

SUSTAIN
the Australian food network

Annual Report

January 2020





Foreword

When funding for the Healthy Together Cardinia program ceased in 2016, I knew it was vital for Cardinia Shire to continue its work in preventative health. We were - and are - facing tremendous challenges to the health and wellbeing of our residents, not least because of the high ratio – 6 to 1 – of unhealthy to healthy food outlets. We needed to find a way to work with and mobilise the community to understand and meet these challenges.

In Sustain we found a team of innovative, ambitious, hard-working and passionate individuals who embraced our way of collaborative working through collective impact. Their design and facilitation of dozens of kitchen table talks in 2018 harnessed the views and perspectives of hundreds of Shire residents and led to the creation of Cardinia's first Community Food Strategy, which Council endorsed at the end of 2018. This was a landmark achievement for Cardinia Shire, embedding a commitment to a vision of a healthy and thriving food system for all residents, in which everyone can enjoy good food at all times, and a detailed action plan to realise that vision. I am confident it will serve as a model and inspiration for other municipalities to follow, and am proud that Cardinia Shire has blazed a trail in this area.

It would not have happened without the vision, passion and dedication of Sustain. I thank them for their efforts and wish them well in their efforts to build a better food system for all Australians."

— GARRY MCQUILLAN, CEO OF CARDINIA
SHIRE COUNCIL (2007-2018)



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Board and staff of Sustain acknowledge that we work on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri, Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin nation.



We respectfully acknowledge the custodianship of the Wurundjeri, Woi Wurrung and Bunurong elders, recognising that they and their ancestors stewarded these lands and their diverse creatures sustainably for tens of thousands of years.

We respectfully acknowledge that sovereignty over these lands was never ceded, that colonisation and dispossession were acts of unjustified, sustained and massive violence, and that the process of historical truth-telling that will and must lead to justice for First Nations peoples on the basis of a duly negotiated Treaty is barely in its infancy.

The path to a better food system for all Australians must begin with the acknowledgement and recovery of this history, based on the principles of care, respect, healing, justice and regeneration.



Photo Credit: Walking Together - Kelvy Bird, Zoe Street and Brooke Hill during Danjoo Koorliny Walking Together Social Impact Festival 2019 at the University of Western Australia

Introduction

At Sustain, all our work strives to create a healthier, fairer and more sustainable food system in Australia. We connect individuals, communities and organisations through four focus areas:



01.

We **create tangible change** with **ground-breaking collective impact projects**.

02.

We drive **thought leadership** through **dynamic food system events**.

03.

We conduct **innovative research and consultancies** that help shape healthy food systems policy.

04.

We support **budding local and national networks** tackling wicked food system challenges.

We're working together to support a connected, flourishing, healthy and participatory food system.

Join us!

Our values

01.



Respect for First Nations' sovereignty

02.



Fairness

03.



Thriving communities

04.



Connectedness

05.



Integrity

Chair's Welcome

Dr Kelly Donati, Co-Chair and
Lynn Richardson, Co-Chair

Welcome to the 2019 Sustain Annual Report, which charts our work and achievements over the past 12 months to bring about a better food system for all Australians.



As Co-Chairs, it has been our pleasure and privilege to work with an outstanding team of staff and volunteers again in 2019. We congratulate them on all that has been achieved this year, and wish them well for 2020 and beyond.

2019 was another year of major progress for Sustain. The receipt of a prestigious VicHealth award for Promoting Healthy Eating for the Cardinia Food Circles initiative was a major milestone. It represents recognition of years of hard work and experimentation by Sustain, Cardinia Shire Council and the dozens of organisations that constitute the Food Circles collective.

We are very excited by the expanding program of work of our South Australian member network, the SA Urban Food Network. It's also wonderful to see the strengthening of relationships and partnerships in Western Australia to support the tireless efforts of our WA colleague, Evelyn Collin.

We are very grateful to the ongoing support for our work from our major funder the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, as well as significant support from the McLeod Family Foundation, the Inner North Community Foundation, the Garry White Foundation, the Casey-Cardinia Foundation, the Bennelong Foundation and Bank Australia.



The increasing investment in sustainable food systems by local and state government is encouraging. Cardinia Shire Council has re-committed to the Food Circles project for a further four years. 2019 saw the Victorian State Government allocate over \$4mn to local and community food systems initiatives through its first experiment in participatory budgeting via Pick My Project. Sustain partnered with Pakenham Secondary College in one of the many projects funded in this way: *Growing the Future: Pakenham Community School Farm*.

The task ahead, with accelerating climate change, massive loss of biodiversity and the growing burden of dietary-related ill-health, is daunting. The consequences of our unsustainable economy based on the continued extraction and burning of fossil fuels has become tragically apparent to millions in Australia and globally, with the catastrophic 2019/20 bush fires.

The need for change is now urgent and overwhelming. We look forward to 2020 and beyond with hope, knowing that as awareness of these challenges and their systemic nature increases, so too will an irresistible pressure for transition and transformation.

2019 Highlights

Nick Rose, Executive Director

Without doubt, the major highlight was the receipt of the 2019 VicHealth award for Promoting Healthy Eating for the Cardinia Food Circles initiative. This award capped off a big year in a truly fabulous way.

In February, we were delighted to welcome back to Cardinia the inspiring Devita Davison from Foodlab Detroit. Devita spoke at the Melbourne Food Hub in Alphington and helped launch the Cardinia Community Food Strategy in Pakenham, as part of six speaking events.

The Cardinia Food Circles project continued its growth as it entered its third year, with funding secured for three local food system projects through the Ripe for Change program, as well as a small grant that enabled us to recruit local communications expert Michelle Green.



Photo Credit: Nicola Bell



A major highlight was working with teachers, students, and local organic dairy farmer Vicki Jones to implement *Growing the Future: Pakenham Community School Farm*. Funded by the state government through its Pick My Project program, this initiative saw a major expansion of edible food growing at Pakenham Secondary College as well as numerous artistic, cultural and capacity building activities. An unanticipated but wonderful outcome of the project was the establishment of The United African Farm, which saw members of 30 families from 10 African nations living in Pakenham participate in the growing of healthy and culturally appropriate food at the Jones' property in Longwarry.

Thanks to funding provided by our partner in Western Australia, Commonland, our WA team member, Evelyn Lee Collin, provided major support for three highly successful events: the University of Western Australia Social Impact Festival (June), the very first Regen WA Conference (September), and two Food for Thought Dialogue Studios in Albany and Denmark (October).

The Melbourne Food Hub in Alphington is now starting to hit its straps. Significant milestones in 2019 included the expansion of the collaboration to include Melbourne Polytechnic, Global Sisters, 3000 acres, Reground, Kingfisher Citrus and Farmwall. The weekly Alphington Farmers Markets continues to attract strong patronage, and from October-December weekly fresh vegie boxes were offered to staff at Melbourne University and local subscribers. The MFH team also successfully completed a Food Business Boost program that supported 15 women from diverse backgrounds to progress through various stages of developing micro-food enterprises; and created a ClimateSmart Food Classroom.

