



Annual Report 2024/25



Environment House Inc

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Thank you to our sponsors

Principal Partner





*We acknowledge the
Whadjuk Nyoongar people as the
traditional custodians of this land.
We pay our respects to their elders
past, present and emerging.*

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

ENVIRONMENT HOUSE INC

At Enviro House, we value collaboration to achieve an environmentally sustainable future. When individuals, groups, councils, schools, businesses, and government work together, we improve well-being and achieve better decision making for present and future generations.

Overview of Enviro House activities undertaken this past year:

- City of Bayswater Garden Critters Early Learning Centre Program
- Little Critters Garden Play Sessions – 8 x 4 week groups, 142 participants (74 children 2-5 years, 68 parents/caregivers)
- Social Gardening Fridays – 48 sessions held with a growing number of regular attendees 6 – 12 weekly
- Saving our Snake-necked Turtle Project – Turtle Trackers Volunteer Team – 29 volunteers
- 55 Central Accommodation Service Gardening for Wellbeing Initiative with Wellness 55 staff and City of Bayswater
- 3 Open House at Enviro House events held
- Cycling Without Age Perth – Bayswater Hub established
- 24-hour waste recycling drop off station diverting approximately 3.5m² per month
- 4 Clothes Swap Events rehoming over 220 items
- 7th year delivering the City of Bayswater Home Composting Program – over 100 households
- 10th year running the City of Bayswater Native Plants to Residents Program – 874 households
- 5th year running the Town of Bassendean Plants to Residents Program – 378 households
- Waste and Garden Education provided to 566 Primary School children and 389 children at early learning centres on behalf of City of Bayswater
- Electrify Bayswater – In its second year. Electrify 6054 began.
- Community Gardens Skill Building Program – Department of Communities funded sessions delivered
- Thank a Volunteer Day Long Table Brunch
- Share and Repair – 11 sessions held, 161 items repaired, and 353.3kg saved from landfill. 1359kg since 2019
- Wetland Conservation Projects
- Turtle Tracker Bayswater Team Coordinated for the third year
- 67 community workshops & events with over 1100 attendees
- CCWA Campaign Community Collection Point
- Support of local eco businesses through our EcoShop

Environment House Inc Annual Report 2024/2025

Enviro House is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 2015 (WA) and has tax-deductibility status. The Committee of Management for the 2024/25 year was:

Convenor: Alison Humphry

Deputy Convenor: Vacant

Secretary: Jo Bower

Treasurer: Linda Paini

Coordinator: Rachael Roberts

Ordinary members: Warren Haley, Tess Tholstrup, Giorgia Johnson, Alex Ellis, Glenn Cook and Jeremy Maher.

Our Committee of Management are all hands-on volunteers in the organisation. We are proud of the constructive and positive way we work together to get things done.

Enviro House is the only urban environmental sustainability centre in the eastern suburbs of Perth. Our projects focus on community engagement and education across all sustainability areas; conservation of our biodiversity; sustainable resilient communities; and climate change action.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

At the heart of everything we do at Enviro House are our incredible volunteers. Over 50 regular volunteers contribute across a range of projects, bringing diverse skills, energy, and enthusiasm. We are proud of our inclusive culture, welcoming everyone without judgement and valuing the unique contributions each person brings.

This year, we also received additional support from more than 40 event volunteers for the Plants to Residents programs, including community members from Bayswater and Bassendean, as well as students from Chisholm College and Durham Road School. Our involvement in the Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle Project engaged 24 new Turtle Tracker volunteers, patrolling Eric Singleton and Baigup Wetlands in October and November 2024. Several of these volunteers have since become regular contributors to other Enviro House activities.

In December, we celebrated our volunteers at the Enviro House Community Long Table Brunch at Eric Singleton Wetlands. Over 45 volunteers from Enviro House, Sustainable Bayswater, Electrify Bayswater, the Cat Containment Campaign, Turtle Tracker program, Bayswater Tree Canopy Advocates and local Friends of Groups joined us for a morning of connection, appreciation, and celebration.

We sincerely thank all our volunteers—your dedication, energy, and passion make Enviro House a thriving space for community, learning, and environmental action.



Setting up for Plants to Residents

2024-2025 REFLECTION

The 2024–25 year has been one of growth, connection, and impact for Enviro House. Across our programs, workshops, and community initiatives, we have continued to bring people together to learn, create, and care for the environment. From engaging preschoolers in Little Critters Garden Play to supporting seniors in age-friendly gardening, our education and wellbeing programs have reached hundreds of participants, fostering skills, knowledge, and a deeper connection to nature.

Our Growing Well Program with Bendigo Bank flourished, with Social Gardening Fridays, Little Critters groups, and Open House mornings offering hands-on experiences in gardening, composting, and sustainability. A standout highlight was the generous grant from Community Bank Bayswater, which enabled the purchase of an electric trishaw to launch the Cycling Without Age Perth – Bayswater Hub. This initiative allows people of all ages to enjoy trishaw rides through local wetlands and riverside areas, fostering joy, wellbeing, and connection to the environment. We look forward to driving this into the future!

Enviro House continues to value its strong partnership with the City of Bayswater, whose ongoing collaboration and support make it possible to deliver meaningful sustainability initiatives that benefit both our community and local environment. This year also saw significant achievements in waste reduction and sustainable living. The Home Composting Program reached 186 households, the Garden Critters Program engaged 389 pre-schoolers in composting, recycling, and gardening, and the 24-Hour Recycling Station and Share & Repair sessions continued to divert waste from landfill while empowering the community to live more sustainably.

We were proud to deliver the City of Bayswater’s Native Plants to Residents program for the tenth consecutive year, as well as the Town of Bassendean’s program for the fifth year, distributing over 20,000 waterwise native plants to more than 1,200 households with over 540 volunteer hours generously provided. These programs, alongside our 67 workshops and community events engaging 1,182 participants, reflect our ongoing commitment to sustainability education, biodiversity, and community connection.

In 2024-25, Enviro House continued to support local wetland groups, including the Friends of Eric Singleton Wetlands, Baigup Wetlands Interest Group, and Friends of Maylands Samphires. We proudly auspiced the Baigup Biennial – ‘*Nurtured by Nature*’ exhibition, celebrating creativity and the significance of Baigup Wetlands. Our Turtle Tracker program, delivered in partnership with the City and the Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle Project, saw volunteers protect nests and release hatchlings, contributing to the conservation of this threatened species in our wetlands.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that Enviro House has been awarded a \$16,000 Stronger Communities Grant for 2025-26 to support our *Digital Evolution: Connecting Community & Sustainability* project. This funding will upgrade our website and IT systems, creating a dynamic, accessible digital hub that strengthens connections with residents, partners, and environmental initiatives—making it easier than ever for the community to engage, learn, and take action for sustainability.

