



**Fleurieu Environment Centre**

**2022-2023**

# **Annual Report**

**1 x Part time Coordinator**

**31 x Registered Volunteers**

**4,525 x Volunteer Hours**

**839 x Members**

**Total of Events 111 with 1,339 attendees**

**63 Capacity Building Events- 829 Participants**

**8 Awareness Raising Events-54 Participants**

**40 Networking Events - 456 Participants**

## Annual Grant Report: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

**Green Adelaide Grant to provide for the operation of the Fleurieu Environment Centre from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, as an accessible community environmental management and sustainability hub.**

Organisation: Fleurieu Environment Centre

Address: 3/50 Main Road, Normanville SA 5204

Contact Officer: Madeleine Maguire

Contact Details: 08 8558 3644 and [info@flec.com.au](mailto:info@flec.com.au)

### 1. SUMMARY

The Fleurieu Environment Centre (FLEC) is appreciative of the 'foundation' funding provided by Green Adelaide and has delivered a range of services and outcomes that contribute to the priorities and focus areas outlined in the Green Adelaide Regional Landscape Plan, pertaining to Nature Education.

Goal: Inspire communities to value, connect with, and care for nature, by:

Key focus areas (end-of-program outcomes):

- N1 - Enabling a social movement of diverse nature 'stewards' through school/educational partnerships, community learning and development, nature play, citizen science and sustainability activities.
- N2 - Raise awareness and build capacity about Aboriginal cultural knowledge, values and lore.
- N3 - Lead cross-sector nature education community campaigns to reach diverse audiences.

Strong links have also continued between our Centre and the Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board at a staff level, resulting in support being provided for workshops/Field Days run by the Board in our area.

FLEC continued to be actively engaged with the Greater Adelaide Environment Network (GAEN) having attended workshops and contributed input to the production of a GAEN position paper that was considered by the Green Adelaide Board in November 2022. While a need for GAEN to prepare a Strategic Plan was identified by the Board, Green Adelaide confirmed a 12-month Funding Agreement would be implemented for 2022-2023.

The State Government's 2022 election commitment to provide ongoing funding to enable Environment Centres to operate (via Green Adelaide) gave FLEC a degree of confidence for the short to medium term future. Additionally, FLEC continued the development of additional income sources associated with:

- Opening an expanded Eco-Shop,
- Selling a limited & specific range of locally endemic plants, sourced from the Fleurieu Coast Community Plant Nursery, and
- Grant funding for a number of local projects:
  - Development of a Community Garden within the Yankalilla Council area – Stage 1 funded by Yankalilla Council
  - Waterways Monitoring project – a Grass Roots Grant from Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
  - FireWise Project – Facility improvement, education, demonstration sites, seed bank and propagation of fire-wise plants – Foundation of National Parks and Wildlife (National Bushfire Recovery funding)

Each of the above initiatives contributes funding to the ongoing administration of FLEC and this additional funding has enabled us to recruit an additional part-time Coordinator Admin Assistant and a part-time Nursery Support Officer to enable FLEC to local projects in addition to our delivery of Green Adelaide outcomes.

Membership numbers increased from 792 to 839 as of June 2023, this represents a healthy 6.0% growth from 2021/22.

At the AGM in November, 7 existing FLEC Committee members expressed their availability to continue on and were re-elected. During the year, the committee (in accordance with the Rules of Association) appointed 3 new committee members (Neil Phillips, Anne Powditch and Oliver Pawson) and we had 3 resignations (Michael DeBoo,

Nigel Duncan and Oliver Pawson), to take our committee numbers to 8 (including our Coordinator as ex-officio member). This is within the 5 to 10 range provided for in our Rules of Association.

The continuing evolution and refreshment of committee membership has led to a broader skill set, with more involvement by committee members in looking at alternative income streams and assisting our Coordinator in the smooth running of our evolving and dynamic Centre.

