



Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc

Annual Report

July 2022 to June 2023

Our vision

A place where everyone can connect with nature to improve health and wellbeing and be inspired to care for our precious natural environment



Image: Grimshaw

Contents

Message from the Chair.....	3
Our organisation.....	4
Our Strategic Objectives	4
Our Values	4
Our legal obligations.....	5
Our Team.....	5
Our Volunteers	5
Our Committee of Management.....	5
Our Members	6
Our Partners	6
Strategic Partnerships	6
Other Partners.....	6
Major Funding Supporters	6
Connecting people with nature	7
Community Workshops, Walks and Talks	7
Open Day October 2022.....	8
Citizen Science	8
Key Biodiversity Guardianship	9
Our new Wetlands Centre	10
Financial report for the financial year 2022/2023	11
Treasurer’s Report	11
Grants to the Association	11
Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023	12
Contact us	24

Message from the Chair



Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc. (HBWC) has grown significantly during the 2022-2023 financial year due to the very strong commitment of its members and volunteers. It is very pleasing for me to review and capture all the wonderful things that our Organisation has achieved through the hard work and dedication of our entire team.

One of the highlights of the year was our very successful Wings to Wellness open day in October. Open days are not easy to organise and I am constantly impressed by the calibre of our volunteers who give their time and energy to make the day a success. They also contribute generously throughout the year in support of all the nature-based activities that HBWC provides.

We were able, at last, to hold three very interesting workshops that were delayed by COVID. The Citizen Science team expanded to form a very active group working on a range of activities. We have strengthened our partnerships with Hobsons Bay Libraries EnviroCentre and the Conservation Rangers, which has enabled us to increase our activities with the community.

We are thrilled that Hobsons Bay City Council has set aside funds to commence the construction of a purpose-built wetlands centre. The first stage will be modest by comparison with the full Grimshaw Studios concept design, but I'm confident that once we have something on the ground to showcase our work, the rest will follow in time. Our strategic partners have been positive about these early works and we look forward to working with them to develop joint activities in the future.

Gaining funds from the Ross Trust for a three-year education program has made a huge impact on what we are able to do. Along with funds from the West Gate Tunnel Project for our open day in the next financial year, this support will ensure that we can continue to provide wonderful opportunities to connect the wider community with nature.

The year has not been an easy one with a few changes to the committee and my own absence for the last quarter of 2022. I'm delighted to say that Kevin Wood, our Deputy Chair, stepped up as acting Chair during my absence and worked hard with Jenny Mitchell, our Secretary, and the other committee members to ensure that HBWC continues to thrive.

This annual report marks the end of four years since incorporation and I am so proud of what we have achieved together. These achievements have only been possible because of the commitment and dedication of our Committee of Management, our Team Leaders, our members and volunteers, and with the support and guidance of our partners and particularly Hobsons Bay City Council. Together we have continued to connect many people with nature for the benefit of their long-term health as well as that of our natural environment.

Marilyn Olliff
Chair

Our Organisation

Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc. (HBWC) is a not-for-profit incorporated association and charity on the Register of Environmental Organisations with deductible gift recipient status.

Our purpose is to protect and enhance the natural environment along the north-western shoreline of Port Phillip Bay. We do this by providing opportunities for everyone to enjoy and benefit from being in the natural environment and encouraging them to care for it for themselves and future generations.

Our Strategic Objectives

During 2021-2022 we developed an operating framework for our organisation in the form of an impact map to clearly define our key impacts in the community to improve the health and quality of life of Hobsons Bay residents and visitors and to protect Port Phillip Bay's coastal wetlands. In 2022-2023 we built on the impact map, and in April 2022, we completed the *Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc. Strategic Plan 2022-2025: Healthy Communities, Healthy Environment*.

Objective 1 – Finding inspiration, health and well-being in nature

People will experience nature's wonders and healing power through rich learning experiences that are restorative and fun and inspire them to care for their local wetlands.

Objective 2 – Conserving and enhancing our wetlands

Through our partnerships and networks we will focus on improving the health and stewardship of the wetlands for future generations

Objective 3 – Respecting and reflecting voices and knowledge of First Nations peoples.

First Nations people will be encouraged to guide the protection of the wetlands, recognising their deep cultural connection to Country.

Objective 4 – Creating a place to celebrate nature

Supporting the development of an innovative community facility which will provide a welcoming hub for people to learn about and enjoy the wonders of our wetlands and be inspired to advocate for their protection and improvement.

