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



# ANNUAL REPORT

2019 / 2020

# SUNSHINE COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

*SCEC is the peak environmental advocacy group on the Sunshine Coast. Established in 1980, SCEC represents more than 50 community groups working in the areas of natural resource management, conservation, environmental restoration and protection and sustainability. This membership represents a collective of almost 10,000 individuals with a further 4,000 people as SCEC supporters.*

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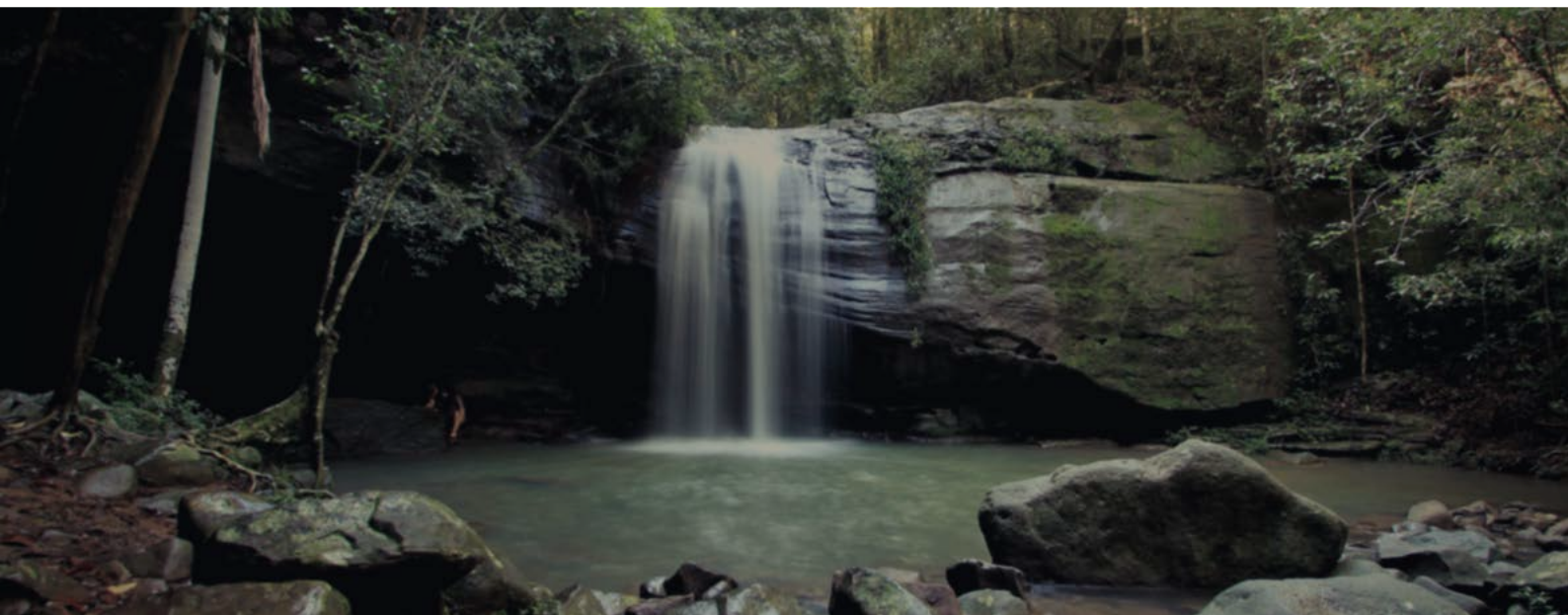
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## Our Vision

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.







# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Celebrating SCEC's legacy*

I have had the pleasure of being involved with SCEC over the last four decades and have been on the Management Committee for a number of years in various capacities. In this time I have seen SCEC grow and adapt to the ever changing landscape and respond to the emerging threats to the precious Sunshine Coast environment. This year, as we celebrate our 40th anniversary I have spent time reflecting and researching the campaigns and projects that SCEC undertook and am in awe of the tireless efforts of the volunteers, management committee and staff throughout the decades.

## **Reflecting on SCEC's legacy**

On the 21st of April, 1980 the need for a formal networking organisation brought together representatives of 15 Sunshine Coast community groups and the Queensland Conservation Council in Maroochydore and it was agreed to form the Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) Inc.

Regular meetings enabled everyone to share information and plan strategies in the days before digital platforms.