## **2. OUTCOMES (related to Green Adelaide funding outcomes)**

Note: In the Green Adelaide Landscape Plan 'Nature Education' is defined as any activity which connects community to nature and builds community capacity for positive action toward sustainable living, sustainable agriculture, advocacy for and management of the environment, and nature stewardship-based conservancy; including for biodiversity conservation, pest plant and animal management, citizen science, wetland and coastal management, water conservation and climate resilience.

### **Outcomes (intermediate):**

N1 – widespread environmental awareness, values, advocacy and action across diverse communities.

N2 – traditional practices and perspectives are embedded in community-led projects and programs.

N3 – Increased community awareness, understanding, inspiration and action to connect with and care for nature.

This arrangement between Green Adelaide and Fleurieu Environment Centre also acknowledges the Environment Centre Program Logic and additional, related intermediate outcomes:

- Increased community activity to care for and manage the environment.
- Improved connectivity in the community to work together to address environmental management issues
- Strengthened community leadership taking action to address environmental management issues.
- Increased community capacity to deliver environmental management actions.
- Increased participation in volunteering activities
- The community participating in a wider range of environmental management activities.

### **Outputs:**

Notable 2022-2023 contributions to achieving the outputs (which contribute to reaching the intermediate outcomes) are:

1. Provision of an accessible FEC premises as a community hub with a focus on sustainably managing the environment.
  - a The FLEC premises are open 27 hours each week (4.5 days).
  - b Local groups such as Friends of Bungala River, Yankalilla District Residents Association Community Garden Working Group use the Centre for meetings.
  - c The Centre currently has recycling bins for Mobile Phones, Batteries, Lightweight aluminium, Printer cartridges, Coffee Pods & bags, Bread Tags, Corks, Dental Products and Writing instruments.
  - d The Eco-Shop specifically targets plastic-free alternative products and bulk supplies that reduce the use of single use plastics and stocks natural products (reduced chemical components).
2. A program of activities to build community capacity to sustainably manage the environment.
  - a See the attached breakdown of events and activities.
3. Provision of information to the community to raise awareness and understanding of sustainably managing the environment.
  - a The Centre continues to be the home to a growing library of reference and technical books and a range of monthly Journals that can be accessed by the community. This includes hard copy and on-line access to NRM resources.
  - b Volunteers assist with the running of the FLEC and provide assistance with administration, public enquiries, event management, promotions/website/publications/library/community nursery and ongoing programs/projects.

4. Provision of networking opportunities to share knowledge and develop collaborative partnerships.
  - a First Nations – Ngarrindjeri and Kurna connections established – cultural training and events.
  - b Partnerships continue with Yankalilla Council (Native Plant Nursery and Community Garden), Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (National Bushfire Recovery program), Green Adelaide – Coastal Conservation – South Coast Officer (40,000 plants grown at Plant Nursery), Plastic Free SA, Nature Foundation, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board.
  - c FLEC support a number of local Groups that are active within the local environment at targeted sites from Cape Jervis to Myponga. Training, Auspicing of Grant funding, tools and/or plants are provided through the Fleurieu Coast Community Plant Nursery to the Friends of Bungala River, Friends of Banksia Park, Friends of Nixon Skinner Conservation Park, Friends of Wirrina Cove, Friends of Hindmarsh River Estuary, the Cape Jervis Coastal Community group, Second Valley Environmental Group, Landcare SA and other groups across the Fleurieu region.
5. Promotion of the NR/EC and the activities offered.
  - a The activities run by the Centre and NRM related topics of interest are published in a 2-page spread, each month in the free, Yankalilla Regional Newsletter that is distributed within the southern Fleurieu, with an estimated circulation of over 5,000.
  - b The FLEC website and Facebook Page are constantly updated with information and links to NRM related resources and events.
  - c a regular monthly newsletter is also emailed to members of over 800 people.
6. The employment of a paid coordinator to support volunteer activity and delivery of FEC programs and projects. A considerable expansion in staffing has been made in the latter part of 2022-2023 to 42.5 hours per week (over double the Green Adelaide minimum requirement)
  - a Coordinator engaged for 25 hours per week (extra hours paid by FLEC)
  - b Coordinator Admin Assistant – 10 hours per week (paid by FLEC) commenced May 2023
  - c Nursery Support Officer – 7.5 hours per week (paid by FLEC)
7. Active involvement of the FLEC in GAEN networking and collaboration, including in the Green Adelaide strategic review scheduled for 2022-23, to be done in conjunction with finalising the GAEN strategic plan
  - a FLEC Chairperson lead the GAEN Steering Group until January 2023 to provide substantial input into the delivery of the LPF project (2021-2022) and subsequent workshops that produced the GAEN submission to Green Adelaide (2023 and Beyond)
  - b FLEC Coordinator attended and provided information and input into GAEN workshops during 2022.