Objective 5 – Building an effective, engaging and inclusive organisation

Developing a robust, cooperative organisation in which people are encouraged to be their best and contribute to making the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre a respected centre of excellence.

Our Values

Our values define us and are the foundation for our policies, actions and behaviours that uphold the vision of the organisation. We encourage all our volunteers and contractors to embrace and reflect these values.

Inclusivity

- Respect for people from all cultures, identities and abilities
- Respect for indigenous culture and heritage
- Caring for people, community and the natural environment
- Connecting to members, volunteers, participants and partners

Integrity

- Being honest and accountable
- Being fair and ethical
- Being transparent and open

Innovation

- Learning from the past, embracing new ideas and adapting to change
- Being courageous
- Demonstrating best practice in pursuit of excellence

Stewardship

- Nurturing of healthy, sustainable ecosystems, biodiversity and protection of species
- Promoting the wellbeing and hopes of the community through the natural environment
- Delivering careful, ethical and professional governance of the organisation
- Creating a legacy for future generations

Promoting joy and wonder

- Creating a sense of fun, awe, curiosity and inquiry
- Opening people's eyes to the natural world
- Inspiring people to explore and appreciate nature and the rich tapestry of ecosystems, particularly across Hobsons Bay

Our legal obligations

As an incorporated association, a registered charity and an organisation that relies on volunteers to operate, HBWC has legal obligations that must be met each year.

Compliance Attestation

HBWC has developed and adopted a Compliance Framework which identifies and establishes controls to ensure that all reasonable measures are being taken to comply with relevant legislation, association rules, applicable standards and codes, and conditions of funding agreements that apply to the operation of the organisation. All relevant provisions identified in the Framework's Compliance Register that were applicable to the organisation in the 2022-23 business year have been reviewed and compliance with their requirements has been assessed. The Governance Sub-committee has notified the Committee of Management that the most significant compliance requirements applicable to the organisation have been met for the 2022-23 year, and measures put in place to ensure that all requirements will be met in the future.



Marilyn Olliff
Chair

HBWC is on the Register of Environmental Organisations and with deductible gift recipient status. Donations are received through our website at <https://hobsonsbaywetlandscentre.org.au> and through the GiveNow donations platform at <https://www.givenow.com.au>. Our finances have been audited for the 2022- 2023 financial year; the audit is presented in Section 6 of this report.

Our Team

Our Volunteers

HBWC has grown significantly over the last year as a result of the nature-based activities we provide to connect people with nature. Our continued success is only possible because of the commitment and dedication of our volunteers. Approximately one-third of our members are active volunteers and enthusiastically take on a huge range of tasks from providing a few hours each year to assist at an open day to committing to a number of hours every week to provide behind-the-scenes administrative, governance and project duties. All our volunteers are willing to share their ideas, knowledge and expertise to ensure that HBWC works successfully towards its vision.

We are so grateful to them; they give up their time and contribute their energy to make HBWC an ongoing success and help everyone care for nature in our wonderful wetlands.

Our Committee of Management

HBWC is led by a volunteer Committee of Management consisting of four office bearers and up to five general members who contribute a diverse range of skills, including governance, business, education, environmental management and community engagement. The ongoing commitment of the current committee members ensures that HBWC will continue to develop and inspire the community into the future.

The Committee met ten times during 2022-2023 to consider the business of the organisation, and all decisions are recorded in the minutes of the meetings. The Committee also met at specific issue workshops at other times to progress priority matters, such as the development of strategic and business plans. Four members of the committee met periodically as a Governance sub-committee to review and prioritise the development of policies and related documents.

In 2022-2023 the Committee of Management was very successful in seeking funding for key roles to assist in some critical areas where volunteer resources were limited. From September to December the Chair, Marilyn Olliff, stepped down due to health reasons and Kevin Wood, Deputy Chair and Jenny Mitchell, Secretary, provided an exceptional level of support to ensure that HBWC continued to operate smoothly.

Long-term committee member Sandra Wilson resigned in July 2022. Sandra made a huge contribution to the progress of the organisation and was pivotal in finding our place for nature in Hobsons Bay during her time as Mayor of Hobsons Bay City Council.

