

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented by President, Vicki Perrett to members and attendees at the 2020 AGM held on 12 November 2020.

*Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony.
In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity.” – Albert Einstein*

It's my pleasure to report to our members and stakeholders that during this very extraordinary year, Geelong Sustainability has still managed to effectively fulfil its mission to empower people to regenerate and protect the planet. Established in 2007, GS is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, incorporated community association. In 2017, we became a registered environmental organisation and subsequently gained charity status. Our membership base has grown over 20% this year to 222 financial members up from 184 members. Our monthly newsletter now reaches over 3,500 subscribers and we reach over 6000 people on social media.

The horrific bushfires, last summer, shocked us and the world. It was finally clear to everyone that Australia is already experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change ~ and that we have much to lose. Recognising that the climate emergency demanded an urgent response, we knew that 2020 must herald the start of a crucial decade of climate action.

GS sees opportunities in challenges. We're advocating for our region to seize the economic opportunities from responding boldly to the existential climate emergency. We concur with Gene Blackley, founder of Drawdown Australia, 'Evolving to a net-zero emissions economy presents extraordinary economic regeneration opportunities for a city like Greater Geelong'.

Here's a snapshot of our 2020 activities and achievements.

Strategy

- The committee developed a new [strategic plan](#) aligned to the Project Drawdown solutions and refreshed our mission, vision and values.
- We adopted the United Nations Sustainable Developments Goals (SDG) as a guiding framework and decided to focus on four of the 17 SDG goals - numbers 7, 11, 12 and 13.



- We identified four internal organisational priorities, which we have focused on this year:
 - To advocate for urgent action on climate change and sustainability issues
 - To build an active, articulate, objective and informed community.
 - To establish and leverage mutually beneficial partnerships.
 - To strengthen our capability and deliver projects with impact.

Climate Action

- Green Drinks was transformed into **Climate Action Drinks**. Our first meeting in February at Beav's brought groups together to focus on multi-level advocacy. After Covid hit we successfully moved to an online format holding regular meetings with various guest speakers.
- We also supported the formation of a MP Engagement Group (**MPEG**) to support people to write and call their state and federal MPs with more evidence and confidence.
- Realising that Viva is proposing to build a gas import terminal in Corio Bay, we've now connected with Environment Victoria and energy expert Tim Forcey and formed a **Gas Free Geelong** group.

- We collaborated on the Geelong Community Survey and then the CoGG Candidate Survey. Encouragingly, 6/11 of the elected candidates who did the survey nominated the 2030 as the target date for our municipality to reach zero carbon emissions. They also support holding a Citizen's Assembly on climate action like Queenscliff to progressing.
- We've made lots of submissions, held many meetings and written lots of letters to federal & state governments and polities. We also meet, sent loads of emails and made numerous submissions to CoGG councillors and officers in relation to their Budget, Sustainability Framework, Environment Strategy and Climate Change Adaptation policy.
- It is reassuring to see people coming forward, increasing their capacity and showing support and leadership. We must all take responsibility for our choices and advocacy on climate action.
- There is no doubt that Australia faces a bleak environmental and economic future if we do not transition swiftly to a low emissions economy. Post the US election, the pressure is growing on the Federal Government to take stronger action. Fortunately all States have agreed to net zero by 2050. We're strongly encouraging CoGG to take a whole of community approach and set ambitious targets as part of their Climate Change Response Plan. It is encouraging to see the progress being made by neighbouring Councils.
- We are campaigning for Zali Stegall's the Climate Change Act and Helen Haines' Local Power Plan, which are well drafted, sensible Bills.
- The Climate Action taskforce has been brilliantly led by committee member, Sal Fisher. Driven by her passion, we've ramped up our climate advocacy and action this year. We've welcomed the expertise of Neil Plummer ~ it's fantastic to have an experienced climate scientist in our tent!

Events - Clever Living & Life Learning etc.

