



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



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## About Us

Zero Waste Victoria incorporated in February 2019 and was developed from a Facebook group with the same name. At the time, there were 5,000+ members in the group.

An early member, Erin Rhoads (zero waste speaker, community activist, zero waste lifestyle blogger and now a published zero waste author) had an idea to take the war on waste to the streets, with an educational stall at the National Sustainability Festival 2017. Her idea was to provide a fun space where everyday people could see the simple swaps we can all make to reduce the waste Victorians send to landfill. She put an expression of interest out to the Facebook group to see who was interested in supporting this event and the response was well received. Emily Hui, Lisa Sturgess, Che Hall and Kirsty Bishop-Fox volunteered to join the team with Erin to organise the event. This was a great success and Zero Waste Victoria continued to design and facilitate zero waste education activities at many other events.

These community education activations continued and then we took the war on waste message further, by holding our own event bringing waste warriors and interested community members together for the inaugural Zero Waste Festival in August 2018.

Zero Waste Victoria has grown even further, receiving more requests to educate and inspire people to minimise their waste in a wide range of opportunities. 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.

Zero Waste Victoria has been recognised as a not-for-profit charity since March 2019 and continues to provide education and advice, and to lead public discussions about the importance of reducing waste and improving our waste and recycling system.

We opened our doors to memberships and supporter donations at our second Zero Waste Festival in October 2019. Over 1,000 people came along to connect with the zero waste community and be empowered for change through the inspiring panel, presentations, exhibitors, workshops, repair café and clothes swap, as well as to eat, drink, enjoy some music and an art installation.

## **Management Committee**

Kirsty Bishop-Fox, President

Emily Hui, Vice President

Sylvia Lo Piccolo, Treasurer –

Caitlyn Rawding, Secretary February - November 2019

Carolina Aguirre, Secretary – from January 2020

Shane Gunston

Bianca Cottle

Vicky Rae Ellmore

Janette Connolly

- Joanna Drennan, Elisabeth van Roosendael, Caitlyn Rawding and Jenna Flood.

# President's Report

What an unpredictable first year Zero Waste Victoria has had as an incorporated association. And I could have said the same even without a pandemic, which added another layer where along with the rest of the world we adapted and delivered to support the community during this unprecedented time.

## Brief History

Zero Waste Victoria has gone from humble beginnings, having previously operated as an unincorporated group, since the end of 2016. The group inadvertently began after Erin Rhoads made a call out in the Zero Waste Victoria facebook group to see if there was interest in setting up an information stall at a festival, The idea was to speak to the public in person and encourage them to reduce waste.

Emily Hui, Lisa Sturges, Che Hall and I, along with Erin formed a planning group to create a display of zero waste swap outs and information boards with tips to reduce waste. More volunteers were recruited and we attended SLF (Sustainable Living Festival) for 3 days in February 2017. It was well received and a great experience for all involved.

You could say the rest is history. This was only planned as a one-off activity for SLF, but it got the attention of NGO's and councils, who asked if we would like to attend their events to showcase zero waste swaps too. This was unexpected, but it sounded like fun, so the offer was accepted, which was a great opportunity to encourage others to reduce waste too.

We brainstormed ideas, to come up with ways we could keep encouraging others to reduce their personal waste. We came up with an idea to hold an around Plastic-Free July, and invite the Zero Waste Victoria facebook group to attend. We hoped that 1-200 people would come.

It started as an idea to "speed date" a zero waster. Then we thought a clothes swap would be fun. And speakers and workshops seemed like a good idea, so it grew to a mini-festival. Over 500 people attended the inaugural Zero Waste Festival in Brunswick in 2018, which was a great turn out.

Our volunteer base had grown, and more people wanted to be involved, so in February 2019 we took the step to register as an incorporated not-for profit-organisation. And then became listed as a charitable organisation with the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission).

I would like to thank our founding committee members who have been a significant part of the journey to enabling this to happen. We were joined at the meeting by Joanna Drennan, Jenna Flood, Erin Rhoads, Lisa Sturges, Carolina Aguirre, Shane Gunston, Sylvia Lo Piccolo, Elisabeth van Roosendaal, Emily Hui, Bianca Cottle, and Caitlin Rawding. Vicky Rae Ellmore gave her apologies, but on board with us too.

A special thanks goes to Bianca Cottle, who joined us with the “Bring Your Own Container (BYOC) campaign”. She thoroughly reviewed the constitution I drafted, and offered some good feedback.

Since we incorporated Zero Waste Victoria has gone from strength to strength, taking action to encourage people to rethink the waste they create, particularly single-use plastic. And approaching our government on behalf of our members and community to show them that the community cares about waste avoidance and that we want real action to be taken. And changes made.