Two other long-term members did not seek re-election at the November 2022 Annual General Meeting: Gordon Lescinsky, who worked tirelessly with Hobsons Bay City Council and the Grimshaw Architects team to ensure that the concept design of the proposed new wetlands centre met our expectations as a state-of-the-art, sustainable facility at H D Graham Reserve, and Penny Bell, who led the

PR and Events team from its inception in 2018 to develop a strong framework for our community activities into the future. Penny's team organised community workshops, open days and other community activities during 2019-2021.

Details of Committee of Management members are included in the Audit report attached to this annual report.

We are very grateful to our current Committee for the ongoing leadership, help and advice it provides to ensure that HBWC works towards its vision.

Our Members

HBWC members also contribute to our success by attending our activities and bringing along family and friends to grow the HBWC community. We encourage everyone to join us, whether or not they have the time to volunteer with us. By the end of June 2023, HBWC had 94 financial members.

The membership form is available on our website <https://hobsonsabaywetlandscentre.org.au> where details of all our events, news and publications are also available. We also share what is happening in the wetlands on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hobsonsabaywetlandscentre> and Instagram page [hbwetlandscentre](https://www.instagram.com/hbwetlandscentre).

Our Partners

Strategic Partnerships

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in early 2021, our strategic partners Hobsons Bay City Council, Deakin University, Melbourne Water, Greater Western Water, Ecolinc, Cirqit Health and Birdlife Australia continued to work with us through 2022-2023. Following the disruptions from the global COVID pandemic, significant changes were made within some of these organisations that resulted in some adverse impacts on the amount of help they could provide. Nevertheless, they have continued to be very supportive and, as set out below, provided some funding to assist in our efforts.

Hobsons Bay City Council continues to support our community activities by allowing us the shared use of Truganina Explosives Reserve and by providing grants and in-kind assistance for our open days and workshops. Ongoing support and advice from the Council's Conservation Team has been invaluable. Council has also generously supported the development of a purpose-built centre, details of which are provided in Section 5.

Other Partners

In addition to our formal partnerships, HBWC continues to engage with other organisations at both government and community levels. We have reached out to the Bunurong Land Council and other Traditional owners with a view to developing workshops and other activities to learn more about the cultural heritage and environmental management practices of the Bunurong people.

We have established a database of over 110 community groups in our local area and regularly reach out to them all to invite them to join in some of our activities and learn more about HBWC and the local natural environment.

During 2022-2023 we met with Parks Victoria, Greening the West, NatureWest, Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, and Werribee River Association to strengthen our relationships with organisations that align with our vision of enhancing the health and wellbeing of everyone and our natural environment.

We are registered with Wetlands Link International, as a member of the Oceania group, to share our journey with other wetlands centres and learn more about wetland habitats along the East Asian- Australasian Flyway.

Major Funding Supporters

Our work has been enhanced by a number of grants over the year and some of these grants will extend into 2024 and 2025. The grants have allowed us to appoint contractors to lead and support our volunteer activities, including Chris Rockley and Sandy Gonzalez who coordinated our first Make it Happen program through some of the challenging COVID times, and Carol Challis and David Tsardakis who were contractors for our 2023 programs. Our thanks to them all.

We are very appreciative of receiving the following grants to extend our activities during the year:

- The Ross Trust provided funding over 3 years for our program of empowering the community to care for Port Phillip Bay's significant coastal wetlands. This was successfully introduced in 2023 with plans for accompanied walks in the wetlands and a presentation of indigenous plants.

- The West Gate Tunnel Project provided a West Gate Neighbourhood Fund grant for our October 2023 Open Day, with its focus on the return of migratory birds and World Mental Health Day.
- The Australian Communities Foundation provided a grant from the Meta Lazarus Fund for a range of our wetlands activities.
- We are also grateful to the Hobsons Bay City Council for providing a small group operating grant towards some of our administrative costs.
- As a result of a proposal by one of our long-term volunteers, Parks Victoria provided birdwatching equipment from the Youth Volunteering for Nature Fund. The proposal was prepared by Mel Sheedy and the equipment will be used in Mel's workshops for children to learn about bird watching in September 2023. Our thanks go to Mel for planning such a great workshop series and for building our stock of bird watching equipment.
- ExxonMobil supported our bird monitoring program in the Cheetham and Altona Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) by donating funds for a quality bird spotting scope.
- Hobsons Bay City Council, Deakin University, and ExxonMobil also contributed to the appointment of consultants, TRC Tourism, to produce a report on a Sustainable Business Operating Model for our future Centre.