In 2022/23, volunteer hours increased, with 4,525.45 hours contributed by 31 registered volunteers, within a wide range of volunteering opportunities.

FLEC continues to have a broad reach into the local community via our range of practical and educational events and ongoing interest groups represented by the following Sub committees:

- Bird Watching Group (Monthly field trips)
- Wellbeing Walking Group (regular local walks)
- Social Sewing Group ( Regular skill sharing events)
- WhatSUP – a partnership with Yankalilla Council to reduce the use of Single Use Plastics within the district
- Bungala River restoration – a partnership with Yankalilla District Residents Association and Council
- Yankalilla Community Plant Nursery – a partnership with Green Adelaide (Coast & Marine), Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and the District Council of Yankalilla.

FLEC volunteers participate in regional endangered species monitoring (Hooded Plovers) between Myponga Beach and Lands End Beach (Cape Jervis) who actively inspect specific beaches during the breeding season from August to March and help erect the necessary fencing when required.

Our annual participation in National Tree Planting Day saw 15 volunteers' plant coastal seedlings within the sand dunes at Carrickalinga. A number of additional community planting days were also undertaken using volunteers from the Fleurieu Coast Community Plant Nursery within the Normanville Sand Dunes and along the Bungala River.

Additionally, our yearly Clean Up Australia Day event was well attended with 17 volunteers removing 11 large sacks

full of rubbish from the Normanville Township and helping spread the message about the impact of humanmade waste on our local ecosystems.

Volunteering at the Community Plant Nursery continues to grow with regular attendance by 15 to 20 volunteers each day that the nursery is open (twice a month). Corey Jackson (Coastal Conservation Officer - South, Green Adelaide) has been successful in obtaining additional grant funding from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife that has enabled the facility to be improved to support our capacity to grow around 40,000 native plants each year. These plants have been propagated and grown by the volunteers, ready for use in Corey's coastal planting program and other dedicated projects associated with Green Adelaide's coastal conservation program. The commercial value of plants produced at the nursery is around \$200,000.00 per annum – and this represents a considerable saving to the Green Adelaide – Coastal Conservation budget.

FLEC was a significant contributor to the 2023 Festival of Nature (run by the Yankalilla Council) in September 2022 contributing 6 events across the week including workshops on worm farming, First Nations Traditional Basket Weaving and several Biodiversity walk & talk sessions. Additionally, FLEC contributed to the Yankalilla & District Show in October 2022, the statewide Nature Festival in November 2022 (running a fully booked Family Reef Explorer event with Reef Watch SA) and contributed 4 events as part of the Festival Fleurieu in April 2023, which provided environmental education, celebrated the connection between the Arts and Nature whilst promoting the Centre and our programs to the wider community.

Our popular Veggie Swaps continues to be held monthly events at the Centre on the first Saturday morning of each month. These events enable members to swap their produce and learn from one another with tips for home gardening. They are an important social occasion as well.

Plastic free July is a month long, annual education opportunity that offers practical help with reducing our daily reliance on single use plastic. FLEC ran a workshop and series of educational materials via digital platforms teaching the community how to reduce the use of plastic in their day-to-day activities.

The Bungala River restoration project is a partnership between FLEC, Yankalilla Council and the Yankalilla District Residents Association (YDRA). While the work of the Working Group to provide strategic overview and technical guidance to improving the health of the river has stalled, the first (of hopefully several) Friends Group has been formed in one of the sections of the river and on-ground work commenced to weed and revegetate in accordance with an agreed work plan.

