

South Coast Environment Centre Annual General Meeting Chair's Report, Sunday 6 May 2018

2017/2018 has been an exciting year for the South Coast Environment Centre. Another year of change, development and consolidation.

The biggest change has been the appointment of a new coordinator. In June last year Sally Roberts resigned as coordinator to pursue other projects, particularly focused on river management. Sally is to be thanked and commended on her accomplishments during her time as coordinator, particularly in setting up our office in Coral Street. Following Sally's resignation Gayl Males was appointed to the position of coordinator of SCEC. Gayl's curriculum vitae is extremely impressive with strong academic qualifications and she has worked in senior administrative positions including management, run her own businesses and worked extensively in senior positions managing birds, native animals and reptiles at the Adelaide Zoo and at the Territory Wildlife Park NT. Gayl has impressed the Management Committee with her dedication, thoroughness, enthusiasm, organisation, initiatives and her lovely personality. She is a true asset to the SCEC.

Due to the resignations of Lyn Pointer and Julie Carmichael from the Management Committee Lorraine Cocks and Aza Newland were appointed to the Management Committee. It was decided to also appoint two more people to the committee, Marilyn Henderson and Grant Westbrook, to take us to eight, the maximum number according to our constitution. Having eight people ensures the effective running of the committee at times of absences.

At the beginning of the current financial year the Management Committee appointed SMP to do the SCEC financials and oversee the handling of the coordinator's pay, tax, leave and superannuation. Previously, two different organisations handled these areas but having one local organisation has proven to be very cost effective and reassuring.

Another change, a very exciting one, is our web-site. The Management Committee had had reservations about our previous web-site for some time and it was agreed that a change was needed. Thanks to Gayl's "chasing up," John Kobe from Webengineering Workshop was engaged to develop a new web-site. The new web-site is informative, user friendly, dynamic with useful links, it looks fantastic and will be launched soon. This change has also been very cost effective.

In mid-February four representatives from the Management Committee attended the first of three training workshops, facilitated by Volunteering SA/NT, to address the recommendations that arose from the governance "health" check that was carried out late in 2016. The workshops cover governance, strategic planning and risk management. The workshops, provided by the AMLR NRM Board, will give us the "tools" to ensure that we are operating effectively, planning for the future and minimising risk.

The move to our own premises in Coral Street has been very successful and worthwhile. We have renewed the lease for another year and we appreciate there have been no increase in charges. Moving the Veggie Swap Market to Carrickalinga House has been well accepted by members. The formation of a Veggie Swap Market committee to run and set up the market, suggest workshops and activities in conjunction with the market, has taken the pressure off the coordinator. The market is in good hands and the Market Committee deserve a big thank you for their work.

Plans for the future include continuing to increase our membership and volunteer bases, to develop a sustainability shop within the office, to apply the recommendations from the governance "health" check, to monitor the development of a Repair Café, to launch and maintain the new web-site, to continue to develop partnerships with other organisations such as ShineHub and Goolwa Cittaslow, and to provide interesting events, workshops and films. Lastly there is a plan to organise a get together with other environment groups in our region to share what we do and how we can support each other. This event has now been booked for Friday 18 May.

I would like to thank Sue Jones, Cherrie Morrison, Aza Newland, Marilyn Henderson, Grant Westbrook and Lorraine Cocks for their time, effort and valuable input as members of the Management Committee.

I would also like to recognise our growing band of volunteers whose time and effort is invaluable and our members who support the programs and events of the Centre. Special thanks are given to our regular volunteers Julie Graham, Lesley and Grant Westbrook.

Lorraine Cocks, Gail van Ryswyk, Jayne Gowers and Cathi Arthurson, the Veggie Swap Committee, also deserve a big thank you for their time and effort.

Finally, I would like to thank Gayl who certainly deserves many accolades for the time, energy, passion and initiative she puts into running the Centre. Her inspiration and dedication are greatly appreciated by the Management Committee. The South Coast Environment Centre is a welcoming, interesting environment for the community to visit and enjoy thanks to Gayl.

Motion: that the Chair's Report be accepted as true report of the business of the SCEC over the last year.

Moved: Sue Jones Seconded: Cherrie Morrison Carried