Two further projects that we worked towards in 2023 are grants from the Hobsons Bay City Council's Make it Happen program and the Wettenhall Environment Trust. Both grant applications were successful, and the projects will be delivered in the 2023-24 year to be described in next year's Annual Report.

Another exciting program in 2023 was the Nature for Health and Wellbeing Program in which we participated in partnership with the Hobsons Bay Libraries EnviroCentre and Council's Conservation Rangers. The program was funded by a collaboration between the State Library Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria.

Qenos kindly donated funds for the purchase of a water cooler, which is an essential part of the equipment needed for our open days.

A full list of grants received during 2022-2023 is provided in Section 6.

Connecting people with nature

Throughout the 2022-2023 financial year, HBWC held a number of community workshops at Truganina Explosives Reserve, co-hosted nature-based workshops with Hobsons Bay Libraries (EnviroCentre) and engaged in walks and talks with several local community groups.

Nature-based Citizen Science activities are recognized as an effective means of connecting people with nature. Our volunteer Citizen Science team, led by Nick Olliff, met on a monthly basis, with some additional activities undertaken in partnership with other organisations.

HBWC promotes these activities through a range of communication channels thanks to our very talented communications volunteers.

We are very grateful to Rob and Terttu Mancini for continuing to manage our website, which provides an essential window into our organisation and what it does.

Brandi Olliff, our Social Media manager, regularly posts on FaceBook and Instagram ensuring that HBWC activities and other nature-based information are widely available. The posts attract many 'likes' and are key to reaching out to our community. By the end of June 2023, our Facebook page had 1,748 followers and our Instagram had 1,074. Brandi has also contributed articles to the Westsider community newspaper to promote our work.

Carol Challis, our newsletter editor, develops a very interesting quarterly newsletter, which is designed by Rob Mancini and distributed to over 600 subscribers. The HBWC Chair also sends regular updates to our members to keep them informed and involved in our activities and has promoted HBWC on two radio programs during the year.

Community Workshops, Walks and Talks

In July 2022, on National Tree Day we partnered with the Grassy Plains Network to hold an event for our members. While HBWC focuses on educational activities rather than on-the-ground conservation activities, our members thoroughly enjoyed planting 220 local indigenous species (Astrostipa and Poa) near the Laverton Creek footbridge.

Towards the end of 2022, we completed three workshops that were funded by our much COVID-delayed first Hobsons Bay City Council Make it Happen grant. As a result, children and their guardians enjoyed Science Week activities, a group took a Step Back in Time to learn about the history of the wetlands area and a Journaling in Nature workshop was enthusiastically attended by a number of Nature Journalists. This workshop laid the foundations for an HBWC nature journaling group that, through the use of What's App, has grown into an active chat group and continued throughout the year.

A series of Nature for Health and Wellbeing Program workshops, coordinated by Mel Brown, the Hobsons Bay Sustainability Librarian, was very well attended. HBWC volunteers joined Mel, Andrew Webster and Suzette Rodorega, Council's Conservation Rangers, on a wide range of activities. This program significantly increased interest in both the wetlands and HBWC. Our thanks to Mel for this excellent program.

Marilyn, Chair of HBWC, was invited to participate at several community activities to promote our vision. These included the Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand, Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, and Werribee River Association. Our volunteers also assisted in the Dear Agnes contemporary public art program held over three weeks in March 2023 at the Truganina Explosives Reserve. The program culminated in an innovative Turruk Yarning circle with a group of First Nations people to share our love of country.

In May 2023 Hobsons Bay City Council hosted a Volunteer Expo at the Civic Centre. This was a very successful event bringing together local community groups to promote their activities and to attract volunteers. Jenny Mitchell, HBWC Secretary and volunteer Ruth Merrick had a most enjoyable day, engaging with over 100 people and signing up a few new members and volunteers

Open Day October 2022

We received very positive feedback about our Wings to Wellness Open Day celebrating World Migratory Bird Day and recognising World Mental Health Day held in October 2022. Over 300 adults and children attended and enjoyed the exciting range of kid's activities, free BBQ and nature walks in the area.

Organising an open day is a very resource-intensive activity and HBWC is very grateful to all the volunteers that made the day so successful. In particular, Bec Gelsi, Rob Mancini, Brandi Olliff, Jackie Kerin and the many volunteers who contributed to set up, pack down, information tent, wetland walks, presentations, manning the stands, and music.

