

# Permaculture Victoria

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Australia

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Registration Number: A0022539W



## Permaculture Victoria Annual Report 2017-2018

### Acting President's Report 2018

Greetings to all members of Permaculture Victoria. Another year of permaculture activity has unfolded across the state and 2017-2018 has been a busy year for the general permaculture movement, our local groups, and the Committee of Permaculture Victoria (Trunk). Thanks to the dedication of all our Trunk committee members, we have reengaged our communication and management.

Things have been moving along in Permaculture Victoria. Mal and Meg have been busy visiting our local groups, touching base, engaging in conversation and providing an insight to PcV's activities. We have been to most groups and will be doing the rounds again, and finding opportunities to engage with our more distant groups as we go.

We now have our member communications up and running and at this time have delivered 3 Buzz newsletters via our website and newsletter team. We deliver our newsletter via MailChimp and continue to strive to solve issues affecting readership. Our central management team has been busy planning and organising the AGM and Permaculture Picnic in conjunction with the Carrum Carrum group. We have also been busy visiting and conversing with some community gardens as a great way of developing social permaculture links.

Over the past 12 months we have experienced drop in membership although this has turned around more recently with the improved engagement with our permaculture community. See membership report below. One group the OEPS has folded back into ESPG this year.

The Buzz continues to form the basis of our member communication and continues to be high quality and reliable, with an engaging format. The website and Buzz team actively work together to provide timely notification of events for all our members.

It has been great to see all the group's activities including the very active and regular Urban Harvest events, and very exciting prospects of new groups forming and further localisation of activities. Our facebook group is very active and has now grown to over 4700 members.

This year we have received reports from a range of our local permaculture groups, see below, our groups are: The Bee Group, Permaculture Out West, Benalla Permaculture, Eastern Suburbs Permaculture Group, Greater South-East Permaculture Group, South-East Permaculture Group, Mornington Peninsula Permaculture Network, Mountain Districts Permaculture Group, Outer Eastern Permaculture Swap and Permaculture Carrum Carrum, Otways and Coast Permaculture Group, West Gippsland Permaculture Group.

It is great to see all the groups coming along so well with their wide range of activities so do make sure to keep in touch with all their activities at [www.permaculturevictoria.org.au](http://www.permaculturevictoria.org.au) and via the emailed Buzz.

We have been working to expand the people working on the newsletter to provide continuity, variety and resilience in its production. The trunk team is working well with its various activities.

It is worthwhile to restate our mission at this point to ensure we are acting in accordance with it.

- Promote the application of permaculture principles in the design of communities and the landscapes that support them
- Support our members in the pursuit of those goals
- Network with like-minded organisations

I wish to thank all our committee and support role members who have dedicated their time so willingly this year, Warwick Bone (Past President, Benalla Permaculture Rep), Simon Walters (Secretary), Claire Coutts (Acting Treasurer), John McKenzie (Permaculture Carrum Carrum Rep), Meg Platte (Greater Southeast Permaculture Group Rep), Heather Elliot (Membership Officer) and I also wish to welcome Chris McLeod into the Treasurer role.

I hope all members had a wonderful 2017-18 as we go from strength to strength & support each other to build our sustainable communities living in harmony with the environment.

Mal Boyd  
Acting President, Permaculture Victoria.

## Membership report 2017-18

The membership officer monitors the membership@ mailbox, receives/reconciles membership applications and payments, welcomes new members, sends up to three reminders to due/overdue members, and creates monthly reports to Trunk (new members), to the Treasurer (member fees), to the Buzz newsletter team (mailing list updates), and to PcV groups (updates to group member details).

New membership applicants receive the PcV *Food Growing Guide: Temperate Climate* and a provisional welcome email encouraging them to connect with their chosen or nearest Permaculture Victoria group and with our Facebook group. In the 2017-18 year, members received only one *The Buzz* newsletter and an AGM notice. I'm very thankful that the newsletter recently got back on track.