SCEC is fundamentally a campaigning organisation and has often taken on this role on behalf of, and in co-operation with, its member groups.

The two earliest conservation groups on the Sunshine Coast - the Noosa Parks Association (NPA) and the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society (WPSQ) Caloundra branch – had been formed in 1962 and 1963 and were instrumental in driving the broader networking and collaboration efforts across the conservation movement.

In 1980, Joh Bjelke Petersen had been Premier of Queensland since 1968 and massive Crown land leases were already being developed from Kawana to Noosa. An increasing number of people were moving to Noosa, Maroochy and Landsborough Shires as the Sunshine Coast was then comprised, and in the period from 1971-81, the Sunshine Coast actually surpassed the Gold Coast in its rate of population growth. During the 1980s, developers were eyeing off the last Vacant Crown land and some of the most intense conservation battles were being fought.

Ian Mackay, Herman Schwabe, Cheryl Seabrook. 1990s.





**Climate change** continues to be the biggest issue facing us all today. In the early 2000s, SCEC recognised the untapped potential of rooftop photovoltaic solar to reduce carbon emissions as well as electricity demand. At that time there was virtually zero uptake in Australia, despite generous government feed in tariffs available, and there were no mainstream photovoltaic installers on the Sunshine Coast. In 2008, SCEC conducted a successful trial of 10 x 1 kw systems in Caloundra, after which the **SCEC 1,000 Solar Rooves program** was launched. The program was hugely successful and soon became the 10,000 Solar Rooves program. In 2009, the PV solar industry began to take off nationwide and was mainstream by 2010, so SCEC’s advocacy was no longer required. That Caloundra in particular, and the Sunshine Coast more generally, were the postcodes with the most PV rooftops in the nation for a number of years can be at least partly attributed to SCEC’s Solar Rooves program.

We are fortunate to have some fantastic local groups taking action on climate change and mobilising the community to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions. I’d like to thank Vivien Griffin, the previous SCEC President for her fantastic work in this space and her dedication to SCEC over the last 3 years and beyond.

The end of the financial year for us saw the beginnings of COVID-19 and I am thankful for the dedication and support of the Management Committee; Sue Etheridge, Rolf Engel, Kerri Watson and Hilary Macleod who have helped shape SCEC over the 2019/2020 period.

The staff have once again done a phenomenal job at bringing the community together to care for and protect the environment and I would like to especially thank Peter Hogg for taking on the Coordinator role when Natalie Frost was on parental leave. Peter has been a valuable member of SCEC over the last 2 years and he will be dearly missed next year. Narelle McCarthy has once again gone above and beyond in her role as Liaison and Advocacy Officer taking on the mammoth task of self-representing SCEC in the Sekisui court case in November 2019. We were fortunate this year to have some fantastic volunteers working in the office on World Environment Day Festival this year. It is very refreshing to see so many new faces at SCEC and I am thrilled to see SCEC’s legacy continue with a passionate team of volunteers, staff and management committee.

Jillian Rossiter  
President



SCEC environment shop 1983 - 2000





# PEOPLE AND GOVERNANCE

*SCEC was fortunate to have a fantastic team of passionate volunteers work across a range of projects and events*

This year saw SCEC strengthen governance policies and procedures along with overarching program management and reporting processes. There were again some staff changes with Natalie Frost in the Coordinator position until mid-June 2019 until she went on parental leave for 7 months and SCEC was fortunate to have Peter Hogg take on the Coordinator role for that time.

The governance of SCEC was a focus over the past year with the development of a suite of policies and procedures. The review of SCEC's governance was undertaken by the Management Committee with Hilary Macleod taking a leading role in ensuring that the necessary policies and procedures were up to date and managed appropriately. Work continues to review the overarching procedures, constitution and SCEC's other policies and we would like to sincerely thank Hilary for all of her work to strengthen SCEC's governance.

## Key Achievements:

- Developed a robust volunteer management program for WED Festival
- Gained new funding partnerships
- Developed a new quarterly planning and reporting process
- Fostered existing and new relationships with universities
- Policy and procedures developed and implemented
- Successful fundraiser event Raised \$6,550 and engaged a diverse audience to raise SCEC's profile.