Finally, we were delighted to support the initiation of the Melbourne Food Alliance, as a collaborative multi-stakeholder platform whose goal is to strengthen the city's food system.

Our Impact in 2019

01.

Supporting innovative and replicable local collaborations to build food literacy and expand access to good food for youth: implementation of the **Pakenham Community School Farm** funded through Pick My Project.



02.

Modeling new food systems social enterprises: implementation of the **Melbourne Food Hub** in Alphington



03.

Supporting over 100 members of diverse migrant communities to gain access to land and food business opportunities: coordinating the **Food Business Boost** program in Alphington and helping to establish **The United African Farm** in Cardinia.



04.

Shaping the food systems conversation: over 2300 people participated in events we organised and / or co-hosted in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.



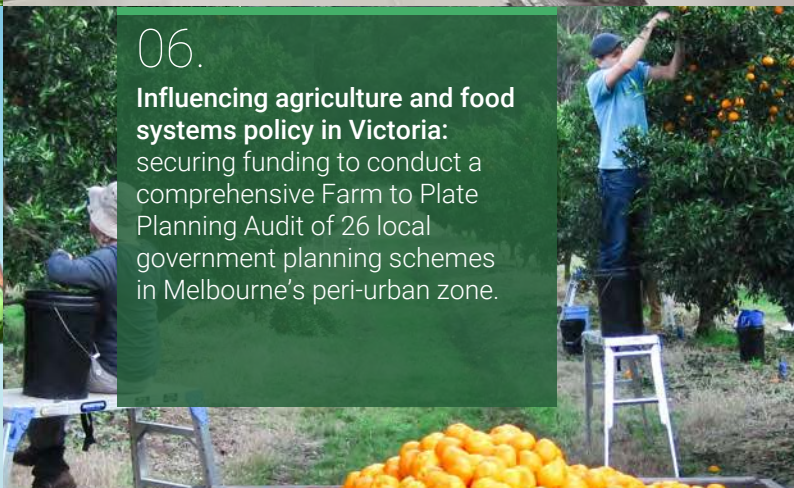
05.

Creating healthy and sustainable food systems work: 5 continuing and 3 new part-time jobs and consultancy positions created by Sustain.



06.

Influencing agriculture and food systems policy in Victoria: securing funding to conduct a comprehensive Farm to Plate Planning Audit of 26 local government planning schemes in Melbourne's peri-urban zone.



07.

Expanding affordable fresh food access and local employment: continuing support for **The Community Grocer in Pakenham.**

08.

Building the evidence base for food systems policy change: Mapping food systems policies and programs across all local councils in NSW and Victoria in the first phase of the ARC Discovery Project, **Strengthening Food Governance at the Local Level.**

09.

Enabling policy change at the municipal level: commencing implementation of Cardinia Shire's **Community Food Strategy.**

10.

Supporting food systems networks and alliances: Becoming a founding member of the Melbourne Food Alliance, helping the establishment of the Regen WA, the country's first statewide regenerative agriculture network, and supporting the work of the SA Urban Food Network.

Sustain at a Glance



11

Staff – employees
and consultants



8

Board Members



2

Collective Impact
Food Systems projects



12

Funders and
key partners



2300

Event
attendees



28

Members of
the Australian
Food Network



54

Urban and
Regional Food
Declaration
signatories



560

Australian Food
Systems Directory
entries



4,515

Followers
(**36% increase**
over 12 months)



1,545

E-News
Subscribers
(**5.6% increase**
over 12 months)



1,310

Followers
(**17% increase**
over 12 months)



1315

Followers
(**38% increase**
over 12 months)



409

Followers
(**290% increase**
over 12 months)



Our Approach

How we connected passionate people like you to build tangible change



Collaboration for collective impact

Sustain adheres to the principles of collective impact, which recognise that the big challenges we face are beyond the capacity of any one organisation to address successfully. Instead, what we need is a collaborative approach by multiple actors aligning their diverse skills, experience and actions around a shared agenda for change. This is known as **collective impact**.

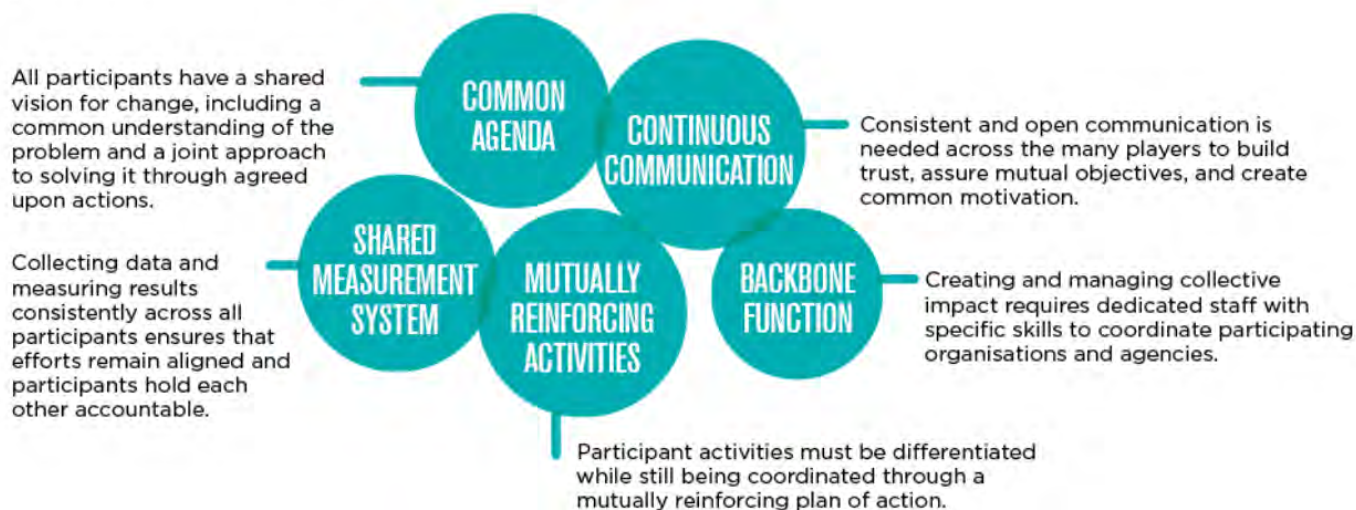
Harnessing the power of the network

Sustain is a national food systems network. We believe in the power of connection, of bringing people together, of making introductions. We value the sharing of ideas, practice, concepts and models. We believe in the power of conversation, because so much happens when people talk to each other, and listen with care and respect. We believe that a growing network of informed, capable, motivated and passionate food citizens, exercising and harnessing their collective force, have the power to transform the food system.

