



# **Annual Report 2002 - 2003**

**September 2003**

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# **Agenda**

## **Aware Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 24th September 2003**

**City of Whitehorse, Council Chambers**

**379 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading**

### **Program**

5.00 pm - 6.00 pm  
Networking / Pre dinner drinks

6.00 pm - 8.00 pm  
Dinner & Our Planet - Environmental Trivia

8.00 pm – 8.30 pm  
Annual General Meeting

8.30 pm - 9.00 pm  
Coffee

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of 2002 AGM**
- 4. Business arising**
- 5. President's Report**
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
- 7. Business Plan (2003/2004)**
- 8. Launch of *Awareness* journal (2002-2003)**
- 9. Election of Office Bearers**

# Minutes of Aware ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 25 September 2002

The meeting was held at 1. 00 PM on Wednesday, 25 September, 2002 at Banyule Rethink Centre. Thanks to Margaret Morgan, Marie Pollard and Banyule City Council for providing the venue and Northern Regional Waste Management Group for providing lunch.

## Chair

Gayle Seddon

## 1. Welcome

## Present

Stan Vermeeren, Pat Armstrong, Simone Groves, Gayle Seddon, Margaret Morgan, Jenny Mulholland, Judith Alcorn, Kerryn Schrank, Judith Stano, Pam Craven, Sabina Wills, Kerrie Fennell, Giselle Wilkenson (Sustainable Living Foundation), Julia Bolton (Envirocom), Emma Sperlungo, Dan Casey (Community Change), Rosemary Angus, Michelle Croker, Clarissa Forster, Gerry Gillespie (Resources NSW) Ian McBurney (Vox Bandicoot) (21)

## 2. Apologies

Michelle Lewis, Kirsten Coote, Pam Keating

## 3. Guest Speaker Ian McBurney (Vox Bandicoot)

Ian spoke about Sustainability Street, an exciting project currently being piloted in the City of Moreland and Woolongong in NSW. The project is in response to declining community participation, especially in environmental actions.

The seven principles of the project are:

1. The future will be okay.
2. Biodiversity (separate wilderness and urban areas, bring biodiversity to the cities)
3. Take baby steps
4. Avoid soap boxing
5. Avoid doom and gloom
6. What you do impacts on biodiversity
7. Purposeful informality – communities setting their own way
8. Work with streets

Basically it is about people working together 'over the fence' for a better future. The program links into local strategies e.g. school programs.

It focusses on three areas:

- Waste
- Water
- Energy

## 4. Launch AWARENESS 2001/2002

- Gayle launched the *Awareness 2001/2002* and thanked the committee who worked on the editing, design and printing of the Journal: Gayle Seddon, Emily Kinns and Stan Vermeeren.
- Members are encouraged to submit articles to the Aware magazine *Awareness 2002/2003*. For more information, please contact Gayle Seddon [gaysed@citywide.com.au](mailto:gaysed@citywide.com.au)

## **5. Minutes of the 2001 Annual General Meeting**

Minutes were accepted  
Moved: Jenny Mulholland  
Seconded: Stan Vermeeren

## **6. Business arising**

None

## **7. President's Report**

- 2002 Annual Report was tabled and discussed by Gayle Seddon. This report is attached as a separate document.
- There are now 53 financial members with 35 associated members.
- Gayle thanked the outgoing committee members for their involvement over the past year.
- Pat Armstrong, convenor of the joint AWARE / WMAA waste Educators Working Group, spoke of the developments of the group:
  - Group of about twenty waste educators
  - Four meetings held to date
  - Working towards Strategic Plan for 2002-2004
  - Invitation to speak at meeting of NSW / ACT waste educators about forming a similar group in NSW, based on the Victorian model
- The next AWARE general meeting will be in November and will focus on Public Place Recycling.
- The next major education conference will be Sustainability Education in April 2003.

The President's report was accepted:  
Moved: Pam Craven  
Seconded: Rosemary Angus.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

- Report tabled by Clarissa Forster.
- It was noted that AWARE continues to be in a strong financial position. The bank balance is \$5,863.90. (This does not include the design and printing costs of the AWARENESS journal.)

The Treasurer's report was accepted. Moved: Gayle Seddon, Seconded: Stan Vermeeren

## **9. Special Business**

Motions:

1. That the AWARE changes its name to "Association for Waste and Resource Education"
2. That the logo be changed to the one tabled at the meeting.

Moved: Jenny Mulholland  
Seconded: Judith Alcorn

Both motions were passed.