This year has highlighted the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers, part-time staff, and committee. Their energy and commitment keep the EcoShop thriving, the Recycling Station running smoothly, and our workshops, events, and community education programs vibrant and engaging. We also extend heartfelt thanks to our partners and sponsors, Community Bank Bayswater and the City of Bayswater, whose ongoing collaboration and funding make these achievements possible.

As we reflect on 2024–25, we are proud of how Enviro House has supported our community, advanced sustainability, and strengthened connections between people and the natural world. With the continued support of our partners, sponsors, and volunteers, we look forward to building on these achievements in 2025–26—continuing to inspire, educate, and create positive change for our community and environment.



PROJECTS & COLLABORATIONS OVERVIEW

by Nadine Wright Toussaint, Project Coordinator

This year has been another incredibly active and productive one for our organisation. We've delivered a wide range of education and waste reduction programs, gardening initiatives that support food production and wellbeing, and a vibrant calendar of workshops and events. We also launched new projects, expanded existing ones, and continued to grow our community of volunteers and supporters. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the continued support of our principal partner, Community Bank Bayswater, and the ongoing support and partnership with City of Bayswater.

We received generous support from Community Bank Bayswater again in the 24/25 financial year. With their continued partnership, we delivered a diverse range of initiatives under the Bendigo Bank Growing Well Program—creating opportunities for people to connect with the environment, build new skills, and strengthen community resilience in responding to climate change at a local level.

GROWING WELL WITH BENDIGO BANK

This year's activities included our **Little Critters Garden Play** four-week program for 2–5-year-olds, attended by 72 children and 68 parents/caregivers across eight groups, and our **Social Gardening Fridays**, which brought together 6–12 participants each week across 48 sessions to learn, garden, and share a cuppa in a welcoming space.

We also hosted **three Open House morning events**, which welcomed a wide range of participants, helping to build environmental awareness and connection within our community. These events were generously hosted by our Thursday morning volunteer team who definitely know how to put on a delicious morning

“I now go outside more to empty waste bin and wash it. Also, to garden and put cuttings into compost bin. Positive impact to mental health and body from movement and being outside. Feel like I am doing my little part to reduce my waste and create something (good soil)”

– Home Composting Participant, 2025

Alongside renewing their sponsorship, **Community Bank Bayswater** provided a generous **\$10,000 grant** to purchase an electric trishaw to help us establish a **Cycling Without Age Program**. Cycling Without Age is an international initiative that gives people of all ages the opportunity to enjoy trishaw rides, fostering connection, joy, and access to nature for those who may otherwise be limited in mobility. In May, a number of our volunteers experienced the joy of being passengers on a trishaw during a visit from **Cycling Without Age Perth**. The **Enviro House electric trishaw**, purchased before the end of the 24/25 financial year with this funding and with additional support from Cycling Without Age Perth, now enables **free public rides** from Enviro House through our local wetlands and riverside areas. Rides officially commenced on **17 October 2025** (see cover photo), with **nine trained Enviro House trishaw pilots** sharing this memorable experience—offering the wind in your hair and a special connection to our local environment.

We are delighted that **Community Bank Bayswater** has continued their support as our **Principal Partner** in the 25/26 financial year.

CITY OF BAYSWATER HOME COMPOSTING PROGRAM

Our strong partnership with the **City of Bayswater** continued throughout the year. Together, we delivered the **Home Composting Program** for the seventh year, reaching **186 households** and distributing **119 composting systems**. The program provides participating households with a free composting education workshop and a composting system of their choice, supporting residents to compost at home and reduce household waste.

This year, we also ran **five age-friendly gardening and composting workshops** for seniors, alongside **11 gardening and waste reduction workshops** for home composting participants. These low-cost workshops were promoted through our dedicated **Home Composting Participant eNewsletter**, subscribed to by over 750 participants, and included practical tips on composting and worm farming.

Since its inception in 2018, the program has now reached **over 1,200 households** in the City of Bayswater. Evaluations show meaningful reductions in food and general waste sent to landfill, improved recycling habits, and positive health and wellbeing outcomes. The **Home Composting Program** will continue to be offered to residents in the **25/26 financial year**.

CITY OF BAYSWATER GARDEN CRITTERS PROGRAM

The **City of Bayswater Garden Critters Program** for Early Learning and Childcare Centres, delivered in collaboration with the City of Bayswater, continued for its fourth year. The program focuses on **waste education**, supporting centres to reduce waste, increase recycling, and compost on site, alongside providing staff training, coaching, and composting hardware.

Children also benefit from **health and wellbeing outcomes** through engagement in gardening activities and healthy eating. The program features an interactive **Wriggly Worm incursion** and a hands-on **Garden Grow incursion**, where children learn about organic waste and growing nutrient-dense food in a fun and interactive way. Centres without existing edible gardens received a **garden starter kit**, including raised garden beds, soil, and plants.

Over the 2024-25 financial year, **13 Garden Critters gardening and waste incursions** were delivered to **389 pre-kindergarten children** across **7 Early Learning Centres** in the City of Bayswater.

"We use our veggies from our garden to make things in the kitchen for the children to eat- exposing them to different tastes. If we have excess vegetables, we offer them to the families with recipes of how they can use them. We also use our fruit and veg scraps to feed our worms".

-Early Learning Centre Staff following the Garden Critters Program

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

This year, we continued our collaboration with the **City of Bayswater** to deliver environmental education initiatives to students at **Noranda, Bayswater, and Infant Jesus Primary Schools**. Activities included a **Growing Food morning** for 112 students at Noranda Primary, **Seed Magic and Compost Critters** sessions for 154 students at Bayswater Primary, and a **Recycling & Waste Education presentation** for 300 students at Infant Jesus Primary.

School holiday and other children's activities delivered in partnership with the City have also expanded at Enviro House over the year. In 2024-25, these included **Kids Aquatic Creature Creations, Insect Hotels for Kids, Turtle Creations, Wonderful Worms, Splendid Seeds, Rainbow Food Gardens, Write Like and Animal**, and a **Nature Craft Workshop for Little Explorers**.

In **August 2024**, Enviro House was invited to provide **pre-schooler activities** at the Swan Region Home Education Open Day in Bullsbrook. Our **Wriggly Worms** and **Seed Magic** sessions were fully booked and very well received, providing an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of programs such as **Little Critters** among home-schooling families. Since then, we have seen increased participation from home-schooler families in our programs.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated educators Lara O'Neill and Julie Fort for their incredible work delivering programs to Early Learning Centres and schools and running school holiday activities throughout the year. Thanks also to facilitator Yann Toussaint for his contributions to our school holiday programs.