FLEC was successful in obtaining funding for two significant projects that will be ongoing for the next 2 years. This will enable an expanded program of events and activities to be included within our annual program and includes funding to support additional FLEC staffing and additional paid resources to conduct specific training, information, Nursery facility improvements and on-ground works. We have identified where some of these activities will also link to the partial delivery of Green Adelaide objectives. The two projects are:

- Community Garden – funded in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 by the Yankalilla Council, FLEC will deliver the construction of a local Community Garden, recruitment of volunteers and a management committee and provide ongoing support through training and use of the facility for community information and capacity building events. Stage 1 of the project was completed in 2022-2023 after an exhaustive process of information gathering, site selection, community engagement and Council requirements. Stage 2, involving on-ground works and volunteers will be undertaken during 2023-2024. Total funding is \$23,800.
- Fire Wise project – In partnership with Yankalilla Council and Green Adelaide, Coastal Conservation – South Coast Officer, FLEC will coordinate and deliver a two-year project involving workshops, plant propagation, seed collection, establishment of a database and Seed Bank, demonstration sites and community engagement and education. This project is funded under the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery program (Preparing Local Communities local stream), delivered by the Foundation of National Parks and Wildlife across selected areas within Australia. Total funding is \$250,000.

**Attachment 2 – Summary of Income and Expenditure for Financial Year 2022-2023**

**(All Items exclude GST)**

Item	Board contribution		Explanation of Variations
	Grant Budget \$	Actual \$	
TOTAL FUNDS INCOME	88,560	88,560	
LESS TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED		110,889.59	
Salaries/wages	56,385.25	79,346.94	Additional Wages, Superannuation covered by FLEC’s other funding sources such as grant money, Eco store income
Premises costs (rent, utilities, building and contents insurance, maintenance)	13,171.25	12,902.85	\$268.40 underspend on utilities (heating/cooling) due to upgrade to more efficient equipment
Item	Board contribution		Explanation of Variations
	Grant Budget \$	Actual \$	
Operating costs (IT, phone, postage, office consumables, travel)	10,496	8,111.5	\$2384.50 underspend on volunteer expenses due to free training opportunities being provided by Landscape Board. Underspend on office consumables due to other income sources and donations covering items needed
Program costs (printing, advertising, event costs, event materials)	5945	6,146.93	\$201.93 overspend due to increase in advertising costs.
Capital items (itemise all expenditure over \$500)	2562.50	4,381.37 (\$1,099.31 IT equipment, \$3,009.33 Laptop)	\$1824.87 overspend due to need to replace laptop, committees choice to invest in more expensive, higher quality option
Other/sundry	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSE	88,560	110,889.59	
BALANCE (deficit in brackets)	-	(22,329.59)	

Signed .....

(Treasurer/Financial Controller)

Date (...../...../20.....).

Notes:

All variations in spends were balance out by spends in other areas. Alterations have been made to 2023-24 budget to more accurately distribute funds to out spending needs.

**Attachment 1 – Acquittal Form**

Annual income and expenditure statement

CERTIFICATE OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

NAME OF PROJECT: Fleurieu Environment Centre Operations

Period July / 2022 to June / 2023  
Month/year month/year

I Jane Power  
Name Title

(Organisational Management Accountant/Financial Controller)

of Fleurieu Environment Centre  
(Name of Organisation)

declare that funding provided to the Fleurieu Environment Centre (Name of Organisation) by the Green Adelaide Board has been allocated and spent in accordance with grant funding Terms and Conditions.

Reports have been provided to the Board on a regular basis in accordance with grant funding conditions.

Details of income and expenditure for this project are shown in the attached table

Signed Jane Power  
(Organisational Management Accountant/Financial Controller)

Date 13 / 07 / 2023

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Other/sundry	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSE	88,560	110,889.59	
BALANCE (deficit in brackets)	-	(22,329.59)	

Signed Jane Pamel .....

(Treasurer/Financial Controller)

Date 13.07/2023.

