



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vision & Mission	2
Our Team	3
President’s Report	4
Treasurer’s Report	7
Highlights	8
Acknowledgements	10



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.

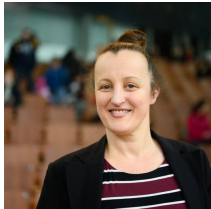
Our vision is to:

- 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 to support the community to reduce, repurpose and repair to avoid waste. We lead conversations on the growing issues of our waste recycling system and how to reduce it with Victorian councils, businesses, schools and community groups. We host information stalls and education sessions to inspire and empower waste reduction and sustainable actions.

Our Team

Management Committee



President Kirsty Bishop-Fox



Secretary Shane Gunston



Treasurer Tamara Russell



Emily Hui



Carolina Aguirre



Erin Rhoads



Kirsteen Macleod

President's Report

It's fair to say that 2022 has been an unpredictable and unusual year for most of us. We thought the worst of the pandemic and its effects on waste were behind us. But that's not what's evolved this year.

Last week, which was National Recycling week, an announcement was made that soft plastics were being stockpiled and not recycled as there isn't a remanufacturer who is able to process them. As a result the collection of soft plastics has been paused.

We've had members, supporters and the general public express frustration and even devastation over this. When people used soft plastics, they collected them and felt good about dropping them off thinking their plastic waste wasn't going to landfill.

Zero Waste Victoria's focus is on waste avoidance first, but I feel we should acknowledge this situation because there is a reliance on recycling programs and our governments are investing millions of dollars into recycling initiatives. And while recycling has its place, this highlights that there is no real incentive to reduce the use of single-use plastic.

This pause on soft plastic collection highlights systemic problems as it falls onto consumers to refuse and avoid plastics and waste, which for many is easier said than done. A growing number of manufacturers, including brands who have worked to be more sustainable in many other ways, have been relying on soft plastic remanufacturing rather than genuine circular recycling solutions to manage the waste their products create.

To put this into perspective, since Redcycle began in 2011 it collected 3600 tonnes which was over 900 million pieces of soft plastic in just over 10 years, which isn't bad for a small business giving it a go. However to look at the bigger picture, according to the National Plastics plan, Australia uses 70 billion pieces of soft plastic food wrappers each year which weighs in at one million tonnes of single-use plastic annually.

Redcycle's initiative was an effort from a small business who wanted to make a difference. But the supply of soft plastic waste material far exceeds the demand for it, and those who create and manufacture these products have an expectation that the waste industry and government will manage this problem for them.

We need manufacturers, retailers and the packaging industry to take accountability and be transparent by acknowledging that soft plastic is problematic and to admit that for their waste to be recycled there needs to be another manufacturer who is able to repurpose it.

The reality is that soft plastic packaging doesn't become plastic bags again, it is remanufactured into something else like park benches, bollards, shopping trolleys or road bases. If there is not a use for the soft plastic waste as a resource, then this is a major part of the recycling problem. And while there has been innovation in an attempt to divert this waste from landfill, the supply of this waste material far exceeds demand for it.

If plastic bags or packaging does contain recycled content it's typically only 20-30% recycled material, which means it comprises 70-80% virgin or new plastic. So the real problem here is an overconsumption of single-use plastic.

We urgently need to change the way products are manufactured to ensure that avoidable waste is not created in the first place. So now more than ever we must amplify our efforts to build a greater awareness in the community about how single-use waste can be avoided. It is also important to put the pressure on manufacturers to take accountability for what they produce and retailers for what they accept from manufacturers to sell.

Moving forward Zero Waste Victoria will continue to focus on advocacy and education to further our mission to empower Victorians to downsize their waste through everyday choices, while advocating for meaningful change.

In addition to plastics we also have an interest in use by and best before food date stamps, as a significant amount of food is wasted because this labeling is misunderstood by many consumers. In addition to the environmental impacts of food waste, we are in a time when the cost of living is increasing and food insecurity is becoming a reality for many. We need to reduce avoidable food waste as a high priority. An outcome which would make a significant difference is to change the date stamp system to avoid confusion. This will be a focus area for Zero Waste Victoria in 2023.

We will also be advocating for legislation change in Victoria to take perceived risks out of consumers bringing their own containers, as has been done in South Australia. This legislation removes liability from cafes and retailers if anything goes wrong with food purchased and transported in a BYO container. While there is no legislation to prevent reusables, there can be some apprehension from retailers with concerns about using a container which has been brought in, so this legislation will give peace of mind and encourage the use of reusable containers.