Insect Hotels for Kids



Kids Aquatic Creature Creations using recycled materials



Rainbow Food Gardens

55 CENTRAL – GARDENING FOR WELLBEING

Over the past year, we delivered **three Gardening for Wellbeing sessions** to **12 participants** of the **Wellness 55 program** at 55 Central Transitional Accommodation Service in Maylands, in partnership with the **City of Bayswater** and 55 Central staff. Building on the previous year's initiative, which saw the installation of garden beds, compost bins, and worm farms, we ran a **garden prep and planning workshop**, a **vegetable gardening planting workshop**, and a **seed-raising and saving workshop** for new participants. The garden has become a valuable space not only for growing fresh produce but also for **supporting wellbeing and fostering community connection**, with staff working alongside residents to incorporate home-grown food into daily and weekly meals.

Since collaborating with the City of Bayswater and 55 Central in 2023, the garden has become an integral part of their engagement and wellbeing initiatives at the complex, with produce regularly used in weekly cooking activities. The program has also supported significant improvements in waste management, with 55 Central reporting reduced food waste, fewer FOGO bins collected each week, and increased diversion to onsite worm farms and compost bins. Staff have even noted less odour from the bins, marking a tangible improvement in both sustainability and site wellbeing.

We are incredibly grateful for the installation of the compost bins near our kitchen—they have made a significant difference. Over the past summer and into this winter, we've seen a noticeable reduction in food waste. Prior to having the compost system in place, we struggled with unpleasant odours, particularly during the warmer months. Since the bins were introduced, those issues have been virtually eliminated.

Our residents have embraced the composting initiative wholeheartedly. The bins are consistently full, showing just how engaged the community has become. Fruit and vegetable waste has decreased significantly, which is a fantastic outcome. Our gardeners are also making great use of the compost and worm juice in the gardens, and green waste from garden maintenance is now being added to the compost as well.

This initiative has not only improved our environmental footprint but has also fostered a stronger sense of community among both our 55 Central residents and outreach clients. We truly appreciate the positive impact these compost bins have had.



Turtle Hatchling



Learning how to protect Turtle Nests

TURTLE TRACKERS – SAVING OUR SNAKE-NECKED TURTLES

In partnership with the **Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle (SOSNT)** team, led by Dr. Jane Chambers from Murdoch University, we were proud to continue our involvement in this vital conservation project for the third year. Working alongside the SOSNT team and the **City of Bayswater**, we recruited and coordinated a team of **29 dedicated Turtle Tracker volunteers**. Trackers patrol local wetlands to monitor turtle activity, protect nests, and ensure nesting females can safely return to the water. During the **2024 nesting season** (September–November), volunteers recorded **11 turtle sightings**, patrolled for **205 hours**, and protected **7 nests** at Eric Singleton and Baigup Wetlands.

This season, Trackers focused particularly on Eric Singleton Wetlands and Riverside Gardens, an area earmarked for the urban forest where turf—often frequented by nesting turtles—was due to be removed in November 2024. Working closely with April a **PhD student from Murdoch University**, five nests were successfully relocated to **turtle nesting boxes** on site and the University lab. From May to September 2025, a small group of volunteers monitored these nest boxes daily for hatchlings. Along with hatchlings from the lab, the Turtle Trackers participated in a **turtle release event in July 2025**, releasing **ten hatchlings** into Eric Singleton Wetlands.

This **citizen science initiative** plays a crucial role in the conservation of the threatened **snake-necked turtle**, contributing valuable data and raising community awareness. We are thrilled to continue coordinating the Turtle Tracker program, with volunteers currently patrolling Eric Singleton Wetlands and the urban forest area, helping to protect this increasingly threatened species. Early signs are promising, with **recent vegetation improvements and turf removal already benefiting nesting turtles**, offering hope for a significantly better outcome for Turtles in the future.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

Enviro House had a record year for workshops and community events, delivering 67 sessions and engaging 1,182 participants—up from 35 sessions and 823 participants in 2023/24. Programs catered to all ages and included Visible Mending, Basket Weaving with Natural Fibres, Tucker Bush Appreciation, Swapping Exotic Herbs for Native Botanicals, and Watercolours, Nature, and Mindfulness.

This growth was made possible through close collaboration with Rebecca Cooper, Environment Officer for the City of Bayswater, and the City’s Waste and Sustainability teams, enabling more workshops at reduced ticket prices and broader community reach through joint promotion. The events calendar, coordinated by Nadine Wright Toussaint, ensured smooth delivery, and we extend many thanks to our Workshop Host Volunteers—Ros Hayes, Petra Maxted, Gladys Demissie, Pamela Bell, Peelang Lee, Linda Paini, Julie Fort, Joanne Eggleston and Colleen Mack—for their dedication in supporting our presenters, welcoming participants and making every session a success.

PLANTS TO RESIDENTS 2025

In 2025, Enviro House proudly delivered the **City of Bayswater's Native Plants to Residents program** for the **tenth consecutive year**, encouraging local residents to grow native plants, enhance biodiversity, and promote water-efficient gardening. Since its inception, over **81,000 waterwise native plants** have been distributed. This year, **13,300 plants** (up from 10,000 in 2024) reached approximately **874 households**, with property owners able to receive up to 20 plants each (previously 10) for their property. The **June collection long weekend** which was attended by over 1200 individuals ran over three days to accommodate the larger distribution, with City of Bayswater staff attending to engage with residents and help create a welcoming community atmosphere.

2025 also marked our **fifth year delivering the Town of Bassendean Plants to Residents program**, distributing **7,012 plants** to **378 households**. A promotional stall was held at the April Bassendean Markets to raise awareness and sell tickets for the main collection event which was held in June at the Town Depot, supported by Town of Bassendean staff and dedicated volunteers.

To support residents in designing waterwise gardens, Enviro House collaborated with City of Bayswater and Town of Bassendean staff to host a joint **"Planning Your Waterwise Verge" session**, attended by **56 residents**, followed by a **"Designing Your Waterwise Verge" workshop** for City of Bayswater, attended by 53 representatives from **30 households**.

These programs require significant planning, preparation, and volunteer support. In 2025, over **540 volunteer hours** were generously contributed by more than **90 community volunteers and student volunteers from Chisholm College and Durham Road School**. We sincerely thank all volunteers who assisted in the lead-up, at events, and during collection days, as well as **Trillion Trees** for supplying the plants. Feedback from residents and Councils has been extremely positive, and we look forward to delivering both programs again in 2026.

City of Bayswater Plants to Residents Collection – plant packing station



SUPPORTING LOCAL WETLAND GROUPS

Enviro House continues to work closely with the **City of Bayswater** and **local wetland groups**—including the **Friends of Eric Singleton Wetlands**, **Baigup Wetlands Interest Group**, and **Friends of Maylands Samphires**—to achieve meaningful conservation outcomes. We support the **Cat Containment Policy**, auspice grants for wetland projects, and provide **our venue** for meetings and activities, strengthening both conservation efforts and community connections.