## **10. Election of Office Bearers**

The following people were nominated and elected:

**President:** Gayle Seddon

Nominated by: Stan Vermeeren  
Seconded by: Kirsten Coote

**Vice President:** Stan Vermeeren

Nominated by: Gayle Seddon

Seconded by: Margaret Morgan

**Secretary:** Pat Armstrong

Nominated by: Margaret Morgan

Seconded by: Gayle Seddon

**Treasurer:** Clarissa Forster

Nominated by: Gayle Seddon

Seconded by: Margaret Morgan

**Public Officer:** Faye MacKenzie

Nominated by: Gayle Seddon

Seconded by: Pat Armstrong

The following people were nominated for the positions of ordinary members.

Margaret Morgan

Nominated by: Stan Vermeeren

Seconded by: Gayle Seddon

Jenny Mulholland

Nominated by: Margaret Morgan

Seconded by: Michelle Croker

The following people were invited to join the committee as a co-opted member

Kirsten Coote

Nominated by: Gayle Seddon

Seconded by: Pat Armstrong

Karen Cosson

Nominated by: Gayle Seddon

Seconded by: Pat Armstrong

Jo Connor

Nominated by: Gayle Seddon

Seconded by: Pat Armstrong

All the above people were elected.

## **11. Guest Speaker: Gerry Gillespie**

(Executive Officer Resources NSW South East Office)

Gerry gave an inspirational talk, speaking across a wide range of topics. Some of these were:

### **Resource NSW**

- Have a budget of \$42 million and employ 100 people.
- A draft strategy is being prepared.

### **ACT government**

- Have a *NoWaste by 2010* policy and are currently diverting 64% of its waste from landfill. The program has created 250 jobs with \$6 million of wages.

## **Zero Waste**

- Zero Waste is a powerful concept that can bring about remarkable results.
- NZ have formed the Zero Waste NZ Trust.
- Apatiki? adopted Zero Waste to Landfill in October 1998. They have reduced waste to landfill from 10,000 tonnes/year to 1,000 tonnes/year and recycle 95% of waste. The program is driven by the local community.
- Australia spends \$3 billion /year on waste management, sending 21 million tonnes of waste to landfill. Meanwhile most Australian soils are in poor shape. As waste is 85% organic we should be returning these organics back to the soil.

## **Majors Creek Music Festival (Going for Zero)**

- 4000 people attended
- Achieved zero waste by separating materials into recyclables, non recyclables and food scraps and sorting on site:
  - Glass
  - Plastic milk bottles
  - Aluminium cans
  - Paper and cardboard
  - Food scraps
- 899kg of materials was recycled, 442 kg was composted on site and two bales of non-recyclables (83 kg) were shredded and used as aggregate in concrete.

## **Tags for Bags system in New Zealand**

- User pays system, all waste goes into the one bin and is sorted centrally.
- Household users use plastic shopping bags for all waste categories, using coloured plastic tags to identify different waste streams, eg:
  - Blue for paper
  - Green for organics
  - Red for rubbish
  - Yellow? for recyclables
- The bags could be biodegradable in the future

Gerry's final message was that we all need to change the way we live to reduce consumption and to care for the environment. In Australia, this is becoming increasingly important as the quality of our soils continues to decline.

## **Chinese Proverb**

"Unless you change direction, you are very likely to end up where you are going."

Anonymous "Living here as if we intend to stay."

# President's Report

## AWARE SCORECARD

As a not for profit, volunteer organisation AWARE Victoria has continued to provide a valuable service to members during 2002-2003.

Our enthusiastic and dedicated executive team has worked tirelessly to provide a range of interesting topics and speakers for our professional development seminars, improve our communications with members through our E newsletter and journal and develop strategic links with key stakeholders.

Consultation with EcoRecycle Victoria on the *Towards Zero Waste - A Materials Efficiency Strategy for Victoria*, was a priority for 2003 and AWARE members provided valuable feedback on the document and participated in the "Community Change Strategies" workshop held at the De Bono Institute in April.

A strong relationship has been formed with the Waste Management Association of Australia, through the joint Waste Educators Working Group, AWARE representation on WMAA Victoria executive committee and administrative support of the development of the AWARE website.

An assessment of our 2002 Future Directions strategy reveals how we have performed on key objectives.

As volunteers, we were concerned that there is only so much we can achieve and that our expectations are often greater than what we can deliver. We rated our current activities using a matrix of **Impact vs Effort** to determine realistic priority activities for the next 12 months.

