

Annual Report 2016-2017

SUNSHINE COAST
Environment Council
www.scec.org.au



About us

SCEC is the peak environmental advocacy group on the Sunshine Coast. Established in 1980, SCEC represents more than 50 community groups working on a range of environmental issues as well as over 4,000 individual supporters.

Our Vision

An ecologically sustainable world achieved through individual and community stewardship of the natural environment at local, regional and global levels.

Our Mission

Through leadership, education and environmental activism, to encourage Sunshine Coast individuals and communities to support and participate in working towards the goal of environmental sustainability.

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Vivien Griffin
President



PRESIDENTS REPORT

I have had the honour to be President of SCEC for the last 12 months. SCEC has been a voice for the environment since 1980, and in 3 years we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary. Yet, despite those years and all that effort, SCEC remains as relevant and necessary as the day it first started.

I would like to thank our 50+ member groups for their continuing support. SCEC's role is definitely to support those groups in whatever way we can, but also to be the voice for the issues just emerging, to support the groups just emerging, and to provide the key strategic input at all levels of government on their behalf, whose significance might not be apparent for several years.

The work of the Management Committee has been made easy by the unremitting efforts of Leah Hays, our Coordinator, Narelle McCarthy, our Liaison Officer, and an amazing team of volunteers, whose behind the scene efforts keep our communications going, our office running smoothly, our accounts in order, and our events a huge success.

The breadth of issues that have been tackled over the last 12 months is simply amazing. Leah and Chad reshaped the conversation on shark nets, Narelle's years of work on the Steve Irwin Way finally delivered the best result possible, Sekisui continues its plans to overturn the planning requirements for the Yaroomba site (again), rock walling of the Maroochy River surfaced (again), Twin Waters West surfaced (again), the vegetation clearing legislation must be tackled (again), and the SEQ Regional Plan needed detailed review, particularly for Halls Creek. There is so much more I could mention if I had the space to do so.

The events held throughout the last year have been hugely successful and highly entertaining. Thanks for the hilarious Drag Queen Bingo night at Coolum, for a terrific Earth Hour lantern parade at Eumundi, and for the reinvigorated World Environment Day Festival at Cotton Tree.

My personal thanks go to the SCEC Management Committee members, Mary-Jane Weld (Vice President), Sue Etheridge (Treasurer), Natalie Martin-Booker (Secretary) and Committee Members Jillian Rossiter and Leigh Warneminde, as well as staff and volunteers.



SCEC was mentioned **80** times in the media

SCEC attended **105** meetings with public and private sector parties as representative of the environment

SCEC prepared **22** submissions on environmental issues

ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

ADVOCACY

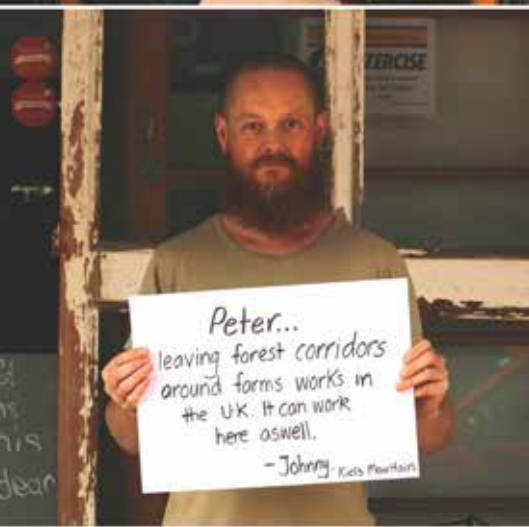
The year has absolutely flown with a flurry of activities and actions ...and some angst

A vastly improved design for the \$929.3M Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade project through community action and engagement saw not only an innovative first for Australia, but a reduction in the footprint of infrastructure from 100ha in the 2013/14 design to 6-8ha in the final design. While the loss of any forest and the environmental impact within the overall 7km project footprint is extremely regrettable and certainly not ignored or forgotten, the transfer of 744ha of the high conservation Beerwah State Forest into the Mooloolah River National Park was a significant outcome.

The Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion project progressed through major milestones including a \$181M concessional loan from the Federal Government and the announcement of the commercial partner, Palisade as SCEC continued to question the EIS process, the business case and the associated environmental impacts. With the invaluable assistance of volunteer research officer, David Tunnah, SCEC undertook an analysis of the questionable business case for the Council favoured 'New Runway' option over the 'Do Minimum and 'Do Nothing' options as these scenarios have direct relevance on the associated environmental and sustainability impacts. SCEC continues to engage to provide input and oversight as the project unfolds.

The relatively new Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme adopted in May 2014 came under 'attack' with major amendments proposed which undermined the integrity of the scheme and sound planning policy. From increased height limits in Mooloolaba, to new provisions for the emerging Maroochydore CBD, it was the major amendment to change the zoning of a 104ha parcel of the Maroochy River floodplain known as Twin Waters West from Rural to Emerging Community zone which took the cake! On the basis of representations by landowner Stockland and the Twin Waters Residents Association, Council voted to progress the draft scheme amendment. Despite the majority of the 600 plus submissions objecting to the change due to significant flooding concerns, impacts on biodiversity, density (800 plus dwellings for approx. 2000 people) and a reversal of the previous long-held planning intent, Councillors voted to approve the amendment thereby forwarding this outrageous proposition onto the state for consideration.

SCEC joined with a number of state and national conservation groups and Environmental Defenders Office Queensland to strengthen the vegetation management laws which had been rolled back by the Newman government with disastrous consequences.





SCEC was on **6** boards and advisory groups
 SCEC was a key player in expanding the Mooloolah River
 National Park to **1670 hectares** (14% of the existing
 Beerwah State Forest).

ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT



The Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was a key piece of legislation tabled in parliament by the Palaszczuk government in an effort to restore the laws to at least what had been in place 2012. The measures in the Bill were sensible and balanced and designed to reign in the rampant destruction of threatened species habitat occurring as a result of weakened land clearing controls. Since 2012, an estimated one million hectares of native forests and bushland has been cleared in Queensland-much of this was remnant vegetation with high conservation values. Despite a vigorous campaign which challenged and rose above the toxic politics and old rhetoric, the Bill was narrowly defeated. With an area the size of the Melbourne Cricket Ground being cleared every minute in Queensland, the campaign continues unabated.



A suite of planning legislation reforms for Queensland, including the draft SEQ Regional Plan or ShapingSEQ involved significant work and engagement, particularly on how it affects our communities, our rights and the environment. The new planning legislation is set to be introduced on 3rd July 2017.

Other advocacy work includes:

- The Sekisui House proposal for Yaroomba
- Biodiversity
- Koalas
- Shark Nets
- Container Deposit Scheme and Plastic Bag Ban
- The Maroochy River Estuary – no rock walling of the magnificent Maroochy
- Caloundra South.... and much, much more!



Further information can be found on our website www.scec.org.au

ENGAGEMENT

SCEC's exciting event portfolio continued unabated into the 2016/2017 financial year, delivering a broad and engaging suite of activities for people of all ages to enjoy. Individual and community empowerment was the central thread that wove together all of SCEC's engagement efforts throughout the year. The need to empower and inspire positive action among the population is critical if we are to combat the dire impacts of large scale natural resource extraction, broad-scale land clearing and climate change. The themes "we are the solution" and "where the people lead, the politicians will follow" were used repeatedly to rally comradery and spirit. This spirit became the driving force for delivering near impossible events like the 2016 World Environment Day (WED) Festival





SCEC organised **9** events, made **4** Videos & constructed **2** new websites for both SCEC and WED Festival

Representatives from over **60** community organisations participated in SCEC events

SCEC events were attended by **10,000+** people

ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT



The choice to take WED Festival back to its grassroots at Cotton Tree proved a great success, despite real and persistent challenges. The Festival was coordinated by SCEC coordinator Leah Hays on top of her SCEC managerial duties, with only a \$4k budget to begin with, and with an east coast low threatening to call off the entire event due to torrential rain and wind up until the 11th hour.