In 2025, Enviro House was proud to **auspice a Bayswater Community Events grant** for the **Baigup Wetlands Interest Group (BWIG)** to deliver the **Baigup Biennial – ‘Nurtured by Nature’ exhibition** at Ellis House Arts Centre. Organised and developed by BWIG, the exhibition celebrated community creativity and the importance of the Baigup Wetlands. The opening, launched by Professor Kingsley Dixon, featured works from **Nature Studies workshops** held on our deck with artist and environmental communicator Angela Rossen, and contributions from John Forrest Secondary College Bush Ranger cadets. Congratulations to all **BWIG volunteers** for creating a memorable celebration of nature, art, and community connection.



Photo: Hilary Abadi

ENVIRO HOUSE ECOSHOP

by Pamela Bell, Shop Team

The EcoShop has experienced a smooth operation over the past year thanks to the valuable input and support of all our dedicated volunteers. We have successfully reduced product stock through significant, necessary price discounts on items that historically moved slowly.

Our emphasis on environmentally friendly consumable products rather than merely increasing inventory has been well received, as evidenced by continued strong sales. Our product focus remains aligned with the four broad categories that support Environment House's principles:

- Bulk household and personal care products: These continue to be popular, with items now sold per 100ml/100g to encourage customers to use their existing containers.
- Composting supplies.
- Seasonal garden products: We now source in-store seed stock from a local supplier, overseen by Lara O'Neill, with thanks. Mosquito sticks are also a new addition.
- Consumables: These continue to be well-supported by our customers. Products with an underlying ethical cause, such as toilet paper and tissues, are performing well, as evidenced by sales and customer feedback.

The past year has seen an increased focus on local, environmentally friendly and often handmade products. While uptake has been somewhat slow, this is expected when introducing changes. We believe this trend will gain momentum over the coming year.

Web orders have remained steady, with a total of 54 orders over the past 12 months, amounting to approximately \$3,881.79. Most online orders come from Eastern States customers who are familiar with our products and are willing to pay shipping costs due to unavailability in their home states. Overall, shipping charges cover our web orders.

In-person store purchases also remain solid, with customers generally making large orders. The 10% in-store discount for workshop participants on the day of attending continues to be a popular initiative. Although no specific store sales events were held this year, Plastic Free July and Sustainable September were highlighted both in-store and on the EcoShop website.

We maintain communication with EcoShop volunteers through WhatsApp, using it to convey shop changes and updates.

Looking ahead, we plan to

- revisit the idea of E-gift cards
- consider strategies to further reduce in-store plastic sales
- encourage willing volunteers to engage more with e-commerce and the EcoShop website as a backup or succession strategy.

A heartfelt thank you to all the Environment House volunteers for their unwavering support and dedication to the EcoShop. Your enthusiasm when greeting customers and the knowledge you generously share with each other, and our customers, are truly appreciated.

Pamela Bell on behalf of the Shop Team

The Management Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the Shop Team, in particular Pamela Bell Warren Haley and Peelang Lee with support from Enviro House Project Coordinator Nadine Wright Toussaint for maintaining the administrative and strategic functions of the EcoShop over the 24-25 financial year.



OUR GARDEN

by Lara O'Neill, Garden Coordinator

SOCIAL GARDENING FRIDAYS

Our informal and inclusive Social Gardening Fridays welcome people of all abilities and ages to participate in gardening for as little and often as they would like. There is a friendly atmosphere that fosters community connection and enhanced wellbeing. In 2024-25, 48 Social Gardening Friday sessions were held with an average range of 6 to 12 participants in attendance each week and new people continuing get involved. Social Gardening is part of our Bendigo Bank Growing Well Program, proudly sponsored by Community Bank Bayswater.

The team of garden volunteers generously give their time and skills to attend to the productive and native gardens. There is a flurry of activity before a relaxing morning tea catchup including planting and maintaining crops, attending the hens and their coop, compost system care, natural pest control, pruning, transplanting, adding soil amendments and mulching, undertaking repairs and installations including more wicking beds, weeding, adding to and maintaining our native gardens and much more. The garden would not thrive without the help of the EcoShop volunteers who ensure the plants and chooks are cared for throughout the week.



OUR HENS

Our hens bring much joy to people, especially children. Many parents and grandparents bring their little ones in to visit the hens every week, and we ensure our 'public relations working girls' enjoy life and feel well cared for. Improvements for their comfort have included the installation of a misting system for the Summer and further recycled wool insulation in their roosting area. We sadly said farewell to our two Leghorns Penny and Jenny, and welcomed two Hyline Browns, Ivy and Edna. Our two new friendly and fun girls, enjoy calling Enviro House home.

COMMUNITY GARDENS SKILL BUILDING PROGRAM

The Community Gardens Skill Building Program funded by the Department of Communities Community Gardens Grant ran from April 2024 to October 2024. The program delivered a series of free workshops and training sessions throughout the year to Enviro House garden and other volunteers, local community garden members and the broader community to improve community garden member skills and aid the ongoing success of approximately eight community gardens.

Educational events of the Skill Building Program between July and December 2024 included:

- Children's school holiday activities: Wonderful Worms
- Volunteer Training Sessions: Vegetable Garden Maintenance
- Community Workshops: Seed Saving/Harvest and Repair Event, Fruit Tree Management and Growing Food with Less Water.

Approximately 230 people attended all the Community Gardens Skill Building Program events in 2024 and there was much participant enthusiasm and positive feedback. This successful program enabled Enviro House volunteers to receive useful training, plus many other people to enjoy our garden, learn about sustainable gardening and become aware of other Enviro House activities and facilities.

LITTLE CRITTERS

Our popular Little Critters Garden Play and Nature Fun Programs for 2 – 5 year olds, proudly sponsored by Community Bank Bayswater continued in 2024-25. Eight four week Little Critters Garden Play and Nature Fun groups were attended by 74 pre-schoolers and 68 parents/caregivers.

A new calendar of programs was developed for 2024 which aligned to Noongar seasons. Each four week program had a different mix of activity themes (with some repetition) to provide new experiences for ongoing participants. Topics included Splash in the Garden, Seeds & Growing, Frog Fun, Aussie Plants are Bonza, Flowers & Leaves, Feathered Friends, Compost Lasagne Magic, Worms & Other Garden Creatures, Nature Craft, Worms in Nature, Insects in Nature, Beautiful Birds, Australian Bush and more.

A Little Critters Christmas Craft Open Morning held December 2024, provided an opportunity for parents and carers to bring their pre-schoolers to try it out. This was fully booked and attended by 25 pre-schoolers and 22 parents/caregivers.