92 Members  
50 Member Groups  
45 Volunteers  
3 Staff  
6 Management Committee Members

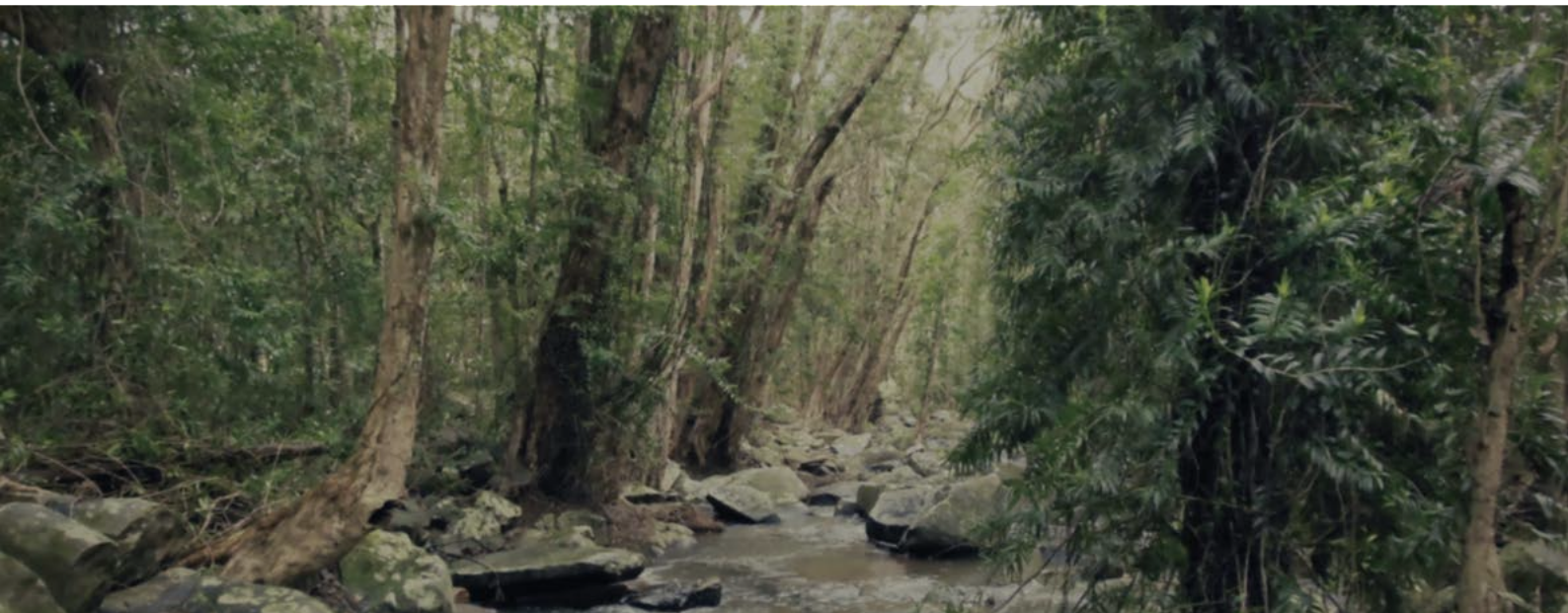


## Volunteers

SCEC is fortunate to have a fantastic team of volunteers support the staff team and this year saw the volunteer team increase dramatically with dedicated WED Festival volunteers taking on key roles in the planning stage. SCEC would like to especially thank:

- Debra Hoye
- Cynthia Rye
- Jane Minor
- Petra Dunn
- Maggie James
- Rose Feely
- John Adams
- Tessa Patrick
- Honey Marich
- Aaron Hedstrom-Wiggins
- Jenna Kirkham
- Kassia Murphy

Thank you to the huge team of volunteers who assisted with various events and in the office throughout the year. We were also fortunate to have a great team of university student placements from the University of the Sunshine Coast and Griffith University contribute to a range of projects over the year.