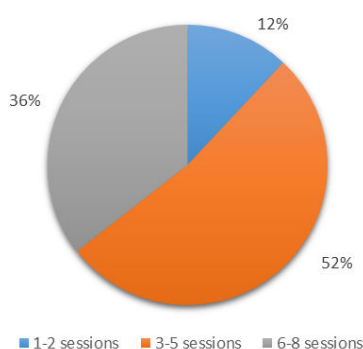
- In February, we chanted our climate action messages at the **Pako Festa** parade supported by a percussion junk band ~ we even won best musical entry.
- We kicked off our **Clever Living Seminars** in February with a sellout at the Geelong Regional Library at which Gene Blackley explained *The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*. The audience was energised with hope and relief to see how responding to the climate crisis could be a powerful stimulus for positive change. Gene later gave the City of Greater Geelong a briefing.
- **Then COVID-19 intervened** and so we pivoted future events in a Zoom room courtesy of the Australian Conservation Foundation.
- In May, Cameron Butler from ClimateWorks outlined *Solutions & Actions for Net Zero Emissions*.
- In August, medical experts Dianna McDonald and Dr Rebecca Patrick explained the *Health Benefits of Tackling Climate Change*.
- In October, 60 Speed Dates with Sustainability Experts were held over two Saturdays to complete the 2020 Clever Living events. We are grateful to The Gordon for their sponsorship of this series.
- In October, we hosted a special event in partnership with Christian Life Community Australia, **The Message of the Uluru Statement** presented by Thomas Mayor. He unpacked the history and significance of the landmarks leading to the Uluru Statement of the Heart. GS has decided to advocate for all Australian to support their call for Voice, Treaty and Truth Telling.
- We continued our **Life Learning classes**, starting with a fun evening at The Salvos Op shop in Malop St learning how to be *Sustainably Stylish*, before switching into Zoom for the next four classes: *Future Proofing Your Home for Climate Adaptation*, *Releasing Stress for Better Health*, *Introduction to Fermentation* and *Nature Based Mindfulness*.

Sustainable House Day

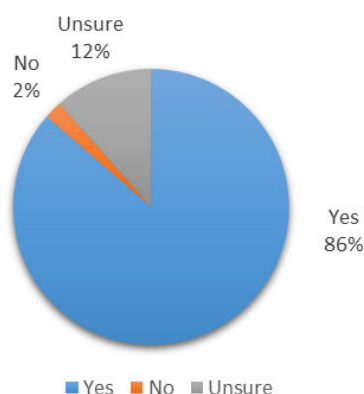
- The flagship event in our events calendar, GS coordinated its twelfth Sustainable House Day (SHD) event with strategic support from the City of Greater Geelong and local sponsors. The challenge of Covid gave us the opportunity to reimagine the event.
- We showcased 8 exemplar homes, four of which opened because it was an online.
- We produced 8 high quality house tour videos (8-12min) narrated by the homeowners using video and drone imagery. The 60-sec SHD Preview video had over 30,000 views.
- We held 8 Zoominars over 10-11 Oct weekend involved 15 homeowners, 14 experts, 30 volunteers and over 700 participants. 54% of attendees were from Geelong, 22% from Melbourne and 43% attended because the event was online.
- Using the polling function in Zoom we captured participant feedback, which was very positive.

- 36% of participants attended 6-8 sessions & 52% attended 3-5 sessions.
- 84% of participants rated the sessions as excellent, 15% as good and no-one was unhappy.
- 86% said they would watch sessions again later, which confirmed the value of the content.
- Overall 45% of participants rated the virtual format as better than traditional face-to-face event while 29% thought it replicated the traditional event well.
- We now have a fantastic library of online resources, which are still accessible 24 x 7.

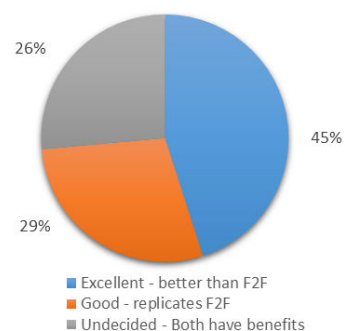
Sessions Attended



Rewatch Sessions



Feedback On Virtual Format



Geelong Microvillage Project

Our key objective is to demonstrate that a **Live Small ~ Live Eco** housing model can be financially viable, environmentally leading edge and socially successful for its residents and the wider community. This ambitious project aims to plan, design, implement and evaluate a pilot microvillage of small affordable houses in Geelong. We are delighted to have Deakin HOME as our research partner.

Some of our activities and progress so far includes:

- Investigating co-housing models and legal structures
- Searching for and assessing potential microvillage sites
- Developing 1BR and 2BR prototype designs
- Looking for social impact investors, potential residents and development partners
- Assessing construction costs, materials & modular construction options

CORE Task Group

The CORE Task Group has completed a strategic review this year. In addition it has:

- Continued successful operation of CORE Geelong One P/L whilst still scoping new sites for CORE Geelong Two
- Commenced a Community Solar Farm Feasibility Study with funding support from Cleantech Innovations Geelong and Barwon Water.
- Investigating Hydrogen clean mobility project concept
- Made formal submission to Helen Haines [Local Power Plan](#) and advocating for its funding.
- Working collaboratively with Barwon Region Alliance for Community Energy (BRACE).