We’ve continued to have zero waste information stalls at various community events and council run events. The information stalls, and zero waste swaps showcase has been the fundamental basis of Zero Waste Victoria.

Many thanks to our volunteers who continued to support these stalls on a regular basis, Emily Hui, Sylvia Lo Piccolo, Bianca Cottle and Carolina Aguirre. And to the many volunteers who have given time to talk rubbish with us at these events.

We’ve also presented workshops and talks on topics including reducing single-use plastic, waste to energy, making beeswax wraps and more. And along with the rest of the world, we transitioned online during the pandemic crisis this year.

## **Zero Waste Festivals**

Zero Waste Festivals have become our organisation's flagship event. In 2019 we planned the Zero Waste Festival with the intention to be bigger so more people attend. The event opened with a panel discussion “What is the formula for a Zero Waste City?”. We got some great insight from Oberon and Lauren Carter (Spiral garden), David Holmgren (Permaculture founder), Bianca Cottle (ZWV and BYOC campaign) Veronica Shannon (Retub), and Nina Taylor MP. I was honoured to facilitate this discussion.

Following this we had 14 talks and workshops and clothes swap with 70 people participating. The repair café broke records repairing over 50 items throughout the day. And the exhibitor space was at capacity.

## **Membership**

It was at the festival that we launched our Zero Waste Victoria Membership and donation program to give people the opportunity to support Zero Waste Victoria. These funds will help ZWV to get the message out there about reducing waste and enable us to extend what we can do to advocate against waste.

There are more [Zero Waste Festival 2019](#) details here

We’d like to acknowledge the City of Port Phillip who supported the event by attending with a contribution from the Waste Futures Team and the Local Festivals Fund.

And a big thanks to all the volunteers and contributors who made this event such a success. It was a delight to be able to bring this event together. I'd like to thank our planning team of volunteers, Emily Hui, Carolina Aguirre, Sylvia Lo Piccolo, Elizabeth van Roosendael, Lilliana Carranz, Stacey Kirkby and Jenna Flood. And a special thanks to Janette Connolly who was employed part-time as festival coordinator, and helped us bring it all together.

As much as we would have liked to keep her on, Janette was headhunted, we were fortunate to retain her as a volunteer and she joined us on the committee.

Following the enthusiasm from the festival we held an open meeting to discuss activations that Zero Waste Victoria and what more we could do to encourage the community to reduce waste. It was a positive night which opened some great conversations and planning. Some of this has been put on hold with the pandemic, but don't worry we'll be back, and we're keen to continue what we started.

In 2020 we were planning to make the festival bigger again, when BAM, almost overnight the world changed. We realise very quickly that the festival we hoped for wasn't going to happen. So we took it online and brought the date forward. We had a group of volunteers in lockdown and it seemed like a good idea at the time.

The Zero Waste Festival Online was held over the first two weekends of June 2020. We had a diverse lineup of live interviews, panels, workshops, discussions and more.

We were honoured to have had such an amazing lineup of speakers. We are grateful for their generosity in sharing their time, knowledge and expertise with our community.

Thank you to our sponsors, and supporters, who helped make this happen. And to all our volunteers who pulled this together. A special thank you to Emily Hui who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this happen, along with Carolina Aguirre, Shane Gunston, Chloe Lines, Jenna Flood and Tamara Russell.

You can see the full details of the online festival [here](#)

## **Waste to Energy Appeal**

A significant highlight of the year was our wins negotiating better outcomes for the Waste to Energy facility in Laverton via the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

We were fortunate to secure pro Bono legal services from Environmental Justice Australia (EJA), who advised and represented us. We were represented by Nick Witherow (Principal Lawyer) Virginia Trescowthick (Lawyer) and Robert Forrester (Barrister)

EJA's lawyers helped Zero Waste Victoria, negotiate improved conditions which was a big win for the Hobsons Bay and Wyndham communities, and those with concerns about the health and environmental impacts of the proposed waste-to-energy facility

in Laverton. I am grateful and appreciative of EJA's dedication and thoroughness, for all their support and for the outcomes we achieved.

To add to this, many of the improved conditions have since been transferred to a subsequent Works Approval for a waste-to-energy facility in Dandenong, which has amplified the win. A further testimony to the great work of EJA.

## **Grants**

We'd like to acknowledge Yarra Ranges council who awarded us a community grant, and then encourage 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.

## **Newsletter**

A big thank you goes to our newsletter communications team. I'd like to acknowledge Caitlin Rawding who established our Zero Waste newsletter, and give special thanks to Vicky Rae Elmore who started as a contributor and is now our editor. Many thanks to Emily Hui and Carolina Aguirre who are also regular contributors to the newsletter too.

