



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

ZERO WASTE VICTORIA
FESTIVAL

ONLINE
SUN AUG 22
10AM - 4PM

City of
STONNINGTON

The graphic is set against a dark teal background with various yellow icons including leaves, a recycling symbol, a banana, and a key. The text is in white and yellow with blue outlines.

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Monday
Recycle Your Jeans Fabulously



Tuesday
Quick & easy waste-free snacks



Wednesday
Make a statement with patches.



Thursday
Waste free salad dressings & accompaniments



Friday
Log Cabin patchwork



Zero Waste Week
A week of free online activities
10.00 - 11.30am each day
All welcome



About Us

Zero Waste Victoria has grown from humble beginnings. The seed for Zero Waste Victoria was unknowingly sown when Hannah Mitchell saw a post in one of her Facebook groups asking a question about zero waste. She tried to find a local zero waste group but there wasn't one, so she started the Zero Waste Victoria Facebook group to help build local connections.

A callout was made by facebook group member, Erin Rhoads to see if there was interest in setting up a zero waste information stall at a festival. The idea was to speak to the public in person and encourage them to reduce waste.

Kirsty Bishop-Fox, Emily Hui, Lisa Sturgess and Che Hall, joined forces with Erin to create a display of zero waste swap outs for the Sustainable Living Festival in February 2017. And a basic website was set up with resources to support the event. This was inadvertently how Zero Waste Victoria came to exist as a group outside of facebook.

Following this, Zero Waste Victoria was invited to attend further events, and continued to spread the zero waste message.

In August 2018 we held the inaugural [Zero Waste Festival](#) and over 500 people attended, which we thought was a great success.

So in February 2019 we took the step to become incorporated as a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity.

We opened our doors to [membership](#) and [supporter donations](#) at our second [Zero Waste Festival](#) in October 2019, where over 1,000 people attended.

In 2020 and 2021 the [Zero Waste Festival](#) shifted online, which extended our reach even further.

Zero Waste Victoria has gone from strength to strength, becoming recognised for community education and also for government advocacy. We are grateful for everyone who has supported us so far, and are thrilled that we can also take a professional approach to inspire and empower more people and organisations with their efforts to make sustainable changes and reduce waste.

Vision & Mission

Zero Waste Victoria's mission is to empower Victorians to downsize their waste through everyday choices, while advocating for meaningful change. We shift mindsets, facilitate action and spotlight solutions to reduce waste. Our impact is to amplify the community voice and connect people, inspiring and enabling them to reach their zero waste goals.

Our vision is to:

- Work with and inspire people to take action against waste because we believe in a world where people and planet flourish together
- Educate, empower and lead community initiatives
- Lead advocacy in waste avoidance and reduction policies and legislation

Zero Waste Victoria is a not-for-profit charity that provides education, community engagement and sustainable living advice. We lead conversations on the growing issues of our waste and recycling system with Victorian councils, businesses, schools and community groups, and host information stalls, talks and workshops to inspire and empower waste reduction and sustainable actions.

Our Team

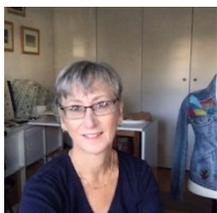
Management Committee



President Kirsty Bishop-Fox

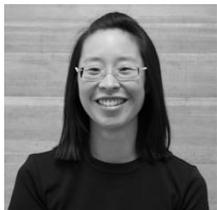


Secretary Carolina Aguirre



Treasurer Sylvia Lo Piccolo - 1 January – 2 September 2021

Treasurer Tamara Russell- from 4 September 2021



Emily Hui



Shane Gunston



Vicky Rae Ellmore



Erin Rhoads

President's Report

This year, like the last, has put new challenges in front of us, for many at a personal level. It's been tough with another year of this pandemic, and saddening to see the additional waste created during this time. Not only with masks and personal protection which we see littered everywhere, but also the recycling contamination and increase of general waste which has been attributed to takeaway due to COVID.

But on the upside, we've seen people question the waste they create on an individual level, and take steps to reduce their personal waste and responsibly manage it. And the Victorian Government will be banning many single-use plastic items, by February 2023. So we will see a shift away from single use plastic, which creates an opportunity to further reduce single use waste. This will give us an opportunity, or effectively an invitation to further discussions with the community, businesses and government about ways they can avoid creating waste too.

As for community conversations we were somewhat limited with the lockdowns, but we did take some of it online. Earlier in the year we had an in person presence at Stonington's Suitcase Rummage, and the launch of the Pascoe Vale Food Collective, by participating with our zero waste information stall. We anticipate more opportunity to do this again in 2022 with the reopening of Victoria.

