



# URBAN ECOLOGY AUSTRALIA Inc

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## *The Storywall Mural in the making*



# Annual Report 2008-2009

# Convener's Report

**The following report was prepared by Wayne Anthony for the Urban Ecology Australia  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 20 October 2009**

After the election of officers at the 2008 AGM the Board was determined as follows:

Convener – Wayne Anthony.

Treasurer – Anne Hamilton.

Webmaster – Michael Robertson.

Secretary – to be decided at next ordinary board meeting.

Board – Charmaine Harvey, Andrew Tidswell, Norm Rohde, Jane Manifold.

Charmaine reluctantly withdrew a short time later for personal reasons and was replaced by Sue Gilbey. The board has remained with this group of officers throughout the year, all contributing well in differing ways. Margaret Rohde has attended all meetings as an observer but with capacity to make many contributions due to her ongoing work as office coordinator. Charmaine has been assisting her with this work in recent months.

Since setting up the GoGet car sharing scheme in 2007, Norm Rohde has been doing much strategic thinking and planning on behalf of UEA, developing specific and more general Business Plans and also writing grant applications to a large range of possible funding sources, including Bendigo Bank, the Adelaide City Council, the Solar Shop, and various Government agencies. In these efforts he has been ably assisted by Joan Carlin, Sue Gilbey, Judy Stacey and of course Margaret Rohde.

Late in 2008 UEA applied to the GVEHO (Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations) for \$15,000 and received \$1,500. This is an untied grant so has been put to good use for office support.

Andrew Tidswell and Michael Robertson have been assiduous in attending the meetings of organisations with interests similar to UEA, such as the Conservation Council and have worked together on numerous submissions on UEA's behalf. Andrew has been attending Conservation Council meetings as UEA representative and providing information on our activities. He also prepared a very detailed submission in response to the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and a submission on the Draft Residential Code. Earlier this year he gave a presentation to year 12 students at the Australian Science & Mathematics School on "Good Green House Design" as part of their environmental studies curriculum.

Early this year the Board composed a letter of complaint about the Federal Government's very meagre CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target. This was an interesting cooperative exercise, taking considerable effort, being initiated by myself and going back and forth interactively between numerous board members until all were satisfied with the content. It was sent to all Federal and all SA state politicians. We received four responses.

After a meeting with Radio Adelaide personnel in March this year, we began thinking about a weekly, hour-long UEA radio program to be broadcast on Radio Adelaide. At present Kingsley Knott and Effie Best are undertaking the rigorous training program for people wishing to become presenters and the current plan is for the program to start in March 2010. Sue Gilbey did the training some time ago and conducts a weekly program for another of her interest groups. We need a core group of about five trained presenters in order to make the program sustainable.

In May this year we received news that UEA had been selected as a finalist in the UN World Environment Day awards. We were invited to send a delegation to Melbourne to attend a presentation dinner. We replied politely that we thought the money for fares, accommodation etc could be better spent on matters of environmental import. Despite this perhaps sardonic rebuff, we received a handsome certificate which now hangs in the office.

We received substantial funding from the Adelaide City Council to enable us to finish the magnificent Story Wall mural. Evette Sunset, the artist engaged to devise the mural and lead the groups of volunteers in realising it, proved to be an excellent choice, because of her artistry and also her teaching, group-working skills and interest in the environment. There will be an official opening in late November.

Christie Walk site tour numbers have increased substantially this year, due to solid publicity efforts by Margaret Rohde, with help from Joan Carlin and others. We also have a core group of very good tour guides with teaching credentials, including Helen Lawry, Kingsley Knott, Clive West and Simon Fisher.

There was some talk early in the year about whether UEA should have a considered set of answers to questions of environmental nature, that board members might reasonably expect to be asked, such as, "What is UEA's position on nuclear energy?" We have had some discussion but the general feeling of the board is that we should confine

ourselves to issues of sustainability in cities, as defined in the ten Ecopolis Development Principles and which is UEA's charter.

There are many directions in which UEA might go, and new projects it might undertake. I look forward to seeing it become a resource centre for the many people in the community who want to know how to make their daily living more sustainable and I look forward to seeing it become more of a pressure group on governments, the energy industries and so on.

I wish to extend sincere thanks to all Board members for their efforts throughout the year and in particular to Margaret Rohde, who has once again worked more unpaid than paid hours in the UEA office. Also thanks on behalf of the Board to Joan Carlin for producing the regular UEA newsletter at a very high standard.

Wayne Anthonyey  
Convener, UEA  
October 2009

## Submissions:

Sept 2008: Draft Residential Development Code. Sept 2007: Urban Ecology Australia submission to Planning SA  
Sept 2009: UEA submission to the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

## Tours Report 2008-2009

There have been visits from 39 schools with a total of 1,049 students and approximately 80 teachers and parents.

Public tours have not been widely promoted but in spite of that there have been tours every month except in December.

