main collection event, which took place at the Town Depot, with support from Town of Bassendean staff and dedicated volunteers.

To further assist residents in designing waterwise gardens, Enviro House collaborated with City of Bayswater and Town of Bassendean staff to host a **joint "Planning Your Waterwise Verge" session**, attended by **53 residents**. We followed this with separate **"Designing Your Waterwise Verge" workshops** for each council, engaging representatives from **56 households**. Additionally, we partnered with the Eden Hill Community Action Network to deliver a *Waterwise Garden and Micro Wetland Tour of Eden Hill*, facilitated by Jeremy Maher. This event was attended by residents from both Town of Bassendean and City of Bayswater.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with our plants to residents program this year in the lead up, at the launch events and collection days. Thank you to Trillion Trees for supplying the plants. We look forward to delivering both programs again in 2025. 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.



Our Volunteers at the Plants to Residents Launch

ENVIROHOUSE ECOSHOP

by Pamela Bell, Shop Team

Over the past 12 months, the EcoShop has evolved significantly following the finalisation of a paid shop manager role at the end of the 2022/2023 financial year. An extensive collaborative review of the EcoShop's financial and management sustainability was conducted, incorporating valuable input from Warren Haley and Pamela Bell. This led to a comprehensive evaluation report by Joanne Eggleston, outlining the future functioning of the EcoShop without a dedicated shop manager. This report was presented to the Environment House Management Committee in August 23.

Accompanying the report was a review of current stock, with recommendations to streamline product variety and levels while still meeting customer needs. Maintaining solid sales figures was crucial for the shop's viability. Ongoing periodic product reviews have aligned with these strategies. Additionally, the supplier list was reduced to create a more manageable ordering process for the volunteer Shop Team.

In response to discussions about the shop's direction—given that many previously difficult to find eco-friendly products are now available in mainstream stores—the EcoShop has pivoted its focus to:

- Bulk supplies (household and personal care) with consistent repeat sales
- Composting supplies, well-supported by Council subsidies and workshops
- Seasonal garden supplies
- Consumables (e.g., toilet paper) with a shift toward Australian-made products and bulk discounts for volunteers

The Shop held two successful sales in the past year, both in-store and online. The End of Financial Year sale aimed to reduce slow-moving stock, while the Sustainable September sale reaffirmed Environment House's core values. Although online sales through the Web Shop are modest, they remain consistent and attract both local and interstate customers. Pamela Bell continues to manage the EcoShop's online presence, and a WhatsApp group has been established to enhance communication among shop volunteers regarding updates and changes.

After evaluating customer traffic on Saturday afternoons, shop hours were adjusted to mornings only (10 am – 1 pm), except on the first Saturday of the month for Sustainable Bayswater's Share & Repair, when hours remain 10 am – 4 pm. Volunteers affected by the Saturday afternoon closure have been reassigned to other shifts or areas of Environment House. Coverage for the EcoShop on Thursdays had been challenging, but thanks to an active recruitment effort led by Ros Hayes and Project Coordinator Nadine Wright Toussaint, a motivated group of regular volunteers now ensures full coverage and greater flexibility for shift swaps.

Looking ahead, some ideas for the EcoShop include:

- Offering gift cards through Lightspeed instead of paper-based vouchers
- Providing garden seeds from a local supplier
- Expanding the range of locally produced products

These considerations will help guide the EcoShop as it moves forward.

A heartfelt thank you to all EnviroHouse volunteers for their dedication to the EcoShop. Special thanks to the weekly Thursday team, Libby and Anna for closely monitoring the bulk product ordering, Julie Beus for maintaining shelf price tags, Joanne for her creative shop displays, and Peelang and Warren for their financial and administrative support.

Pamela Bell on behalf of the Shop Team

The Management Committee would like to acknowledge and thanks the Shop Team, in particular Pamela Bell and Warren Haley with support from Enviro House Project Coordinator Nadine Wright Toussaint for maintaining the administrative and strategic functions of the EcoShop over the 23/24 financial year.



OUR GARDEN

by Lara O'Neill, Garden Coordinator

SOCIAL GARDENING FRIDAYS

Social Gardening Fridays has gone from strength to strength with the support of the marvellous volunteers generously giving their time and skills to attend to the productive and native gardens. There is always much to do including giving our happy hens a good 'room service', planting and maintaining crops, natural pest control, pruning, transplanting, adding soil amendments and mulching, undertaking repairs and installations, compost system care, weeding, adding to and maintaining our native gardens and much more. The garden would not thrive without the help of the Eco Shop volunteers who ensure the plants and chooks are cared for throughout the week. Our informal and inclusive Social Gardening, welcome people of all abilities and ages to participate in gardening for as little and often as they would like. There is a friendly atmosphere that fosters community connection and enhanced wellbeing.