The persistence to see the project through was a fruitful decision, resulting in outstanding attendance of over 5000, beautiful sunny skies, a new jetty bar, and a jam packed program featuring comedy, music, speakers program, kids activities, craft, live art, electric car display, sustainable fashion show, wildlife and Indigenous culture. The most rewarding part of the event was seeing the impressive participation of over 30 member groups, with the aim of the day being to celebrate the work of these groups and to provide a platform for them to connect with the broader public. The success of the event saw sponsors commit to finance the Festival in 2017 event – a true testament to the efforts of all involved.

Earth Hour 2017 saw our second major event for the year – an ambient lantern parade at Eumundi. The event saw over 1000 people enjoying eco art activities, an African drum performance, a magnificent parade of lanterns and an outdoors cinema in the park.

SCEC also held a highly entertaining sell-out show (Drag Queen Bingo) at the Coolum Civic Centre as an end of year fundraiser event targeted at our member groups and those within the sector. Earlier in the year SCEC also held a fundraiser cruise of the Pumicestone Passage with 45 guests in attendance.

Engagement efforts extended to include a SCEC hosted member group roundtable, a stall at the Maleny Wood Festival and Surfrider Eco Fest, attendance at the community awareness day alongside the Stop Twin Waters West group, co-organisation of Symphony by the Sea and a wetlands workshop and participation in a number of EDO planning events.

Photographs and videos of the event can be found on the SCEC and WED Festival websites – both of which were re-created to become more contemporary and enhance engagement.

Online we have also continued with an impressive reach. Although visitors to our website have decreased slightly, our Facebook likes increased by 34.86% with a total of 2,967 likes. Across all our online platforms SCEC reached over 300,000 people during the year.

Website	Total	Facebook	Total
Visitors/Users	21,128	New Likes	720
Visits/Sessions	26,809	Engagement	15,781
Page Views	44,663	Reach	221,444



SCEC received **\$97,366** in grants, sponsorships and donations

Average readership **30%** for electronic communications

More than **221,444** people reached through social media

ADMINISTRATION



ADMINISTRATION

After the reorganising and capacity building phase that took place in 2014/15, SCEC has been in full administrative swing. The restructure meant that the Administration Officer, WED Festival Coordinator and Executive Officer positions were grouped into the one Coordinator position. With a jam packed new position description encompassing both operations and an enhanced event portfolio, it has meant an added reliance on volunteer support to ensure the daily running of SCEC.

The year saw further enhancement to website communication, including the commencement of a website rebuild by Nation Builder web designers Code Nation. The WED Festival website also saw a facelift, giving it an electric and exciting feel that attracted new and engaged audiences.

Added attention was also given to increasing group membership following the great participation from groups at the 2016 WED Festival. This was followed up by new member-group introductory letters outlining what SCEC can offer our groups, as well as the introduction of new membership fee procedures to align all membership renewal dates to the end of the SCEC financial year.

SCEC has been fortunate in retaining reliable and well skilled volunteers who have provided the backbone of SCEC since its inception. Maintaining adequate volunteerism within SCEC has proven to be challenging at times due to volunteer turn over, personal capacity and the increase reliance on volunteer support. The restructure aimed to allow more time for the coordinator role to focus on campaigns and community engagement, and less time on administration. However due to not having a dedicated administrative staff position, the Coordinator spends far more time on administration and volunteer recruitment/training than first expected.

SCEC are very grateful for the skills and experience our volunteers bring to the organisation, as well as their bright and cheerful attitudes that enlighten the office atmosphere.

The enhanced administrative capacity and increased focus on events has created many new opportunities for volunteers to become involved in the organisation. As a result the number of volunteers hours have increased sharply this year, indicating a culture of community action is forming around certain core activities and campaigns.



SCEC has **5,048** Nationbuilder supporters
and **2,912** Facebook followers

125 volunteers contributed over **5,000** hours

6 wonderful, dedicated committee members

PEOPLE & GOVERNANCE



GOVERNANCE

SCEC is led by a Management Committee who govern the organisation in line with the principles for good governance for not-for-profit organisations.

