

**Annual Report  
2017 -2018**

SUNSHINE COAST  
**Environment Council**

[www.scec.org.au](http://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 level.

## 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.



## CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	3
ADVOCACY	4-7
EVENTS	8
ADMINISTRATION	9
PEOPLE & GOVERNANCE	10
FINANCIAL REPORT	11
MEMBER GROUPS	12
SPONSORSHIP & GRANTS	13



**Vivien Griffin**  
**President**



Once again I have had the privilege of being President of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council for the last 12 months. I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Management Committee members: Jillian Rossiter, Sue Etheridge, Tracy Burton and John Salter. We have travelled the journey together in maintaining the high standards of passion and knowledge essential for protecting the Sunshine Coast environment, a journey that never seems to get any shorter. With SCEC's 40 year history, we are very conscious of standing on the shoulders of giants

Tracy is standing down from the committee and we will miss her contribution. I also want to thank Jacki Boyce who was our Coordinator for nearly 12 months and valiantly delivered a great World Environment Day and challenged us regarding the future sustainability of SCEC. We would have loved to have her continue with SCEC and will miss her. Peter Hogg stepped up from his volunteer role to take on temporary Coordinator duties, and it has been great to draw upon his skills. We are currently recruiting for a permanent Coordinator role, which we hope to have filled by end September.

Narelle McCarthy is indefatigable in her Liaison and Advocacy role, supporting our member groups in their campaigns, and being the public persona of SCEC in consultation fora and the media. We are fortunate to be able to draw upon her huge knowledge and commitment.

A terrific group of volunteers have brought their passion for the environment to contribute to SCEC's work and I thank them all. I want to particularly acknowledge the essential behind-the-scenes work of Jane Minor and Deborah Hoyle, who keep our finances in order and make sure we are solvent at all times!

Jacki urged the Management Committee to consider the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation, and we have taken the big step of recruiting a dedicated fundraiser. This is not just about money, it is very much about building our relationship with our community. We are also reviewing the future of World Environment Day, whose success is now placing unsustainable demands on our Coordinator. As you will have seen, this is to be discussed with member groups after the AGM. Finally, I want to thank our Patron, Professor Ian Lowe whose memorable words continue to inspire and energise us: "Where the people lead, the politicians will follow." In today's political climate, we have a huge job ahead of us!



SCEC was mentioned **80** times in the media  
SCEC attended **105** meetings as environmental and member advocates  
SCEC prepared **22** submissions on environmental & planning issues  
SCEC is represented on **10** boards, reference groups & alliances

## Advocacy

### Planning, politics and people power!

This past year was an absolute whirlwind once again. The diverse range of issues and activities in that whirlwind has kept SCEC extremely busy, engaged and continually motivated to protect the region's and the planet's environmental and liveability values.

### Still the wrong way Sekisui!



With the rightful rejection of a major planning scheme amendment back in 2015 to facilitate their intensive and inappropriate development at Yaroomba, Sekisui House spent the following year claiming they were going “back to the drawing board” and would undertake ‘community engagement.’ Ultimately, the canvas was hardly ‘blank’ with no intention to adhere to the town plan and an aggressive marketing campaign rolled out instead of genuine community consultation. While the Sekisui spin machine went into overdrive focussing only on the small component of a proposed 7 storey (24m) ‘5 star hotel’ and not on the high density and predominant residential component of around 1000 dwellings, the community was committed to ensuring the full extent of the proposal was exposed and understood.



Come May 2017, and a development application to **override** the planning scheme was lodged with Council. This proposal still represented gross conflicts with the town plan—particularly height and density as well as visual and community amenity issues. Significant concerns regarding unacceptable impacts on nesting loggerhead turtles also remained. With the development assessment process now underway involving Council’s information request, Sekisui’s response and an unusual ‘administrative error’ by them causing a re-start of the public notification period (taking it over the Christmas/New Year period!), the community stepped up once again to inform and engage with the public encouraging them to make well-informed submissions. Sekisui’s version was basically a pre-filled on-line form with high level points (i.e. not specific planning grounds) via their town planner’s web portal. In the end, a record 12,326 submissions were received. There were 9306 objecting and 3000 supporting (the balance were either not properly made or did not offer a position). What happened next will be in the next Annual Report! Needless to say, this campaign rolls on and must be won.