Activity	Impact	Effort	Priority	Comments
1. New membership brochure	high	medium	high	Key marketing tool, still to be updated for 2004, Current use of email invoice and letter is cost effective
2. E – Newsletter	high	medium	high	Key marketing tool, fell behind schedule in 2003, new editor and design has increased appeal
3. Calendar of events	high	medium	high	Key marketing tool, need to promote a year in advance. 2003 was a challenge, lots of big events were already happening eg EcoBuy, ISWA, had to cancel the Plastic Bag seminar, this put us behind schedule, need to decide on key topics early in 2004 and promote in advance, collaborating with other orgs to support events, eg, Education 4 Sustainability Conference.
4. General Meetings	high	medium	high	guest speaker format, worked well in 2003
5. Tours	med - high	med – high	medium	Still to run in October 2003, depends on numbers
6. Conversations For Change	high	high	high	Still to run in September 2003, usually in June
7. AGM	high	high	high	Trial of new format with Seminar, Dinner and Trivia night
8. Journal	high	high	high	Ongoing Cost, Sponsorship opportunities were very successful for 2003
9. Website	high	high	high	Have secured address <a href="http://www.aware.asn.au">www.aware.asn.au</a> , need to populate content with WMAA support

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our executive team for their support, enthusiasm and dedication to AWARE:

Pat Armstrong (Secretary), Stan Vermeeren (Vice President), Clarissa Forster (Treasurer), Sandy Tibballs (Newsletter Editor), Emily Kinns, Karen Cosson, Jo Connor, Margaret Morgan and Kirstin Coote.

I would also like to thank and Kerry Schrank, Jenny Mulholland, Faye Mackenzie and Julia Bolton who left during the year.

### Calendar of Events

September 2002 AWARE AGM	Ian Mc Burney- Vox Bandicoot, " <i>Sustainability Street</i> " Gerry Gillespie, Resource NSW, " <i>Zero Waste, Organics Recycling and all that ...</i> "
November 2002	Waste Wise Events/ Public Place Recycling Forum, City of Melbourne
December 2002	Waste Wise and Water Conservation at the Botanical Gardens
February 2003	Pat Armstrong, Gould League – Sustainable Schools and Eric Bottomley, CERES – Urban Water Conservation Project
April 2003	Plastic Bag Forum - Cancelled
March - April 2003	Local Education Strategy Course
April 2003	EcoRecycle Excellence in Waste Wise Education Awards
May 2003	EcoBuy Conference
June 2003	Linda Condon, Swinburne University - What did we learn from Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development?
September 2003 AWARE AGM	Dan Casey, Conversations for Change

During 2003 we had to cancel the major event of the *Plastic Bags Forum* to the disappointment of many members. It had proven to be a very popular and political topic and still continues to be. We took the advice of our key sponsor, EcoRecycle to cancel the event until the outcomes were clear on the retailers' Code of Practice and the National Plastic Bag Summit. It is hoped that this event will be possible again in the future.

### Local Education Strategy Course

AWARE supported the Local Education Strategy Course presented by Randall Brouillette to local education officers. This course was initially developed for waste education officers in the South Eastern Region and was re run for other officers from other regions. It is a very popular course and a valuable resource for our members.

### EcoRecycle Victoria Excellence in Waste Wise Education Awards

Gayle Seddon was invited to represent AWARE as a judge of the inaugural Excellence in Waste Wise Education Awards. The quality of the entries was excellent with many of the entrant's projects receiving assistance from Regional Education Officers and Regional Waste Management Groups.

Manningham City Council won the Waste Wise Education Award for Best Comprehensive Waste Education Strategy. Indigo Shire picked up the Award for Best Rural Waste Education Strategy and Whitehorse City Council took out Best Litter Education Program.

A feature of these awards has been made in the 2002-2003 *Awareness* journal thanks to EcoRecycle sponsorship with plans to continue this for 2004.

## **Conversations for Change**

I cannot report on this seminar as it is yet to happen. Traditionally it has been held during World Environment Week in June, however it was moved to later in the year to coincide with the AGM. The success of this will be reviewed for planning of events for 2004.

## **Newsletter**

Thanks to Sandy Tibballs and the support of South Eastern Regional Waste Management Group we have dramatically improved the quality of our communication to members with the new look E Newsletter. It is planned to produce this quarterly.

## **Website**

AWARE has secured the [www.wmaa.asn.au](http://www.wmaa.asn.au) address and will be supported by the Waste Management Association of Australia to administrate the website. It is planned that all waste education networks across Australia will be able to use this site. We hope to have a secure area for AWARE members to access.

## **AWARENESS Journal**

The further development of the journal was a key objective for 2003. With the support of the following sponsors we have been able to produce a professional journal of which members can be proud. Thanks to:

- EcoRecycle Victoria
- Alcoa/Kaal (who also supported us in the previous edition)
- Cleanaway
- CityWide (ongoing editorial and project support)
- EnviroCom
- Highlands Regional Waste Management Group
- KW Doggett (provided the paper)
- Leastwaste
- Northern Regional Waste Management Group
- Visy Recycling
- Western Regional Waste Management Group
- Yabbie Design (design sponsorship).

The continued support of members is vital for this publication, thanks to all the contributors and a reminder to start writing articles and taking photos for the next edition.

## **Education for Sustainability Conference, Sydney 2003**

The annual Waste Educate Conference has been super-seeded in 2003 by the forthcoming *Education for Sustainability* Conference in Sydney in October.