GreenLight

- Launched in June 2019, the purpose of our social enterprise, GreenLight is to reduce our reliance on grant funding. Since his appointment in December 2019, our 0.4 FTE Exec Officer, David Spear has been busy expanding our service offering. With JobKeeper assistance, we've been able to sustain our business operations during COVID-19.
- There's slow but steady growth in **VRES** (Victorian Residential Efficiency Scorecard) and consulting services around energy audits and solar feasibility reports.
- As the economy restarts we have a healthy pipeline of future work. We're excited to be able to resume work on our biggest grant-funded project, **Climate Safe Rooms**. Funded through the

Victorian Government's Climate Change Innovation program, the project will retrofit the homes of 16 vulnerable Geelong families. The delay has enabled the CSIRO sensors to capture more data.

- We are advancing our **G21 Solar and Battery Bulk Buy** planned for 2021 and currently undertaking a comprehensive delivery partner selection process. Whilst we were disappointed that our social solar project was not successful in the NEJF Round 5 stream, we are continuing to talk with DELWP and Solar Victoria about ways to assist disadvantaged people to go solar.

Circular Economy

- As local events were cancelled, most of our community engagement activities ceased as well as our **Green Cafes** project.
- We continued our advocacy work for a circular economy in general and specifically for a container deposit scheme earlier than 2023, a regional MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) and Food Organics infrastructure to get food waste out of landfill.
- We made submissions to CoGG 2020-30 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and the state government's proposed new Waste Act & Authority
- We've made new connections with Circular Economy Victoria and the RICE (Regional Innovation for a CE) project and we're looking forward to collaborating more in 2021.

Our online store

- When the panic buying started - we had the best seat in town! Our supplies of **Who Gives a Crap** toilet paper sold out in a flash. We've sold 183 boxes this year.
- B Corp, WGAC donates 50% of its profits to WaterAid. This year they've donated \$5.85m, which funds sanitation and hand washing infrastructure projects in Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Kenya and India.
- The WGAC products are tree free paper, use no inks and no plastic wrapping. Needless to say they make a perfect Xmas gift for family & friends!

Finances

- COVID-19 impacted our revenue as events were moved online and projects and GreenLight services were put on hold.
- The federal JobKeeper scheme and government support has been a lifeline for GreenLight.
- **Revenue** for FY20 was \$283K up 9% from \$259K in FY19
- Grants made up 80% of our revenue, \$226,5K
- Fundraising was \$16.7K up 40%
- **Expenses** for FY20 were \$141K up 26% on FY19
- Computer expenses rose 10 fold as we went online!
- The **bottom line** in our Profit and Loss statement was a surplus of \$152K largely due to unexpended project funds.
- The committee gives special recognition to our brilliant outgoing Treasurer, Sara van der Meer!

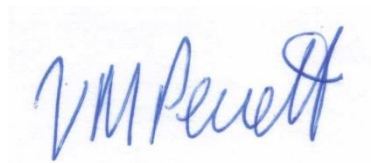
Acknowledgements

As a not-for-profit people-powered organisation, our achievements reflect the astounding contributions of our **passionate volunteers**. I wish to acknowledge the members of our management committee especially our hardworking executive: Vivienne Burke (Secretary), Sara van der Meer (Treasurer) and Noreen Nicholson (Vice President). Sal Fisher who has established our Climate Action Taskforce and Neil Plummer our new resident climate scientist. Dan Cowdell and James Rourke-Dunkley who've co-chaired our CORE Task Group. Tim Adams, Behzad Falahati and Dan C who contributed significantly to GreenLight's operations. Plus the many people who've assisted with social media, communications, events and various projects and the members of our Registered Environmental Organisation Public Fund Committee of Management. We appreciate the wonderful support received from the Australian Conservation Foundation this year. Lastly but not least, I sincerely thank our members, community partners and organisational sponsors for your support and encouragement.

In conclusion, I want to remind readers that back in the 1860's Geelong developed the nickname 'Pivot City' because it was the central hub for shipping and rail to Melbourne, Ballarat and the Western District. As we develop our pivoting skills and rethink what and how we do things, perhaps there's value in reviving the name ~ **Geelong Pivot City**.