How we connected passionate people like you to build tangible change



Figure 1: Five conditions of collective impact



Source: Preskill, Parkhurst, & Splansky Juster, 2014



See:

Collective impact: Evidence and implications for practice

Practice Leadership

Major collective impact food systems projects



Figure 1. Cardinia Shire's Livability Plan 2017-29 Framework

Cardinia Food Circles

This groundbreaking food systems initiative celebrated its third year as the recipient of a coveted VicHealth award for Promoting Healthy Eating. Huge credit goes to Project Coordinator Tanya Massy and Community Engagement Coordinator Max Godber. A significant milestone was reached at the end of April 2019, when Cardinia Shire Council (CSC) created the unique role of Collective Impact Food Circles Facilitator, which means that the backbone role in this project is now shared between Council and Sustain.

The following are the key moments over the last 12 months:

Launch of Cardinia Community Food Strategy

February 2019

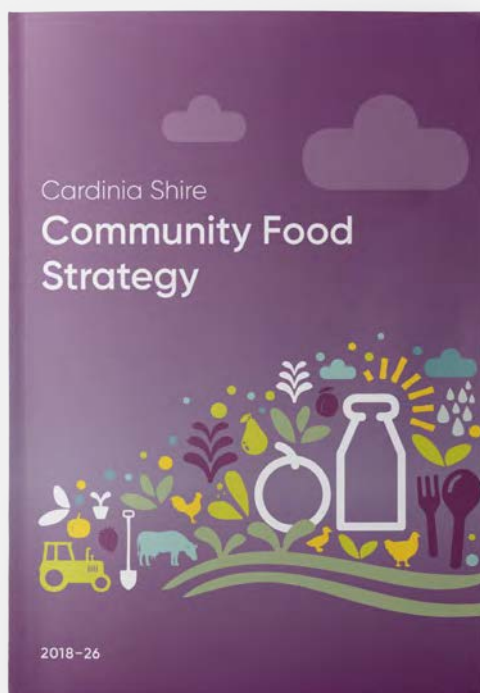
The views of more than 500 local residents laid the basis for the Community Food Strategy endorsed by CSC in December 2018 and launched in February 2019. With an ambitious 8-year action plan encompassing 67 actions across five key strategic areas, and involving commitments from 20 organisations, the next phase of transforming Cardinia's food system is well underway.

The strategy – one of the first of its kind in Australia can be downloaded here:



Download:

Cardinia Community Food Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 26



Major collective impact food systems projects



Pick My Project: Growing the Future

February to December 2019

A community model for disadvantaged youth engagement and work pathways.

"Today I got to be a carpenter, a brickie, a nurseryman and a farmer – and I feel pretty good about that"

—— COMMENT FROM STUDENT PARTICIPANT

"This project has opened students' eyes in terms of what's available to them outside / beyond school – it is showing them pathways towards future training and employment and livelihood opportunities. The project has demonstrated just how applicable a gardening project can be to the rest of the school curriculum"

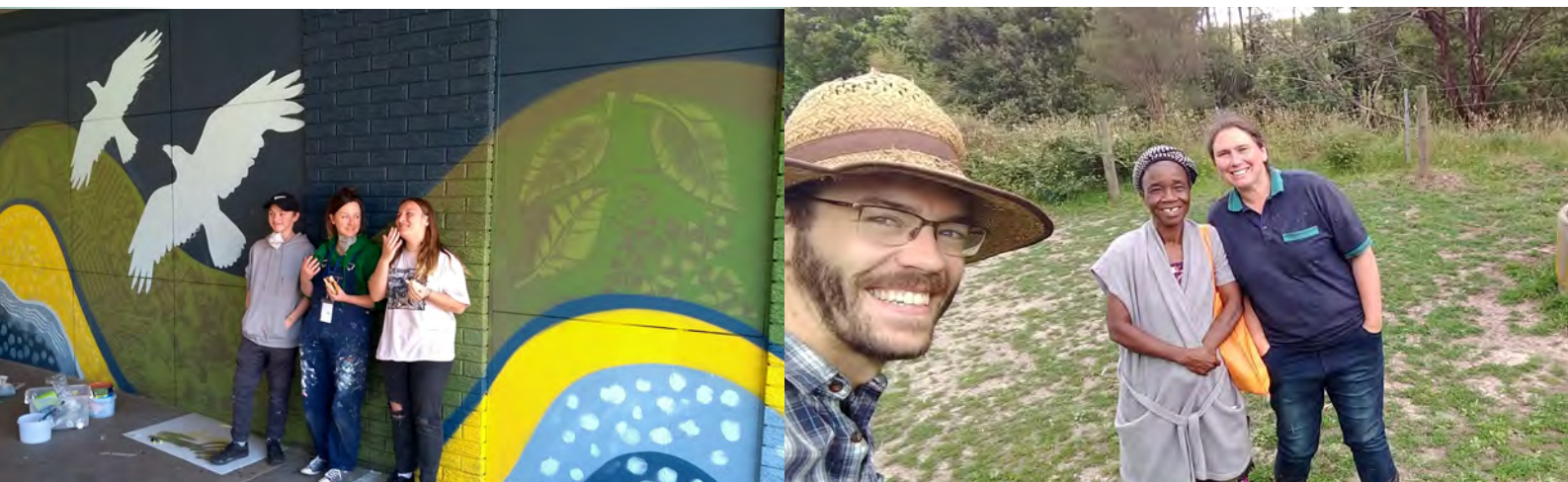
—— MAX GODBER, PROJECT OFFICER

This project's goal was to create a Community Farm School initiative to provide supported vocational learning opportunities for Pakenham Secondary College (PSC) students.

Students visited the Longwarry farm site and planted 1000 garlic seed, working together with women from the United African Farm and learning from them. The establishment of the farm school plot has laid the foundations for the creation of a new cooperative dedicated to a school-based apprenticeship in partnership with a local RTO and PSC.

At PSC, the Project resulted in the construction of 100m² of raised garden beds, the planting of over 2000 seedlings as well as 50 additional fruit trees. Approximately 60 students were directly involved in the project across five classes and four levels. The project concentrated on working with a small group of disadvantaged and disengaged youth from diverse backgrounds every week through the Hands on Learning program. This focused small-group work led to significant increases in confidence, self-esteem and skills development. In addition to gardening activities, the students worked on the creation of art murals depicting the local country with a local artist, participated in workshops with the art-science collaboration Scale-Free Network to understand the microbial world and to represent it artistically, attended visits to the school by local producers, and co-created a local Food and Farm Directory profiling local businesses.