**But there was a time to celebrate!**



# Advocacy

## Alliances & Allies



The outrageous and nonsensical planning scheme amendment for Stockland's 104ha parcel of flood prone land known as 'Twin Waters West' to change from rural to 'emerging community zone' was controversially supported by Council after a lengthy meeting which kept the public outside chambers until late on the eve of the Easter Long Weekend. This was despite serious and unresolved questions raised over flood modelling, significant community objection, sound planning provisions, the state ignoring its own planning policies for natural hazards and risks, AND recommendations from the Flood Commission of Inquiry to NOT keep build on floodplains! The amendment might have been adopted but the campaign continues....



SCEC continued its efforts as part of the Places You Love Alliance with fellow conservation groups, academics and environmental lawyers across Australia for a new generation of environment laws. And, as members of the land-clearing alliance, we campaigned for stronger vegetation laws.



We joined with the Protect Elanda group objecting to a proposal by a tourism operator to downgrade 2.6ha of Fish Habitat Area off Elanda Point, part of the pristine Noosa River system and Lake Cootharaba, from the highest protection level 'A' to the lower 'B' to facilitate an inappropriate development under the guise of 'ecotourism'.



# Advocacy

## The Yandina Creek Wetlands come back to life



This year saw an incredible breakthrough in the six year campaign for the Yandina Creek wetlands largely due to the dedication of Greg Roberts and Birdlife Australia.

After acquiring the parcels in 2016 for \$4 million, Unitywater planned to reopen the floodgates so the wetland would be replenished. Tidal water entering the wetland would carry with it nutrients from the Maroochy River which come from a range of different land uses. The wetland will remove some of the nutrients and Unitywater can use this to offset nutrients released after treating the community's sewage at a nearby treatment plant.

Finally in 2017, all those efforts over so long by so many had paid off. The wetland was to be restored and protected.

Unitywater entered into agreements with BirdLife Australia and the University of the Sunshine Coast to undertake studies of birds and fisheries habitat before and after the floodgates were reopened and the wetland replenished. The Yandina Creek Wetland was [officially opened](#) at a ceremony in November 2017 but is not yet open to the public.

See the complete insightful and historical account by Greg Roberts on SCEC's website

[https://www.scec.org.au/yandina\\_creek\\_wetlands](https://www.scec.org.au/yandina_creek_wetlands)



SCEC organised more than **25** events, and made **2** videos.

Representatives from over **55** community organisations participated in SCEC events

SCEC events were attended by **8000+** people

## Events



SCEC was once again involved in many wonderful events during the year. As always, World Environment Day Festival was the biggest event on our calendar. Held once again at Cotton tree, this iconic Sunshine Coast event keeps getting bigger and better, with over 8,000 people attending the 2017 event. In a testament to the event and to SCEC as its organiser, WED was the Qld winner of the Australian Event Award for Best Charity or Cause-Related event, as well as being a national finalist. WED is of particular importance to our member groups who have a wonderful opportunity to showcase their organisation and issue and to foster new support.



For the second year in a row, SCEC held the highly entertaining Drag Queen Bingo event at the Coolum Civic Centre. Not only a great fun night out, this event is a great end of year fundraiser attracting a wonderfully diverse audience.

SCEC was involved in many other engagement events throughout the year, including our member group roundtable, the Ministerial Environment Roundtable and the fabulous Maleny Wood Expo.



Combined with our social media reach, SCEC events and engagements with our member groups and the community make us a potent voice for the environment on the Sunshine Coast.