In the 2017-18 year we provided an online payment option <https://www.permaculturevictoria.org.au/product/permaculture-victoria-membership/> with ongoing work for much of the year to iron out issues as they arose, but thankfully it seems to be working well now. About 10% of members renew using the old PDF format, and a handful still opt for hard copy.

### Numbers

At the end of June 2018, Permaculture Victoria had **274** financial\* members, compared to 331 in 2017 and 467 in 2016. (*Numbers have been increasing slowly since June, i.e. we had 293 at mid-September 2018.*)

<b>2017-18</b>	<b>274</b>
2016-17	331
2015-16	467

\* 'financial' includes those who are up to 4 months in arrears.

### New memberships

Slightly more new memberships were processed this year than 2017.

Year	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	All year
<b>2017-8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>79</b>
2016-17	7	8	7	14	7	2	3	4	5	–	1	4	62
2015-16	17	8	7	15	30*	6	7	14	4	14	4	8	134

### *Members' group affiliation*

During the reporting period, the Bee Group was the largest of all PcV groups, though it also lost the most members; followed by West Gippsland and then Mountain Districts.

Strongest growth was in three relatively new groups: Mornington Peninsula, Carrum-Carrum and POW.

*(NERP, OEPS, PG and PIN have been wound up due to no office bearers; OEPS merged into ESPG.)*

Group	FY18	+/-	FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12	FY11	FY10	FY09
Bee Group	<b>85</b>	-	121	156	160	83	40	1	-	-	-
Benalla Permaculture	<b>18</b>	+	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Suburbs Permaculture Group	<b>31</b>	-	45	48	66	74	71	61	55	47	42
Greater South-East Permaculture Group	<b>14</b>	-	15	16	21	13	10	14	-	-	-
Mornington Peninsula Permaculture Network	<b>17</b>	+	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mountain Districts Permaculture Group	<b>33</b>	-	39	41	50	72	70	73	89	88	76
North-East Ranges Permaculture ( <i>wound up</i> )	<b>2</b>	-	7	29	39	65	73	68	61	61	47
Otways & Coast Permaculture Group	<b>10</b>	+	9	20	23	19	15	11	13	16	19
Outer East Permaculture Swap ( <i>wound up</i> )	<b>11</b>	+	10	10	9	7	-	-	-	-	-
Permaculture Carrum-Carrum	<b>14</b>	+	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Permaculture Geelong ( <i>wound up</i> )	<b>13</b>	-	18	44	20	8	-	-	-	-	-
Permaculture Inner North ( <i>wound up</i> )	<b>15</b>	-	18	36	64	63	51	31	24	7	-
Permaculture Out West	<b>21</b>	+	12	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Permaculture South-West Victoria	<b>2</b>	-	3	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
South-East Suburbs Permaculture Grp	<b>8</b>	-	10	25	38	31	30	33	32	26	21
West Gippsland Permaculture Group	<b>43</b>	+	40	38	43	30	33	46	41	27	13
<i>Dual group members</i>	<b>79</b>	-	<i>103</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	-	-
<i>Not linked to a PcV Group (most don't have a PcV group near them)</i>	<b>18</b>	+	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>79</i>

Heather Elliott,  
Membership officer, July 2018

## Committee

Warwick Bone	President (to May), Local group liaison (to April), Benalla Permaculture Rep
Mal Boyd	Vice President, Acting President (post May), Local group liaison (from April)
Claire Coutts	Acting Treasurer (to Sept)
Chris McLeod	Treasurer (post Sept)
Simon Walters	Secretary
Megan Platte	Greater South Eastern Permaculture Rep Local group liaison (from April)
Lorna Law	General committee (to May)
Sandra Messina	General committee (to May)
Heather Elliott	Membership officer (not formally on committee)
John McKenzie	General committee (post July), Permaculture Carrum Carrum Rep.