The large permaculture and native gardens at Enviro House enable participants to gain the health and well-being benefits of time spent outdoors and close to nature while learning about growing healthy food, composting, animal care, native flora and fauna and much more. The program also provides the opportunity for participants to make friends and connect with their local community and Enviro House. Little Critters Educators in 2024-25 have included Julie Fort and Lara O'Neill supported by generous volunteers, including regulars: Petra, Carolyn and Gladys.



Little Critters crafting

24 HOUR RECYCLING WASTE STATION

by Roslyn Hayes, on behalf of the Recycling Team

The 24-hour recycling station at the front of Enviro House is well utilised by community members. Our bins and drawers are full every week, sometimes needing to be emptied more than once a week. We are very pleased to see an increased awareness of what we can recycle amongst the users of our recycling station.

To deal with the increased volume of recycling we have expanded our Tuesday team to 8 volunteers, with a usual turn out of about 6. This enables us to get everything sorted, processed and delivered and keep the station clean, tidy and ready for the coming week. Volunteers on other days also assist when they can.

Items currently being recycled are: plastic lids, metal lids, #5 plastic containers, pens and markers, Brita filters, oral care products, bread tags, beer clips, pot plants and sporting goods.

We have noted an increase in the number of users dropping by on a Tuesday morning to ask for advice and clarification about recycling. Two community workshops have also been held to increase awareness of the Enviro House recycling programs.

Since August 2024, Enviro House has formed a strong and mutually beneficial partnership with the staff and students at the Durham Road School Enterprise and Learning Centre. Our Recycling Volunteers provide a fortnightly supply of plastic lids, which the students sort and transform into useful items such as bowls in their workshop.

Four Clothes Swap events, rehoming over 220 items, were held in the last twelve months with one at the start of every season. We are very grateful to the EMRC for their support during this period and for their generous donation of clothes swap equipment at the end of the financial year.

Recycling Team Clothes Swap Volunteers





Share & Repair Team reaching 1000kg saved from landfill

SUSTAINABLE BAYSWATER

Sustainable Bayswater organised a variety of events and initiative this year including:

- **Monthly Share and Repair Sessions:** 11 sessions held and 161 items fixed saving 353.3kg from landfill. The group has now diverted a total of 1359kg since commencing this initiative in 2019
- **Clean Up Australia Day:** Removing 7 bags of rubbish from AP Hinds Reserve Bayswater.
- **Baylands Party Kit:** Launched to reduce single-use waste, the kit allows community members to borrow reusable party supplies for free. Since September 2022, it has been borrowed multiple times this year helping the community avoid purchasing more than 1000 single-use items.

SHARE AND REPAIR

by Pernilla Ellies

Share and Repair Sessions are an established part of Sustainable Bayswater and Enviro House. Community sessions continue to be held on the first Saturday of every month, which are advertised on the Environment House website and on Sustainable Bayswater socials. This financial year, 11 Share and Repair sessions were held, seeing 161 items repaired which diverted 353.3kg from landfill. The group has surpassed the initial goal of 1000 kg of items diverted from landfill this year, with a total of 1359 kg saved since the start of Share and Repair in 2019.

A committed group of up to 10 repairers and organisers join other community members to share edibles and native plants, conversation over coffee/tea/cake/snacks and our repairers generously volunteer their skills for repairs and mending.

ELECTRIFY BAYSWATER

by Kevin Mack

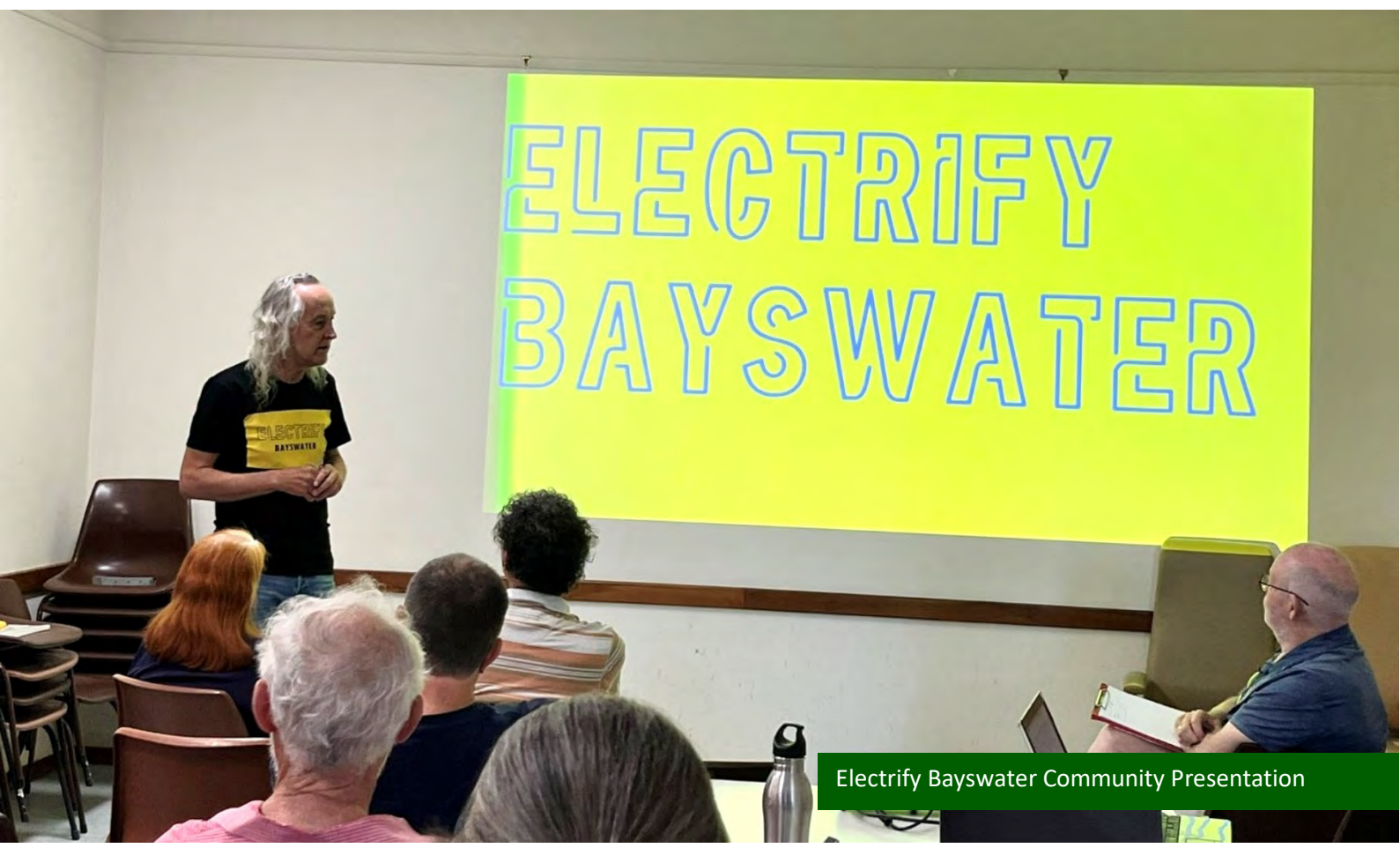
The primary goal of Electrify Bayswater is to encourage all homes to transition from fossil fuels to renewable electrical energy. An electric home is one that has replaced all its gas burning appliances (water heater, space heater & cooktop) and petrol cars, with efficient electric alternatives powered on renewable energy.