## Administration

SCEC received **\$96,000** in grants, sponsorships & donations

Average readers of over **1000** for electronic communications

Over **125,000** people reached through social media



This year saw some major changes in the administration of SCEC, with the departure of Leah Hays from the Coordinator role. Jacki Boyce joined SCEC as Coordinator in October 2017. Jacki has brought wonderful energy and experience to the role and there is no doubt that SCEC is very lucky to have someone of her calibre on board.

This year saw the finalisation of the new SCEC website. The new site portrays SCEC and our work in a very professional manner and has been designed to maximise community engagement. Along with our enhanced use of Facebook, our website is an integral part of our communication platform.



With WED taking up so much of the Coordinator's time, SCEC continues to rely on its volunteers to facilitate many of our administrative functions. While SCEC is thankful for and proud of our amazing volunteers, the nature of volunteering means that people come and go. The Coordinator therefore still spends far more time on administration than we would like, preventing further development of other SCEC initiatives.



SCEC is extremely grateful to our volunteers for the skills, experience and time they bring to us. Their cheerful and enthusiastic attitudes make our office a great place to work. Community is alive and well at SCEC.



SCEC has **13,390** Nationbuilder supporters and **3,560** Facebook followers  
 SCEC thanks our **fantastic** volunteers for their huge contribution and our **5** wonderful, dedicated committee members

## People & Governance



### GOVERNANCE

SCEC is led by a volunteer Management Committee who oversee the direction of the organisation and govern according to the principles of good governance for not-for-profit organisations. Our Management Committee helps determine and is guided by the SCEC strategic and operational plans and by monthly staff and financial reports.

### VOLUNTEERS

SCEC could not operate without the ongoing support of its volunteers. Our volunteers assist with general office and reception duties, maintenance, finance, help organise and participate in SCEC events and many other tasks. SCEC would like to particularly acknowledge the following volunteers for their outstanding contribution:

- Jane Minor
- Deborah Hoye

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Vivien Griffin
Vice –President	Jillian Rossiter
Treasurer	Sue Etheridge
Secretary	Tracey Burton
Member	John Salter

### STAFF

Coordinator	Jacki Boyce
Liaison & Advocacy	Narelle McCarthy
WED Festival Coordinator	Jacki Boyce



Total grants received increased by **10%**

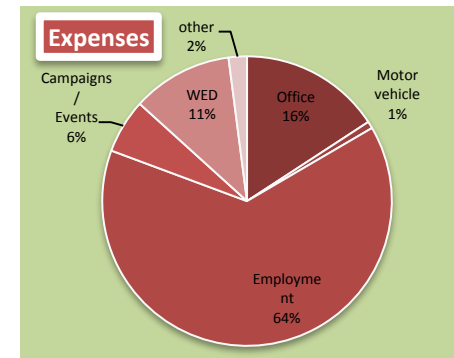
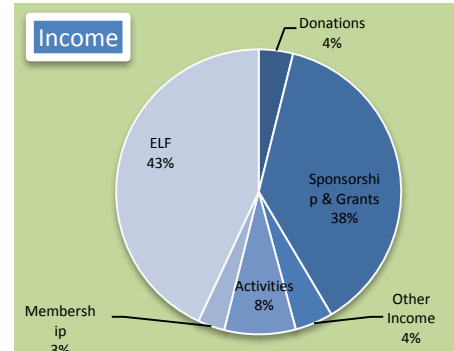
Income increased by **15%**

**\$22,785** decrease in liabilities

## Financial Report



SCEC retained an audited profit of \$20363 during the 2017/2018 financial year. As at the 31st March 2018 SCEC had a total equity of \$50307. The increased equity resulted mainly from an adjustment to the staff payroll provisions, and a small increase in the dispersal from ELF. The positive results in 2017/2018 financial year have established an increase in financial reserves going forward.