## Committee Attendance

Month	AGM	Feb	Mar	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Warwick Bone*	X	X	X	X	(a)	(a)	(e)	(a)
Mal Boyd	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Claire Coutts	X		(e)	(a)	(e)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Chris McLeod							(v)	X
Simon Walters	X	X	X	(a)	X	X	X	X
Megan Platte*	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Lorna Law	X	X	X	X				
Sandra Messina	X	X	X	X				
Heather Elliott	X							
John McKenzie*	(e)			(v)	X	X	X	X

X - Present

(e) – Present Electronically

(v) – Present as a visitor

(a) - Apology

\* Local group representative

## Treasurer's Report

# Permaculture Victoria Incorporated

P.O. Box 3020  
Auburn, Vic 3123

## Statement of Financial Position - PcV Only

As At 30th June 2018

<b>Assets</b>	Notes	This Year	Last Year
<b>Current Assets</b>		\$	\$
<b>Cash on Hand</b>			
Bank Accounts			
Membership Account	1	24,884.31	23,569.92
Equipment Replacement Account	2	1,664.23	1,649.34
Committed Funds Bank Account	3	<u>12,500.34</u>	<u>12,500.34</u>
<b>Total Cash On Hand</b>		39,048.88	37,719.60
Merchandise for Resale		0.00	0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>39,048.88</u>	<u>37,719.60</u>
<b>Property and Equipment</b>			
Library Books	4	841.75	841.75
Computer Equipment at Cost	5	1,494.25	1,494.25
less depreciation	6	(1,494.25)	(1,344.84)
<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>		<u>841.75</u>	<u>991.16</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>39,890.63</u>	<u>38,710.76</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade Creditors	7	2,946.61	2,921.11
Account Payable – Membership	8	2,092.52	1,531.27
<u>Grants &amp; Committed Funds</u>			
Clarkson Fund	9	5,947.74	5,947.74
Special Projects Fund	10	5,947.75	5,947.75
<b>Total Grants and Committed Funds</b>		<u>16,934.62</u>	<u>16,347.87</u>
Subscriptions paid in Advance	11	1,268.92	1,386.00
Other current liabilities		0.00	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>18,203.54</u>	<u>17,733.87</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>21,687.29</u>	<u>20,976.89</u>
Members Funds	12	20,976.89	19,520.53
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	13	710.20	1,456.36
<b>Total Members Funds</b>		<u>21,687.29</u>	<u>20,976.89</u>

# Permaculture Victoria Incorporated

*P.O. Box 3020  
Auburn, Vic 3123*

## Notes To The Accounts

As At 30th June 2017

1. Current cash holdings of all accounts. Refer narrative for details.
2. Equipment Replacement Fund is the accumulation of donations to PcV set aside as a form of self insurance against loss or damaged equipment.
3. Funds held for the Clarkson Fund and the Special Projects Fund
4. Library Book as detailed on the PcV website for borrowing
5. Computer purchased for the position of Secretary for PcV
6. Depreciation on current equipment purchases
7. Monies held on behalf of SESPg in lieu of a bank account to be opened  
Added this year SESPg \$25.50
8. Monies owed to Groups other an SESPg for Rebates, donations  
Added this year: Benalla \$86, Carrum Carrum \$105.50, MDPG \$218.75, West Gippsland \$151
9. Monies available to expend via the rules of the Clarkson Fund as set down
10. Monies available to expend via the rules of the Special Projects Fund as set down
11. Membership fees paid in advance. Changed from accrual to cash basis
12. Members funds accumulated from prior years activities
13. Current year surplus.