Notes:

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**Attachment 3- Table of measurable outputs provided by the Fleurieu Environment Centre:**

Output No.	Output	Measure	Result
1.	Provision of an accessible FEC premises	Centre staff and activities accessible to the community minimum 20 hours per week (12-month average)	The Fleurieu Environment Centre is open 23 hours a week.
		Number of community groups using** the Centre	6 Community Groups currently use Centre
2.	A program to build community capacity to sustainably manage the environment, including 30. workshops or other activities	Number of participants and number of capacity building (knowledge skills and abilities) activities delivered	63 Events with 829 Participants
		Provide a dataset for capacity building (knowledge skills and abilities) activities with a learning outcome delivered	See Attached
		Number of FEC volunteers and volunteer hours	31 volunteers contributed 4,525.45 hours of work
		Number of citizen science events delivered	N/A
3.	Provision of information to the community to raise awareness and understanding of sustainably managing the environment, including 25 events or other activities	Number of participants and number of awareness raising events delivered	8 Events with 54 participants
		Number of FEC members on mailing list	839
		Number of social media followers	Facebook- 1515 Instagram- 659
4.	Provision of networking opportunities to share knowledge and develop collaborative partnerships including 45 events or other activities	Number of networking events delivered.	40 events
		Number of participants and number of community groups represented	456 participants and 7 community groups represented
5.	Promotion of the FEC and the activities offered	Number of social media posts	Facebook 192 Instagram 110
		Number of newsletters or e-news circulated	11 Newsletters to membership 11x 2-page articles in Yankalilla Regional News
		Suburb data from activity attendees/members	Listed below
6.	The employment of a paid coordinator to support volunteer activity and delivery of FEC programs and projects.	Number of hours a week	25 hours per week (Plus, extra 10 hours per week for month of June for new assistant to the coordinator).

7.	All outputs	Additional funds or resources leveraged (\$)	-Eco Store Profit 22-23 FY (approx.) = \$6,500 -Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board Grass roots grant- \$3,000 -District Council of Yankalilla- \$1,800 to run First Nations Lead Event -District Council of Yankalilla- \$10,480 to establish a Community Garden - Auspice Fees for holding Grant Money= \$1,450 -Bank account interest= \$498 -Nursery Plant sales = \$3,400
		Number of project partners	6 Partners (Landcare, DEW, DCY, H&FLB, GA, FNPW).
		Number of projects/events led by/with input from First Nations	3 Events

\*\* 'Using' is defined as hiring meeting space at the Centre, phoning or visiting the Centre for advice, or discussion about potential partnerships /matters of mutual interest.

#### Appendix 4 - Suburb Data

CAPE JERVIS, 5204	CARRICKALINGA, 5204
NORMANVILLE, 5204	MYPONGA, 5202
INMAN VALLEY, 5211	WIRRINA COVE, 5204
YANKALILLA, 5203	DEEP CREEK, 5204
PARAWA, 5203	WAITPINGA, 5211
SELLICKS BEACH, 5174	HAY FLAT, 5204
MCLAREN VALE, 5171	WILLUNGA, 5172
ENCOUNTER BAY, 5211	CLAPHAM, 5062
HENLEY BEACH, 5022	COROMANDEL EAST, 5157
BRIGHTON, 5048	
WEST HINDMARSH, 5007	
PORT ELLIOT, 5212	
ALDGATE, 5154	
BEDFORD PARK, 5042	
MCCRACKEN, 5211	
TUMBY BAY, 5605	
EASTWOOD, 5063	
UNLEY, 5061	
ENFIELD, 5085	



## Event Highlights for the 2022-23 Year



**Aquatic Plants of the Myponga Reservoir with Paul Green**



**Habitat Gardening Workshop with Wattle+Wonder**



**Nature Craft with Wattle+Wonder in Banksia Park**



**Festival Fleurieu Events at Myponga**





**Native Orchid and Biodiversity Walk with Paul Green, Nixon Skinner Conservation Park**



**Planting Event- Revegetation of Normanville Foreshore**



**Family Beach Explorers- Hooded Plover Education Event, Normanville**



**Our Community Nursery celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday.**