There's an old African proverb that says *'If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'.* **We need to go far quickly**, which is why we're reaching out to our community from residents to business to join us as we work to transition our region into clean energy circular economy.

As the lockdown restrictions ease in time for the summer holidays, on behalf of the committee I wish you all peace and joy as you relax and reconnect with family and friends. But at the same time, could you all **Think Climate** as **there is no Planet B!**



Vicki Perrett
President

APPENDIX A: 2020 IN NUMBERS

You may find this list of numbers for 2020 interesting.

1	Gas import terminal to be stopped in Geelong
6	Meetings with politicians via Zoom
7	Major submissions prepared
8	Exemplar sustainable homes showcased
13	Age of our youngest member, Noah
13	Clever Living, Life Learning and Special Events
17	Videos produced for SHD
36	GS Business members
60	People had Speed Dates with Experts
66	Zoom meetings held
87	People attended Climate Action Drinks
183	Boxes of Who Gives A Crap toilet paper sold
222	Total GS members
225	People registered to Access All SHD houses
635	Participants at Clever Living, Life Learning & Special Events
1129	Members of GS discussion group
1196	Website orders for membership, events or products
1393	Followers of our SHD Facebook page
2040	Instagram followers
3188	Followers of our GS Facebook page
3565	Email subscribers
8843	Website views in October
30,000+	Views of our 1-min SHD Preview video
110,000+	Reach of SHD Facebook posts on our GS & SHD pages
226,500	Grant revenue in FY20, 80% of our revenue

Special Purpose Financial Report

for

Geelong Sustainability Group Inc

ABN: 85 007 177 238

For the year ended

30 June 2020

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GEELONG SUSTAINABILITY GROUP INC.

Report on the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Geelong Sustainability Group Inc., which comprises the Statement by the Management Committee, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2020, Profit and Loss Statement and Statement of Cash Flow for the year ended on that date and notes to the financial statements comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Committees' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of Geelong Sustainability Group Inc. are responsible for the presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Auditing Standard on *Review Engagements ASRE 2400 Review of a Financial Report*, the *Associations Incorporation Review Act 2012* and for such internal controls as the Committee members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial report that is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on *Review Engagements ASRE 2400 Review of a Financial Report*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the Auditing Standard on *Review Engagements ASRE 2400 Review of a Financial Report*, including giving a true and fair view of the entities financial position as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the period ended on that date and complying with the *Associations Incorporation Review Act 2012*. ASRE 2400 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report of Geelong Sustainability Group Inc. is not in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Review Act 2012* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date, and
- (b) complying with the accounting policies as set out in Note 1 of the financial report.



Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for Geelong Sustainability Group Inc. for the purpose of fulfilling the committees' financial reporting responsibilities under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Stephen Wight
Director

Dated this 27th day of October 2020

Davidsons Assurance Services Pty Ltd
101 West Fyans Street
Geelong Victoria 3220

Statement by the Management Committee

for the year ended 30 June 2020

In our opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2020 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;
- (b) the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

We confirm as follows:

- (a) The name of each committee member of the association during the relevant financial year were:

Vicki Perrett	President
Noreen Nicholson	Vice President
Vivienne Burke	Secretary
Sara van der Meer	Treasurer
Tim Adams	
Fred Ritman	
Jonathan Wright	
Sal Fisher	
Dan Cowdell	

- (b) The principal activities of the association during the relevant financial year were:

- (i) Advocacy
- (ii) Education
- (iii) Project implementation

- (c) The net surplus of the association for the relevant financial year was:

The operations for the year ended 30 June 2020 resulted in an operating surplus of \$152,582.40 (2019: \$148,035.28).

Signed at

65 Balliang Street, South Geelong VIC 3220

on

27_OCT 2020

President



Treasurer



[The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.]