# Permaculture Victoria Inc

## Statement of Profit or Loss & Other Comprehensive Income - PcV Only

For period 01 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

	This Year \$	Last year \$
<b><i>Income - Membership, and Sales/Donations</i></b>		
Memberships - current year	5,412.02	6,867.08
Memberships - paid previous year	1,386.00	0.00
Donation – PCV	215.44	0.00
Donald & District account closure	0.00	592.35
Book Sales	0.00	0.00
	7,013.46	7,459.43
<b><i>Income - Events and Grants</i></b>		
Sustainable Living Festival	0.00	0.00
Local Group Grants	0.00	0.00
Insurance Recovery	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
<b><i>Income – Other</i></b>		
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00
<b><i>Total Income</i></b>	7,013.46	7,459.43
<b><i>Cost of Income</i></b>		
Sustainability Living Festival	330.00	500.00
Rebates/Membership paid Local Groups	1,625.40	753.75
Rebates/Membership withheld	561.25	0.00
Local Group Grant	0.00	0.00
	2,516.65	1,253.75
<b><i>Gross Profit</i></b>	4,496.81	6,205.68
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>		
Communications	72.00	72.00
Depreciation	149.41	448.28
Donations to others	1.67	1.71
Insurance	3,250.00	3,130.00
Legal & Accounting	0.00	210.00
Medical claim	0.00	0.00
Meeting Expenses	0.00	455.00
Newsletter Expense PIE	0.00	0.00
Postage, PO Box & Shipping	127.00	0.00
Printing & Stationery	0.00	154.00
Prior year costs	0.00	0.00
Training & Workshops	0.00	0.00
Website development	71.40	375.72
	3,671.48	4,846.71
<b><i>Operating Profit</i></b>	825.33	1,358.97
<b><i>Other Income</i></b>		
Interest Income	16.56	17.10
Adjustment	0.00	130.62
	16.56	147.72
<b><i>Other Expenses</i></b>		
Bank Fees	17.20	50.33
Balancing item	114.49	0.00
	131.69	50.33
<b><i>Net Surplus/ (Deficit)</i></b>	710.20	1,456.36



## Group Reports

### Ballarat Permaculture Guild

During the year the Committee of PcV recognized that Ballarat Permaculture Guild had gone its own way and are no longer a part of Permaculture Victoria. Our committee sincerely wish them well on their journey.

Simon Walters  
Secretary, PcV

### Bee Group

Bee group has continued to meet monthly in Kew. We have had talks from speakers within the group on bee biosecurity and diseases and beekeeping in foreign climes, as well as how to make soap with honey and beeswax incorporated and beeswax wraps. Guest speakers also spoke about overseas beekeeping and the experience of the Flow Hive as well as some hives way older-hives of the 19th century. There's always question time and time to tell about what's been happening with our hives.

We continue to get enquiries about our 2 day Introduction to Natural Beekeeping course and ran one course during the year.

Claire Coutts

### Benalla Permaculture

Benalla Permaculture has again been running meetups and workshops this last year, including grafting, pruning, bee keeping to mention a few. The pinnacle of the year was our stall at a local festival that was visited by well over 5000 people and kept us on our feet all day - proving yet again what can be achieved by a small group of people with limited resources and unlimited enthusiasm. Size doesn't matter, available resources don't matter, enthusiasm does.

Warwick Bone, for an on behalf of Benalla Permaculture.  
Cheers!

### Eastern Suburbs Permaculture Group

Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs Permaculture Group (ESPG) started in November 2006. Our primary focus is a shared desire to reduce our environmental footprint and benefit from sustainable practices. We have a big interest in sustainable urban living and food gardening. Our members range in experience from just starting to people who have been pursuing sustainability and food-growing for 30+ years. We're keen to swap ideas on what works, (and what doesn't), seedlings and harvests, let members know about specials, buy in bulk to save packaging and money, arrange guest speakers, participate in field trips and garden visits, and generally share our collective knowledge to help build a sense of local community and support.

This year has been a year of transition and evaluation for us as a group. In October, our (former) long term convener, Mal Boyd, resigned his position and our Events Co-ordinator, Margaret Hartman, also resigned. We had noticed a decrease in numbers attending our meetings. These changes, although painful, made us step back and evaluate what the group does and whether we wanted it to continue. We held "ESPG into the Future", a meeting to discuss whether we wanted the group to continue at all. Everyone agreed on the importance of the group continuing and we listed the benefits we enjoyed from being members of the group, with a view for developing some ideas for future activities. We were fortunate to retain long-term Treasurer, Claire, and to have Petra Kahle step forward as new Convener; these office bearers were duly elected. While we still have no Events Co-ordinator, we agreed that events could be organized by group members as needed, which has meant they are less regular than in the past. Mal and

Heather co-admin the Facebook page, Maree manages the Yahoo! group as she has for many years, and Mal remains the ESPG email contact. We thank all of these people; the group could not run without you. Huge thanks are owed to those members whose enthusiasm keeps the group going smoothly.