Major collective impact food systems projects



Other highlights:

- The Food Circles project won an award for best poster at the 2019 Enliven Health Excellence in Health Promotion and Prevention Conference on 25th July.
- The Food Circles team worked hard to raise much needed funds for local groups. Four applications submitted to the Ripe for Change philanthropic program were successful, bringing funding to the Country Women's Association for their Community Kitchen program, to the United African Farm for farm manager time, to Farmer Incubator for a feasibility study, and to the Food Circles team itself for communications support.
- The Food Circles team gave strong support to the United African Farm, securing two grants to help with materials and equipment (\$20,000 – Andrews Foundation) and a vehicle to assist with volunteer participation (\$10,000 - Aus Post Community Grants).
- The Cardinia Food Movement generated its own initiatives, with the creation of an online **Cardinia Farm and Food Directory** and the launch of a Love Local Food Month in November.

CARDINIA FOOD CIRCLES
GROWING A HEALTHY, DELICIOUS, SUSTAINABLE + FAIR LOCAL FOOD MOVEMENT

WHY?

- 25% of adults in Cardinia Shire are obese, 6% higher than the Victorian average.
- 6:1 the ratio of non-essential 'fast food' to essential fresh food outlets.
- 16% of our farmland will be lost in the next 30 years if urban growth patterns continue.
- 94% of us don't eat the recommended amount of fruit & vegetables!

OUR RESPONSE

AS A COLLECTIVE
Structured by the framework of Collective Impact, our approach recognises that achieving meaningful impact on this suite of wicked systems challenges is going to take all of us, together. Our collective now spans schools, universities, businesses, philanthropists, media, health organisations, farmers, faith + community groups who have all committed to leading or supporting 67 actions over 5 strategic focus areas in our co-created Cardinia Community Food Strategy.

FROM THE GROUND UP
We believe in food solutions to food problems. Our greatest asset is our community. That's why our shared vision and action plan was created through kitchen table talks with over 500 local residents – why our core implementation group – the Cardinia Food Movement, is made up of farmers, teachers, parents, health workers, passionate home cooks, gardeners and local residents.

CO-LEARNING + CO-CREATING
We co-create our initiatives, from a weekly pop up affordable fresh food market to a community school farm, from community kitchen programs to a Healthy Education Network that supports our teachers across the shire. Our work is in direct response to local needs and together we learn, create, adapt and grow solutions to fit our local context.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT
We're in this for the long haul, because this is a long game! Our approach – the work to track + measure our impact is informed by systems thinking + collective impact. Research + experience tells us that it takes 2 years to get critical collective impact conditions in place which then start to feed into eddy changes in the system. After 2.5 years of work we have:
Increased collaboration + communication across the food system across key stakeholders through the formation of the Cardinia Food Movement, Project Steering + Working Groups + a range of workshops + events.
Enabled and needed community solutions that have served over 10 tonnes of affordable fresh produce to the community, built capacity of local teachers in food + health education, created an advisory base for farm and protection, delivered regional food and farm focused events attended by over 600 local residents, + increased media coverage of food system issues.
Shaped government policy with the participatory creation of our Cardinia Community Food Strategy formally adopted + endorsed by Cardinia Shire Council in December 2018.

A BIG THANK YOU
to our community of doers, leaders, thinkers and growers who are driving this work + a special shout out to the work of our backbone orgs – Cardinia Shire Council + Sustain: The Australian Food Network + key funders including: Cardinia Shire Council, Victorian State Government and the Ripe for Change Grants Program.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

- Across our communities we have all the ingredients we need to change our food system.
- To do justice to those strengths it is important to take the time to embark on a journey of co-learning in systems thinking + collective impact right across the collective.
- Events are a powerful tool: they connect, educate, galvanise, inspire.
- Take time...to build relationships, to build a shared vision, to reflect, to engage in best practice research, TO BE THERE.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT
WWW.CARDINIAFOODMOVEMENT.ORG



See:
Cardinia Farm and Food Directory

Major collective impact food systems projects

Melbourne Food Hub

The Melbourne Food Hub (MFH) is a place-making project that brings together the local community to meet, learn, grow, make, eat and source fresh local produce. Initially a joint venture of Sustain and Melbourne Farmers Markets and funded with an Innovation Grant from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, it has since expanded to include other values-aligned sustainable food system organisations and businesses: Reground, Kingfisher Citrus, 3000acres, Farmwall, The Mushroomery, Sporadical City Mushrooms, and Melbourne Polytechnic. Miranda Sharp, Director of MFM, received Darebin's Citizen of the Year award on September 2nd, with the establishment of the MFH a major contributor to this award.

In the first 17 months of operations on the Alphington site, the project has delivered significant outcomes. A major outcome is the construction of the above ground urban farm. 77 sqm of wicking and raised garden beds have been built and 150kgs of produce have been harvested to date.

The MFH team have a partnership with the emergency relief urban food program run by Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Centre (DIVRS) in neighbouring Preston. For several months DIVRS volunteers have been planting, maintaining and harvesting fresh produce from 26 sqm of space to expand access to good food for those who need it most.

A second outcome is the launch of weekly fresh produce sales, first to staff at Melbourne University via the Melbourne Farmers Markets weekly farmers market, and secondly from the Urban Farm at Alphington with farm produce complemented by fresh vegies supplied from local urban and regional producers.



Major collective impact food systems projects

These productive and trading activities are complemented by the community composting hub established on site by start-up Reground, via a Bank Australia customer grant. Sustain is also the recipient of a Bank Australian customer grant to establish a ClimateSmart Food Classroom as a community resource. We were fortunate to enjoy the support of a class of soil science students from RMIT University, who created some wonderful infographic resources for public display covering subjects such as the soil carbon cycle and the role of healthy soils in combating climate change.

The educational value of the MFH has already been demonstrated with numerous visits from VCAL students at Reservoir High School as well as community workshops run on site, from building wicking beds to tomato passata making to volunteer working bees. Landscaping students from Melbourne Polytechnic worked with the MFH team during October and November in the build-out of the remaining areas of the urban farm. The MFH received its first corporate volunteering cohort on September 11th, with a very successful hands-on experience for 40 staff. This will lay the foundations for a bespoke program of place-based hands-on learning to realise the vision of the MFH as a unique Centre of Sustainable Food Systems Education.



Major collective impact food systems projects



Food Business Boost program

Betty Vassiliou

Joining the team at the Melbourne Food Hub as a trainer facilitator to deliver the Food Business Boost workshops (supported by the Inner North Community Foundation and the Bennelong Foundation, and with access to the Darebin Arts centre kitchen provided by the City of Darebin) has been extremely inspiring.

We have supported migrant and refugee women to start their own food business or develop their existing food business. We have mentored women in all areas involving the production, product testing, marketing, sales and distribution of their product. We also supported the women to apply for their food business registration at their local council.