Gayle Seddon has played a key role in the development of the upcoming conference program as a member of the organising committee and a conference facilitator. A number of AWARE Victoria members will be attending the conference and presenting papers. The conference will provide a further opportunity to promote the development of national links with educators in other resource areas of water, energy and conservation.

## **Waste Management Association of Australia & AWARE – Waste Education Working Group**

The Waste Education Working Group (WEWG) is a joint working group of the Waste Management Association of Australia (Vic) and AWARE Victoria.

Meetings of this small, but dedicated group, were held monthly. The group consisted of:

Pat Armstrong (convenor), Judith Alcorn, Emma Sperlungo, Steve Malcolm, Gayle Seddon, Simone Groves, Kirstin Coote, Emily Kinns, Michael Sterling, Sabina Wills and Stan Vermeeren with minutes circulated to a wider email list.

An Action Plan 2003-2005 has been finalised and is available electronically from [pata@gould.edu.au](mailto:pata@gould.edu.au).

The vision of the Action Plan is: *To achieve sustainable resource use through the integration of waste and resource education into all waste sectors.*

The Action Plan has given members of the working group a clear framework to work towards the following objectives:

1. To promote and contribute to the development of a government and organisational strategies (such as the Waste Education Strategy in collaboration with EcoRecycle's Solid Waste Strategy.)
2. To develop professional standards and educational best practice guidelines for waste and resource education.
3. To develop an integration program that addresses the integration and promotion of waste education in the broader waste and recycling sector.
4. To develop and implement a communications and membership strategy.
5. To collect and disseminate data on waste education (such as numbers of waste educators, courses offered and the location of education providers.)

The group is working on a document, '*Educating Towards Zero Waste: Community Change Strategy Guidelines for Waste Educators and Waste Management Agencies*'.

The group will give a poster presentation at the ISWA conference in November, based on the above guidelines.

EcoRecycle Victoria has indicated that they will support the development of a Waste Education Strategy for Victoria based on the above guidelines.

The group is investigating some good case studies about how education has contributed toward change to form the basis of the first waste educators' seminar later in the year.

Waste Education Working Groups are forming in Queensland, South Australia and NSW. It is hoped to form a National Waste Educators Working Group in the near future, starting with a meeting of State convenors at the ISWA conference in Melbourne.

## **Future Directions**

The retirement of past president and current secretary, Pat Armstrong, original founder of AWARE Victoria will be a great loss to the executive committee. Pat has been a staunch supporter of the birth and growth of AWARE over the past six years. Her plans are to continue working on the Waste Education Working Group and to 'go national' and convene the national committee of Waste Educators being formed by the Waste Management Association of Australia. We wish Pat well in her endeavours and can be assured that she will continue to serve our members well in her future roles.

The incoming executive team will take on the responsibility of implementing the AWARE 2003/2004 Business Plan, priorities will involve:

- Developing a Calendar of Events for 2004
- Establishing the new website and
- Expanding the membership.

**Gayle Seddon**  
**AWARE President**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 2002-2003

This report presents the financial statements for AWARE Victoria for the financial year ending 30 June 2003. The balance of the National Australia Bank Account at the end of the 2002/2003 financial year was = \$4717.76

Attached to these notes are:

- Summary of Income
- Summary of Expenditure
- Balance Sheet
- Membership trends

### Income

- Income for 2002/03 financial year totalled \$3252.38 which came from the following:
  - Membership fees - \$1372
  - Sale of Awareness journals - \$30
  - Seminar fees – Conversations for change series III – June 2002 - \$350
  - Awareness Journal Sponsorship - \$1500
  - Bank interest received – \$0.38

### Expenditure

- Expenses totalled \$4389.52 which covered the following:
  - CFC seminar presenter - \$960
  - Design Awareness Journal - \$550
  - Printing Awareness Journal - \$1399
  - Australia Post PO Box - \$52
  - Catering - \$270.90
  - Government debit tax - \$8.60
  - Public Liability Insurance - \$786.50
  - Membership reimbursement - \$17
  - Presenter flights - \$210.78
  - Gift for presenters - \$143.74

Seminar income was down from 2002. For the 2002/2003 financial year AWARE has run at a small loss, mainly due to presenter fees and the printing and design of the AWARENESS journal. Increased sponsorship has been sort this financial year to assist with the production of the AWARENESS journal.

Refer to **Appendix A** for complete 2002/2003 financial report.

### Membership trends 2002/03

- 70 members from 44 organisations (53 members from 35 organisations in 2001/2002)
- 16 organisations paid membership fees by end of October 2001, a further 13 organisations

Membership at 12 September 2003 stands at 42 members from 22 organisations.

**Clarissa Forster**  
**AWARE Treasurer**