Evaluation of the tours has been excellent. A couple of comments from teachers:

- *Our excursion to Christie Walk was an invaluable learning experience to support our depth studies about energy.*
- *I just wanted to email to thank you and Helen and Kingsley for a fantastic excursion visit last week. The students were thrilled with the experience and got a lot out of the whirlwind visit. Your tours were perfectly pitched for the timing, age and size of the group and has gotten them started on sustainability and conservation topics back in the classroom really effectively. All staff were impressed with the professional way you dealt with the kids and managed our movements around the buildings.*

And from a few of the primary school students:

- *My favourite part was when we walked through the garden.*
- *I thought the little houses were so pretty and such a good idea. I really like the curry tree because it smells so nice. I hope most houses end up like yours.*
- *I learned a lot about saving energy and how we don't need so much things around the house.*

Schools & other educational institutions	1049
Teachers with students	80
Public site tours	110
Other visitors	30

## School Visitors in 08/09

ABERFOYLE PARK PS  
AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE & MATHS SCHOOL  
BLACKWOOD HIGH  
BOULEROO CENTRE HIGH  
BORDERTOWN HIGH  
CARDIJN COLLEGE  
CEDAR COLLEGE  
CHRISTIES BEACH HS  
CORNERSTONE COLLEGE  
ENDEAVOUR COLLEGE  
EYNESBURY CITY  
GEPPE CROSS GIRLS HS  
GLEESON COLLEGE

GLENUNGA INTERNATIONAL  
GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTRE SA  
GOLDEN GROVE HS  
LINDEN PARK PS  
LORETO COLLEGE  
LOXTON HIGH SCHOOL  
MAGILL PS  
MARYMOUNT COLLEGE  
NAZARETH CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
O.L.S.H. COLLEGE  
PARALOWIE SCHOOL  
PEDARE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE

ROSTREVOR COLLEGE  
SALISBURY HIGH SALISBURY  
SCOTCH COLLEGE  
ST DOMINICS PRIORY COLLEGE  
ST MICHAELS COLLEGE  
TAFE SA Adelaide South  
TAFE URRBRAE  
TEMPLE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNLEY HIGH  
WALFORD ANGLICAN SCHOOL Junior  
WALFORD ANGLICAN SCHOOL Senior  
WESTMINISTER SCHOOL  
WIRREANDA HIGH

# Treasurer's Report 1/7/2008 – 30/6/2009

Detailed Financial Statements, prepared by Auditors Lee Green & Co, are available on request.

The following is a summary of the last financial year in UEA.

## Donations

The total of \$6,592 came from UEA members and other supporters including \$120 monthly from four 'Sustaining Members'. Several members and other Christie Walk residents donated \$3,650 in response to the plea for help to complete the Story Wall Mural and \$1,100 was from two long- term loans which were converted to donations.

## Membership

There has been an increase in membership receipts including four new Life memberships (Judy Stacey, Hilary Cadman, Kingsley Knott, Peter Clements and since June 30 Stephen Hardy) . All memberships will in future become due at the end of June.

## Book Sales

Sales of *Moving Towards Urban Sustainability* are down as most teachers already have a copy they bought last year. A new resource has been purchased for us to sell called *Making Your Home Sustainable, A guide to Retrofitting* price: \$42.00.

## Site Tours

Income from tours was \$8,631, an increase of 37% on last year although associated site tour expenses went up as well. That expense only includes tour guide payments and does not take account of additional office administration time for liaising with teachers, guides and householders and associated invoicing, record keeping etc. An increase in tour fees is being considered for next year.

## Grants

A \$7,000 grant was received from Adelaide City Council for the production of the Story Wall Mural and has been fully expended.

## Long Term Liabilities

These are gradually being paid out although there has been a problem tracing some of the creditors as they have changed addresses and tracking them down takes time. Several of these loans have been converted to donations.

Anne Hamilton - Treasurer UEA

## Finances

Summary statement of financial position as at June 30 2009						
	2008-2009	2007-2008			June 09	June 08
<b>INCOME</b>					<b>ASSETS</b>	
Donations EFF	6592	6,609			Cash at Bank	11,076 11,930
Interest	306	310				
Membership	2120	720			Lease	62,393 63,049
Book Sales	1043	2,737			Equipment	1,448 2,895
Site visits	8631	6,991				
Grants	7000	-				
Other income	4	104				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>25696</b>	<b>17,471</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,917 77,874</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Legal & Accounting	385	599			Loans	2,140 3,740
Bank charges	206	183				
Stationery & equipment	710	562				
Office costs	4165	2,220				
Communications	1445	1,570			<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>72,777 74,134</b>
Depreciation	1447	1,447				
Site tour expenses	3866	2,530				
Insurance	2951	1,192				
Equipment rental etc	50	271				
Christie Walk contribution	1560	2,050				
Lease amortisation	656	656				
Subscriptions	83	177				
Mural Grant expenses	8921					
Conference & works	125					
<b>Total</b>	<b>27053</b>	<b>13,457</b>				
<b>Operating profit/loss</b>	<b>(1,357)</b>	<b>4,014</b>				