# 2019/2020 Management Committee



**President  
(partial period)  
Peter Hunnam**



**Vice-president  
President  
(balance period)  
Jilliian Rossiter**



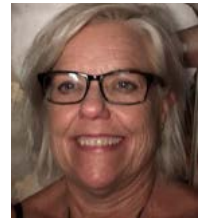
**Treasurer  
Sue Etheridge**



**Member  
Rolf Engel**



**Member  
Hilary Macleod**



**Member  
Kerri Watson**

## Staff



**Coordinator  
Natalie Frost**



**Liaison and  
Advocacy Officer  
Narelle McCarthy**



**Administration  
Assistant  
Debra Hoye**



Landscape Band Community Hall tour kindly donated funds to SCEC. Peter Hogg, Derek Foster, Natalie Frost, Narelle McCarthy, Di Fitzgerald



WED Fest 2019 volunteers

# ADVOCACY

*We continue to take so much hope and pride from the way our community comes together to fight for their environments and things that matter.*

*Otherwise known as people power!*

From the time this reporting period was underway in April 2019 until the end of March 2020 when a global pandemic had entered the frame, SCECs activity, advocacy and engagement has been constant and dynamic. From koalas to court, protected areas to plastics, biodiversity to biospheres, forests to floodplains and development dramas, we've covered a lot of ground over the past 12 months and canvassed a multitude of issues and topics along the way! This is but a snapshot...

### Alliances and Action

SCEC continued to work with member groups and fellow environment organisations on campaigns to expand the Protected Area estate, the removal of shark nets in favour of non-lethal measures, the banning of single-use plastics, koala conservation and stronger federal and state environment laws - to name just a few! There was also a Federal election and looming state election thrown into the mix! We provided approximately 20 submissions and contributed feedback on a range of documents and topics

### Representation and roles

SCEC was a member of numerous stakeholder groups such as the Pumicestone Passage Catchment Advisory Group, Transport Community Reference Group, the Biosphere nomination CRG, Caloundra South Community Stakeholder reference group and the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy Community Advisory Group (thanks to the exceptional Jim Cash!). Narelle held positions on several Boards; SEQ Catchments Members Association, Queensland Conservation Council, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC). Countless meetings and workshops were attended and advocacy opportunities pursued.







**Koala crisis**

There was a keen focus on the State government’s Draft Koala Conservation Strategy to respond to the Koala Expert Advisory Panel recommendations. Alarming declines in the koala population in SEQ and the extensive loss and fragmentation of habitat which supports koalas and countless other species, demanded a strong response to address this deplorable situation.

The release of the mapping to identify areas to give legislative designations for habitat protection and enhancement was a necessary and welcome step. However, critical areas known to have koalas and other areas needed for landscape connectivity were unfortunately missed. The community, including SCEC, and local governments have subsequently worked with the Department of Environment & Science to improve the mapping to reflect ‘on-ground’ realities for greater protections and to ensure the strategy will deliver tangible and urgent actions when released (expected in mid 2020). Additional work was also undertaken on threatened species.

**Sunshine Coast UNESCO Biosphere Reserve nomination**

When the Sunshine Coast Regional Council determined it would nominate its local government area as a Biosphere Reserve, SCEC was invited to be part of the Community Reference Group (CRG). While careful consideration was given regarding our participation, the process proved to be extremely constructive to produce a credible nomination. Our inclusion in the CRG also gives SCEC the opportunity to be more closely involved in the all-important implementation phase should the UNESCO designation occur.

Such a designation can be an underpinning foundation for fostering sustainability and ensuring the importance the community clearly places on the region's environment and liveability values is reflected in decision making and actions. And something SCEC would draw upon in its advocacy.



Sunshine Coast UNESCO Biosphere Reserve nomination Community Reference Group

**Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion Project**  
Large and complex infrastructure projects such as the Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion continued to roll out this year.

As it has since the early stages of this project SCEC maintained its oversight of environmental matters and input through regular briefings with the Project Team, the Department of Environment and Science and local groups regarding environmental matters and related issues. This included such topics as compliance with environmental permits and approval and performance in the protection of fauna and flora, flooding, conservation areas, coastal ecosystems and groundwater. This oversight is ongoing, particularly when the project is handed over to Sunshine Coast Airport Corporation.



MRCCC Chari Ian Mackay, Narelle McCarthy, Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor George Seymour with Larry the lungfish



The iconic koala



**Sekisui Yaroomba - 9000 people said no, 6 Councillors said yes... so we're off to Court**

Our most dominant activity over the course of the year was the Planning & Environment Court appeal against Council's contentious decision to approve the intensive development application by Sekisui House for beautiful Yaroomba. Together with long standing member group, Development Watch as the First Appellant, SCEC became the Second Appellant in the proceedings. This was a massive undertaking not only for SCEC, who were self-represented but also for the community in this taking up this massive but necessary legal challenge. While SCEC was concerned about the range of grounds raised in the appeal, we focused on the potential significant impacts on the endangered loggerhead turtle population and its habitat.