Communication in past years has been mainly online, via our yahoo group, however, we have branched off into a closed Facebook group as well. This causes “double handling”, however, as some members do not like Yahoo! due to the security breaches, others dislike Facebook due to privacy concerns, so we are continuing to run both groups side by side.

The change from a regular meeting schedule has meant fewer meetings overall. However, we have attended a Repair Café, met at a Blackburn garden to talk about transforming a suburban property, watched the film Polyfaces, toured Rayner’s Orchard, and attended a discovery tour at the Botanical Gardens in South Yarra. Our Christmas event had to be cancelled due to a threatening weather forecast. ESPG auspices several harvest swaps at Ashwood, Box Hill South and Forest Hill, and jointly ran a Spring food-growing display at the Whitehorse Spring Festival in October. Donations received there led to us donating \$68.00 of Diggers vegetable and flower seeds to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre food security programme. From 2018 we will be auspicing the Outer East Permaculture Swaps at Bayswater North, Heathmont, Mooroolbark and Warranwood. Many members are involved in other groups related to sustainability, such as food forests, community gardens and an agroforestry network.

Current financial membership in June 2018 was 31, a decrease from 45 in July 2017.

Leanne Mason, Heather Elliott, Claire Coutts and Petra Kahle

#### Greater South-East Permaculture Group (GSEPG)

Another great year chatting, sharing, inspiring each other-hanging out with like-minded folks.

Throughout the year we enjoyed tours of each other’s gardens, a group excursion & picnic to CERES, a grafting workshop run by a member - Tim ☺

We had the pleasure of a few guest speakers – Mal Boyd talked all things energy saving. Paul Winfield of West Gippsland Permie group shared his Permaculture journey and how his 2 permie properties are faring. Our resident horticultural guru Alison gave 2 great presentations - Bush food plants – edible & medicinal from her garden, and Bio Dynamics. Ali also removed a bee swarm from another members compost bin!

We watched 2 movies Peter Charles Downey’s latest movie - Esteem, ‘Our Seeds’ produced by Jude and Michel Fanton, with valuable discussion afterwards on both movies.

We purchased a groups copy of David Holmgren’s, ‘Retrosurbia’, a few in the group have borrowed it & we have discussed it briefly. We plan to discuss a chapter or part of a chapter each meeting.

Looking forward to another fun year of learning!

Regards  
Meg Platte  
Co-convenor  
GSEPG

#### Mornington Peninsula Permaculture Network annual report 2018:

The Mornington Peninsula Permaculture Network aims to facilitate sharing, networking and support among members across the Mornington Peninsula, which features a diverse range of micro-climates, urban and rural properties, and unique local flora and fauna. Our monthly meetings (third Wednesday) are informal social and educational evenings that often feature guest speakers and property visits. New members are welcome.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/159394281245193/> (members only page)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/655657554566247> (public page for 'friends.')

Areas covered: The Mornington Peninsula, from Portsea to Frankston and anywhere in between.

The admin team of The Mornington Peninsula Permaculture Network (MPPN) consists of Fleur Baker and Nikki Best (co-conveners) and Vanessa Ecroyd and Fi Stevens (co treasurer-secretaries).

There are currently 23 paid up members of the group (up from 6 a year ago). The 'friends of...' facebook group has close to 350 members, mostly local to the area.

The last 12 months has seen the MPPN develop into a thriving network, with a regular attendees and occasional guests to meetings, as well as lively conversation on the facebook pages.

During the spring-summer months we meet at a member's home to enjoy the longer evenings and better weather, then during winter we have mostly met at 'The Briars' in Mt Martha. We greatly appreciate the support from Michelle McCready (Acting Climate Change Community Engagement Officer) from the Mornington Peninsula Shire, in letting us use the venue.