Our hands-on approach to support women to become self-employed in a food business and to overcome business challenges played a big part in the success of the program. Also very important was access to the Darebin Arts Centre kitchen, which gave the women a huge financial support in the early stages of their business development.

The workshops also helped the women network and support each other. Sharing ideas and experiences inspired them and gave them the confidence to break through barriers they may have initially come across when they first began their journey.

Network building and support



Sustain has supported budding local and national networks tackle wicked food system challenges:

Melbourne Food Alliance

Sustain was a founding member of the Alliance's launch in 2019, and attended several meetings throughout the year.



Read more:
[Melbourne Food Alliance](#)

Cardinia Food Network

Sustain continued its backbone support for the CFN, with monthly meetings taking place throughout 2019.



Read more:
[Join the CFN Movement](#)

Regen WA

Sustain supported the development of a regenerative farmers network in WA, via event coordination for the inaugural Regen WA conference in September.



Read more:
[Regen WA](#)

SA Urban Food Network

Sustain supported the UFN in the joint facilitation of a food systems event on the role of local government held in Adelaide in June.



Read more:
[SA Urban Food Network](#)

Network building and support



Our membership

Our membership continues to increase, with a further 10 organisational and individual members joining the Australian Food Network in 2019, bringing the total to 28. 2020 will see the development and implementation of a membership strategy employed to grow the Network nationally. We are very grateful to all our members for their ongoing support of our work.

The Australia Food Systems Directory

Launched in February 2017, the Directory is becoming a valuable resource to map and raise the profile of the food system sector in Australia. It currently has 560 entries populated across the country, highlighting food systems organisations, events, projects, infrastructure, knowledge and people.

**See:**

Access the Directory, create a profile and populate entries [here](#).

Urban and Regional Food Declaration

This Declaration sets forth a common vision and set of principles for a healthy, sustainable, resilient and fair food system for all Australians. In 2019 we added a further 11 signatories, bringing the total number to 54.

“On behalf of Sustainable Gardening Australia, I wish to express my support for the Urban and Regional Food Declaration. Over recent years, the Australian community is increasingly aware of the many health and environmental benefits of growing their own food in both urban and regional locations. We strongly agree with what is stated in the Food Declaration’s purpose that “integrated action is needed from individuals, communities, businesses, organisations and governments” to create a sustainable and fair food system. It appears that Sustainable Gardening Australia shares many goals with Sustain and, therefore, fully support the Urban and Regional Food Declaration and are proud to be signatories to it.”

— DR. SHARRON PFUELLER, PRESIDENT,
SUSTAINABLE GARDENING AUSTRALIA
20 MAY 2019

Thought Leadership

Research and consultancy

This year Sustain conducted innovative research and consultancies that help shaped healthy food systems policy in diverse areas:



Sustain is a partner organisation in the Australian Research Council Discovery Project, **Strengthening Food Governance at the Local Level**. The aims of the research are to ascertain barriers and enablers to local government and community initiatives that contribute to healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems, as well as identify pathways to strengthen those systems.

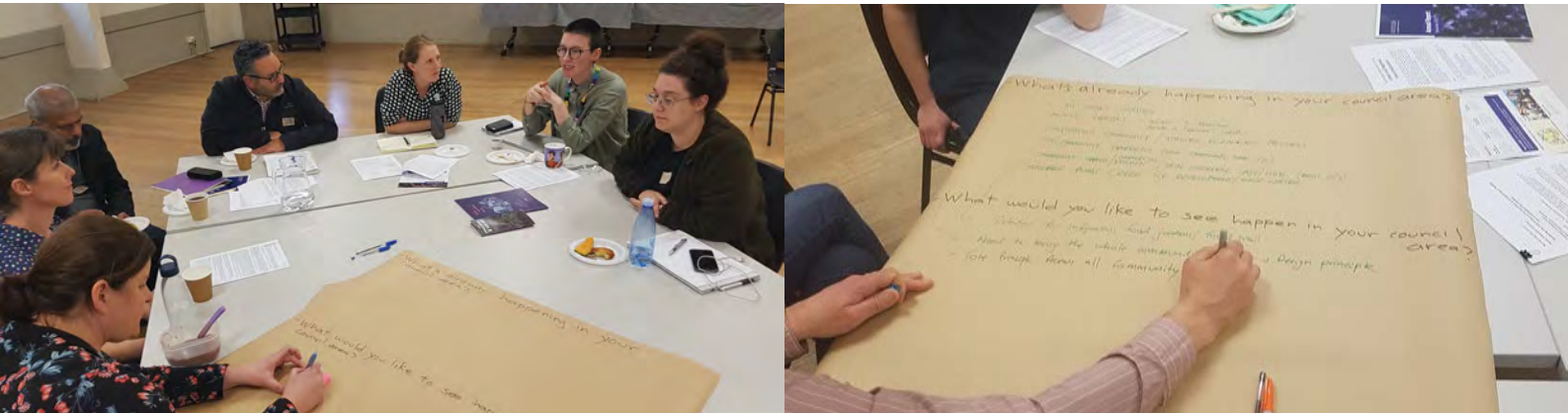
Sustain was supported by the McLeod Family Foundation to conduct a Farm to Plate Planning Audit of 26 peri-urban local government planning schemes to identify barriers and enablers for small-scale, sustainable and diversified food production and processing. This Audit was commenced in 2019 and will be completed in 2020.

Sustain also facilitated a stakeholder workshop for the City of Greater Bendigo, as part of the development of the City's first Food Systems Strategy (due for Endorsement in early 2020).

Sustain's project work in Victoria and Western Australia was featured in peer-reviewed publications: **The Australian Journal of Environmental Education; The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; Journal of Organics.**

Moonee Valley City Council Food Systems Stakeholder Workshop

Sustain facilitated a food systems workshop for council staff from across eight different departments, building knowledge, capacity and momentum for further Council action.



1. Comprehensively map the local food system to identify community needs, current actions, key priorities based on community need, and existing capacity / assets.
2. Strategy development – adopt a long-term, integrated and consistent approach to food systems, emphasising the human right to adequate food.
3. Demonstrate Council leadership and support by (e.g.) creating a dedicate role to facilitate sustainable food systems across all Council areas.

“Sustain provided the leadership, knowledge and networks to allow for important conversations, inspire future actions and support our Council’s progress at every step.”

— RYAN COONAN
TEAM LEADER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
Moonee Valley City Council

Events

This year Sustain coordinated, co-hosted and presented at a diverse range of events in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Western Australia, as well as in Seoul, bringing together over 2300 people to discuss food social entrepreneurship, First Nations food sovereignty, food policy and governance, urban agriculture, and the necessity of co-creating pathways to sustainable food systems.