We'd like to acknowledge Yarra Ranges council who awarded us a community grant, and then encouraged us to reinvent it, due to the pandemic. This gave us the flexibility to hold a series of workshops online, which had a great response and good connections with those who attended. We were able to do one session with a local high school, in person with Billanook College, which was received well by the students and teachers.

Zero Waste Victoria supported the Spring Clean your Patch event with a live broadcast, which meant a lot to the event organisers. It helped them to spread the message about what they're doing, not only with beach and street cleans, but also the data collection with the litterstopper app. It was good to be joined by Nina Taylor MP, who as a result, said she must get that app herself.

The Zero Waste Festival 2021 was very different this year. We'd like to express gratitude to Stonnington Council for the community grant to support it. And the partnership collaboration to deliver it.

The event took on several iterations, before we finally delivered it in August. There was a little dejavu in that the event evolved to become a festival. Initially we were going to be a part of the Council's Clothes swap with a talk and some activations to support their event. But the clothes swap wasn't appropriate with COVID and so it was reinvented. Without the clothes swap we had a large hall available and a speaking program evolving. Having the venue, and with the uncertainty around the pandemic, it made sense to put resources into this, so it became our Zero Waste Festival, making it our major event for the year.

While we were conscious of the chance of lockdowns and had to work around the reduced capacity of the venue, we ultimately had to postpone the festival in June, and again in July. I was sure it would go ahead in person in August and when we first said to the council it would go online if needed, we didn't expect that would be the outcome.

While it was unfortunate that not all of the participants who would have been there on the day could join us online, we did have a much greater reach than if we were in person, with over 3.5K views on the day, plus more to follow from the recordings of it.

We were fortunate to be able to take our full speaking program online, and also to bring in some additions to the program, which wouldn't have been possible in person. We added the "Chat to a waste expert" as a segment in between each event with Bec Nicols and Alice Trumble from council. Costa Georgiadis joined me with Alanna Brown from Open Table for the zero waste cooking segment. And Charlie McGee from Formidable Vegetable came online to close the festival with his song "No Such Thing as Waste".

We also took the Repair Café online which was a first for them too, this came together at the 11th hour, but was received quite well. Thanks to Shane Gunston who facilitated the repair café online. And to Emily Hui and Carolina Aguirre who helped backend with the festival tech on the day.

A special thanks to Tamara Russell who was on the planning team for the festival and was an amazing support for the event and the transition to online.

I'd also like to acknowledge Stonnington council for the partnership to deliver this event. Thanks goes to Bec Nicols and Alice Trumble from council. As well as Peta Hayes, Rosie Pham, Annika Clarebrough, Pia Demsky and Liliana Carranza who worked behind the scenes with the festival planning too.

Our Bring Your Own Container campaign is taking a new look thanks to Erin Rhoads who has given the project a new lease of life. We're looking forward to the launch of a new look website and campaign in 2022. I'd also like to acknowledge Carolina Aguirre and Bianca Cottle who have been working together with this project. And a special acknowledgement to Kim Maisch from Trashless Takeaway who generously offered to merge with the BYOC campaign and come on board to continue to support it.

Our website has had a facelift thanks to the commitment of Tamara Russell and input from everyone on the committee. Our website will be a work in progress as we evolve as an organisation, but it does look much better now.

A big thanks to Vicky Meadway who has supported us with our newsletter. She is stepping back now as she has too much on her plate. Her contribution to our communications has been appreciated and commended, and it is fair to say she will be missed. It's been great to have her support for Zero Waste Victoria and for her commitment to encouraging reusables with Reusable Nation.

I'd also like to acknowledge Syliva Lo Piccolo who came on board as our founding treasurer. She had to step back due to work and family occupying her time. But she hopes to still be involved as a volunteer in the future. Sylvia often volunteered at the events we attended and supported our festivals as well. It's been great to follow her journey establishing the Pascoe Vale Food Collective, putting a local stamp on reducing waste and community connection.

A final mention goes to Bianca Cottle, who unfortunately had to step down due to family and work commitments. But she has continued on with her passion project BYOC working

with Erin and Carolina. So while not on our board, I appreciate she is still with us, as an active volunteer.

While acknowledging past committee members, I'd also like to acknowledge Emily Hui, Carolina Aguirre and Shane Gunston as both contributors to the board, but also as volunteers too. And to Erin Rhoads who has come back on board this year, and Tamara Russell for joining us in 2021.

With regards to the bigger picture of reducing waste, we have advocated for better recycling and waste management by giving feedback to the government on

- Victorian Container Deposit Scheme
- Victorian waste to energy framework – consultation draft
- Proposed model for the New Victorian Waste Act and Waste Authority
- Productivity Commission's Right to Repair where we made a submission, gave evidence and reviewed the draft report

Many thanks goes to our members and the broader community who also made submissions to these and local council submissions as well. Our governments have asked for community feedback, which has given us an opportunity to give voice to refusing waste. It does help when our members and the public put their views in writing to emphasise the importance of avoiding waste, rather than just solely figuring out how to manage it.