Tools used to set directions and to monitor and manage performance include:

- SCEC Strategic Plan
- SCEC Operational Plan
- Monthly Staff & Financial Reports
- Annual Performance Reviews

VOLUNTEERS

SCEC cannot function without the support of over a hundred volunteers who help around the office, with administration, research for submissions, organising events and countless other jobs. SCEC gratefully acknowledges the time and effort these wonderful people give to the organisation. SCEC would like to make particular mention of the following volunteers for their outstanding contribution:

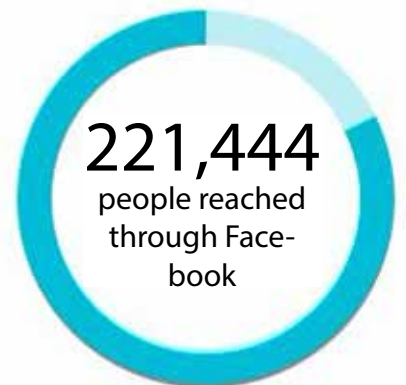
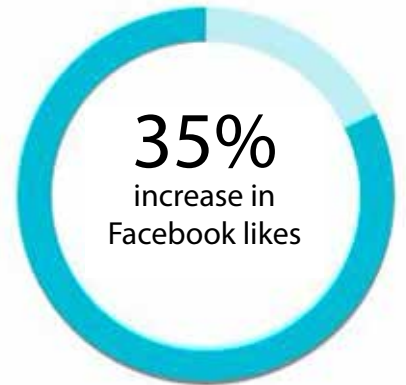
- Marie Tunnah
- David Tunnah
- Jane Minor
- Deborah Hoyer
- Joan Pollack
- Chad Buxton

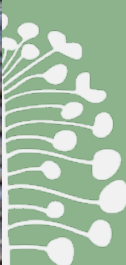
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Vivien Griffin
Vice-President	Mary-Jane Weld
Treasurer	Sue Etheridge
Member	Leigh Warneminde
Member	Natalie Martin- Booker
Member	Jillian Rossiter

STAFF

Coordinator	Leah Hays
Liaison & Advocacy Officer	Narelle
WED Festival Coordinator	Leah Hays





Total equity was **24%** greater than 2015/16

6% saving in total expenses

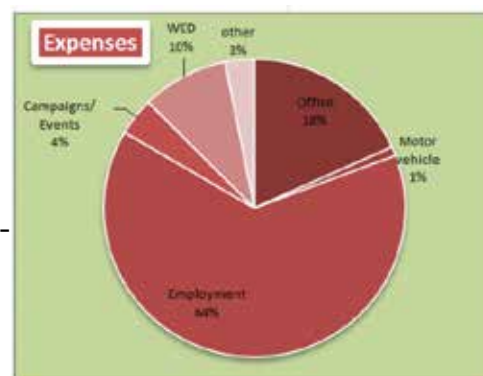
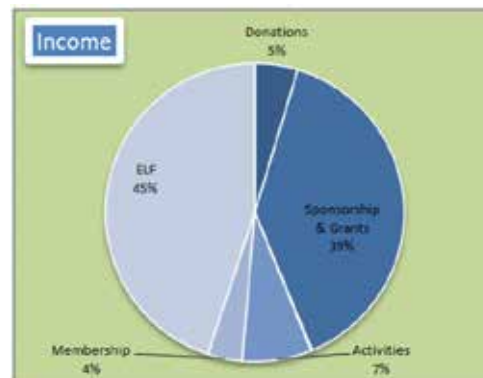
14% increase in assets

FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

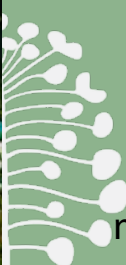
SCEC retained an audited profit of \$5814 during the 2016/2017 financial year. As at the 31st March 2017, SCEC had a total equity of \$29,945. The increased equity resulted mainly from reducing our net expenses, and in particular our employment expenses.

The positive results in the 2016/2017 financial year have established an increase in financial reserves going forward.