Profit and Loss Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue			
Grants		226,500.00	144,500.00
Membership fees		6,529.61	8,272.35
Fundraising		16,729.90	11,883.77
Sales		25,400.98	83,555.82
Auspicing Fees		1,047.95	8,195.44
Sponsorship		7,681.84	3,045.43
Dividends		0.00	26.00
Interest		198.46	0.00
Discounts given		0.00	(90.91)
Sales refunds		(545.46)	0.00
Total Revenue		283,543.28	259,387.90
Other Income			
Cash Boost		10,000.00	0.00
Job Keeper		6,000.00	0.00
Total Income		299,543.28	259,387.90
Cost of Sales			
Cost of sales		5,849.43	3,795.55
Inventory shrinkage		0.00	0.00
Total Cost of Sales		5,849.43	3,795.55
Gross Revenue		293,693.85	255,592.35
Expenditure			
Accounting fees		5,325.00	450.00
Advertising and promotion		11,591.68	6,699.41
Assets purchased (>\$5,000)		434.21	1,783.48
Bank charges		73.63	72.82
Computer expenses		11,065.53	941.67
Consultancy fees		65,456.70	78,018.91
Credit card (PayPal) fees		644.93	1,061.46
Donations paid		287.20	0.00
Employee Benefits		4,976.62	6,037.89
Entertainment Costs		0.00	0.00
Fees & permits		0.00	78.09
Insurance		3,421.86	3,975.82
Legal fees		0.00	1,517.80

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Meeting expenses		5,521.79	4,921.06
Membership fees paid		1,361.36	568.17
Planning & reporting		1,077.27	0.00
Postage, freight & courier		303.36	336.62
Printing & stationery		89.32	1,333.79
Publications & info resources		4,695.00	1,022.73
Sundry expenses		61.80	24.19
Telephone, fax & internet		1,364.86	419.88
Training & development		1,666.12	1,826.36
Travel & accommodation		571.26	961.62
Volunteer costs		39.45	296.00
Wage expenses		21,083.32	0.00
BAS Roundoff Gain or Loss		-0.82	1.06
Total Expenses		141,111.45	112,348.83
Surplus/(Loss) For The Year		152,582.40	143,243.52

[The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.]

Balance Sheet

for the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current Assets			
Cash on hand		356,497.93	252,047.97
Accounts receivable		4,812.50	2,000.00
Inventory		1,482.20	3,775.23
Non-Current Assets			
Shares		2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Assets		364,792.63	259,824.20
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		1,096.70	0.00
GST Liabilities Payable		337.43	6,873.78
Auspiced Funds	2	0.00	38,268.74
ATO Clearing Account		1,356.00	6,457.00
Total Liabilities		3,985.55	51,599.52
Net Assets		360,807.08	208,224.68
Members Funds			
Balance at the beginning of the year		208,224.68	64,981.16
Surplus/(Loss) for the year		152,582.40	143,243.52
Accumulated Funds		360,807.08	208,224.68

[The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.]

Statement of Cash Flow

for the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		146,582.40	143,243.52
Adjustment for Non-Cash Income and Expenses			
Trade Debtors		(2,812.50)	2,400.00
WOW Inventory		23.00	0.00
GS Apparel Inventory		50.01	0.00
Recycled Paper Prod Inventory		2,220.02	(1,484.45)
Creditors		1,096.70	0.00
GST Liabilities Payable		(6,536.35)	4,371.80
Auspiced Funds	2	(38,268.74)	(68,731.26)
ATO Clearing Account		(5,101.00)	6,457.00
Superannuation Payable		1,195.42	0.00
Income: Job Keeper		6,000.00	0.00
Total Adjustments		(42,133.44)	(56,986.91)
Net Cash from Operating Activities		104,448.96	86,256.61
Net Increase (Decrease) In Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Year		252,048.97	165,792.36
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the End of Year		356,497.93	252,048.97

[The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.]

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2020

1. Summary of Accounting Policies

The accounting policies adopted by the Association are stated in order to assist in a general understanding of the financial statements. These policies have been consistently applied except as otherwise indicated.

Reporting entity

The association is not a reporting entity because in the committee's opinion there are unlikely to exist users who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy all of their information needs, and these accounts are therefore "special purpose accounts" that have been prepared solely to meet the requirements of the Constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Accounting policies

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost conventions and does not take into account changing money values except to the extent that they are reflected in the revaluation of certain assets.

In order for the financial report to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association and the results of the Association for the year, Australian Accounting Standards have been adopted to the extent disclosed in this note.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the Committee of Management have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous periods unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012*, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards:

- AASB 101: *Presentation of Financial Statements*
- AASB 107: *Cash Flow Statements*
- AASB 108: *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*
- AASB 1048: *Interpretation of Standards*
- AASB 1054: *Australian Additional Disclosures*

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise state in the notes.

Income tax

The Association is of the opinion that it is not subject to income tax.

2. Auspiced Funds

The Association auspiced Humans in Geelong.

3. Members Guarantee

On winding up, according to the constitution of the Association, no members are required to contribute to any outstanding obligations of the Association.

4. Registered Office

PO Box 258
Geelong VIC 3220
Australia