Three intensive weeks of trial in the Maroochydore Planning and Environment Court saw the culmination of our joint community appeal concluded on 6th December 2019. We mounted a strong appeal in the face of substantially larger legal representation for both Council and Sekisui. The conclusion of the trial marked the culmination of well over twelve months of concerted fundraising and significant effort to ensure our appeal was as strong as it possibly could be. We couldn't have done this without the magnificent support received from our wonderful Sunshine Coast community, Friends of Yaroomba and those further afield who love Yaroomba too. We are extremely grateful to the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) for their incredible support.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the appeal in so many ways. Whether by donating, volunteering, spreading the message, supporting events or attending court. And more! Knowing we had your support and were there for you as we undertook the exacting tasks and representations before and during the appeal strengthened our resolve. The judgment was pending at the time when our reporting period finished as we maintained quiet optimism for a favourable decision.



Save Yaroomba rally March 2020. Photo credit: Cooper Brady Photography



Save Yaroomba rally March 2020. Photo credit: Cooper Brady Photography



Save Yaroomba rally March 2020. Photo credit: Cooper Brady Photography



Save Yaroomba rally March 2020. Photo credit: Cooper Brady Photography





Local Government Elections

There was an apparent ‘mood for change’ when the council elections rolled around in March. With a number of sitting Councillors not re-contesting, the pool of candidates saw some new faces put their ‘hats in the ring to bring a fresh perspective and policy platform. SCEC worked with peak member group, OSCAR, and other community groups to develop a candidate questionnaire designed to assist people in having an informed vote as well as being involved in candidate forums. SCEC identified key priorities for the Sunshine Coast region over the next four years;

- Stronger collaboration between local government authorities and community
- Acceleration of the ‘just transition’ to renewable energy sources
- Increased commitment to preserve native vegetation, create and expand wildlife corridors and protect vital land and sea habitat
- Greater effort and strategic investment to protect and restore coastal ecosystems, wetlands and waterways
- Enhanced industry, community and business education programs on sustainability and the ‘green economy’
- Coordinated and urgent actions to address climate change impacts

SCEC called for more effective land use and environmental protection laws, stronger efforts to conserve threatened species and habitats, increased promotion of renewable sources of energy and greater recognition of the region’s First Nations peoples as the original custodians and exponents of ecological sustainability.

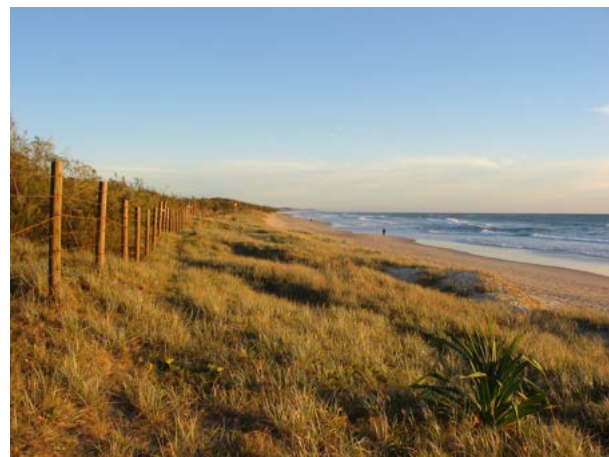
We pointed out that growing pressures made this a pivotal election where the future of the region’s environment, communities and its liveability would be tested. Local government is the level of government closest to the people and we urged Councillors to focus on improving the balance between human activity, and the natural environment to preserve the region’s unique natural and cultural heritage for future generations in an open, objective and collaborative manner.

And here’s the really important bit...!

I have been extremely fortunate yet again to have the privilege of working with some fabulous people as my colleagues. Peter Hogg and Natalie Frost have been outstanding Coordinators for SCEC and WED Fest and amazing to work and collaborate with. The ever diligent and quiet achiever Deb Hoyer is an integral part of our small, dynamic team as Administration and Finance Officer and an all round special person.

My appreciation to the Management Committee and to our wonderful volunteers. And, of course, my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our extraordinary member organisations and the people who are part of these impressive groups. The phenomenal work you do and your contributions to the region and the planet continues to inspire and motivate. Thank you & all the very best in the times ahead.