Balance Sheet - 31 March 2017	
Assets	
Cash on hand	\$50,758
Trade debtors	\$2,950
Inventories	\$455
Property, plant & equipment	\$15,683
Current tax assets	\$0
Total Assets	\$69,846
Liabilities	
Trade creditors	\$1,142
Tax liabilities	\$6,647
Payroll provisions	\$22,113
Advance Payments	\$10,000
Total Liabilities	\$39,902
Net Equity	\$29,944

Financial Performance 2016-2017	
Income	
Membership Fees	8,320
Donations	10,366
ELF Dispersal	100,000
Sponsorships & Grants	87,000
Activity generated	16,755
Other Income	237
Total Income	222,677
Expenses	
Office	39,595
Motor vehicle	2,138
Employment	139,366
Campaigns/Events	8,841
WED	20167
Other Expenses	6,756
Total Expenses	216,862
Profit	5,816



Member group **round table** continued

Enhanced promotion for member group events through eBulletin and Facebook

54 active member groups

MEMBER GROUPS



SCEC acknowledges the amazing work of its member groups who all contribute so much each and every day to the preservation of the natural environment on the Sunshine Coast. SCEC is privileged to be representing such diverse and committed organisations and our advocacy is strengthened by the breadth and depth of the people involved in them. To all these people and organisations we say: THANK YOU!

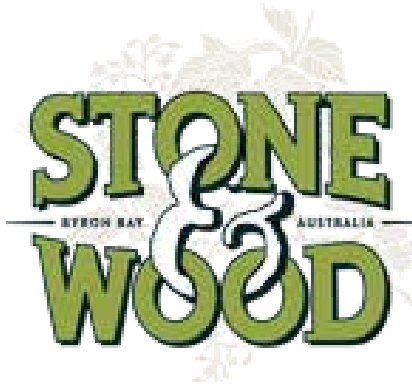
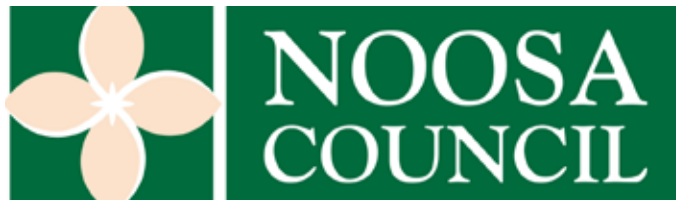
- Association for Sustainable Communities (Bellbunya)
- Australian Marine Conservation Society
- Barung Landcare
- Bat Rescuel
- Blackall Range Land Use Planning Association
- Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association
- Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation
- Caloundra Catholic Community Social Justice Network
- Conondale Range Conservation
- Coolum and Northshore Coast Care Group
- Crystal Waters Cooperative
- Currumbundi Catchment Care Group
- Development Watch
- Environmental Legacy Foundation
- Fraser Island Defenders Organisation
- Friends of Lake Weyba
- Friends of Yaroomba
- Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network
- Hinterland Bushlinks
- Keep Queensland Beautiful
- Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group
- Landsborough Area Community Association
- Manduka Cooperative
- Maroochy Waterwatch
- Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
- Mudjimba Residents Association
- Nambour Community Centre
- Nambour Community Gardens
- Nambour Transition Town
- Natureweavers Forest School
- Night Eyes Water & Landcare Sunshine Coast
- Noosa Community Biosphere Association
- Noosa & District Landcare Group
- Noosa Integrated Catchment Association
- Noosa Parks Association
- OSCAR
- Petrie Creek Catchment Care
- Permaculture Noosa
- Protect Elanda
- Queensland Folk Federation
- Queensland Water and Land Carers
- Sunshine Coast Bushwalkers Club
- Sunshine Coast Climate Action Now
- Sunshine Coast LETS
- Sustainable Population Australia
- Surfrider Foundation Sunshine Coast
- Take Action for Pumicestone Passage (TAPP)
- The Diddillibah Progress Association - Anti Sandmine Sub Committee
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Eumundi
- WILVOS
- WPSQ Moreton Bay Branch
- WPSQ Sunshine Coast & Hinterland
- Yandina & District Community Association
- Yandina Creek Progress Association



SCEC gratefully acknowledges the **financial support** of these organisations

SCEC received **\$87,000** in grants and sponsorships

SPONSORSHIPS & GRANTS





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