Moving forwards, as we bounce back from the pandemic, we've had time to reflect and now it's time to re-connect and rebuild by reopening the conversations on the growing issues of waste. In 2022 I'm looking forward to advocating for meaningful change and connecting with community to empower them to reach their zero waste goals.

Treasurer's Report

Zero Waste Victoria had an unusual year with the Covid-19 lockdowns creating issues around holding in person events. We received a grant from Stonnington Council to hold a Speed date a Zero Waster event at the Malvern Town Hall. With the many restrictions placed around physical interaction this was changed to being a Festival to be held in June at the Malvern Town Hall but with number restrictions it was decided to postpone until July and then finally to take it online. This reduced our ability to raise funds through stall fees and donations. However we managed to raise \$400 in sponsorship and \$400 in donations from the Festival.

We also received \$31 in donations during the Zero Waste Week at the end of September.

This financial year (2021/22) to 30 September we have had 22 people donating through our GiveNow platform and gained 11 new members from our yearly membership fee payments through Square. During the year the Committee decided to change our Membership model to set yearly payments being \$30 for full members, \$20 for concessional members and \$5 for Indigenous membership.

We started the year with Sylvia Lo Piccolo as Treasurer who resigned on 2 September 2021. I was elected the new Treasurer on 4 September 2021.

Tamara Russell

Treasurer

ZERO WASTE VICTORIA		
Financial Statement for the period ended 30 June 2021		
Income		
	Stalls & Workshops Fees	\$1,050.00
	Festival Exhibitor Fees	\$0.00
	Festival Takings	\$321.66
	Festival Sponsor Fees	\$1,350.00
	Grants	\$18,200.00
	Donations	\$0.00
	Memberships/Donations	\$2,587.32
	Interest Received	\$41.96
	Total Income for the Period	\$23,550.94
Less Expenses		
	Sub-Contractors	\$6,910.00
	Insurance	\$415.00
	Hire Fees	\$0.00
	Training/Industry seminars	\$0.00
	Email subscription	\$310.56
	Website	\$0.00
	Advertising	\$0.00
	Online Services (Zoom)	\$158.69
	Workshop Costs	\$0.00
	Wages & Superannuation	\$0.00
	Recruitment Fees	\$0.00
	Total Expenses for the Period	\$7,794.25
	Surplus/Deficit for the Year	\$15,756.69
	Bank Balance at 1 July 2020	\$22,364.45
	Donations Bank Balance at 1 July 2020	\$7,077.34
	TOTAL	\$29,441.79
	Bank Balance at 30 June 2021	\$35,833.82
	Donations Bank Balance at 30 June 2021	\$9,434.57
	TOTAL	\$45,268.39

For the current financial year to 31 October 2021:

Income - \$1398.27

Expenditure - \$12,393.44

Income has been through donations and memberships. Our expenditure has been Festival outgoings including speakers as part of the 2020 Stonnington grant and for workshops as part of the Zero Waste Week for the Yarra Ranges Council 2020 grant..

Highlights



Zero Waste Festival 2021 Online

Originally designed as a Speed Date a Zero Waster event funded with a grant from Stonnington Council, this year's festival had a few false starts due to Covid lockdowns. The original event was altered due to government restrictions to become a festival. This was originally planned to take place at the Malvern Town Hall in June, then postponed to July and finally taken online in August using Streamyard which proved very successful.

The Zero Waste festival's aim was to reconnect community and provide festival goers with inspiration to rethink waste. It became a jam-packed event online with 9 sessions broadcast live so we could all be empowered, share stories and information about reducing waste and shifting towards a circular economy. The Festival began and ended with a tune from Charlie McGee - There's no such things as Waste.

- 10am – Everyday Waste Warrior – panel discussion
What difference do our actions really make? Meet changemakers who will share how even the smallest change can have a big impact.
- 11.00 – 11.15am Chat to a waste expert
Get your questions answered by a Council Waste Officer and Zero Waste Victoria
- 11:15am – No Waste Cooking Workshop
Make the most of the food you buy
- 12.15 – 12.30am Chat to a waste expert
Get your questions answered by a Council Waste Officer and Zero Waste Victoria
- 12:30pm The Circular Consumer – panel discussion
Ditch waste by designing it out of your life
- 1.30 – 1.45pm Chat to a waste expert
Get your questions answered by a Council Waste Officer and Zero Waste Victoria
- 1:45pm The Art of Second Hand Fashion
Sustainable fashion for the conscious consumer with Jenna Flood. Followed by question time with Jenna and Tamara Russell.
- 2:45 – 3:00pm Chat to a waste expert
Get your questions answered by a Council Waste Officer and Zero Waste Victoria
- 3pm Environmental Anxiety
Turn the overwhelm in to empowerment with Rachel Sietzema

We also hosted an online Repair Café with the menders from St Kilda Repair Café via Zoom.