With the New Economy Network Australia, we hosted a discussion evening at William Angliss on September 13th: *Reconciliation and Sovereignty: Land, Food and Energy*, featuring presentations from Kabi Kabi, Birri Gubba First Nations man Isaac Harrison, CEO of Bunjil Energy; First Nations Food Sovereignty researcher Michaela Bohunicky; and Karl Fitzgerald, Research Director of Prosper Australia.

Substantive planning for the 3rd national Urban Agriculture Forum (9-10 October) and inaugural national Urban Agriculture Month (October 2020) commenced, with major support from the McLeod Family Foundation. We have confirmed Chris Blythe, CEO of Social Farms and Gardens UK, to be our headline international keynote speaker for this event, which will be themed **Care Farming and Gardening in the Climate Emergency**.

We also supported several events with presentations about our work, including:

- The 2nd Festival 21 (February 2019)
- The 8th Annual Seoul Urban Agriculture Conference and Expo (May 2019)
- The Bennelong Foundation Harmony Day Lunch (May 2019)
- The 2nd Sydney University Food Governance Conference (July 2019)
- The 3rd Deakin Food Policy Dialogue (October 2019)
- The quarterly meeting of the Victorian Health Eating Enterprise (November 2019)
- The Australian Earth Laws Alliance Ethics Conference (November 2019)

On the succeeding pages we feature some of the work of our South Australian member organisation, the SA Urban Food Network; and our partners in Western Australia.



The Emerging Story 2018-2019

The SA Urban Food Network emerged out of events hosted by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) in partnership with Sustain's national tour of visiting international food systems experts in November 2016.



In 2018, in response to participant interest, the findings collated in the Edible Adelaide report and vision and the momentum of other local Networks being established around the country, the Board launched the SA Urban Food Network.

The Network aims to:

- **Exchange connections, knowledge and opportunities** across local organisations, community groups and individuals
- **Educate and build capacity** across the food system
- **Enable the transition** to a regenerative local food system.

In the past 18 months, the Network has facilitated numerous events and projects including:

- **Masterclass / Stories of urban agriculture**, with Michael Ableman
- **#MapJam**, an exploration of a mapping tool to visualise a local food system
- **Secrets of your veggie patch: what does science say?** – Dr. Georgia Pollard
- **Urban food systems and the role of government**, with four Victorian and four South Australian local government case studies
- **Food Matters**, four-week courses facilitated by The Food Embassy

Urban Food Systems and the Role of Government

June 2019



This targeted event brought together 45 people, including almost all of the 19 metropolitan local governments and representatives from the Local Government Association, Department of Environment and Water, SA Health, Primary Industries and Regions SA, and various businesses and social enterprises.

It was designed as a collaborative learning event and participants all reported that it helped them to:

- Build their knowledge around urban food systems
- Build new connections with others, and;
- Feel confident and motivated that they could contribute to a regenerative local food system.

The following state-wide needs were identified by stakeholders at the event:

- A dedicated lead agency and staffing to nurture this work
- Political leadership and prioritisation
- Green Adelaide/NRM funding dedicated to this work
- Strong partnerships between DEW, Green Adelaide, SA Health and across all government agencies
- Central showcase/education centre
- Legislated public health plan for each local government (use the liveability framework)

Urban Food Systems and the Role of Government

June 2019

Other priorities identified for both the state and national networks to work on were:

- Prioritising linkages between sectors
- Funding (consistent and long-term)
- Education (more stories and case studies)
- Collaborative projects between local governments
- Champions and leadership across all sectors, from the community to the federal government
- Measurable impacts – complexity science to play a role
- Policy to drive projects and create legitimacy

Food Matters course results

The Food Matters course was developed and trialled with the Food Embassy in April and May 2019 with 40 participants. The course explores the impacts of our food choices and what we can do to support sustainable, fair and healthy food for all. Significant knowledge shifts occurred across all participants in their understanding of the:

- Differences between industrialised and alternative food systems
- Impact of the food system on farmers' livelihoods
- Impact of the food system on biodiversity

The outstanding attitudinal shift was participants having confidence that they can be a part of improving the local food system. Other key attitudinal shifts were in:

- Paying farmers an adequate wage
- Preserving farmland and land for biodiversity
- Feeling good about growing food
- Being concerned about buying ethical food

Key conversations and partnerships for future development include:

- Warpuli Kumangka (Working together) group of the Board and Kaurna elders and young people for education and business enterprise opportunities.
- UniSA and the City of Salisbury, for the Ag Lab
- Local government officers with a food systems brief or interest in planning
- The Board's Sustainable Agriculture team and CSIRO, for research opportunities
- Adelaide Food Fringe Festival (launching in November 2019) for event collaboration
- Young Farmers Connect for strengthening national Network and links in SA
- Sustain for strategic national network and event collaboration

Sustain's work in Western Australia in 2019

Danjoo Koorliny – Walking Together.
Transforming our Land, Food Systems and Communities.

This year we ensured that food, land and regenerative landscapes were a critical feature of many of our activities.

Social Impact Magazine Issue One: Food Focus

The first issue included food system leaders Dr Charles Massey, Dr Nick Rose and Evelyn Lee Collin sharing their thoughts on the WA food landscape. It also featured Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's Kelly Flugge talking about the Noongar Land Enterprises Group - a not-for-profit Aboriginal grower group. It contained the high-level findings on food insecurity by the WA Council of Social Services as part of the Food Relief Framework Project.

And it finished with an article from Maalinup Aboriginal Gallery owner and native produce providore Dale Tillbrook, talking about a future agriculture that has its foundations in the ancient wisdom of the culture of this land.



Read Issue One
Distributed to over
700 readers in its first week.

- 300 organisations were represented at the University of Western Australia's Social Impact Festival
- 800+ people and organisations mapped on Social Impact Network Map (including Food tag)
- 100 state-wide senior leader attendees at Elder-leader briefing
- 500 participants at the Danjoo Koorliny Social Impact Summit
- 3000+ attendees at The Good Market
- 30 people attending the co-initiation journey of the 4R lab/ Danjoo Koorliny: Boodja, Mereny, Moort (Walking Together: Land, Food, Community) process
- 24 leaders participated in the ELIAS tri-sector leadership program (Prototypes on food)



Sustain's work in Western Australia in 2019



Regen WA Conference

September

This inaugural conference brought together over 200 farmers and key industry stakeholders to facilitate informed discussion and initiate the development of a plan that supports the adoption of leading sustainability practices, like regenerative agriculture, in Western Australia. Delegates heard from leading thinkers and practitioners, including Charles Massy, author of *Call of the Reed Warbler*; Oral McGuire, from the Noongar Land Enterprise Group; Terry McCosker of Resources Consulting Services; Peter Hazell of the Mulloon Institute; and Di Haggerty, pioneer of natural intelligence farming in the WA wheatbelt. The conference was a resounding success and laid the foundations for the expansion of the RegenWA network in 2020 and beyond.