We are, as always, very grateful to the Council's Conservation Rangers for their input to the day, including organising the BBQ with the Men's Shed. Thank you too to OfficeWorks for providing free colour printing and laminating of signs

Citizen Science

Throughout the past year the Citizen Science Team, led by Nick Olliff, has worked to both promote and engage the community in citizen science activities in our local area relevant to our aims. The team includes 9 volunteers who meet regularly to arrange activities and to encourage the wider community to join in. The main activities for the year have been promoting and participating in iNaturalist through local and global events, field work with Blue Carbon Lab, sea shore activities with Port Phillip Ecocentre and water quality monitoring at Jawbone Lakes and the Truganina Wetlands (Notla Drain).

HBWC Site Monitoring Project at H D Graham Reserve

The team has initiated a Site Monitoring Project at H D Graham Reserve to capture changes during the development of the new wetlands centre. In June 2023 the project was set up using iNaturalist as it is seen as the most useful database to collect observations, identify species and record data about the site. The aim during 2023-2024 is to record physical changes using photo points and record fauna and flora observations on a seasonal basis.

Major iNaturalist Events

The iNaturalist community conducts a range of activities each year to engage the public in contributing to the online database to record biodiversity throughout the world. We, in collaboration with Hobsons Bay City Council, contributed to two such events.

Great Southern BioBlitz 22

Countries in the Southern hemisphere are engaged in this activity which takes the form of friendly competition. This was our first attempt to engage the local community in recording flora and fauna in the Hobsons Bay area. 165 observations and 58 different species were identified by 28 community observers including three volunteers of the citizen science team.

City Nature Challenge 23

Hobsons Bay City Council joined with other Councils to form the Greater Melbourne City Nature Challenge 23 (CNC). The CNC was conducted from 28 Apr to 1 May with a few activities and online training events in support. Andrew Webster, Conservation Ranger, led a walk and talk in Truganina Park with Nick Olliff giving a brief on iNaturalist and how to use the App.

Globally, Melbourne came 21st with 19,340 observations covering 2032 species. HBCC had 254 observations, 148 species and 17 observers. Within Greater Melbourne we were 16th out of 28 Councils, so we have something to aim for next year. The most observed species were White faced Herons, Chestnut Teal and Black Swans.

Melbourne Sea Slug Census

Victorian National Parks Association, as part of their Reef Watch Programme, organise sea slug surveys quarterly. We promote their activities through our social media and for the Jun/July event Nick Olliff gave several talks to the community through events organised by the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group.

Blue Carbon Lab

Deakin University's Blue Carbon Labs conducted three field workshops in the Truganina Swamp area in Oct/Nov 22. Data collected will be used in developing an environment restoration/maintenance management plan for Melbourne Water, which is the area manager for most of Truganina Swamp. HBWC volunteers, along with the Friends of Truganina Swamp, took part in these projects which provided different experiences to the participants and also involved weed and natural flora identification and measurement. We also took core samples for further investigation in the labs. We laid feldspar patches at the sample sites to measure soil deposition in the future. The results are in "Threats to Truganina Swamp: Wetlands degradation, Environmental weeds, Plastic Pollution Feb 2023" published by Deakin University's Blue Carbon Labs.

Port Phillip EcoCentre

We are one of five community partner organisations located at various points around Port Phillip Bay involved with the Baywide Data Pioneers project. Other community partners are Earthcare St Kilda, Frankston Foreshore Association, Balcombe Estuary Research Group and Bellarine Catchment Network.

Surveys entail recording sand surface levels at 2m intervals along 3 transects that cross dunes and saltmarsh vegetation, beach and upper intertidal zone. We have had three surveys so far and they were carried out at the Altona Dog Beach and along with some Sea Shell Surveys where we have recorded 19 different species of molluscs.

Water Watch

Several sampling sessions were undertaken at Jawbone Lakes and Truganina Wetlands. Water conditions at both sites are satisfactory though there is a very poor range and quantity of macroinvertebrates recorded from Truganina Wetlands. This may be due to the large population of mosquito fish observed. Silting up and overgrowth of vegetation may be contributing factors.