Activities over the last 12 months have included:

November – meeting at Tim's home in Mt Eliza to see his well-established garden of fruit trees, vegie gardens and an excellent worm waste system.

January – meeting at Nikki's new house to brainstorm design ideas

February – meeting at Sally and Rob's home in Karingal.

March – meeting at Vanessa's home in Mornington

April – meeting at 'The Briars'

May – meeting at 'The Briars' attended by Meg Platte and Mal Boyd (PCVic)

June – Solstice bonfire at Fleur's place

July – meeting at 'The Briars' to view "Living the Change" documentary

August – meeting at The Briars. Guest speaker Jamie Simpson from Walkabout Education.

September – meeting at 'The Briars' for a seed swap and sow evening.

We anticipate that the next 12 months will bring further growth and opportunities to network within our local community.

### Mountain Districts Permaculture Group

Current Convenor -Silvia Allen, Treasurer- Belinda Sargent - 25 years

In the past 12 months MDPG has held its usual monthly meeting schedule with the summer ones except for January having an earlier 7pm start and involving a property visit followed by a social evening. Winter is later start 7.30 with speakers or social activities

Meanwhile Peter & Silvia have been representing Permaculture (MDPG) for the last 20+ years and PDC students (now over 600) filter thru as new members for PcV not necessarily for MDPG sub group, Peter & Silvia represented Vic at the APC14 in Canberra and co ran a tour thru the central and southern highlands of NSW with April from Permaculture Visions

Telopea Mtn Permaculture & Nursery is a hub for meeting of group members around the round table.

Many members are self employed in areas such as garden design & maintenance or schools kitchen garden programs.

12 of our member's will be involved in a new project similar the event we hold at SLF, this will be in November in Wandin with a new rare plants fair where the herb and chilli festival is held in March.

Permaculture is maturing locally to give real business and employment opportunities and they all help make Permaculture a normal presence in our community not just the oddity/Alternative it has often been seen as in the past.

With many of our members being busy with Permie related work, the group continues to serve mainly as a social network.

Silvia Allen MDPG Convenor

#### North-East Ranges Permaculture (NERP)

NERP was wound up by the committee of Permaculture Victoria as this group has not been active nor had a committee in some years

#### Otways & Coast Permaculture Group

The Otways & Coast group did not hold any activities this year.

Jodie Lawson  
Convenor

#### Outer Eastern Permaculture Swap

We continue to swap and share every week at our 4 venues - Bayswater North, Mooroolbark, Warranwood and Heathmont. Since August 2017, here are a few of the interesting events that took place in addition to swapping and sharing.

##### Bayswater North

- Medicinal herbs and edible weeds walk and talk by Emily Robertson (Naturopath)
- Queensland Fruit Fly Awareness by Bronwyn Koll, Regional Coordinator for Agribusiness Yarra Valley
- Backyard Chooks for Beginners by Fleur (Book-a-Chook) 6th anniversary
- Beeswax wraps demo by Claire

##### Mooroolbark

- Queensland Fruit Fly Awareness by Bronwyn Koll, Regional Coordinator for Agribusiness Yarra Valley
- 2nd anniversary
- 2nd 2nd birthday, the real one :) (Claire's excuse to have cake again)
- Beeswax wraps demo by Claire

##### Warranwood

- Bush Foods talk by Jamie Simpson from Walkabout Education – Sharing History & Creating Custodians
- Queensland Fruit Fly Awareness by Bronwyn Koll, Regional Coordinator for Agribusiness Yarra Valley
- 3rd anniversary
- Weed composting by Marina Bistrin

##### Heathmont

- Beeswax wraps demo

- Composting talk with Hannah Matthews-Prosser, Maroondah City Council Waste Education Officer
- Beekeeping 101 with Ben's Bees
- 1st anniversary
- Waste free living skills with Renee Shaker
- Pumpkin Day (weigh in, photo booth and soup for the homeless)
- Delicious kombucha by Tim
- Rose pruning by Janine from Classic Garden Maintenance
- Learn propagation from John
- Seed saving with Thelma

That wraps up another year of swapping and sharing for the Outer Eastern Permaculture Swap! Thanks to all our wonderful hosts at the different venues, Claire, Kirsty and Courtney, for making the events vibrant and fun, and thanks to all who support the events and turn up rain, hail or shine - we are thriving because of YOU!