### Balance Sheet - 31 March 2018

Assets	
Cash on hand	\$50,158
Trade debtors	\$5,938
Inventories	\$0
Property, plant & equipment	\$11,328
Current tax assets	\$0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$67,424</b>
Liabilities	
Trade creditors	\$0
Tax liabilities	\$8,533
Payroll provisions	\$8,584
Other	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$17,117</b>
<b>Net Equity</b>	<b>\$50,307</b>

### Financial Performance 2017-2018

Income	
Membership Fees	7,795
Donations	9,972
ELF Dispersal	110,000
Sponsorships & Grants	96,043
Activity Generated	
Income	20,695
Other Income	357
Adjustment	10,664
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>255,526</b>
Expenses	
Office	37,605
Motor vehicle	1,836
Employment	150,713
Campaigns/Events	14,232
WED	26,422
Other Expenses	4,355
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>235,163</b>
<b>Profit</b>	<b>20,363</b>



**58** member groups

Member group **Round Table and events**

**Promotion** of member group activities

**Participation** in member group events

# Member Groups



SCEC acknowledges the amazing work of its member groups who all contribute so much 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!

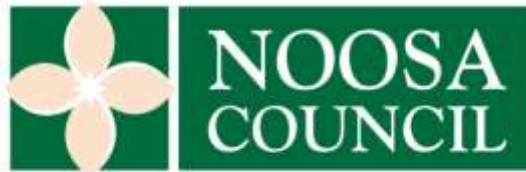
- Association for Sustainable Communities (Bellunya)
- Australian Marine Conservation Society
- Barung Landcare
- Bat Rescue Inc
- Blackall Range Land Use and Planning Association
- Bribie Island Environmental Protection Assoc. Inc - B.I.E.P.A
- Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corp
- Caloundra Catholic Community Social Justice Network
- Conondale Range Conservation
- Coolum and North Shore Coast Care
- Coolum Residents Association
- Crystal Waters Community Cooperative Ltd
- Currimundi Catchment Care Group
- Development Watch Inc
- Ecollaboration
- Environmental Legacy Foundation
- Fraser Island Defenders Org
- Friends of Lake Weyba Inc
- Friends of Yaroomba
- Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network Inc - GMAN
- Hinterland Bush Links
- Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc
- Landsborough Area Community Association - LACA
- Manduka Cooperative
- Maple Street Co-operative Society Limited
- Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
- Mooloolah River Waterwatch & Landcare Inc.
- Nambour Community Gardens Inc
- Nambour Transition Towns
- Night Eyes Water & Landcare Sunshine Coast
- Noosa and District Landcare Group
- Noosa Community Biosphere Association
- Noosa Integrated Catchment Association
- Noosa Parks Association Inc.
- OSCAR
- Permaculture Noosa Inc
- Protect Elanda
- Queensland Folk Federation
- Queensland Water and Land Carers
- Sunshine Coast Bushwalkers Club
- Sunshine Coast Climate Action Now SCCAN
- Sunshine Coast Lets Inc
- Sunshine Coast Solar Citizens
- Surfrider Foundation Sunshine Coast
- Sustainable Population Australia
- Take Action for Pumicestone Passage - TAPP Inc
- Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland - Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Branch (WPSQ)
- Wildlife Volunteers Association Incorporated - Wilvos
- Yandina and District Community Association
- Yandina Community Gardens Inc
- Zero Emissions Noosa



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

SCEC received **\$96,000** in grants and sponsorships

## Sponsorships & Grants



Unitywater



Queensland Government



Bendigo Bank

Sunshine Coast Environment Council

3 Porters Lane

PO Box 269

Nambour QLD, 4560

07 5441 5747

[info@scec.org.au](mailto:info@scec.org.au)

[www.scec.org.au](http://www.scec.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/SunshineCoastEnvironment Council](https://www.facebook.com/SunshineCoastEnvironmentCouncil)

SUNSHINE COAST  
**Environment Council**  
[www.scec.org.au](http://www.scec.org.au)