In 2023-24 49 Social Gardening Friday sessions were held with an average of 6 to 12 individuals in attendance each week and new people continuing get involved. Social Gardening is part of our Bendigo Bank Growing Well Program, proudly sponsored by Community Bank Bayswater.

IMPROVED WATER EFFICIENCY

A new reticulation system was installed in October 2023 by Bayswater Landscaping with improved water efficiency features including MP Rotators with more efficient inward, directive spray avoiding path overspill. Continued ongoing efforts are pursued to enable flourishing productive and native gardens within sustainable water usage.

COMMUNITY GARDENS SKILL BUILDING PROGRAM

Enviro House was successful in obtaining grant funding of \$5,675 from the Department of Communities Community Gardens Grant project to implement an education program with a broad reach. The Community Gardens Skill Building Program commenced in April 2024 with the aim to deliver a series of free workshops and training sessions throughout the year to Enviro House garden and other volunteers, local community garden members and the broader community to improve community garden member skills and aid the ongoing success of approximately eight community gardens. The program intent has also been to provide an

opportunity for the broader community to learn about local community gardens while developing edible garden skills. Participants would also gain the many wellbeing benefits associated with community connections in the natural environment.

Educational events of the Skill Building Program between April and June 2024 included:

- Children's school holiday activities: Permaculture for Kids and Rainbow Food Gardens.
- Volunteer Training Sessions: Soil Preparation & Seasonal Planting; Growing from Seed & Companion Planting; and Fruit Tree Care & Pruning.
- Community Workshops: Caring for Chickens and Permaculture Basics.

Approximately 130 people attended these sessions and the enthusiasm for these events (which includes collaborations with Sustainable Bayswater and other organisations) continues with some being booked out months in advance.

LITTLE CRITTERS

Our popular Little Critters Garden Play Program for 2 – 5 year olds, proudly sponsored by Community Bank Bayswater continued in 2023-24. Eleven four-week Little Critters Garden Play four week groups were attended by 101 pre-schoolers and 92 parents/caregivers.

Little Critters Garden Play 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 large permaculture and native gardens at Enviro House enable participants to gain the health and well-being benefits of time spent outdoors and close to nature while learning about growing healthy food, composting, animal care and much more. The program also provides the opportunity for participants to make friends and connect with their local community and Enviro House.

Parents and other caregivers have been continuing to tell us how excited their child is to be coming to 'Little Critters'. A two year-old 'brought' both parents back to the Enviro House garden after completing the program this year and showed them what he had been doing there accompanied by a grandparent. His enthusiasm and memory of activities, demonstrates how beneficial this program is for such young participants.

Little Critters Educators in 2023-24 have included Lara O'Neill, Kylie Mac Mahon and Julie Fort supported by generous volunteers.





24 HOUR RECYCLING WASTE STATION

by Roslyn Hayes, on behalf of the Recycling Team

This year has seen a continuing rise in the number of community members accessing our 24-hour recycling station, with a corresponding increase in the volume of materials filling our bins, being sorted and transported to recycling centres. We are very pleased to see the number of families coming to do their recycling with young children learning about recycling and depositing lids and plastics in the right containers.

This increase is, in part, due to the closure of the recycling drop off at the Wasteless Pantry in Bassendean and in part to the increased awareness of our Waste Station and the community's awareness of the value of recycling. This year we have increased the loads of lids and #5 plastics being taken to CLAW from approximately 25 in 2023 to 40 in 2024. Drops-offs of steel and aluminium lids to Dream Lucky metal recyclers has likewise increased. The number of boxes of oral care products posted to Terracycle is also on the rise – with a box going almost every week.

A box of pens and markers is taken to Office Works by one of our volunteers almost every week. Office Works send these to Terracycle for processing. Plastic beer clips are deposited at Enviro House and then collected and processed for re-use by Donut Waste. Used sporting equipment is taken to Fairgame for distribution to under-served communities. Have a look at their inspiring story at <https://www.fairgame.org.au>. Bread tags are collected and sorted (with cardboard ones removed for composting) and then taken to the Bread Tags for Wheelchair program.