Narelle McCarthy  
Liaison and Advocacy Officer



Coolum coastal dunes





# EVENTS

*The new and improved festival trail was launched this year to deepen engagement with our member groups.*

Throughout the year SCEC both hosted its own events and assisted and participated in other community engagement and fundraising events, partnering with our Member Groups.

- Landscape Band Community Hall Tour
- Maleny Wood Expo
- Rise to Meet the Tide
- Drag Queen Bingo fundraiser

## World Environment Day Festival (WED Fest)

WED Fest is SCEC's signature event on June 5th that brings together thousands of people to celebrate the natural environment and the dedicated organisations working to protect it here on the coast. Each year the festival follows the theme set by the **United Nations Environment Program**, in 2019 the theme was 'air pollution'.

WED Fest 2019 at Cotton Tree was a great success with over 3000 people attending despite torrential rain throughout the day. This year, a **new model approach** was taken with the planning and delivery of the festival. Key volunteers were engaged early in the planning process to assist with marketing, vendor coordination and design. The layout changed dramatically this year from previous years to reflect feedback from both Council and festival attendees and staff. Feedback following the festival was fantastic, the main positive from everyone surveyed/questioned was that the layout was much better this year and that there was a great flow throughout the festival.

The new and improved **Festival Trail** was launched this year for festival-goers to deepen their engagement with our member groups. To link in with the theme of air pollution participants had to find 9 stations throughout the festival and build a component of a paper pot and edible seedling whilst answering questions set out by the member groups.

The trail started and ended at the SCEC tent to increase our engagement. Throughout the day over 50 people went through the trail, even though the majority of the day was dampened by the rain.

Planning for WED Festival 2020 was well underway come December 2019 and towards the end of the reporting period in early March doubts were placed on the viability of the festival in light of the recent declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sincerest thank you to the phenomenal staff, volunteers and Management Committee for all of your support throughout the year.

Natalie Frost  
Coordinator



2 major fundraising events  
13,936 Nationbuilder supporters  
4,969 Facebook followers  
8 member group events  
4,000 newsletter subscribers



WED Fest 2019. Natalie Frost and Narelle McCarthy



The new festival trail. Rose Feely and John Adams



Ian Mackay and Honey Marich



WED Fest 2019. Festival attendees enjoying the festival before the rain set in





# TREASURER'S REPORT

2019/20 was a very busy year for SCEC. We assisted with the fundraising for the Sekisui defence, along with holding successful WED Festival and Drag Queen Bingo Events.

Membership fees and other regular income have remained steady, and expenditure, even allowing for a small increase in employment costs, has been well contained overall. Our total income was **\$555,365** and our total expenses were **\$524,632**. We completed the year with a profit of **\$30,733** increasing our net equity to a healthy **\$40,644**. Thanks to everyone that has donated and assisted in other ways (including staff and volunteers) to contribute to our successful financial year.

Sue Etheridge  
Treasurer

## BALANCE SHEET - 31 MARCH 2020

### ASSETS

CASH ON HAND	\$51,019
TRADE DEBTORS	\$0
RECEIVABLES	\$50,000
PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	\$6,698
CURRENT TAX ASSETS	\$5,518
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$113,235</b>

### LIABILITIES

TRADE CREDITORS	\$182
TAX LIABILITIES	\$9,184
PAYROLL PROVISIONS	\$13,225
UNSECURED LOAN	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$72,591</b>