For more information about what we do regularly, please visit our website at <http://www.permacultureswap.wordpress.com>

Karen Cheah

### *Permaculture Carrum Carrum*

A local group for the flat and sandy region originally known as the Carrum Carrum swamp. This is alongside Port Phillip Bay From Mordialloc to Frankston and inland to Keysborough and Cranbourne.

The group started informally in late 2016 organised by Matt Mitchell and John McKenzie then in February 2017 was approved by PcV to be a local group in the Permaculture Victoria network. The group's leadership committee is currently Michael Cleary, Sari Larikka and Matthew Mitchell.

Activities of PcCC in the 2017-18 financial year have included:

Regular meeting are held at members' homes or local public venues. These provide the opportunity see private gardens and discuss activities.

Working bees happen most weeks at the 'Seaford Food Forest' garden on Frankston Council land behind the Riviera Kindergarten in Seaford. This is gardening on a sand dune and has provided many challenging problem to the team. An abundant supply of woodchips have provided much needed organic matter and an interesting experiment is underway in building the sites capability. The team is led by Sari Larikka, Rod Fedley, Kerri Ann Bell, Jasmine Fullard and Matt Mitchell.

A major event we supported was the open day event in 8th April with Ego Lemos from Permatil, Timor Leste at Down's Estate in Seaford - "Food Security in Timor Leste". Robyn Erwin followed up on this with a visit to Timor in June and spent three weeks helping Permatil with an evaluation of their school gardens program.

We also have a film nights and have had other events periodically, such a workshop on Bee Keeping.

Regards,

Matt Mitchell  
Treasurer PcCC

### *Permaculture Geelong*

Permaculture Geelong disbanded this year and has been wound up by the committee of Permaculture Victoria

### Permaculture Inner North

PIN was wound up by the committee of Permaculture Victoria as this group has not had a functioning committee

### Permaculture Out West

During 2017-18, Permaculture Out West (POW) has run a number of events and activities, including a seaweed foraging workshop (featured below), seedling swaps and, in collaboration with the Yarraville Community Garden, an Introduction to Permaculture workshop (3 June 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/events/159126474932173/>).

#### FEATURE EVENT: SEAWEED FORAGING WORKSHOP

POW ran a seaweed foraging workshop on 19 November 2017 with the event oversubscribed (22/20 tickets) and booked out in only 3 days. With waitlist of 19 interested persons, a second foraging workshop was then scheduled for 2 December 2017. Regrettably, this was canceled due to severe weather warnings. The workshop aimed to increase awareness of the amount of seaweed which was sent to landfill despite the value it has in the garden and kitchen.

We spent the morning with local naturalist, Christine Rockley, learning how and what could be safely and sensitively foraged and then set about collecting various seaweeds from the shore and the water. Chris pointed out edible shoreline food, such as samphire (“sea asparagus”). The local anglers club allowed us to use their clubhouse, where we returned to learn how to make seaweed tea and discussed how to use it as a tonic as well as mulch and in compost in the garden. We then split into four groups to cook up some seaweed recipes, including seaweed pesto, soup, crackers and salad. Chris also shared her deep knowledge of seaweed species in the area. Throughout the workshop, permaculture principles were referred to and highlighted alongside the activities – from produce no waste (seaweed as valuable resource) through to valuing the edge (shoreline).

Event details can be viewed at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/seaweed-foraging-for-the-garden-kitchen-booked-out-tickets-39136424098> and <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-2nd-seaweed-foraging-for-the-garden-kitchen-cancelled-due-to-severe-weather-tickets-39465886529#>

Photos from the workshop are available at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/powland/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1535495719849284](https://www.facebook.com/pg/powland/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1535495719849284)

In August 2017, POW was invited by a local lawn bowls club to contribute to the design and creation of a community garden on an unused practice bowling green. After early discussions and a fact-finding visit to Veg Out community garden in St Kilda (which had a similar heritage as a lawn bowls club), the project was sadly abandoned due to council constraints.