As for 2022 for Zero Waste Victoria, the highlight of our year was the Zero Waste Festival. It was wonderful to be able to hold this event in-person, after the last two years of being online. We'd like to express gratitude to Fed Square who offered us the use of the venue and supporting sponsors Burwood Brickworks, Ecyo and City of Stonington's Waste Education team for the sponsorship of the Trash Puppets kids activity.

I'd also like to acknowledge Erin Rhoads who coordinated the exhibitors and Tamara Russell who organised the repair and mending activations, giving a significant amount of time as a voluntary contribution along with myself for the programming. A special thanks to Katrina Naish who came on as a speaker and also supported a textile waste display. Thanks to Jonathan Rutherford who was employed on a casual basis to support the festival administration and operations.

Thanks also goes to Emily Hui, Carolina Aguirre, Shane Gunston and Liliana Caranzah who were contributors to some of the planning and the smooth running of the festival on the day, as well as to our many volunteers who supported the festival on the day as well. Of course a very big thanks goes to all the speakers and participants who came together to make the event an informative and inspirational day.

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

- Frankston council's community engagement for the Advanced Waste Processing project with a focus on waste arising contracts
- DELWP's Draft Regulations To Ban Single-Use Plastic Items In Victoria
- Submission to the New Victorian Waste Act and Waste Authority – proposed model

We also launched our Zero Waste online chats which have been received well. Our first was with Rebecca Prince-Ruiz, the founder of Plastic Free July, Bianca Cottle from BYO Containers and Maddy Taylor, from the University of Melbourne. We've done fashion chat with Kate Luckins from Sustainable Lifestyle and Jewlz Green, a sustainable stylist. As well as a sneak preview of the festival online with Costa Georgiadis and some of the Zero Waste Festival speakers. There is more to come soon, the next will have a focus on soft plastics.

The Bring Your Own Container campaign, after launching a website makeover, separated from Zero Waste Victoria to operate independently in July. This initiative has continued with its founder Bianca Cottle as well as Carolina and Erin. I anticipate there will be collaborations in future to support advocacy for reusables in preference to single-use. Zero Waste Victoria will have a stronger focus on advocacy while the BYOC campaign will further develop resources for business, consumers and local councils to support reusable containers.

I'd like to acknowledge Emily Hui, Erin Rhoads, Carolina Aguirre and Shane Gunston who were founding members of Zero Waste Victoria. They are now stepping back from the

committee. They will be missed, but have all indicated they hope to still be involved as volunteers in the future.

While acknowledging past committee members, I'd also like to acknowledge Tamara Russell, our treasurer and a significant support to me in my role as president. And to Kirsteen MacLeod who is also continuing on with us in 2023.

Moving forwards, we're looking forward to continuing these zero waste chats and building Zero Waste Victoria from the grass roots up to advocate, inform and influence legislation change to remove avoidable food waste and single-use plastics. As well as educating and empowering the community to take personal action to reduce their own waste.

Treasurer's Report

This year Zero Waste Victoria was able to return to holding in-person events which was wonderful after so long in lockdowns.

We received an offer from Fed Square to hold our 2022 Zero Waste Victoria Festival in the Atrium and The Edge theater. The Festival was held on Saturday 17 September with speakers, kids activities, exhibitors, a clothes swap, a repair cafe and mending circle. It was a fantastic day even though the weather let us down. The festival was well attended with an estimated 2000 people attending. The Festival raised \$5000 in sponsorship, \$7265 in stallholder fees and \$770 in donations which along with many hours put in by the Festival Committee enabled us to break even on the costs of running the event.

This financial year we have had regular donations through our GiveNow platform and yearly membership.

Tamara Russell

Treasurer

ZERO WASTE VICTORIA			
Financial Statement for the period ended 30 June 2022			
Income			
	Stalls & Workshops Fees	\$1,500.00	
	Festival Exhibitor Fees	\$1,200.00	
	Festival Takings	\$0.00	
	Festival Sponsor Fees	\$0.00	
	Grants	\$0.00	
	Donations	\$0.00	
	Memberships/Donations	\$2,930.74	
	Interest Received	\$28.99	
	Total Income for the Period		\$5,659.7
Less Expenses			
	Festival Sponsorship Refunds	\$950.00	
	Festival Workshop Presenters	\$850.00	
	Festival Admin Fees	\$7,750.00	
	Workshop Costs	\$2,850.00	
	Insurance	\$475.00	
	Internet Fees - Domian, Hosting, Zoom & SendInBlue	\$840.08	
	Advertising	\$0.00	
	Wages & Superannuation	\$450.90	
	Recruitment Fees	\$205.00	
	Training/Industry seminars	\$0.00	
	Total Expenses for the Period		\$14,370.9
Surplus/Deficit for the Year			-\$8,711.2
Bank Balance at 1 July 2021		\$35,833.82	
Donations Bank Balance at 1 July 2021		\$9,434.57	
TOTAL		\$45,268.39	
Bank Balance at 30 June 2022		\$24,618.03	
Donations Bank Balance at 30 June 2022		\$11,869.45	
TOTAL		\$36,487.48	

For the current financial year to 31 October 2022:

Income - \$12,747.93

Expenditure - \$18,925.85

Income has been through the Festival, donations and memberships. Our expenditure has been Festival outgoings and workshops as part of the Zero Waste Christmas for the Yarra Ranges Council from a grant received in 2021.