Key Biodiversity Guardianship

The KBA Guardianship is led by Kevin Wood, HBWC Deputy Chair. This year was one of consolidation for this program with the focus on normalising the bird monitoring program with regular KBA-wide counts of bird populations undertaken by a core of experienced volunteer counters. With the benefit of a Parks Victoria Research Permit to enable regular access to Cheetham Wetlands, counts were made across the year in September, November and December of 2022 and January, April, and May of 2023. These surveys were conducted at the following major wetlands:

- Jawbone Flora and Fauna Reserve, Range Estate lakes system and coastal mudflats
- Altona Coastal Park mudflats and lower Kororoit Creek
- Truganina Swamp, Laverton Creek mouth and the coastal sand spit
- Cheetham Wetlands

On three of these count events there were sufficient volunteers to cover other sites, Point Cook Coastal Park, Point Gellibrand and Sandy Point on Greenwich Bay. On a smaller number of counts some smaller wetlands were also included, Skeleton Creek Lagoon, Cherry Lake and the coast at the Altona Esplanade. All of these sites are included in the Cheetham & Altona KBA.

Through liaison with members of the Australasian Wader Studies Group and the Arthur Rylah Institute of DEECA coordinated monitoring of Cheetham Wetlands was undertaken in Winter 2023 as part of the Australia-wide shorebird monitoring program. This consists of summer and winter counts of major shorebird sites across Australia and hasn't been undertaken at Cheetham Wetlands for more than five years.

In June 2023 Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre was invited to present at the Winton Wetlands Science Forum. The theme of the forum was 'International Recognition of Wetlands' and presenters were a diverse group of prominent national identities in wetlands management, research and governance. Kevin Wood, HBWC's Deputy Chair presented a talk on "Protecting Ramsar values outside Ramsar site boundaries" that outlined why we cannot rely solely on Ramsar to protect all internationally important wetland areas using the case study of the need for integrated management of habitats within the Cheetham & Altona Key Biodiversity Area.

Recognising the need for more volunteers to take on monitoring of birds in the KBA, HBWC successfully applied for a grant from the Wettenhall Environment Trust to run a regional bird identification and conservation course. This course is scheduled to commence in February 2024.

To further improve the effectiveness of the bird monitoring program HBWC successfully applied for a grant from the local ExxonMobil company to purchase a high-quality bird spotting scope. The scope has now been purchased and will be of great value in identifying the small, widely dispersed shorebirds that regularly use the Cheetham Wetlands.

Our new Wetlands Centre

HBWC continued to work with Hobsons Bay City Council on the Project Steering Group for the development of the purpose-built Wetlands Centre at H D Graham Reserve. The Chair, Marilyn Olliff and Gordon Lescinsky attended weekly meetings with Hobsons Bay City Council to discuss the next steps in the centre development. In September 2022, Kevin Wood, HBWC Deputy Chair, joined the Project Steering group.

The group developed an advocacy program to prioritise the actions needed to engage with government at all levels to seek funding of \$16 million to construct the facility in accordance with the Grimshaw Studios concept design. During the year HBWC Chair and Deputy Chair engaged with Matthew Jackson, CEO Parks Victoria, John Pandazopoulos, Chair Parks Victoria Board, Mat Hilakari MP State Member for Point Cook, Hon Melissa Horne MP State member for Williamstown and Hon Tim Watts MP Federal member for Gellibrand who are all enthusiastic about our plans.

Deakin University, Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre and ExxonMobil provided funds to engage a consultant to develop a sustainable business model for the new Wetlands Centre. Consultants TRC Tourism completed their commercial-in-confidence report at the end of the financial year. The consultants were provided with the HBWC Feasibility Study published in 2020 as a starting point. They interviewed our Strategic Partners to ensure a comprehensive view of how the purpose-built wetlands centre designed by Grimshaw Studios could operate sustainably.

The report addresses the benefits and risks of a purpose-built centre in Melbourne's west and identifies a range of activities that could be established at the site to provide income and financial support into the future. It should be noted that the facility will be on Crown Land and the buildings will be owned by Hobsons Bay City Council. The key stakeholders will be Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre along with its Strategic Partners.

In May 2023, Marilyn, HBWC Chair, joined Grimshaw Principal and project lead Eduard Ross and Dr Phill Roos of Deakin University in leading a walk and talk near the proposed site at HD Graham Reserve. The event was organised by Open House Melbourne and very well attended by interested people from across Melbourne.