## **Government Advocacy**

With regards to the bigger picture of reducing waste, we have advocated for better recycling and waste management with the Victorian government parliamentary inquiry by submission and giving evidence (which is information) on how Victoria should manage and reduce waste.

On behalf of Zero Waste Victoria, I recommended to our government that we need to ask and acknowledge "Who is responsible for waste?". And suggested that work our way out of this waste crisis, that our government needs to think ambitiously about reducing waste by shifting from recycling economy to a circular economy. Encouraging more support for reusable and refillable packaging.

Thank you to Elisabeth Van Roosendael for accompanying me and highlighting the lack of responsibility on businesses or individuals when disposing of their fashion waste. And to Joanna Drennan for contributing to our submission.

We've written feedback or submissions for Zero Waste Victoria were submitted for

- Federal government inquiry into Waste Management and Recycling
- Circular Economy with DEWLP plus we were invited to attend Victorian Government's Circular Economy Policy Workshop
- A submission for the Product Stewardship Amendment (Packaging and Plastics) - Federal Government
- EPA proposed regulations and environment reference standards for subordinate legislation in the area of waste
- Local government submissions too



And many thanks to our members and the broader community who also made submissions. Our government wants feedback, so to get a positive result, it helps to give your view, expressing the importance of avoiding waste, rather than just figuring out how to manage it.

We made an appearance on Channel 7 news following the recycling collapse and with Sunrise, following the release of the Victorian government report into recycling and waste management. And we were interviewed by The Age several times too.

The Herald Sun took an interest in the Waste to Energy appeal, and we were featured in the Hobsons Bay Star Weekly.

We also were had a lot of fun with Costa Georgiadis who helped us promote the Online festival with facebook lives

### **Our committee**

A special thanks goes to Emily Hui, Vice-President whose passion for educating on waste avoidance is never ending.

Sylvia Lo Piccolo, our Treasurer for taking on the payroll and balancing our book keeping.

Carolina Aguirre, our Secretary, and whose passion and determination to understand Waste to Energy in her local area, got my attention to push forwards with an appeal.

Thanks to our social media team, Emily Hui, Shane Gunstan, Sylvia Lo Piccolo and myself who admin our facebook group. And Emily who likes to post on instagram.

We are looking forward to springboarding into 2021. The pandemic has seen an increase in single use waste which is cause for concern. But it has also given people time to reflect and connect in a different way. Which is proving to have positive effects and we're looking forward to riding the wave and reopening the conversations on the growing issues of waste.

# Treasurer's Report

Zero Waste Victoria had a great first year after incorporating. We held two successful Festivals where we were able to generate some income from Stall Exhibitors and Advertising Sponsors as well as receiving two Council Grants. Our biggest expenses were payments to subcontractors who ran workshops and presentations and those who were hired for the Festivals. Also we paid wages to a part-time employee for 3 months to assist with the coordination of the Zero Waste Festival at St. Kilda town hall.

Another highlight for Zero Waste Victoria was offering memberships to supporters, and we were able to successfully sign up two lifetime members in addition to approximately 20 ongoing monthly paid members. These funds will help ZWV do to more to help get the message out there about reducing waste

Sylvia Lo Piccolo

Treasurer

## ZERO WASTE VICTORIA

### Financial Statement for the period ended 30 June 2020

#### Income

Stalls & Workshops Fees	\$22,000.00	
Festival Exhibitor Fees	\$9,415.00	
Festival Takings	\$4,282.00	
Festival Sponsor Fees	\$1,315.00	
Grants	\$14,000.00	
Donations	\$650.00	
Memberships/Donations	\$6,847.25	
Interest Received	\$97.78	
<b>Total Income for the Period</b>		<b>\$58,607.03</b>

#### Less Expenses

Sub-Contractors	\$12,759.67	
Insurance	\$480.00	
Hire Fees	\$4,041.95	
Training/Industry seminars	\$900.00	
VCAT Appeal	\$1,244.00	
Website	\$45.47	
Advertising	\$764.68	
Online Services (Zoom)	\$23.09	
Workshop Costs	\$1,810.00	
Wages & Superannuation	\$6,894.47	
Recruitment Fees	\$132.00	
<b>Total Expenses for the Period</b>		<b>\$29,095.33</b>

#### Surplus/Deficit for the Year

Bank Balance at 1 July 2019	\$6,335.00	
Bank Balance at 30 June 2020	\$29,511.70	

#### Treasurer Comments:

\*The period under review includes takings and expenses for the period Apr 2019 to June 2020