Highlights



Zero Waste Festival 2022

The Zero Waste Festival took place on Saturday 17 September at Fed Square in the Atrium and The Edge.

The Zero Waste festival's aim is to reconnect the community and provide festival goers with inspiration to rethink waste. The day was jam packed with panel sessions in The Edge with topics aiming to empower, share stories and information about reducing waste and shifting towards a circular economy. We also had the first Melbourne showing of the film *Going Circular* to finish off the day.

10:00 am – Festival Opening and Mrs. Ticklebottom and the Plastic Problem (Children's waste wise show)

11:00 am – How everyday people became legendary Waste Warriors

12:00 pm – The secret life of food waste

1:00 pm – The sharing economy

2:00 pm – Low waste living

3:00 pm – Sustainable fashion – is it possible?

4:00 pm – Guided Meditation

4.30 pm – *Going Circular* – Melbourne premiere film screening



Zero Waste Festival Activities

We hosted two Clothes Swaps, one for kids clothes in the morning and for adult clothes in the afternoon. There was a Repair Café with the menders from St Kilda Repair Café, Brunswick Tool Library and Makers Community combining their skills to repair a great variety of items. We also held a Mending Circle with the theme 'Stitch It, Don't Ditch It'. We had some fantastic volunteers come together to help festival goers repair their clothes.

- Mini Spring Clean the City with community clean up group Beach Patrol to collect litter along the Yarra River.
- Clothes swap - 11:30 am Childrens clothes swap and 1:00 pm Adults clothes swap
- Trash Puppets - On a mission to save the world.... one puppet at a time.
- Repair café
- Mending Circle – 'Stitch it, Don't Ditch it'
- Fed Square's hidden secrets tour



Zero Waste Christmas workshops



Zero Waste Christmas workshops

When: Thursday 1 and 8 December
Where: Chirnside Community Hub

Thursday 1 December	Thursday 8 December
12.00 - 1.30 - Create a Christmas coaster from scrap material	12.00 - 1.30 - Create a boro inspired Christmas decoration
1.30 - 2.45 - No Waste Christmas Cooking	1.30 - 2.45 - No Waste Christmas Preparation



In December we will be holding a series of workshops which are being funded by a grant from Yarra Ranges Council

The workshops aim to create a more meaningful Christmas with less waste. We will look at low waste options for food, decorations through to giving gifts with thought. So many tips and tricks to help you plan a Christmas celebration without the waste, give from the heart and have a more sustainable Christmas Day and festive season.

Acknowledgements

Our Sponsors



Festival 2022 Team

- Lauren Arthur
- Kirsty Bishop-Fox
- Erin Rhoads
- Tamara Russell
- Shane Gunston
- Emily Hui

Festival 2022 Speakers

- Joost Bakker - Greenhouse by Joost
- Vicky Ellmore - Reusable Nation
- Katrina Naish - Fitting Connection
- Jessica Gerger - Mrs Ticklebottom
- Fam Charko - Port Phillip EcoCentre
- Dr Ross Headifen - Beach Patrol Australia
- Brite Moliere - Boomerang Alliance
- Ricki Hershburgh - Plastic Oceans Australasia
- Grant Miles - Cheaper Buy Miles
- Mark Boulet - BehaviourWorks Australia
- Shae Anderson
- Brendan Norris - Fixable
- Jan David Hohmann - Maker Community
- Sallyanne Hunter - Bayside Toy Library
- Scott Watkins - Brunswick Tool Library (BTL)

- Jo Lindsay - Monash University
- Alice Trumble – Stonnington Waste Education
- Alejandro Rendon
- Caitlyn Socwell
- Aife Oloughlin - Salvos Stores
- Patricia McCarthy-Henry - PMAXI Knitwear
- Ben Kaminsky - Textile Recycling Australia
- Nat Stratos
- Margaret Snowdon
- Dale Martin - author of the 'Local Government Climate Emergency Toolkit' and co-founder of the campaign 'Plastic Bag Free Victoria'.
- Kate Luckins - Sustainable Lifestyle
- Jewelz Green
- Shane Gunston
- Kirsty Bishop-Fox