Viewers not only came from Victoria but worldwide. The Festival was streamed via youtube or Facebook and is still available to view on our YouTube channel. The stats were great with over 3400 engagements on Facebook and over 1100 views on YouTube.

Zero Waste Victoria Website Upgrade

At the beginning of 2021 the Committee made the decision to upgrade the ZWV website as the current theme was out of date meaning that we could not upgrade our security. It was also decided to move hosting companies. We have now moved to Serversaurus who was one of Australia's first and only web hosts to become a Certified B Corporation. B Corporations are certified by the not-for-profit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.

A new theme has now been loaded to enable us to represent what we do in a clearer way. The content has been refreshed and we hope that it provides a better experience for all.

BYO Containers

Zero Waste Victoria has been hard at work supporting a refresh of the BYO Containers branding, website, social media channels, and pulling together a Victorian focused offline campaign due to launch January 2022.

Since 2018 BYO Containers utilised the Trashless Takeaway map software operated by Kim Maisch who founded his popular nationwide database in 2017. Upon hearing our plans to expand the BYO Containers website Kim asked if we would like to absorb Trashless Takeaway into our project as he had limited time to maintain the website. The committee unanimously voted yes with members Erin Rhoads and Carolina Aguirre working alongside BYO Containers founder Bianca Cottle and Kim Maisch staying on as technical adviser. The first draft of the website came back at the beginning of November looking fresh, fun, and full of helpful tools.

The BYO Container website will expand beyond the current database of butchers, delicatessens, fishmongers & poulterers, to include Trashless Takeaway, Groceries, Beauty, Cleaning, Pets, Wine & Beer, and everything in between. Our aim is to normalise reusing, refilling, and BYO Containers across all areas, while helping remove the barriers both customers and businesses face.

The BYOC team:

Binca Cottle, Founder

Erin Rhoads, Operations Manager

Carolina Aguirre, Project Support

Kim Maisch, Technical Adviser and Trashless Takeaway Founder

Zero Waste Week

Zero Waste Week was a week of interactive school holiday zero waste activities funded with a grant from Yarra Ranges Council.

The workshops were held each morning from 10.00-11.30am.

- Monday 27 September - Recycle Your Jeans Fabulously
Have a pair or two of jeans that are past wearing? Learn how to turn them into a range of items with very little waste. You will learn how to cut them down to create bags, pouches, patches, placemats and coasters among other things.
- Tuesday 28 September - Quick and easy waste-free snacks
Are you trying to reduce waste, but stumped with the plastic or too busy to make an interesting lunch? There are some simple ways you can ditch the takeaway and make lunches more interesting for home, school or work
- Wednesday 29 September - Visible Mending – Make a statement with patches.
Do you have a favourite piece of clothing that is looking the worst for wear with thin patches or holes? Come along and learn how to make the clothes you love last. You will learn to repair and embellish your clothing making them a delight to wear again.
- Thursday 30 September - Salad for Lunch with Waste free salad dressings and accompaniments
Learn how to turn bread into the ultimate garnish for salads, and how to make simple mayo or salad dressings to avoid single-use waste and save money.
- Friday 1 October - Log Cabin patchwork
Learn how to stitch patchwork blocks using recycled cloth to embed meaning into your piece. You will learn a simple running stitch which can be used for connecting pieces to a background using the Log Cabin patchwork technique.

The workshops were facilitated by Kirsty Bishop-Fox and Tamara Russell on Zoom.



Acknowledgements



Festival 2021 Team

- Rebecca Nichols
- Alice Trumble
- Rosie Pham
- Lilliana Carranze
- Peta Hayes
- Annika Clarebrough
- Kirsty Bishop-Fox
- Tamara Russell
- Shane Gunston
- Emily Hui
- Carolina Aguirre

Festival 2021 Presenters

- Charlotte Archer – Bob Hair Co
- Tony Corrales – Producing with Purpose podcase
- Kate Hume
- Beach Patrol / Love Our Streets
- Alanna Brown – Open Table
- Costa Georgiadis
- Ellen Burbidge
- Sally Williams – Sustainable Sally
- Jeremy Kerrigan – Noa and Parker
- Benny Hill – About Sight
- Jenna Flood
- Rachel Sietzema – UchangeU
- Tessa Plant
- Charlie McGee – Formidable Vegetable