We are pleased to have been able to add some new materials to the range that we collect to include Brita Water Filters. This is program sponsored by Brita and managed by Terracycle and allows for the recycling of all of the components of the filters, which includes some valuable metal components.

Regrettably we have ceased collection of plant tags as these are no longer made from pure polypropylene (#5) and therefore cannot be recycled by CLAW. Electric toothbrush components are no longer able to go to Terracycle but are now taken to the Balcatta Recycling Centre for processing along with other electrical equipment.

The Tuesday morning Recycling Team of Sandy Newby, Jo Bower, Ros Hayes, Alex De Laurentis, Julie Fort and Danielle Murray undertake the bulk of the sorting and transport of recycling material. Volunteers on other days assist with the sorting as they can.

Used clothing is a major issue with 200,000 tonnes going to landfill in Australia each year. Enviro House now runs Clothes Swaps three times per year to encourage our local community to decrease their purchase of new clothing and disposal to landfill. This year over 250 items of clothing have found new homes through our clothes swaps. We acknowledge the support of the EMRC through the provision of equipment for these events.

This year we conducted our first workshop with a tour of our recycling centre at EH and information on the pathways of recycled materials. Feedback on the workshop was positive and we hope to encourage more people to attend next year.

This year also saw a successful Plastic Creations workshop for children conducted by Lara and Julie. How wonderful it is to see plastic waste upcycled to make beautiful artistic items.

Roslyn Hayes on behalf of the Tuesday Recycling Team

ENVIROHOUSE CAMPAIGN IN WA TO CONTAIN DOMESTIC CATS

by Rachael Roberts, Coordinator

'Introducing 24/7 cat containment rules is a simple step that would have profound benefits for our native wildlife and be supported by the majority of Australians' Jack Gough, Invasive Species Council Advocacy Director.

Within our community, we have an extraordinary local volunteer, David Dyke, who led the rewilding and revegetation of Bardon Park (Malgamongup) in Maylands along the Swan River (Derbal Yerrigan/Maali Beeliar). Through this work David noticed increasing sounds as life returned, particularly frogs. David began to go out at night into wetlands to record frog sounds for the [Australian Museum Frog ID](#) project and has recorded more frog sounds than anyone else in Australia!

As one of the few people visiting our local wetlands at night, David was also one of the few witnesses to the killing of native animals by pet cats and stray cats, in the few remaining places for our native wildlife to breed and shelter. Every night when he is out, he witnesses cats stalking and catching many species, including insects, boobook owls, swamp hens, frogs. This galvanised David into action. He approached the City of Bayswater to investigate the passing of local laws to confine cats at home. Local laws were passed with the support of our community, after legal advice was provided and lengthy consultation. In fact, [two out of three Australians support cat containment](#). Unfortunately, and devastatingly, the WA State Government would not allow these local laws to stand. After the hard work of our community, our cat containment local laws were repealed. A recent survey confirmed that the majority of WA Local Councils support local laws containing cats to their homes. We are currently in a legal dispute over the interpretation of the WA Cat Act, between WA Local Councils and the WA State Government. This Act was reviewed in 2019, but no action was taken,



leaving WA as only one of two States where responsible cat ownership does not include cat containment.

EnviroHouse, advocating on behalf of Friends of Wetland and Bushland groups in our area, has partnered with David to campaign for cat containment over the last three years. We know that for every year of delay, millions of native species are killed by roaming pet cats and human health is also impacted. The Feral Cat Working Group, the WA Cat Haven, Veterinarians and Wildlife Rehabilitation Groups are all vocal supporters of cat containment, as part of responsible pet ownership.

ELECTRIFY BAYSWATER

by Kevin Mack

Electrify Bayswater is one of two groups in Western Australia to win the opportunity to partner with [Rewiring Australia](#), founded by Dr Saul Griffith an engineer with considerable expertise in the field of energy and energy distribution. Electrify Bayswater officially launched on March 11 and is a community project across all of the City of Bayswater aimed at increasing awareness and action around the benefits of home electrification, powered by renewable energy.

GOAL

Across the City of Bayswater we aim to:

- Increase community awareness and understanding of the benefits of going all-electric at home.
- Increase the uptake of household electric appliances (hot water systems, room heaters, stoves), electric cars, solar panels and batteries.
- Encourage the City of Bayswater to undertake a community bulk buy of solar panels and batteries, offering these to residents at a reduced price.

ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR

- Advocating for the electrification of the City of Bayswater through the Sustainable Bayswater newsletter, the EnviroHouse newsletter and social media posts.
- Training given to EnviroHouse volunteers, enabling them to explain the benefits of electrification.
- Holding stalls at local events to promote the electrification message. e.g. Ngala Mala concert, Maylands water playground, Avon Descent.
- Research into the plumbing industry to encourage their advocacy for heat-pump hot water systems.
- Research into the financial options available for those wanting to electrify but lacking the financial means to do so.
- Community launch event. The announcement of our electrification project and message to the broader community.
- Local ABC radio interview promoting electrification.
- The promotion of Dr Saul Griffith's presentation in Perth.
- The opening of a fully electrified home to the community, enabling residents to see an electrified home function and speak with the owner to understand the benefits.
- Social electrification gathering, enabling residents to engage with likeminded people and learn more about electrification.
- Meetings with our state and federal politicians advocating for assistance with community electrification. Encouraging the adoption of the Electrify Everything Loans Scheme when meeting our federal member of parliament.

- Repeated meetings with the City of Bayswater’s Director of Works and Infrastructure, advocating for the city’s implementation of a community bulk buy of solar panels and batteries for residents.
- Meeting with several emerging community groups across Perth who wish to advance the electrification of their suburb.
- Talking to seniors, explaining the benefits of household electrification.

FUTURE

- If the City of Bayswater implements a community bulk buy of solar panels and batteries, there will be much work for us to do in assisting in the initiative.
- A low cost loan scheme (Electrify Everything Loans Scheme) is essential if Australia is to fully electrify. We will continue to advocate for the adoption of the scheme as a policy to be taken to the next federal election.
- We will continue to work with WA Climate Leaders to facilitate Joëlle Gergis’ speaking engagement in Perth.
- Work to establish an overarching state-based electrification body to engage directly with Government at both state and federal levels.





Mending clothing at Share & Repair

SHARE AND REPAIR

by Pernilla Ellies

- Share and Repair Sessions are an established part of Sustainable Bayswater and EnviroHouse community sessions and continue to be held on the first Saturday of every month. This financial year, 11 Share and Repair sessions were held, seeing 136 items repaired which diverted 284kg from landfill. The group is getting closer to the initial goal of 1000 kg of items diverted from landfill, with a total of 941 kg saved since the start of Share and Repair in 2019.
- A committed group of up to 10 repairers and organisers join other community members every first Saturday of the month to share edibles and native plants, conversation over coffee/tea/cake and our repairers generously volunteer their skills for repairs and mending and also provide advice.

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND MARKETING

Our online presence has continued to expand with our website providing information on our activities. We now have over 7,400 people following our Facebook page and our Instagram has grown to 1069 followers this year. Subscription to the email newsletter over 1,600 subscribers with between 30-40% of people opening the newsletter and accessing information. 11 newsletter editions were created and distributed in 23/24.

Website: www.envirohouse.org.au **Facebook:** Environment House / Perth EcoShop & Sustainability Services

Instagram: envirohouse **X:** HouseEnviro

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. City of Bayswater staff and Greening Australia have also used our deck and facilities to conduct meetings, events, and activities this year.

COFFEE GROUNDS

The Coffee Ground to Ground Project is now in its 9th 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.

CHISHOLM COLLEGE SERVICE LEARNING STUDENTS

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.

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 2023-24 45 regular Volunteers contributed their time, energy, and passion to our EcoShop, Sustainable Bayswater and projects.

There have been 5 part-time and casual staff over 2023-24. Nadine Wright Toussaint as Project Coordinator, Lara O'Neill as Garden Coordinator and Education Project Officer, Robyn Brown as Workshop Co-ordinator (July to Dec 23), Su Chew as our Bookkeeper, and Julie Fort and Kylie Mac Mahon as Casual Educators working on Little Critters and Education Centre projects, and Chris Mathews as our wonderful cleaner.

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 2023/24 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, Glenn Cook our wetland and wildflower expert, Alex Ellis advocating for trees and taking on the job of EH archivist and Rachael Roberts as our Coordinator overseeing funding, collaborative relationships and identifying the opportunities that arise in our community to develop local responses to improve environmental sustainability.



Staff from Chisholm College helping with weeding at Eric Singleton

FRIENDS OF ERIC SINGLETON WETLANDS ANNUAL REPORT 2024

by Glenn Cook

Friends activities in 2024 mostly involved weeding, and some rubbish pickup, in the bushland area west of the Eric Singleton Wetland. The main weed issue was *Fumaria capreolata* (Whiteflower Fumitory) in the Marri bushland, and to a lesser extent *Vicia sativa* (Common Vetch), and a number of annual weeds including *Sonchus oleraceus* (Common Sowthistle), *Ehrharta longiflora* (Annual Veldt Grass). Many of the weeds encountered have been logged in iNaturalist, and thus can be found in the Atlas of Living Australia. Nineteen different friends contributed 94 hours of weeding over 19 weeding events during the year (November 2023 - October 2024).