It's good for our climate. 42% of Australia's domestic emissions are related to decisions we make at home, including how we travel and heat our homes. With the technologies available today, electrification is the fastest way to reduce our carbon pollution. It's good for the family budget.

A fully electric home with solar and a battery can save over \$3,500 a year. Without solar panels and a battery, the average savings can be over \$700 a year.

ACTIONS TAKEN

- Advocating within the City of Bayswater for the City's implementation of a community bulk buy of solar panels and other electrical appliances for residents.
- Engaging with Electrify Bassendean, Electrify Mt Lawley and the City of Bayswater, in the Energy Upgrade Accelerator Program.
- Working to establish an overarching state-based electrification body to engage directly with Government at both state and federal levels.
- Attending stalls at local events to promote the electrification message. e.g. Avon Descent and Bassendean markets.
- Meeting with federal politicians advocating for assistance with community electrification.
- Liaising with Australian Super in an effort to see them adhere to their Climate Change Report and Environmental, Social and Governance policies. We have had the assistance of lawyers from the Environmental Defenders Office.



Conservation Council of Western Australia

Pamela, Environment House CCWA representative

Environment House has maintained a longstanding and ongoing membership with the Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA). Over the past year, CCWA has undergone several changes under the current executive, with a focus on being more attuned to the role it plays with its members.

Throughout the past year, Environment House involvement with CCWA has included the following:

- A member update on Environment House's extensive community reach and activities was presented at a CCWA board meeting and received with great interest.
- Environment House is currently a collection site for CCWA campaign garden signs.
- On September 20th, as part of the Save Scott Reef campaign, the Perth/Swan Go Beyond Gas (GBG) group and CCWA screened the movie "Corals Last Stand" in Bassendean. The event was well attended, with approximately 60-70 people, and verbal feedback on the night was positive. We extend our thanks to Sustainable Bayswater for their assistance with the venue setup.

The annual CCWA Conference will be held again in November. In 2024, Environment House provided financial support for attendance, which was shared between two Environment House volunteers. For the 2025 Conference, Environment House has generously agreed to support a registration once again. In 2024 and again for 2025, a poster highlighting Environment Houses various areas of community and environmental engagement will be displayed.

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND MARKETING

Our online presence has continued to expand with our website providing information on our activities. We now have 7,766 (7,400 in 23/24) people following our Facebook page and our Instagram has grown to 1207 (1069 in 23/24) followers this year. Subscription to the email newsletter over 1,600 subscribers with between 30-40% of people opening the newsletter and accessing information. 9 newsletter editions were created and distributed in 23/24.

Website: www.envirohouse.org.au **Facebook:** *Environment House / Perth Ecoshop & SustainabilityServices*
Instagram: *Enviro House X: HouseEnviro*

A MEETING PLACE

Enviro House provides our building and facilities to community groups to use for meetings and events free of charge. Baigup Wetlands Interest Group and Sustainable Bayswater have been regular users of our centre this year. Friends of Claughton Reserve and as of August 2025 Friends of Lightning Swamp are also now Enviro House for meetings. City of Bayswater staff and have also used our deck and facilities to conduct meetings, events, and activities this year.

COFFEE GROUNDS

The Coffee Ground to Ground Project is now in its 10th year. Coffee grounds are collected from local cafes and are left outside Enviro House for the community to collect and use in their composting systems and gardens, diverting them from landfill. Thank you to local resident Jeremy Hamilton who has volunteered his time to this initiative this year.

CHISHOLM COLLEGE SERVICE LEARNING STUDENTS

We have continued our strong relationship with Chisholm College hosting year 10-12 students to volunteer with us as part of the Chisholm Care Program. Between April and June, we had over 30 students complete work experience hours to support the Plants to Residents Programs both in preparation activities and volunteering at collection day events at both Enviro House and the Town of Bassendean Depot. We would like to thank Chisholm College for their ongoing involvement and support.



Student Volunteers at Plants to Residents

DURHAM ROAD SCHOOL ENTERPRISE AND TRAINING CENTRE

We have developed a new and mutually beneficial relationship with the staff and students and the Durham Road School Enterprise and Learning Centre over the past year. Since August 2024 our Recycling Volunteers have been sorting a fortnightly portion of plastic lids collected at our recycling station for use at the enterprise Centre. The students further sort and process these lids into items such as bowls using equipment in their workshop. This year the students also made a fabulous contribution to the Plants to Residents program by making up over 10000 plant identification labels. We would like to thank the students and staff for their support and look forward to furthering collaborations in the future.

OUR PEOPLE

Part-time staff and volunteers

Enviro House relies on its fabulous volunteer team and part time staff to deliver projects and keep the doors open. In 2024-25 57 regular Volunteers contributed their time, energy, and passion to our EcoShop, Garden, Sustainable Bayswater and projects.

There have been 4 part-time and casual staff over 2024-25. Nadine Wright Toussaint as Project Coordinator, Lara O'Neill as Garden Coordinator and Education Project Officer, Su Chew as our Bookkeeper, Julie Fort as a Casual Educator working on Little Critters and Education initiatives, and Chris Mathews as our wonderful cleaner.

Our Committee Members contributed many volunteer hours over the past twelve months providing a wide range of skills to the organisation. Alison Humphry in the role of Convenor in 2024-25 providing guidance to the staff and committee, keeping meetings and governance on track; Jo Bower, our Secretary, supporting on the ground projects and ensuring our administrative functions run smoothly; Linda Paini for her finance skills and support; Warren Haley for overseeing shop administration and providing support to EcoShop volunteers; Rosemary Lynch providing invaluable communication, web and IT support; Tess Tholstrup for HR skills, staff and project support; Giorgia Johnson for her local community knowledge and engagement; Glenn Cook our wetland and wildflower expert; Alex Ellis advocating for trees, taking on the EH history and project support; Jeremy Maher for his broad environmental knowledge and governance support and Rachael Roberts as Coordinator identifying collaborative relationships and opportunities particularly in the campaign space to develop local responses to improve environmental sustainability.