Food for Thought Dialogue Studios

October

Continuing its work since 2015, Community Food Events in partnership with Sustain: The Australian Food Network, UWA Centre for Social Impact, Commonland, Great Southern Development Commission, the City of Albany and Denmark Community Resource Centre once again put the spotlight on the food system with 60 people attending two dialogue studios held in October 2019.

Dialogue studio events were organised as precursors to the Food for Thought Festival Innovation Studios in March 2020, acting as catalysts for discussion and fomentation of ideas about the future of food systems in the region. Facilitated by Dieter Vandenbroek, Evelyn Lee Collin, John Stubley, Zoe Street and Abel Crawford, the events helped direct conversations aimed at ensuring healthy regenerative food systems that would enrich the lives of individuals and communities in the Great Southern region of Western Australia, and further afield. A campfire for local leaders was held to share their perspectives of both the challenges and vision for the Great Southern, bringing together actors from across the food and agricultural system for a collective conversation about the future of our food ecosystem.

Data from the sessions was captured by UWA CSI graphic scribe Zoe Street and Sustainable Food Systems Masters Student Abel Crawford. In the lead up to the studios, dialogue interviews with key stakeholder groups were conducted by Abel to support the team in the development of a holistic, system analysis of the food system in the South West and Great Southern Region, and to identify the context, relevant problems, opportunities and leverage points. The map will assist in the effective identification of which interventions to focus on and also to inform the implementation of identified interventions for sustainability transition in the relevant bio-region(s).

Overall Financials

Sustain: The Australian Food Network Ltd

ABN: 54 272 644 917

Income & Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2019

		2019	2018
Income	\$	\$	\$
Philanthropic Funding & Grants		290,589	70,203
Sponsorship		19,562	28,620
Events		63,137	69,937
Consultancy Services		117,233	102,626
Donations		16,161	2,611
Memberships		870	1,950
Other Income		3,500	-
Interest Received		4,452	2,583
Total Income		\$ 515,504	\$ 278,530
Expenditure	\$	\$	\$
Advertising & Promotion		16,389	5,453
Bank Charges		84	59
Bookkeeping Fees		3,609	2,075
Computer & IT Expenses		3,205	15,181
Consultancy Expenses			
Executive Director	-		23,300
Cardinia Shire Council	5,462		89,289
Other Activities	91,395	96,857	44,097
Contractors		6,923	15,953
Employee Remuneration Benefits		241,357	33,391
Event Costs		62,419	51,800
Grants & Sponsorships		10,000	13,517
Insurances		1,919	2,357
Printing & Stationery		2,590	4,918
Project Expenses including Infrastructure		61,030	-
Travel & Conferences		19,460	21,486
Workshops & Training		1,520	12,848
Sundry Expenses		373	514
Total Expenses		\$ 527,735	\$ 336,238
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		\$(12,231)	\$ (57,708)

Sustain: The Australian Food Network Ltd

ABN: 54 272 644 917

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30th June 2019

	2019	2018
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash at Bank & On Hand	394,190	263,241
Accounts Receivable	4,554	11,706
Other Debtors	845	Nil
GST Refundable	4,433	Nil
Total Current Assets	\$ 404,022	\$ 274,947
Non-Current Assets	\$	\$
	Nil	Nil
Total Assets	\$ 404,022	\$ 274,947
Current Liabilities	\$	\$
Accounts Payable & Other Creditors	13,519	29,252
Unearned Income	303,373	146,936
GST Payable	Nil	Nil
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 319,892	\$ 178,586
Non-Current Assets	\$	\$
	Nil	Nil
Net Assets	\$84,130	\$96,361
Retained Earnings	\$	\$
Retained Earnings 1 st July 2018	96,361	154,069
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year	(12,231)	(57,708)
TOTAL RETAINED EARNINGS AT 30th JUNE 2019	\$84,130	\$ 96,361

Sustain: The Australian Food Network Ltd

ABN: 54 272 644 917

Notes to the Financial Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2019

1. Summary Of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements cover Sustain: The Australian Food Network Ltd as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The company is an Australian Public company limited by guarantee.

Basis of Preparation

The Directors have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on its general purpose financial statements. These financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Corporations Act 2001 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis. Other material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the financial report.

(a) Cash on Hand

Cash includes cash held at call with the company's banker & Petty Cash on hand.

(b) Property, Plant & Equipment

The company has expensed monies on infrastructure, equipment for projects & events, computer & other minor electronic items which provide ongoing benefits. No other property, plant or equipment is held.

(c) Investments

The company has no investments.

(d) Revenue

Interest income is recognised when received. Donations and memberships are recognised as income when received. Philanthropic funding & grants for specific purposes are recognised as revenue only when expensed (see Note 3). Income from sales or the rendering of services, is recognised when earned.

2. Goods & Services Tax

The company registered for Goods & Services Tax on 1 January 2017.

3. Philanthropic Funding & Grants - Unearned Income

Philanthropic funding & grants received for specific projects and purposes and not expended, are carried forward as a provision for future expenditure.

4. Other Income

An amount of income was received in 2016, the first year of the company's reporting, and banked as security deposit for a company credit card. The transaction has not been brought to account until now.