**NET EQUITY** **\$40,644**

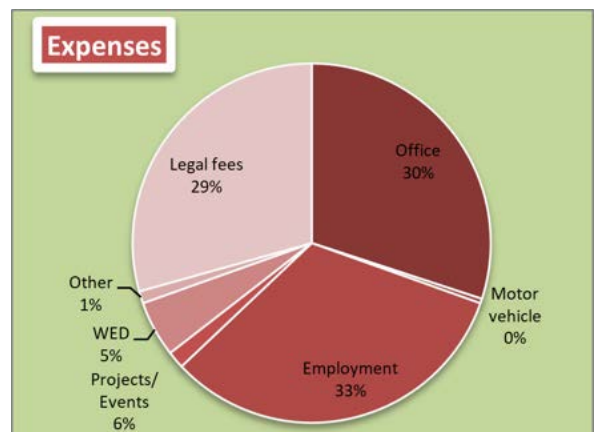
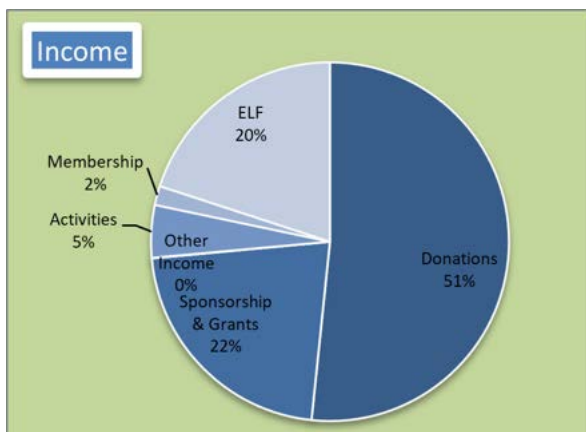
## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2019-2020

### INCOME

MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$9,575
DONATIONS	\$286,824
ELF DISPERSAL	\$111,000
SPONSORSHIPS & GRANTS	\$121,443
ACTIVITY GENERATED	\$26,274
OTHER INCOME	\$249
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$555,365</b>

### EXPENSES

OFFICE (INC DONATIONS)	\$158,550
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$2,179
EMPLOYMENT	\$171,666
PROJECTS/EVENTS	\$8,266
WED	\$2,667
LEGAL FEES	\$154,905
OTHER EXPENSES	\$2,395
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$524,632</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>\$30,733</b>





# MEMBER GROUPS

*SCEC is privileged to be representing 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!*

Australian Marine Conservation Society  
 Barung Landcare Association Inc.  
 Bat Rescue Inc.  
 Blackall Range Land Use and Planning Association  
 Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association Inc.  
 Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation  
 Caloundra Catholic Community Social Justice Network  
 Conondale Range Conservation Association Inc.  
 Coolum and North Shore Coast Care Inc.  
 Coolum Residents Association Inc.  
 Coolum Womens Shed  
 Cooran Earth Rights  
 Crystal Waters Community Co-Operative Ltd  
 Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc.  
 Development Watch Inc.  
 Environmental Legacy Foundation Ltd  
 Fraser Island Defenders Organisation  
 Friends Of Buddina Ltd  
 Friends of Lake Weyba Inc.  
 Friends of Yaroomba  
 Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network Inc.  
 Hinterland Bush Links Inc.  
 Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc.  
 Landsborough Area Community Association Inc.  
 Manduka Cooperative  
 Maple Street Co-operative Society Limited  
 Maroochy Waterwatch Inc ECOllaboration Ltd  
 Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.  
 Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee Association Inc.  
 Mooloolah River Waterwatch and Landcare Inc.  
 Nambour Community Gardens Inc.  
 Nambour Transition Towns  
 Night Eyes Water and Landcare Inc.  
 Noosa and District Landcare Group Inc.  
 Noosa Integrated Catchment Association Inc.  
 Noosa Parks Association Inc.

Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc.  
 Permaculture Noosa Inc.  
 Petrie Creek Catchment Care Group Inc.  
 Queensland Water and Land Carers Inc.  
 Reef Check Australia  
 Stop Adani Sunshine Coast  
 Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club  
 Sunshine Coast Climate Action Now SCCAN  
 Sunshine Coast Lets Inc.  
 Surfrider Foundation Sunshine Coast  
 Sustainable Population Australia Inc.  
 Take Action for Pumicestone Passage Inc.  
 Ten Little Pieces  
 The Overview Institute of Australia  
 Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland - Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Branch  
 Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc.  
 Woodfordia Inc.  
 Yandina and District Community Association Inc.  
 Yandina Community Gardens Inc.  
 Zero Emissions Noosa Inc.







# SPONSORSHIP AND GRANTS

In December 2019 Peter Hogg secured significant funding from Patagonia Inc, through Tides Foundation for the Sekisui court appeal. Securing funding for a court case is incredibly challenging as it falls outside most funders criteria and this significant grant was a huge boost to the necessary fundraising efforts of Save Yaroomba to pay for the legal costs. Receiving the grant also forged a strong relationship with Patagonia, providing further support for WED Festival and raising the profile of the Save Yaroomba campaign. SCEC received funding from a range of other grants for various projects throughout the year. Thank you to all of our generous supporters.



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



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