This year appeared to be an exceptional year for weeds with significant areas of *Fumaria capreolata* in the Marri woodland area, and weeds invading the bushland from the neighbouring grassed areas. However, it is encouraging to see many examples of natural regeneration occurring with many seedlings of native plants germinating during winter, including Marris.

Coral trees (*Erythrina*) on the southern boundary of the western area were removed by Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development contractors in early 2024 due to Polyphagous shot-hole borer infestation. Access to the site by large machinery significantly impacted a previous planting of native plants in the area, so on 14 July 2024 a planting event organised by the City of Bayswater saw 28 volunteers plant 1200 indigenous plants in the area around where the Coral trees were removed. The planting event was combined with a NAIDOC week event with Belinda Cox from Djirilly Dreaming.

FRIENDS OF MAYLANDS SAMPHIRES (FoMS)

by Jo Bower

Environment House has had a special focus on the Maylands Samphires at Clarkson Reserve since 2012.

One of our aims is to join up isolated areas of naturally occurring saltmarsh vegetation and then to tackle new areas. We're grateful for grants from SALP and DBCA to extend the areas of focus and to grow the saltmarsh outwards, with a view to river levels rising with climate change. Apace assist with weed control and revegetation with samphires propagated at the Apace Nursery, using seeds and cuttings collected on our site.

Presentation to the Wetlands Conference in Feb 2024

With Rebecca Cooper from CoB and Sam Sweeting from Apace, we gave a presentation to the Wetlands Conference on the saltmarsh conservation work, to show successful collaboration between Council, the Friends group and Apace as the main contractors.

Kim Nguyen from Biologic Environmental Survey also presented the results of the invertebrate study on site to the Conference.

We are working closely with CoB Enviro staff and Conservation Team, and Apace to conserve this threatened ecological community.

We took part in two community planting sessions, with one including a Smoking and Water Ceremony for Naidoc Week. We held regular weeding sessions in our focus sites, with special thanks to Kate, Julie and Carolyn for their commitment.



City Bush Crew Team and FoMS Volunteers after a productive works morning

BAIGUP WETLANDS INTEREST GROUP

by Rosemary Lynch - Coordinator BWIG

Baigup Wetlands Interest Group has had a busy year with seven community work sessions completed.

On National Tree Day, Baigup became the backdrop for a media announcement about winning a WALGA Urban Greening Grant. Filomena Piffaretti - Mayor City of Bayswater was joined by Minister for Environment Hon. Reece Whitby MLA and WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP to plant a *Eucalyptus rudis*, flooded gum (or 'moitch' is one of its Noongar names).

One of our best attended events was the Baigup Seed walk held in conjunction with a SEED exhibition at Ellis House Community Arts Centre. We received great feedback from attendees who enjoyed learning about seeds from our guide Glenn Cook.

One highlight was a small native meadow revegetation trial. We hoped to learn which species might be suitable for use in natural meadows and understory planting in Baigup. The trial was a Citizen Science partnership between City of Bayswater, Baigup Wetland Interest Group, and Natural Area Consulting Management Services which donated the seeds. The patch didn't turn out as hoped but some pretty Swan River Daisies did turn up and we hope to try a different location in 2025.

Most recently in partnership with the City of Bayswater and EnviroHouse we had a delightful nature journaling session in October. Our guide, Yann Toussaint, prompted us to connect with and explore our surroundings. In addition to spending time in nature we learned some writing and journaling skills to help us deepen our appreciation of our local environment.

Lastly BWIG will be holding a Baigup Biennial Art Exhibition at Ellis House Community Art Centre in 2025.



OUR FINANCES

Environment House Inc was audited by Australian Audit and received a management letter outlining completion of the audit of the 2023-24 financial statements for the Environment House Inc. with an unqualified Audit Opinion for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

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, Tess Tholstrup, Glenn Cook and Al Ellis.

Presented at our Annual General Meeting on 28th October 2024

INCOME SOURCES

In 2023/24 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 2023-24 are outlined in Diagram 1 (following page)

ENVIRONMENT HOUSE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS 2023/2024

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