FRIENDS OF ERIC SINGLETON WETLANDS ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

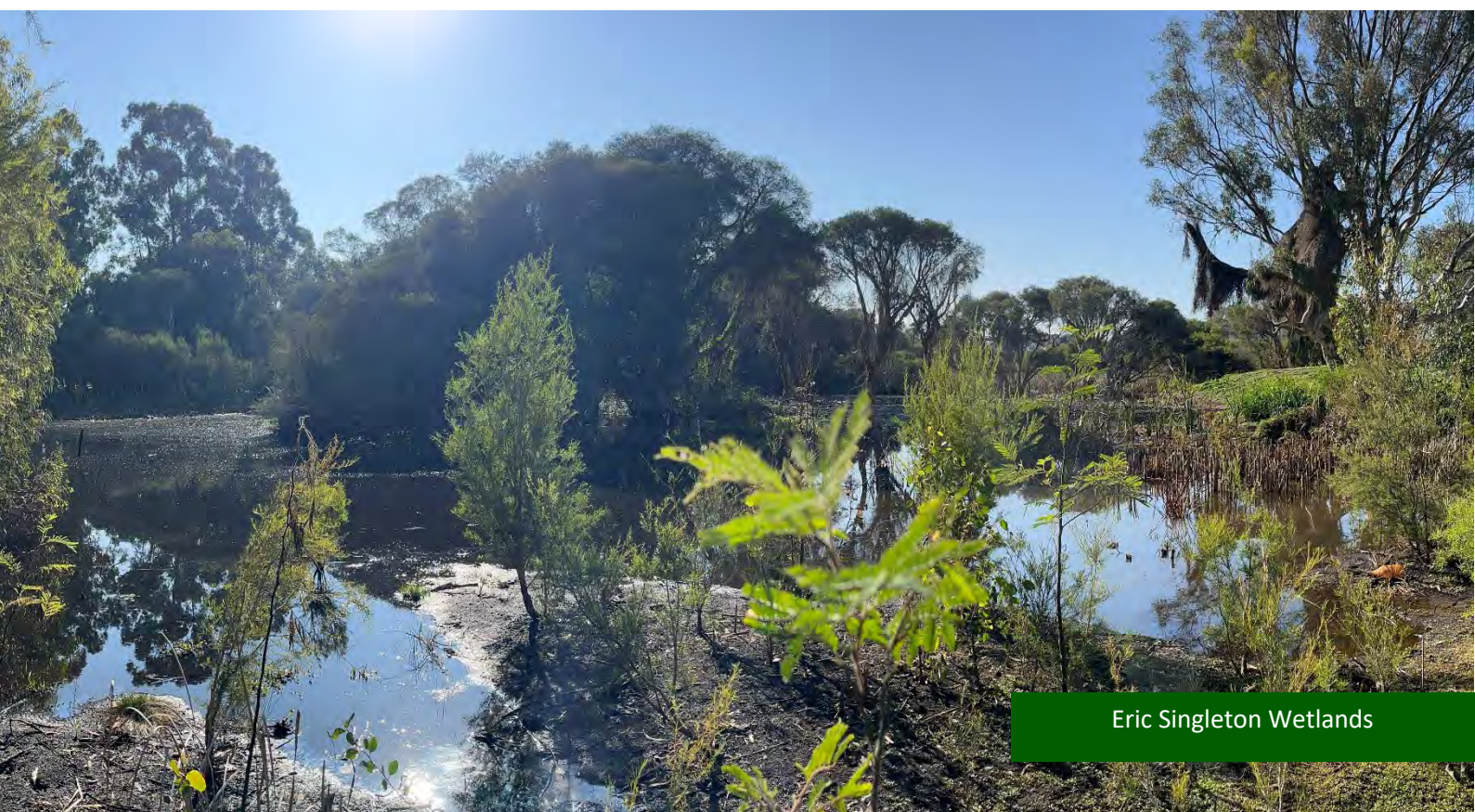
by Glenn Cook

Eric Singleton Wetlands Friends activities in 2025 mostly involved weeding, and some rubbish pickup, in the bushland area west of the Eric Singleton Wetlands, from the Marri area down to the water's edge. Sixteen different friends contributed approximately 90 hours of weeding over 22 weeding events during the year (October 2024 - September 2025). Weeding events typically occurred in the morning on the second Friday and fourth Sunday of the month.

The main weed issue in the bushland was *Fumaria capreolata* (Whiteflower Fumitory) in the Marri bushland, and to a lesser extent *Vicia sativa* (Common Vetch), as well as a number of annual weeds including *Sonchus oleraceus* (Common Sowthistle), and *Ehrharta longiflora* (Annual Veldt Grass). Many weeds that have been found in the Wetlands reserve have been photographed and logged into iNaturalist for identification and to maintain an ongoing database. Weed growth appeared to be particularly prolific in winter 2025, perhaps related to the fact that Perth had its wettest winter in almost thirty years. The Friends were able to maintain some relatively weed free areas, however significant weed spraying was required by the City of Bayswater to bring *Fumaria* and Veldt Grass infestations under control. It remains encouraging, however, to see many examples of natural regeneration occurring in the bushland with areas of *Gompholobium tomentosum* (Hairy Yellow Pea), *Lobelia anceps* (Angled Lobelia), *Acacia saligna* (Orange Wattle), and *Acacia pulchella* (Prickly Moses), self-seeding last year and surviving through the summer. Also, many Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) seedlings are to be seen in weed free areas of the Marri bushland.

A planting event on 8 June 2025 organised by the City of Bayswater saw approximately 50 volunteers plant about 2000 indigenous plants in the area to the southwest of the Wetlands. This is the first attempt to revegetate part of the cleared area at the back of the Wetlands. Also, in late winter 2025, a significant area was planted from the Bayswater main drain around the northern side of the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary to the dog exercise areas as part of the City of Bayswater Urban Forest project. An extensive area of lawn was removed and replaced by mulch and native plants.

Organised by Environment House, several group walks through the Wetlands occurred during the year, with the support of the Friends, with up to twenty participants at a time enjoying the guided stroll and learning about their local environment.



FRIENDS OF MAYLANDS SAMPHIRES (FoMS)

by Jo Bower

Environment House has had a special focus on the Maylands Samphires at Clarkson Reserve since 2012.