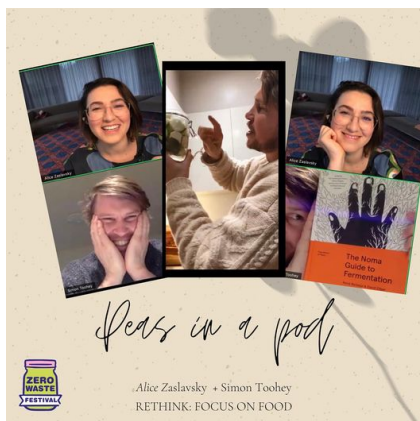
# Highlights

## Zero Waste Festival 2019 – St. Kilda Town Hall, September 2019



## 2020 Online Festival – June 2020

A festival of hope, action and regeneration. The Zero Waste Festival Online was held over the first two weekends of June 2020 with a diverse lineup of live interviews, panels, workshops and discussions and more. We were honoured to share some incredible friends and changemakers to empower our community in rebuilding a regenerative future together!



Wow! What an epic four days! Thank you to everyone for joining us for the Zero Waste Festival online this year. We're incredibly humbled to have had such an amazing line up of speakers and grateful for their generosity in sharing their time, knowledge and expertise with our community.

Thank you to our sponsors, it was so great to share like minded businesses and organisations and support the work you do too!

Lastly, a massive thank you to our festival team for creating such an impactful festival for our community! So grateful for all the time, effort, energy, passion and

drive you've all invested to make this happen! Thank you to Carolina Aguirre, Shane Gunston, Kirsty Bishop-Fox, Tamara Russell, Chloe Lines, Jenna Flood, Sylvia Lo Piccolo, Vicky, Kirsteen, Eliza, Mariana, Viv, Annette and Maddie Scott-Jones.

Thank you Costa Georgiadis for supporting Zero Waste Victoria and promoting what we were doing with the online festival.

## **Waste to Energy – 2020**

Our win to secure better air quality, waste management, and pollution reporting for the waste-to-energy facility in Laverton North has given the locals, and Victorians reason to celebrate.

We don't want waste going to landfill, but nor do we don't want polluting air emissions, as a result of gasifying waste instead.

Our win at VCAT means there will now be more pollutants monitored, and this information will be available on a public website. This means greater transparency, and accountability.

A win for the community, environment and public health. You can find out more on our website <http://zerowastevictoria.org/waste-to-energy-laverton/>

ZWV was featured in the local paper here

See the [article](#) to find out more.

# Acknowledgements



## Festival Presenters

Joost Bakker, Matt Stone and Jo Barrett  
Eli Bramborova, Sharewaste  
David Paynter, Gold Coast Repair Cafe  
Letitia Howlett, Brunswick Tool Library  
Jo Taranto, Good for the Hood  
Fam Charko, EcoCentre  
Rebecca Prinz-Ruiz, Plastic Free July/Plastic Free Foundation  
Dale Martin, Plastic Bag Free Victoria  
Heidi Tait, Tangaroa Blue Foundation  
Nina Gbor, Eco Styles and Clothes Swap & Style  
Jenna Flood, Ironic Minimalist  
Tamara Russell, Karhina Designs  
Charlie McGee, Formidable Vegetable  
Karin Ecker  
Carla Scotto  
Brenna Quinlan  
Lucy Skelton, Student Voice Network  
Arlan Ecker, Plastic Free Boy  
Sarina Hausler, Planet Angels  
Romy O'Donoghue, MGC Enviro Team  
Rebecca Gleghorn, REDcycle  
Siobhan Slattery, City of Port Phillip  
Joe Agostino, Yarra City council  
Amy Yang, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council  
Rose Mclvar, Recycling made easy  
Karen and Danny Ellis, Mend It, Australia  
Mark Rathborne, Save our Soils.  
Miranda Sharp, Melbourne Farmers' Markets  
Hiro Okada, Kinfolk/Sibling Cafe  
Alice Zaskavsky, Phenomenom  
Simon Toohey, Masterchef and Sustainable Earth Network.  
Kirsteen Macleod, Compost Depot  
Australian Citizen of the Year, Josie Jones from Mornington Peninsula.  
Neil Morris (DRMNGNOW)  
Te Kawa Robb, Māori Zero Waste organisation, Para Kore,  
Liam Prince and Hanna Blumhardt, The Rubbish Trip  
Chloe Lines, the clean lines co.  
Caitlyn Socwell, @thewastenotspot  
Carina Turner, Women against waste  
Tammy Logan, Gippsland Unwrapped  
Laura Châtel, Zero Waste France  
Ana Le Rocha, Nipa Fagio, Tanzania