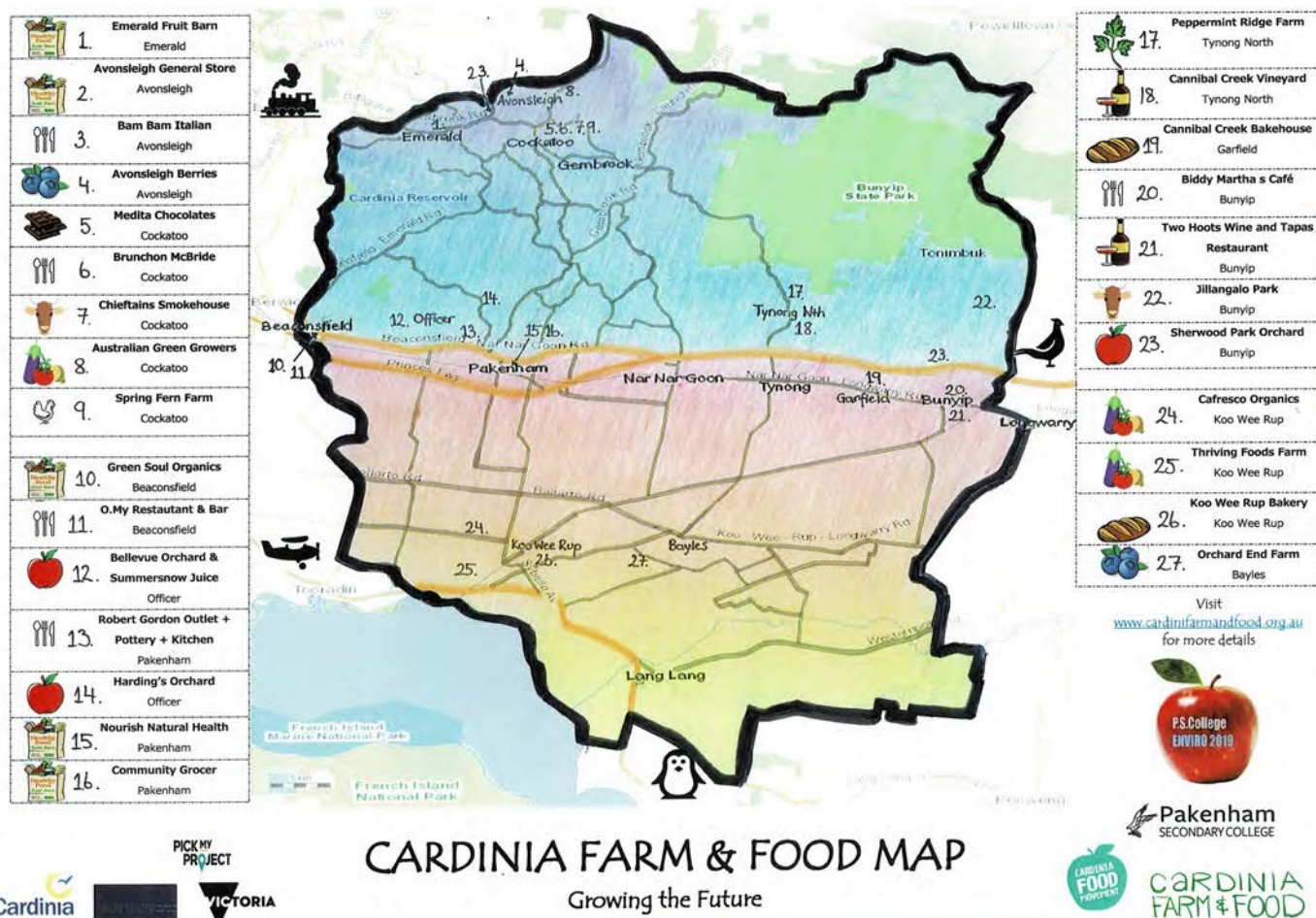


Photo Credit: Lucy Ahrendt, Sustain consultant and Pakenham Secondary College 2019 VCAL Environmental Science students

SUSTAIN: THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD NETWORK LTD

ABN: 54 272 644 917

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

SUSTAIN: THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD NETWORK LTD**Report on the Financial Statements for Year Ended 30th June 2019**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements, being special purposes financial statements, of Sustain: The Australian Food Network Ltd ("the company"), which comprises Income & Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Notes to the Accounts and the Directors' Declaration.

Directors Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial statements is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

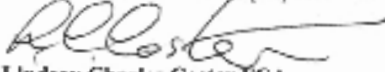
Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of Sustain: The Australian Food Network are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30th June 2019, its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act 2001. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

**Lindsay Charles Coster FCA**

Chartered Accountant

Registered Company Auditor No: 7815

39 Clunies Ross Crescent, Mulgrave

Dated this 25th day of November 2019

SUSTAIN: THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD NETWORK LTD

ABN: 54 272 644 917

Directors' Declaration
for the Year Ended 30th June 2019

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of the company, the directors hereby declare that:

The accompanying financial statements set are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and:

- a) present a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30th June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- b) comply with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
- c) there is reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to meet its debts as and when they become payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Kelly Donati - Chair



Lynn Richardson - Treasurer

Dated this 25th day of November 2019

Who We Are

Our Team



Nick Rose
Executive Director

January 2016 – Present



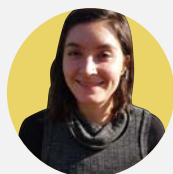
Evelyn Lee Collin
Western Australian Events
Coordinator

October 2016 – Present



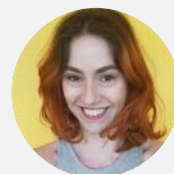
Max Godber
Cardinia Food Circles
Community Engagement
Coordinator

May 2017 – Present



Audrey Beard
Melbourne Food Hub Urban
Agriculture Facilitator

June 2018 – Present



Georgia Karavis
Melbourne Food Hub and
Sustain Communications
Coordinator

November 2019 – Present



Michelle Green
Cardinia Food Circles
Communications
Coordinator

August 2019 – Present



Kate Sutton
Melbourne Food Hub and
Sustain Communications
Coordinator

May 2018 – December 2019



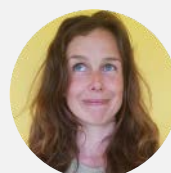
Alanna Ford
Media
and PR

September 2017 – Present



Ange Barry
Melbourne Food Hub Business
Development Manager
(June 2018 – April 2019)

MFH Food Hub Manager
(May 2019 – July 2019)



Tanya Massy
Cardinia Food Circles
Project Coordinator

February 2017 – April 2019



Adam Perkins
Melbourne Food Hub
Manager

May 2018 – May 2019

Board of Directors



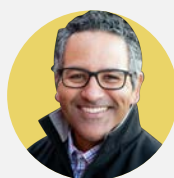
Dr Kelly Donati
Co-Chair
Lecturer, William
Angliss Institute
Board Member, Melbourne
Farmers Markets



Lynn Richardson
Treasurer & Co-Chair
Lecturer, William
Angliss Institute
Chairperson,
The Environmental Group Ltd



Ange Barry
CEO, Joy FM
Retired November 2019



Greg Jacobs
Team Leader
Health Department
City of Melbourne



Prof. Paul James
Director
Institute of Culture & Society,
University of Western Sydney
Retired September 2019



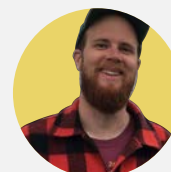
Richard Lange
Consultant
Milk 2 Market, Geelong
Retired November 2019



**Annemaree
Docking**
Farm Business and
Rural Consultant



Tom Gyorffy QC
Victorian Bar and
Tarrangower Estate Winery



**Jonathan
Leschinsky**
Founder, Edithvale
Community Greengrocer
Joined November 2019

We are very grateful to our major funders and partners

Key Partners



Key Funders

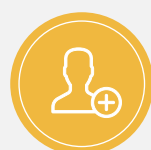


Collaborators



Join our network today

We can help you make the change you want to see in our world by engaging your local council, grassroots organisations and other institutions who share the same vision for food system transformation. Join us and be part of a growing network of passionate change-makers. Get in touch with us today.



Sign up as a member
sustain.org.au/membership/sign-up



Follow us at
facebook.com/sustainaus
twitter.com/sustainaus
instagram.com/sustainaustralia



Visit us
sustain.org.au