POW attended an Eco Groups Equinox Gathering hosted by Transition Hobsons Bay on 23 September 2013 at the Newport Community Hub and sponsored by Hobsons Bay Council’s sustainability team. The gathering was opened by a Canadian first nation’s local resident who welcomed all to the event, honouring the earth’s cycles and recognising the land’s custodians. The event was attended by the council’s mayor, Sandra Wilson, along with local representatives from the Buy Nothing Project, Climate for Change, Minimal Waste Mum (blogger), the Victorian National Parks Association, Echidna Walkabout and Koala Clancy Foundation, the Loom Room at Williamstown Senior Citizens, Friends of Greenwich Bay – Newport, Transition Hobsons Bay and the Enviro Centre at Hobsons Bay Library 2

Later in 2017, POW members engaged with other local community members in bringing the Inner West Veggie Patch to life in Middle Footscray (<https://www.facebook.com/InnerWestVeggiePatch/>). The project was facilitated by 3000 Acres (<https://3000acres.org/>) who secured access to land from a developer for the period during which the land remained vacant. The project was enabled by recent amendments to the Land Tax legislation which incentivizes developers and landowners to open up access to vacant land in order to obtain an exemption from paying the recently introduced vacant land tax. (For more information of the exemption, go to <https://www.sro.vic.gov.au/ltxexemptions#7> .)

During 2017-18, POW partnered with the Yarraville Community Centre to review the policies and practices of urban agriculture in the municipality. The executive summary of report, *Mapping Urban Agriculture in Maribyrnong*, commented (footnotes omitted):

The City of Maribyrnong has been a leader in developing policies addressing issues around transitioning to a more resilient community where urban agriculture and food security are supported. Regrettably, much of the earlier work has become less visible (with many relevant policies no longer published nor promoted by council) and the enthusiasm in promoting urban agriculture has seemingly waned (with newer policies languishing, such as that around community gardening). Prominence has increasingly been given to council as being less than supportive of community-led initiatives, with furors arising over the keeping of chickens in our homes, the construction of garden boxes in our neighbourhoods, and the selling of homegrown plants on our streets.

A new approach is needed. One that restates the importance of supporting food security and food sovereignty, builds on and works with community initiative and enthusiasm, and once again takes a leadership role in supporting a transition to a more resilient and secure future.

The executive summary continued:

Our community is growing. As our population increases, so too must our ability to feed ourselves. Greater connection and opportunities to support urban agriculture across community and business sectors should be promoted. Much of what we can do together can be done for little or no cost to the municipal budget. We have an abundance of skills, knowledge and initiative within our community. Light-touch regulation and a collaborative approach is needed from council. The City of Maribyrnong has the opportunity to take a leadership role once again in promoting urban agriculture in our homes, streets and communities. Let's seize this opportunity together, beginning with the co-creation of an Urban Agriculture Strategy for Maribyrnong.

Among a number of recommendations was the prospect of producing a local growing guide for Maribyrnong residents – one that could capture the many locations, workshops, initiatives and sources of supplies, training and places for exchange that could support residents to learn and enhance their skills to feed themselves (and each other). [Postscript: it remains to be seen if the necessary time, energy and other resources can bring such a guide into being. As with many community initiatives, local champions are essential to such an endeavor.]

Michelle Fisher  
Convenor

#### *Permaculture South West Victoria*

The South West Victoria Permaculture Group came together well after the devastation of the St Patricks day fires tearing through large swaths of the region in March with working bees, donations and other support.

There has also been an influx of interest mainly in those completely new to permaculture design so this has been where the main focus has been.

Andrew Francis  
Convenor

#### *South-Eastern Suburbs Permaculture*

The group had no activity this year.

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