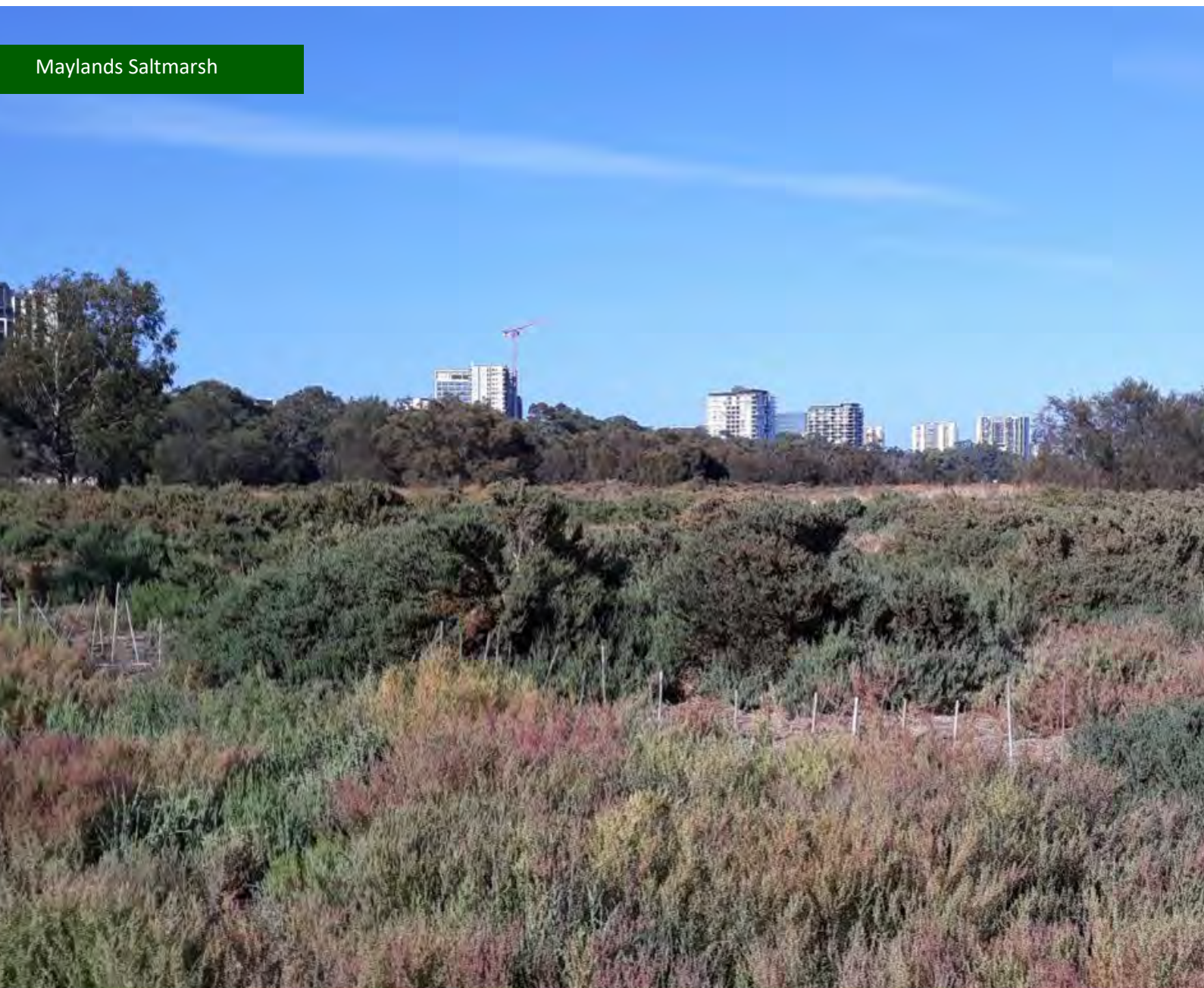
One of our aims is to join up isolated areas of naturally occurring saltmarsh vegetation and then to tackle new areas. We're grateful for grants from SALP and DBCA to extend the areas of focus and to grow the saltmarsh outwards, with a view to river levels rising with climate change. We complement the natural revegetation with samphires propagated at the Apace Nursery, using seeds and cuttings collected on our site. A lot of intensive work is required in the early stages, weed control before and after planting. Contractors assist with weed control.

We took part in two community planting sessions, planting around 2,300 plants. The Friends group carried out extra planting of around 1,000 plants with the Conservation Team.

This year has been an exceptional year for weeds. We held regular weeding sessions in our focus sites on Tuesday mornings, with special thanks to our Friends group for their commitment.

We are working closely with City of Bayswater Enviro staff and Conservation Team to conserve this threatened ecological community.

Maylands Saltmarsh



BAIGUP WETLANDS INTEREST GROUP

by Rosemary Lynch

Our group has enjoyed a productive and busy year. Several events stand out as highlights. While we primarily focused on tackling the invasive Morning Glory vine, we also conducted a Pepper Tree Blitz in June, aiming to match or exceed the 700 Brazilian Pepper seedlings removed at Malgamongup/Bardon Park. Our volunteers exceeded expectations, removing an impressive 2,423 seedlings!

Our Biennial Exhibition 2025, 'Nurtured by Nature,' highlighted the importance of Baigup Wetlands, showcasing its unique terrain, flora, fauna, and community significance. We were honored to have Professor Kingsley Dixon open the exhibition, sharing his memories of the region before its development. Special thanks to EnviroHouse for hosting Nature Studies workshops with artist and biodiversity educator Angela Rossen at Ellis House Arts Centre. The artworks created there were displayed alongside those of John Forrest Secondary College Bush Ranger cadets at the exhibition. This event was proudly supported by the City of Bayswater through an event grant.

Lastly, Baigup Wetlands became the new home for 30 quendas displaced by redevelopment at Perth Airport. We are glad to have these marsupials back in Baigup and look forward to seeing the role they play in the ecosystem.



Nature Studies Artworks on display

Photo: Kamila Waleszkiewicz

OUR FINANCES

Environment House Inc was audited by Australian Audit and received a management letter outlining completion of the audit of the 24-25 financial statements for the Environment House Inc. with an unqualified Audit Opinion for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

The Committee of Management has determined that the financial scrutiny provided by the audit at a cost of \$2,800.00 is important for our ongoing governance and provides community confidence in our administration of the organisation.

The Environment House Inc Management Committee

Alison Humphry, Jo Bower, Rachael Roberts, Linda Paini, Warren Haley, Rosemary Lynch, Giorgia Johnson, Tess Tholstrup, Glenn Cook, Alex Ellis and Jeremy Maher.

Presented at our Annual General Meeting
on 27th October 2025

INCOME SOURCES

In 2024/25 Environment House received income and funding from the following sources:

City of Bayswater & Community Bank Bayswater as our key sponsors; fee for service Project Delivery; Plants to Residents plants sales; donations; grants; and the customers of our EcoShop. With these funds we have been able to operate our EcoShop as an education centre and support forty volunteers on the ground delivering projects in our community – it is difficult to calculate the in-kind contribution of these activities given the breadth of skills and amount of time given freely by so many people, but we estimate the figure to be between \$300,000 - \$400,000 a year. Our projects in 2024-25 are outlined in Diagram 1 (following page)

ENVIRONMENT HOUSE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS 2024/2025

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION IN KIND:
~ \$350,000 a year