In the first half of 2023, Hobsons Bay City Council proposed that they commence some early works on the site to clearly demonstrate our shared firm intention to achieve our vision as set out in the Grimshaw Studios concept design. Council approved budget allocations of \$600,000 in 2023-2024 and a further \$900,000 in 2024-2025 financial years to enable stage one of the works to commence. Stage 1 will adhere to the sustainable principles applied to the full concept design, including some appropriate landscaping in the area. Full details of stage one will be provided in the 2023-2024 annual report.

Financial report for the financial year 2022/2023

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer has prepared a financial report on the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc. (the Association) and Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Public Fund (the Fund) for the year ending 30 June 2023. The financial report is based on the audited accounts of the Association and the Fund for the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Grants to the Association

The work of the Association is supported by providers of grants. In the financial year to 30 June 2023, the Association was awarded the following grants:

Provider	Purpose	Value
The Ross Trust	Funds for empowering the community to care for Port Phillip Bay's significant coastal wetlands	\$40,000
Major Transport Infrastructure Authority - West Gate Tunnel Project (West Gate Neighbourhood Fund)	Funds for Nurtured by Nature - Wetlands and Mental Health	\$20,000
Deakin University	Contribution of matching funds for development of a sustainable business model for the operation of a new Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre	\$5,000
Esso Australia Pty Ltd (ExxonMobil)	Contribution of matching funds for development of a sustainable business model for the operation of a new Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre	\$5,000
Esso Australia Pty Ltd (ExxonMobil)	Donation for purchase of a new bird spotting scope for the association's bird monitoring program activities	\$5,000
Hobsons Bay City Council	Grant for Welcome to Wetlands Open Days in 2024	\$20,000
Hobsons Bay City Council	Grant for development of a sustainable business model for the operation of a new Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre	\$5,000
Hobsons Bay City Council	Grant for small expenses	\$500
Parks Victoria	Grant for Youth Volunteering for Nature project	\$5,000
Qenos	Donation for purchase of a water cooler for use at the Association's events	\$250
Australian Communities Foundation	Donation to support HBWC Inc activities	\$500

The Association is required to use the grant income in accordance with the applicable grant agreements. The Association is responsible for reporting all relevant expenses to the grant providers and completing acquittal processes as necessary.

The Committee of Management expresses its gratitude to the Ross Trust, the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority - West Gate Tunnel Project, Deakin University, Esso Australia Pty Ltd (ExxonMobil), Hobsons Bay City Council, Parks Victoria and Qenos for supporting the Association's work through the provision of grants to fund its projects and purchases.

Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Contents

Committee's Report	1
Income and Expenditure Statement & Statement of Comprehensive Income	2
Balance Sheet	3
Statement of Changes in Equity	4
Statement of Cash Flows.....	5
Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
Statement by Members of the Committee	8
Independent Auditor's Report	9
Certificate by Members of the Committee	11

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members present the special purpose financial report on the entity for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Name	Portfolio	
Dr Marilyn Olliff	Chairperson	
Kevin Wood	Deputy Chairperson	
Jenny Mitchell OAM	Secretary	
Craig Rowley	Treasurer	
Nicholas Olliff	Committee Member	
Sally Lock	Committee Member	
Helen Meyer-Tinning	Committee Member	Appointed July 2023
Nella Varcoe	Committee Member	Appointed September 2023
Gordon Lescinsky	Committee Member	Resigned November 2022
Penelope Bell	Committee Member	Resigned November 2022
Sandra Wilson	Committee Member	Resigned 19 July 2022

Committee Members for the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Public Fund

Jenny Mitchell OAM
Nicholas Olliff
Sandra Wilson

Principal Activities

Hobsons Bay Wetland Centre Inc is a not-for-profit community group which is passionate about connecting people with nature.

Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activity occurred during the financial year.

Operating Results

The surplus for the year attributable to the entity amounted to \$10,578 (2022: \$17,767 - Deficit).

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the entity's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Chairperson



Dr Marilyn Olliff

Treasurer



Craig Rowley

Dated this 24th day of October 2023

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME		
Membership Fees	1,780	1,420
Product Sales	385	30
Event Ticket Sales	996	2,104
Donations Received	4,708	1,530
Grants Received	25,060	500
Interest Received	434	13
TOTAL INCOME	<u>33,363</u>	<u>5,597</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	628	88
Advertising & Marketing	525	1,905
Bank Fees	15	-
Contractor Fees	17,490	14,580
Computer & IT Expenses	285	170
Entertainment	-	137
Event Costs	2,827	5,669
Insurance	715	560
Legal Fees	-	60
Staff Training & Education	155	195
Subscriptions	145	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>22,785</u>	<u>23,365</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>10,578</u>	<u>(17,767)</u>

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	10,578	(17,767)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	<u>10,578</u>	<u>(17,767)</u>

The income statement is to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	91,943	13,999
Accounts Receivable	10,000	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>101,943</u>	<u>13,999</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant & Equipment	299	60
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>299</u>	<u>60</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>102,242</u></u>	<u><u>14,059</u></u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	4,134	220
Grants Received in Advance	73,690	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>77,824</u>	<u>220</u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>24,418</u></u>	<u><u>13,840</u></u>
EQUITY		
Accumulated Funds	24,418	13,840
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>24,418</u></u>	<u><u>13,840</u></u>

The balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the audit report
and the notes to the financial statements.

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Accumulated funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2021	31,607	31,607
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	(17,767)	(17,767)
Balance as at 30 June 2022	<u>13,840</u>	<u>13,840</u>
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	10,578	10,578
Balance as at 30 June 2023	<u><u>24,418</u></u>	<u><u>24,418</u></u>

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from various income sources		96,619	5,584
Payments to suppliers		(18,870)	(23,145)
Interest received		434	13
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	(i)	<u>78,183</u>	<u>(17,548)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(239)	(60)
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>(239)</u>	<u>(60)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		77,944	(17,608)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		13,999	31,607
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	(ii)	<u><u>91,943</u></u>	<u><u>13,999</u></u>

The statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note (i). Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities		
Net surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	10,578	(17,767)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(10,000)	-
- (Increase)/decrease in prepayments	-	-
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payable	3,914	220
- Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	73,690	-
	78,183	(17,548)
	78,183	(17,548)
Note (ii). Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		
Cash at bank	91,943	13,999
	91,943	13,999
	91,943	13,999

The statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report includes the financial statements and notes of the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Incorporated., an incorporated association, which is incorporated in Victoria under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and also a not-for-profit association.

The financial report has been prepared on the cash accounting basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the general purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of six months or less.

b. Income Tax

The Association is exempt from paying income tax.

c. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Revenue is brought to account when received and to the extent that it relates to the subsequent period it is disclosed as a liability.

Membership Revenue

Membership revenue is recognised when the membership fees are received.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

d. Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised gross of the amount of GST

f. Related Party Transactions

The Committee Members act in an honorary capacity and are not paid for their services as Committee Members.

There were no transactions with related parties during the 2023 year.


HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.


In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 7:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Incorporated as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Incorporated. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Chairperson 

Dr Marilyn Olliff

Treasurer 

Craig Rowley

Dated this 24th day of October 2023



HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 50 813 083 752
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Hobsons Bay Wetland Centre Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2023, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Board.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1, *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Hobsons Bay Wetland Centre Incorporated to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.



Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd

127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Australia

Phone (03) 9680 1000
Fax (03) 9689 6605

www.collinsco.com.au

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

Auditor: Frederik Ryk Ludolf Eksteen

ASIC Registration Number: 421448

Address: Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd, 127 Paisley Street, FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

Signature:

Date: 28 October 2023

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INCORPORATED
ABN 50 813 083 752
CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

I, **Marilyn Olliff** and I, **Craig Rowley** hereby certify that:

- (a) We are members of the committee of the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Incorporated..
- (b) We attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 14 November 2023.
- (c) We are authorised by the attached resolution of the committee to sign this certificate.
- (d) This special purpose financial report was submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Chairperson



Dr Marilyn Olliff

Treasurer



Craig Rowley

Dated this 24th day of October 2023

Our Partners



Our Supporters



Contact us

We welcome new members, volunteers and supporters throughout the year.
Membership forms are available on our website at www.hobsonbaywetlandscentre.org.au
Please contact us through email HBWCgroup@gmail.com or message us through FaceBook
<https://www.facebook.com/hobsonsbaywetlandscentre/>

Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Incorporated
Truganina Explosives Reserve
274 Queen Street, Altona
Victoria, 3018
ABN 50813083752
Incorporated Association
Registration Number A0103821G

We acknowledge the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation
as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways of
Hobsons Bay and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We also extend our respects to the Elders past
and present of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples..