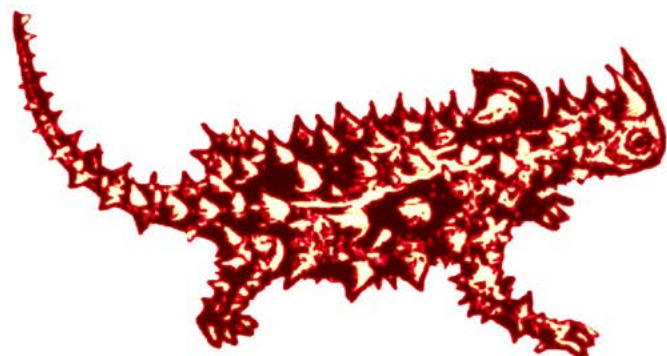


# ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014



*Healthy futures for arid lands and people*  
**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**  
[www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)





## Arid Lands Environment Centre

'Healthy futures for arid lands and people'



Participants in the Biodiversity Matters field trip to Newhaven with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy

The Arid Lands Environment Centre acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners, both past and present, of this region.

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# ALEC's Strategic Aims

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) is a community-based organisation, developing and delivering environmental and sustainability programs in Central Australia. For more than 35 years, ALEC has advocated for the conservation and responsible management of land, water and natural resources in the arid lands.

ALEC's vision is 'healthy futures for arid lands and people' and ALEC has three broad strategic aims:

## Work to create more sustainable and resilient communities in Central Australia

From the ground up, ALEC is making impact across the region through developing and supporting projects related to the desertSMART Roadmap: energy, water, waste, transport, food and the built environment. ALEC actively works to influence policy by engaging all tiers of government on sustainable development and building local resilience.

## Promote protection of ecosystems and sustainable use of natural resources in Central Australia

ALEC advocates for the rights of the land, plants and animals of Central Australia. The wise-use of the region's natural resources is a priority, with the importance of groundwater and the cleanliness of country in regards to radioactivity and pollution impacts being of highest concern.

## Strengthen ALEC as an organisation

ALEC is committed to maintaining strong governance and management principles. ALEC strives to be a leading example and source of inspiration for other organisations in the region and environment groups nationally.



Locally grown produce at the Food For Alice stall

**ALEC is an innovative, visionary and enterprising organisation, playing a leading role in driving change in the arid lands.**

**ALEC continues to build on its strong history of advocacy for Central Australia.**

**ALEC has a strong, balanced approach to environmental and natural resource management.**

**ALEC is well-connected to local businesses, non-government organisations, territory and national government agencies.**

# ALEC Chairmans Report



Welcome to ALEC's 2013/14 annual report and our opportunity to tell the story of the important work we do. Read through it and appreciate just how big this story is for a small desert town.

Since I wrote last year, a change of Government has ensued bringing with it ideological attacks on community and environmental organisations and a wholesale abandonment of evidence-based policy. This is the destructive refrain of Australian partisan politics. The agenda is banal and effective. Cut funding, marginalise diversity and silence dissent. However, on so many levels now we face a tipping point and there is no time for this political game playing.

ALEC is an established and respected voice in the NT and the only environmental organisation based in our vast arid centre. This is recognised. We've seen a huge rally in membership and donations this financial year including spectacular individual contributions. Thank you. This is needed because the numbers make stark reading.

This financial year the Board elected to maintain capacity and run a substantial deficit. Although obviously unsustainable, it maintains momentum during darkening times.

Governments both Territory and Federal have abandoned the environment to powerful vested interests. It is treated as a commodity to be sold and despoiled for the short term gain of a few. If we don't like this and want an equitable sustainable

future this must stop. That requires effort and sacrifice. It requires the kind of organised community voice that ALEC provides.

ALEC is employing both conventional and innovative ways to maintain income and reduce expenditure without sacrificing our mission. We are taking advantage of the natural synergies between science and the environment. Staff have volunteered changes to work conditions and duties. Inevitably, unfunded programmes have been parked.

Our focus remains on advocating for the environment, engaging the community, keeping decision makers accountable and nurturing new opportunities.

Politics, like desert ecology, are cyclic and ALEC will persist strong and capable throughout this policy drought - with your help. If you are not already, I ask you to commit to a regular financial donation through programs like ALEC 100 to revitalise our work. Now is the time.

*Stewart Baillie*  
**ALEC Chair**



# ALEC Directors' Report

2013-2014 has seen the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) continue on with what it does best: being a strong advocate for the health of the arid lands and its people.

ALEC has launched the Central Australian sustainability blueprint the desertSMART Roadmap; delivered another great Biodiversity Matters program and desertSMART EcoFair; continued to support the Alice Springs Community Garden; supported Beyond Nuclear Initiative in catalysing a huge win with the retraction of the nomination for Muckaty Station to be the national nuclear waste dump; and has launched its' own social enterprise Arid Edge Environmental Services.

ALEC has continued to be a strong advocate for environmental protection and considered natural resource management, and has responded to community concerns over the accelerated development of the shale gas industry and the process of fracking in the Northern Territory. ALEC has continued to run information stalls, film nights, public meeting, workshops and field trips on a range of issues impacting Central Australians, and has supported broader community initiatives.

This is all despite a change in government which has seen core operational funding slashed at both state and federal levels. The double budget funding cuts was a low-point for 2013-14. The cuts to desertSMART COOLmob funding and the cessation of the Grants to Voluntary Environmental Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) resulted in an immediate cut to ALEC's 2014/15 budget by \$105 000 and another \$70 000 in 2015/16 with the end of the NT EPA's Environment Operational Grant. These cuts have put considerable pressure on ALEC's financial future, and ALEC staff and Board.

ALEC learned a tough lesson this year - the



need to be self-sufficient and independent from reliance or expectation of government funding for operations. The attack on environmental groups across Australia has been universal. Funding cuts to advocacy, legal and community resource organisations, accompanied by vandalistic environmental policies are stretching financial and human resources across the country...but people are responding.

Donations to ALEC for our environmental campaigns were 450% up on the previous year. Thank you. The creation of the ALEC 100 (100 people donating \$100 per month or \$1000 pa to replace the \$100 000 operational funding lost) has kicked off with twelve people signing up. ALEC membership is the highest it has even been with 230 financial members and growing; and more than 20 people are making regular donations to ALEC. These are all good things but greater support is needed. We will be boosting our efforts to fundraise and increase donations to support the operations of ALEC but we will also be looking for greater community support as we stand up to the threats to our environment.



Bruce, Margaret, Geoff, Costa, Jimmy and Carmel at the Alice Springs Community Garden

In 2013-14 ALEC won the Partnerships with Landcare Award in the NT for Biodiversity Matters at the Territory NRM Awards, instantly becoming a finalist at the National Landcare Awards in 2014. ALEC also supported desertSMART COOLmob to develop and deliver the 10-week desertSMART Challenge. ALEC hosted two student interns supporting research into the gas and nuclear industry; and three business students to build on the ALEC Solar Farm concept. The Sustainable Science Trail developed further and the community garden is blossoming with 35 plot holders and twice-monthly working bees attracting growing numbers of people.

In 2014-15, ALEC will be coordinating the Ten Deserts collaboration - a continental scale landscape conservation project focused on building cross-border partnerships, developing projects and sharing knowledge across the arid lands of SA, NT and WA. This works in parallel with ALEC working towards the creation of the Desert Science Network to support two-way science communication within and outside of the arid zone.

We need to build strong and resilient communities and ALEC is playing a leading role in Central Australia. Through collaborating and sharing inspiration we can overcome the political, social, economic and environmental challenges facing the region. ALEC is at the forefront of this and building momentum. The challenge now is to grow ALEC membership,



ALEC Director Jimmy speaking to community members at the ALEC Open Night in April 2014

expand the Desert Defender program and build the ALEC 100 to enable ALEC to maintain the level of impact the staff have managed to achieve in 2013/14.

Thanks for your support.

*Jimmy Cocking*  
ALEC Director



## The future of the Arid Lands Environment Centre is in your hands.....

ALEC's operational funding has been cut in the Federal and Territory budgets, leaving it up to the community to ensure the work of ALEC continues into the future. Donate now at [www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)



# ALEC Business

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Alice Springs Landcare – support with Building Community Participation in Land Management and Fire Preparedness program.
- Alice Springs Town Council – community garden activities and EcoFair support
- Australian Conservation Foundation - management of the Beyond Nuclear Initiative project
- Anglicare – Low-income energy efficiency program
- CAT Projects – community solar farm feasibility study completion
- Centralian Senior College – ALEC provided advice and support for the Centre for Excellence and EcoFair participation
- Centralian Land Management Association - Biodiversity Matters program for late 2014.
- Desert Knowledge Australia – on-going strategic partnership in desertSMART Roadmap and collective impact.
- Environment Centre NT - ongoing strategic partnership, regular communications, shared media releases, submissions and coordinated approaches to environmental issues and sustainable development in the Northern Territory.
- Friends of the Earth – management of the Beyond Nuclear Initiative project
- Greening Australia - Ten Deserts Working Group
- Jesuit Social Services – supporting role in the Santa Teresa Irrigation program
- Land for Wildlife - hosting a Biodiversity Matters workshop.
- NT Parks and Wildlife – hosting a Biodiversity Matters workshop.
- NT Dept Land Resource Management – hosting a Biodiversity Matters workshop.
- Olive Pink Botanic Gardens - desertSMART EcoFair and member events
- Pew Charitable Trusts - Ten Deserts Working Group

- Power Water Corporation – Alice Water Smart Homes and Business project, funding and support for Low-Income Energy Efficiency workshops
- Rangelands WA - Ten Deserts Working Group
- Red Hot Arts and Alice Desert Festival - desertSMART EcoFair promotion and organisational support.
- South Australia Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources - Ten Deserts Working Group
- Territory NRM

## ALEC GRANTS (GST exc)

### Commonwealth:

- Operational Funding 2013-14
- Grants to Voluntary Environmental Sustainability and Heritage Organisations \$30 000
- Inspiring Australia
- Sustainable Science Trail: \$7500
- National Science Week: desertSMART EcoFair \$22 500
- Desert Science Network and Expert Reference Groups \$35200

### Northern Territory Government

- Operational funding 2013-14
- Environment grant, Operational ALEC \$70 000
- Environment grant, Operational desertSMART COOLmob \$70 000

### EnvironmeNT Grants

- desertSMART EcoFair \$10 000
- Community Garden Excursion Guide \$9700
- Red Cabbage Palms Monitoring \$7900
- Solar Pergola at Community Gardens \$10 000

### Power Water Corporation

- Sponsorship of desertSMART EcoFair \$3000

# ALEC Business

## REPRESENTATION

- Alice Springs Community Garden Management Committee
- Alice Springs Urban Land Management Group
- Alice Springs Town Council Environment Advisory Committee
- Australian Association of Environmental Educators NT
- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
- Australian Rangelands Society Conference Programming Committee
- Biodiversity Matters Coordinating Committee
- Boomerang Alliance
- desertSMART COOLmob Reference Group
- Desert Science Expert Reference Group
- Education for Sustainability – Central Australia Network
- Environmental Defenders Office NT – Board
- Future Forum Steering Committee
- National Science Week Coordinating Committee NT
- National Science Week Committee (National)
- NT Southern Regional Weeds Reference Group
- NGO Sector Representatives with the Department of the Chief Minister
- Partnerships for Impact - Central Australia
- Places you Love Coalition
- Ten Deserts Working Group Coordinator
- Volunteering SA and NT

## SUBMISSIONS

ALEC made submissions to advocate various points of policy including:

- Joint Submission with ECNT - NT EPA Guidelines - working on 2012-13 - submitted July 2013
- Submission to the Northern Territory Government
- Response to the Framing the Future Blueprint - October 2013

- Submission to the Northern Territory Government's Committee on the Territory's Energy Future - February 2014
- Submission to the Utilities Commission on the Review of Wholesale Electricity Market - January 2014
- Submission to the EPA EIS Guidelines for the Tellus project - July 2013
- Submission to the EPA EIS Guidelines for the KGL Jervois project - May 2014
- Submission to the Alice Springs Town Council Strategic Plan - October 2013
- Submission to the Northern Territory Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry - June 2014

## ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Australian Association for Environmental Educators
- Environment Defenders Office
- Australian Water Association
- Boomerang Alliance
- Future Forum
- Lock the Gate Alliance
- National Sustainable Events Network
- NT Chamber of Commerce
- NT Council of Social Services
- Red Hot Arts
- Remote Indigenous Gardens Network
- Right to a Home Coalition
- Tourism NT



Community members at the launch of the Alice Springs Community Garden Excursion Guide



# ALEC Business

## ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT AND HOSTING

ALEC provided organisational support to a range of community groups and hosted projects including:

- Alice Springs Community Garden
- Beyond Nuclear Initiative
- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition – Alice Springs
- desertSMART COOLmob
- Education for Sustainability – Central Australia Network
- Central Australian Frack Free Alliance
- Families for a Nuclear Free Future
- Food Not Bombs – Soup Kitchen

## EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ALEC has organised many events, workshops and community engagement activities throughout 2012-13:

### July 2013

- Alice Springs Community Garden Working Bee 7.7.13
- desertSMART COOLmob Aquaponics Course 20.7.13



Participants at the Lock The Gate Fracking Film Night and community meeting 15.5.14

### August 2013

- Bushfires NT Volunteer Course supported by ALEC 1.8.13
- Food for Alice Market Stall 4.8.13
- Alice Springs Community Garden Open Day 5.8.13
- desertSMART EcoFair 9-11.8.13
  - # Friday 9th : EcoScience Schools Day, National Science Week Launch & ABC Outside Broadcast, desertSMART Ecofair Gala Dinner
  - # Saturday 10th: Science of Gardening Workshop, Alice Springs Bicycle Film Festival
  - # Sunday 11th :Sunday Ecomarkets and Sustainable Living Festival
- Food for Alice Market Stall 18.8.13
- Biodiversity Matters Finke Gorge Field Trip 31.8.13

### September 2013

- Food for Alice Market Stall 1.8.13
- Threatened Species Day BBQ 7.9.13
- Food for Alice Market Stall 15.9.13
- Unconventional Gas Community Meeting 23.9.13
- Food for Alice Market Stall 29.9.13

### October 2013

- Community Garden Working Bee 6.10.13
- Introduction to Permaculture Design Course 19.10.13
- Ride2Work Community Breakfast 16.10.13
- 24 Hours of Climate Reality - Livestream 23.10.13
- Transitions Film Festival 24.10.13
- Unconventional Gas Community Meeting 31.10.13

### November 2013

- National Day of Climate Action 17.11.13
- ALEC AGM 20.11.13
- Climate Action Meeting 28.11.13

# ALEC Business

- ALEC Xmas Party 30.11.13

### December

- ASCG Annual Garden Meeting 3.12.13

### February 2014

- World Wetlands Day 2.2.14
- Climate Action Meeting 6.2.14
- Professional Development for Educators Alice Desert Park 20.2.14
- Food For Alice Market 23.2.14

### March 2014

- Food for Alice Community Meeting 1.3.14
- Alice Community Garden Working Bee 2.3.14
- Food For Alice Market 9.3.14
- Alice Community Garden Working Bee 16.3.14
- Introduction to Permaculture Course 8.3.14
- desertSMART Challenge Launch 10.3.14
- desertSMART Roadmap Launch 18.3.14
- desertSMART Challenge: Irrigation in Alice Workshop 22.3.14
- Food For Alice Market 23.3.14
- Soil Improving Workshop 30.3.14

### April 2014

- Yoghurt and Cheese Making Workshop 1.4.14
- ALEC Open Evening 3.4.14
- Contract Law Essentials 9.4.14
- Spill the Beans Community Dinner 10.4.14
- Biodiversity Matters Program Launch 12.4.14
- Food For Alice Market 20.5.14
- Easter in the Garden 21.4.14
- Radioactive Exposure Tour BBQ 22.5.14
- Bicycle Maintenance Workshop 29.4.14

### May 2014

- Food For Alice Market 4.5.14
- Biodynamic Composting Workshop 10.5.14
- Beer Brewing Workshop 11.5.14
- Lock the Gate Fracking Film Night 15.5.14
- Food For Alice Market 18.5.14
- Green Cleaning Workshop 21.5.14
- Chemical Training Course 22.5.14
- Energy Efficiency Workshop 24.5.14
- Muckaty Rally Tennant Creek 25.5.14
- Biodiversity Matters Finke Gorge Field Trip 31.5.14
- Fracking Meeting ALEC 31.5.14

### June 2013

- Food for Alice Market Stall 1.6.14
- Fracking Meeting ALEC 11.5.14
- Biodiversity Matters Newhaven Field Trip 14.6.14
- Food for Alice Market Stall 15.6.14
- Launch: Alice Springs Community Garden Excursion Guide 12.6.14
- Fracking Meeting ALEC 21.5.14
- desertSMART Challenge After Party 27.6.14



Participants examine Great Desert Skink scats as part of the Biodiversity Matters Newhaven Field Trip with Australian Wildlife Conservancy 14.6.14



# ALEC Highlights

## Ten Deserts and Eco-link

ALEC has been nominated as the Coordinator of the 10 Deserts Initiative. A large-scale cross border collaboration with organisations and agencies across the arid lands of NT, SA and WA connecting and developing opportunities to increase our collective activities for maximum impact. ALEC will be coordinating meetings and performing secretariat functions for this exciting initiative in 2014-15.

## After 8 years a Muckaty Win

A big congratulations to the Traditional Owners of the Muckaty Land Trust and Nat Wasley who challenged the nomination of their land for a national nuclear waste dump. The court action in July led to the Northern Land Council dropping the nomination. Muckaty will never have nuclear waste - however, the Federal Government continues to persist with pushing this waste into Aboriginal Land. ALEC will continue to support the Beyond Nuclear Initiative in supporting Traditional Owners to make informed decisions on this dangerous industry.



The press conference announcing the Muckaty Court Case win

## Arid Edge Environmental Services established

Arid Edge Environmental Services is a phoenix born out of the ashes of desertSMART COOLmob. Arid Edge is a commercial focused approach to delivering both sustainable returns and strategic goals for ALEC. Managed by Alex McClean - Arid Edge follows on where the Centre for Sustainable Arid Towns left off. It is hoped that we can build AEES into a strong and well-respected service that will assist people living in Alice Springs and more broadly, the arid zone, to live more sustainably.

## desertSMART Challenge

The desertSMART Challenge was an inspiring initiative from desertSMART COOLmob that engaged and activated community members to live more sustainably and reduce their



The desertSMART Challengers came up with their own desertSMART Superhero's

# ALEC Highlights

carbon footprint. The Challenge ran for 10 weeks where each fortnight participants engaged in a series of challenges on the 5 themes of Water, Food, Transport, Waste, and Energy. The workshops were fun, informative and engaging, and with some great prizes being won by the desertSMART Challengers.

## Biodiversity Matters wins award

In November 2013 the Arid Lands Environment Centres 'Biodiversity Matters' program won the NT Partnerships with Landcare Award for its collaborative approach in connecting organisations and volunteers. ALEC went on to the national finals in September 2014. Biodiversity Matters in 2013-14 worked with 9 different regional partners and facilitated 7 activities that saw more than 100 volunteers contribute to conservation management.



ALEC Director Jimmy Cocking accepts the NT Partnerships with Landcare Award

## Alice Springs Community Garden

The community garden is thriving with 35 plots full of food and twice monthly working bees. The next stage of development will require some strategic planning to locate a wheelchair access path and develop a 24V solar microgrid for irrigation controllers and LED lights. The Committee is working well with Fran Liepa being named Volunteering SA and NT volunteers of the month during the year.

## Lowlight - ALEC Funding Cuts

ALEC suffered a double budget blow with operational funding previously provided by the Commonwealth government and the NT Government being withdrawn. In 2014-15, ALEC is \$105K worse off with \$75Kpa COOLmob funding withdrawn and the Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) \$30K pa withdrawn. In 2015-16, ALEC will lose the \$70K operational funding provided by the NT EPA. ALEC will need to recover this loss of funding through cutting back on staff and capacity while also building our regular giving and ALEC 100 program.



Alice Springs Community garden produce wins first prize at the Alice Springs Show



# Strategic Aim 1: Work to create more sustainable and resilient communities in Central Australia

The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 1: Contribute to building an environmentally aware and more cohesive community**

## desertSMART COOLmob



### End of an Era

This was the final year that Coolmob was granted funding through the NT EPA. Unfortunately, with no further funding secured beyond June 30th, Coolmob has closed its doors. Although opportunities exist for small Waste projects through the EPA, these are insufficient to maintain the program. The closure comes at a time when it is evident that there is a strong demand to keep desertSMART COOLmob going as it is a valued program within Alice Springs and has been so for the last 12 years.

In the 2013/2014 financial year, desertSMART COOLmob was active in engaging the local community on a number of levels, working in multiple areas of sustainable living. After finalising the Roadmap to a desertSMART Town, our focus was on re-engaging our members through the desertSMART Challenge and continuing to pursue local food projects.

In summary, in 2013/2014, desertSMART COOLmob: hosted events on national days, such as the Big Aussie Swap on the National Day of Climate Action and Ride2Work Day; ran the fortnightly local food stall Food For Alice supporting local producers and creating a hub where people meet; developed the desertSMART Challenge - a 10-week sustainability challenge for households; continued supplying information to the public including a weekly article in the Centralian

Advocate, member newsletters, a recycling directory, fact sheets on water, energy, green cleaning, and food; launched the Roadmap to a desertSMART Town and the Food Map website. Factsheets and information continue to be available on [desertsmartcoolmob.org](http://desertsmartcoolmob.org)

### Projects

#### Food For Alice

Food For Alice became a COOLmob project in 2013 with the help of an NT EPA grant. Now unfunded, 'Food For Alice' continues to hold fortnightly stalls at Eastside Pilates. Food For Alice increases the opportunities for local food production and consumption and provides support for local food producers. Our stall is continuing to impress local residents with the quality and range of chemical-free, local produce that we have each week. The stall acts as a central hub for distributing local produce. Every item sold through our market stall has reduced food miles from produce bought elsewhere in town.



Food for Alice volunteers at the Sunday stall

### Food Map and Food Report

The food-mapping project is part of a larger idea of increasing food resilience and to ensure that food is produced, valued, and eaten locally. The 30-page Food Systems of Alice Springs report provides an initial overview of the Alice Springs food system, including where food is coming from, how it is distributed, where it ends up and where locally produced food goes. The Food Map Website connects adventurous eaters to the overhanging fruit in back alleyways, over fences, or in public spaces as well as connecting us to the larger growing areas further out of town. It will remain online at <http://desertsmartcoolmob.org/current-projects/food-map-project/>

### desertSMART Challenge

The desertSMART Challenge (DSC) was a 10-week Challenge for individuals, households and families with 20 tasks around the 5 themes of Water, Food, Transport, Waste, and Energy. The DSC was both a personal challenge for the 51 participating individuals, households, and families to reduce their environmental footprints as well as a competition with an ultimate winner. The 5 themes of Water, Food, Transport, Waste, and Energy tied in with the themes of the 'Roadmap to a desertSMART Town 2013-2018'. The desertSMART Challenge received a great deal of attention from local media, and was an inspiring community engagement for the program.

### Sustainability Films

The Sustainability Film Project enabled close to 1000 people across the Northern Territory to view films about climate change and resilience. The 8 films screened with the assistance of an NT EPA grant were chosen specifically for the Territory audience - E2NT for instance, was a series of short documentaries about inspiring, educative solutions to climate change and power issues, showcasing progressive energy projects and innovations across the Northern Territory. The

[www.desertsmartcoolmob.org](http://www.desertsmartcoolmob.org)

panels and discussions held in conjunction with the screenings encouraged community members to discuss how communities can work together to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, using a variety of strategies.

### Roadmap to a desertSMART Town (2013-2018)

On March 18th, desertSMART COOLmob launched the Roadmap document at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel. The Roadmap to a desertSMART Town (2013-2018) outlines a bold vision for a more sustainable Alice Springs in the areas of energy, water, waste, the built environment, food and transport over the next 20 years, with measurable targets for the next 5 years. The Roadmap (2013-2018) was developed by desertSMART COOLmob in partnership with Desert Knowledge Australia. It had a strong input from the community with 114 local experts, industry stakeholders and members of the public making contributions towards the Roadmap document. The contributions and ideas were edited down to 93 final recommendations that form the report which can be downloaded at <http://desertsmartcoolmob.org/current-projects/roadmap-to-a-desertsmart-town/>



Participants sign up to the desertSMART Challenge Launch in March 2014.

Hayley Michener  
DSCM Program Manager,



# Alice Springs Community Garden



2013/14 was a huge year for the Alice Springs Community Garden. 17 more plots were added to bring the total number of plots to 35. There is a waiting list for the first time ever. A cohesive and consistent volunteer Management Committee led the development of the garden.

The Management Committee members were:  
Chair: Bruce Simmons, Jen Clarsen (part 2014)  
Secretary/Plot Representative: Fran Liepa  
Treasurer: Wendy Mann  
Communications & Fundraising: Marg Carew  
Infrastructure: Allan O'Keefe and Simon Murphy  
Fundraising: Britt Puschak

Better systems were created in the garden this year:

- The Plot Holders Guide was updated
- Website and social media activity increased greatly
- An electronic monthly newsletter was started and continues
- Plot holder communications were increased
- Letterboxes were installed by plot holders and a competition held for the best one
- Mapping of water bills and irrigation leak detection
- Installation of the Water Smart Irrigation Sign sponsored by Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses
- Twice-monthly working bees organised and well-attended
- Smaller but more frequent fundraising stalls including chai
- Open Days including Easter and the Annual Garden meeting
- Workshops including the Introduction to Permaculture and Costa's Science of Gardening
- Renegotiated the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with ALEC

The next steps for the garden is to organise a 're-visioning' of the Masterplan to determine the priorities and capacity of the garden to grow. As part of this we need to consider the best ways forward to construct a wheelchair accessible path. The Solar Pergola funded by \$10 000 from an NT EPA Environment Grant, \$8000 committed from ALEC and \$3000 from the Bendigo Bank Community Fund is also to be built. The solar power generated will provide energy for the irrigation system and LED lighting around the site. These projects will be included as part of the whole, which includes building a kitchen, a seed raising area and opening up more plots.

It's really exciting to see the garden grow and be managed by committed volunteers, two of whom were Volunteering SA and NT Volunteer's of the Month. A big thank you to Marg Carew and Fran Liepa who have transformed the communications and memberships, Bruce Simmons who has been a consistent pillar of the garden's existence, Alan O'Keefe for his skills, knowledge and tiptruck, Wendy Mann for her diligence and persistence as the garden's Treasurer. Able Trees for donating mulch. Arid Lands Environment Centre for providing organisational support and everyone who has joined in, helped out or supported the Alice Springs Community Garden.



Jess and Rich at their ASCG garden plot

*Jimmy Cocking,*  
**ASCG Committee Member**

[www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au](http://www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au)

# desertSMART EcoFair



The desertSMART EcoFair 2013 was held between 9th-11th August at the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and was again a resounding success. Over 2000 people engaged in science and sustainability activities over the first weekend of National Science Week.

EcoScience Schools Day on Friday 9th August had 130 local students attend and participate in 6 different workshops around the themes of water conservation; biodiversity and conservation; energy; waste and science and technology. Special guests Costa Georgiadis and Amelia Telford presented workshops and participated in activities with students.

Later that day 'Café Scientific', The National Science Week Launch with ABC783 Outside broadcast, saw the Bean Tree Café Courtyard turn into a studio with a live audience, special guests, music, and a science quiz. Tanya Ha, Rod Quantock, Costa Georgiadis and Bill Gammage provided insights into the world of science, history, conservation and gardening.

The desertSMART Roadmap 2013-2015 was launched at the desertSMART Gala Dinner, and provided an opportunity to reflect on National Science Week. 80 people were entertained by Tanya Ha - writer, television presenter, environmentalist and internationally



Bill Gammages Sunday feature presentation

[www.ecofair.org.au](http://www.ecofair.org.au)

recognised sustainable living advocate, the very funny Rod Quantock – award winning comedian and climate change advocate, and music by the Garden Trio.

The Science of Gardening Workshop with gardening guru, Costa Georgiadis on Saturday 10th August was very popular and 50 people enjoyed spending time in the Alice Springs Community Garden. That evening the Alice Springs Bicycle Film festival saw over 300 people attend and watch local and international films based around bicycles.

The Sunday EcoMarkets and Sustainable Living Festival on Sunday 11th August saw the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens come alive with stalls, panels, workshops and presentations, and over 1000 community members attended the event. Highlights included historian Bill Gammages' presentation, the bush foods and bush medicine workshops, and all the panels were well attended with community members being engaged in the discussions around biodiversity, land management, food production and sustainability planning.

desertSMART EcoFair was proudly presented by the Arid Lands Environment Centre and Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and funded by Inspiring Australia, National Science Week, NT EPA and Power Water Corporation.



The Science of Gardening Workshop with Costa Georgiadis was incredibly popular.



## Education For Sustainability - Central Australian Network (EFSCAN)



It has been a tough year for the education sector and teaching science and sustainability. Both of these subjects are required by the National Curriculum, and both of these areas have lost both fundamental support from inside the education sector and from non-education organisations that have been supporting the area.

At the end of June 2014 we have seen the demise of CSIRO education in the NT and closer to home the education unit of the Alice Springs Desert Park, both due to reduced funding from government (Commonwealth and Territory). The Centre for Excellence based at Centralian Senior College has reduced capacity due to funding cuts to schools and here at Education for Sustainability – Central Australian Network (EFSCAN) we have lost further capacity due to funding cuts to ALEC.

Despite this, we still find that education providers and students want to learn about science and sustainability, and here at EFSCAN we will continue to do what we can to support learning in these areas. Since June 2013 EFSCAN has been able to run the third EcoFair Eco-Science Schools day as part of the desertSMART EcoFair for



Students participate in an Engineers Without Borders Workshop at Eco-Science Schools Day

National Science Week. We had 130 students take part in workshops including recycling, biodiversity, water, food miles, climate change and engineering. This event was the first time the student numbers were as low as 130, however the schools who participated this year were more actively engaged and there was great feedback from participants.

This year we also produced the second local excursion guide with the help from Felicity Forth. With Felicity's curriculum knowledge we were able to produce the first ever excursion guide for the Alice Springs Community Garden focusing on water, waste and food miles. All activities are mapped to the national curriculum making it easier for education providers to fit the resource into the requirements embedded in the schooling system, as well as provide an opportunity to access what is a great local learning resource.

Even with our reduced capacity EFSCAN will continue to support local education providers and look forward to what can be achieved in 2014/15.



The Alice Springs Community Garden Excursion Guide

*Carmel Vandermolen*  
**EFSCAN Coordinator**

## Sustainable Science Trail



The Sustainable Science Trail (SST) is an interactive tourist trail around Alice Springs. The SST showcases local innovation and biodiversity hotspots including the Alice Springs Community Garden, Alice Springs Desert Park, Desert Knowledge Australia Solar Centre, Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and Adelaide House. The trail currently consists of five sites with interpretative signage and QR codes. Participants will have the opportunity to discover the underlying innovation and natural adaptations occurring in Alice Springs and observe, record and share their experience and understanding at each of the sites.

In 2013-14, ALEC managed to negotiate amendments to the Funding Agreement with the Australian Government's Inspiring Australia Initiative. This allowed ALEC to reduce the number of sites from 8-10 to 5. It also granted ALEC an extension to complete the project by the end of October 2014. In late 2013, ALEC contracted Spinifex Valley - Edan Baxter to deliver the project on time and on budget. Three partner meetings have been organised, signage content is being developed with the application in its final stages. It is exciting to see the development of the Sustainable Science Trail App and the potential expansion of science-based tourism in Central Australia. The SST represents a scalable and replicable model of science communication that will have a cascade of

positive impacts through engaging science in innovative ways.

The Sustainable Science Trail creates opportunities for ALEC to develop a tourism enterprise associated with the SST and develop curriculum based material for school excursions. The SST is an Inspiring Australia Initiative which connects well with ALEC's coordinating role in the Desert Science Network. It is hoped that the Sustainable Science Trail will inspire people to engage with science and develop an understanding of the ecological processes influencing desert life.



## Desert Science Network

In November 2011, ALEC was represented on the Expert Working Group for Science Communication in the Desert. Ninti One/CRC-REP coordinated the consultation and reporting on behalf of Inspiring Australia. See the Inspiration from the Deserts report via this link <http://www.industry.gov.au/science/InspiringAustralia/ExpertWorkingGroup/Pages/EWGroupDesertRegions.aspx>.

In December 2013, representatives from ALEC, Desert Knowledge Australia, Ninti One, Centre for Appropriate Technology, Alice Springs Desert Park and CSIRO wrote to Inspiring Australia requesting \$50 000 to develop the Desert Science Network as per the recommendations and to initially focus on 'Land'.



In June 2014 ALEC was contacted by Inspiring Australia and signed a Funding Agreement for \$25 000 to develop a project plan and organise a meeting to establish the Desert Science Network (DSN) and identify opportunities and potential projects to catalyse and support two-way learning opportunities. The DSN will focus on strengthening science communication and engagement with the sciences in both the desert region and out of it. The areas of focus will include:

- the environment and ecosystems (flora, fauna)
- the interactions of people and land

- land use and development
- sustainability
- indigenous science, technology and local knowledge
- livelihoods, employment and enterprise
- built environments and infrastructure.

Working in parallel with the Ten Deserts Initiative, it is hoped that opportunities for greater and deeper collaboration between science communication and land management will yield widespread positive outcomes. We will see the benefits of these opportunities develop in 2014-15.

## ALEC Event Highlights

ALEC facilitates a large number of community events as part of its objective to build a more cohesive and environmentally aware community. ALEC events include film nights, community meetings, information sharing gatherings and stalls, exhibitions and celebratory events – bringing the community together, sharing information and skills, and activating people to engage in environmental and sustainability issues.

Highlights from 2013-2014 include:

- desertSMART EcoFair, which saw over 2000 people engage in science and sustainability activities in August 2013
- The National Day of Climate Action on

November 17th, which saw more than 350 community members attend, listen to speakers, write letters, hold forums and demand greater action on climate change

- The ALEC Open Night on April 3rd which invited community members to support ALEC as a result of the operational funding cuts, and those present heard about the legal implications of fracking by David Morris from the NT Environmental Defenders Office.
- The Lock The Gate Film Screening and Information Night on May 15th which saw over 120 people attend and mobilised people to form a local action group.



Community members at the National Day of Climate Action November 2013.



ALEC hosted an open night in April 2014 which saw more than 50 people attend.

## Arid Edge Environmental Services

This year saw the establishment of a new fee for service consulting arm of ALEC - Arid Edge Environmental Services (AEES). Building on the skills and experience gained by ALEC from many years of COOLmob work in urban sustainability and recent expertise in water efficiency developed under Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses, AEES is a commercial environmental services consultancy providing research, training, project management, design and consulting services in the areas of water, food, energy and waste.

The installation of emergency irrigation to the Santa Teresa Orchard was undertaken. Following on from this, AEES was able to assist the Santa Teresa community's Aboriginal Corporation (Atyenhenge-atherre Aboriginal Corporation) to secure funding from the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) for development of a 5 year Property Management Plan, to be undertaken by AEES in late 2014. This contract also led directly to CAT hiring AEES to install water efficient irrigation on landscaping at the new Life Skills accommodation site at the Desert Knowledge Precinct.

AEES also undertook some work to help complete the Roadmap to a desertSMART Town project in early 2014 – primarily due to the AEES manager's central involvement in the project while managing COOLmob. The popular Introduction to Permaculture courses previously run by COOLmob have been taken on by AEES as of Spring 2013, with another run in Autumn 2014.

A great example of the kind of flow on work generated by these courses is the contract secured with Tjuntjuntjara Women's Centre (located in remote WA) to run a permaculture course on site, followed by landscaping works and construction of food gardens at the Women's Centre itself. This was also

[www.aridedge.com.au](http://www.aridedge.com.au)

combined with a permaculture course in Kalgoorlie to subsidise costs, and make the most of the opportunity presented to expand AEES's field of work to areas in the arid zone outside of central Australia.

Another initiative inherited from COOLmob is the low income households energy and water efficiency project. This project was completed in early 2013, with some funds left unspent. Towards the end of the financial year this has progressed with Power Water Corporation confirming approval, and Territory Housing also indicating interest in being involved in any further work.

A staged approach to setup was used with AEES being run part time by the COOLmob manager between July – December 2013 and then full time from January 2014. A model of employing only one staff member and utilizing contractors and casual staff when needed has been used in order to try to keep running costs to a minimum. Even so AEES has made a loss in its first year of operation, however growth in turnover has been strong in each successive quarter, indicating that the chances of breaking even in the near future are good.



Introduction to Permaculture Course participants learn how to prune effectively.

*Alex McClean*  
**AEES Manager**



The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 2: Contribute to a reduction in the ecological footprint of Central Australian communities**

## desertSMART Roadmap



The Roadmap to a desertSMART Town has been a flagship initiative since it was established in 2005.

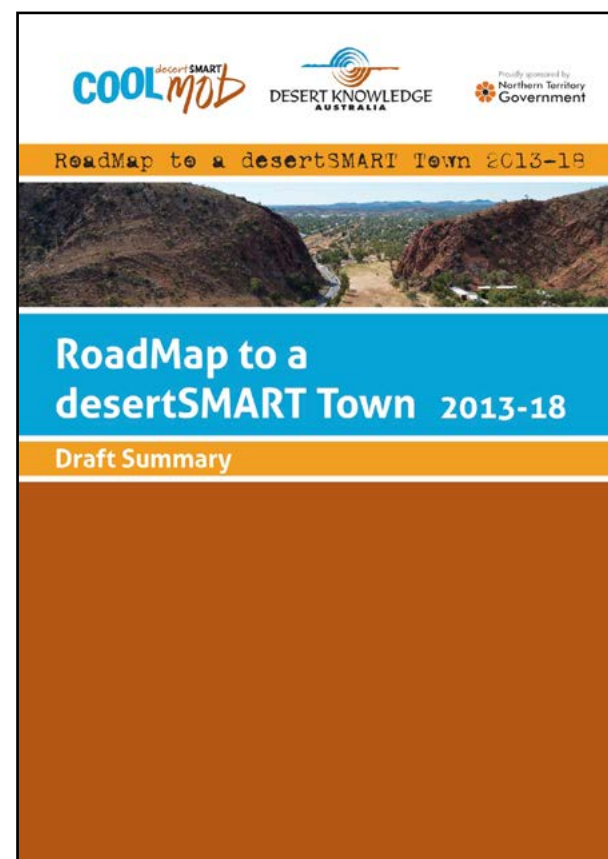
Between December 2012 to March 2014, desertSMART COOLmob undertook an evaluation of the original 2005 Roadmap, and embarked upon a process of developing a new Roadmap for the 5 years 2013-18. With 3 public forums, 45 interviews with experts and key industry stakeholders and a total of 114 contributors, the Roadmap was a truly collaborative initiative which has put forward 92 recommendations and gathered data on 37 key progress indicators across the areas of energy, water, waste, built environment, food and transport.

Desert Knowledge Australia was a key partner in the Roadmap, providing funding for a TV commercial, printing of final copies, and also hosting a business consultation forum through it's Outback Business Networks program. Since the launch in March 2014, ASTC has emerged as a strong supporter of the Roadmap, including it in its strategic plan, profiling it on its website and pro-actively seeking updates from ALEC as to its progress.

Copies have been sent to all Northern Territory MLAs, and ALEC has asked AEES to develop and cost a plan for further promotion of the Roadmap in 2014/15, including presentations to key groups (Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, the Chief Minister's Office etc), further distribution of copies of the Roadmap and development of a desertSMART website to promote the current roadmap and bring together the best urban sustainability resources developed by ALEC, COOLmob, AWS, Solar Cities and CSAT over the last 10 years.

Plans are also being developed on how first to establish a steering group to regularly meet and oversee the progress of the Roadmap, and ensure that partnerships are established to implement the Roadmap's recommendations. This will almost certainly include an advisory committee of sorts, but may also look at links to universities interested in research and on the ground work in these areas, as well as local and high profile ambassadors for the Roadmap to assist with its promotion.

Download the desertSMART Roadmap at:  
<http://desertsmarcoolmob.org/2014/03/roadmap-to-a-desertsmart-town/>



## Community Solar / ALEC Solar

A detailed Feasibility Study of Community Owned Renewable Energy Options for Alice Springs which was conducted by CAT Projects and funded through the NT Government Community Climate Change grants program in 2012 was completed in 2012-13. In 2013-14, ALEC progressed its plans towards building the local renewable energy industry through building a partnership with the University of Sydney's Rural and Remote Enterprise (RARE) unit. ALEC hosted 3 Business School students (2 postgraduate and 1 graduate) for five days to provide a basis for the development of a Strategic Plan for 'ALEC Solar'. The students were shown

significant solar sites around Alice Springs and met Consortium members of Alice Solar City. The inspired students returned and lead their classes to research and produce detailed Strategic Plans and recommendations for ALEC to increase local investment in the sector.

It is hoped 2014-15 will yield better conditions and increased certainty for the renewable energy sector. ALEC has strategically placed this project on hold while it explores other opportunities to increase the uptake and investment in solar energy.

## Measuring the effects of white roof paint on internal household temperatures

A research study was started in Alice Springs in 2012 (funded by NT Government Community Climate Change Grant and Alice Solar City) to compile valid data about the energy performances of white roof on internal temperature over summer and its associated cost. This project is a continuation of the initial project and it aimed to conduct a longitudinal study examining thermal performance of white roofs over a winter and second summer.

The 15 residences with metal roofs (Before and After houses) whose roofs were painted midsummer (Jan 2013) retained logging data until March 2014. So did the control group residences with unpainted roofs. The data from the temperature loggers for summer 2012-13 and winter 2013 was examined in the following categories - houses without insulation (H), houses with insulation (Hi) and the control group houses (CG). Comparison was done of the internal temperatures of houses since that best reflect the benefit of painting the roofs.

**Conclusions for summer 2013**  
When the houses that had roofs painted were

compared with the control group houses, it was observed that the control group houses with well laid insulation were cooler than the houses with white roofs. This indicates that insulation was more effective in keeping temperatures cooler than the white roof. It was also clear that although the attic space temperatures reduced after painting of the roof the internal temperatures in houses did not show discernible impact. This indicates that internal temperatures are influenced by many other factors and the relationship with the painting of roofs and reduction of internal temperatures is not a constant in all cases.

**Conclusions for Winter 2013**  
When the winter temperatures were compared it became clear that there was no penalty with white roofs in winter. This can be attributed to sunny days in winter in Alice Springs. In the day time the white roofs did not contribute towards making the interior any more cooler. Further research is required to make firm conclusions about the impact of painting roofs white.

*Deepika Mathur*  
**ALEC Researcher**



## The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 3: Increase preparedness for climate change impacts/opportunities in the region (adaptation)**

ALEC has a strong commitment to building local community resilience and increasing the communities preparedness for potential climate impacts in the region.

In 2013-14 the Low Income Households Energy and Water Efficiency Project was transferred across from desertSMART COOLmob to Arid Edge Environmental Services and funding was secured to continue the project into the next financial year.

Food for Alice shifted location from the Todd Mall markets to Eastside Pilates and has

established a regular fortnightly stall. The project is growing in strength with the support of committed volunteers. It is supporting local small scale and backyard producers to be able to access the local market, and is increasing the availability of fresh local produce to Alice Springs residents.

The Food Mapping Project was also completed as part of the desertSMART COOLmob program, and now remains a valuable online resources for the community to add to and learn from.

## ALEC Workshop Highlights

ALEC has continued to be a hub for environmental and sustainability education, providing the community with options to learn new skills and sustainable living practices that not only help contribute to reducing their ecological footprint, but also help prepare for potential climate impacts.

The desertSMART Challenge as part of the desertSMART COOLmob program had a workshop program that engaged hundreds of Alice Springs community members. Topics included Arid Zone Gardening, Water and Irrigation Efficiency, Energy Efficiency, Yoghurt and Cheese Making, Beer Brewing, Bicycle Maintenance, Composting and Soil Improvement.

The Introduction to Permaculture Design Certificate provided an opportunity for local residents to complete accredited learning in the area of permaculture, an experience not often available in remote Australia.

As well as hosting a number of community events, the Alice Springs Community Garden has continued to be a site of learning with regular working bees and workshops bringing

skills and understanding to local arid zone gardeners.

The Biodiversity Matters Program also provided multiple hands-on opportunities to understand issues that are impacting on our local biodiversity and ways we can act to help conserve it.



Participants enjoyed the Green Cleaning Workshop as part of the desertSMART Challenge

## Strategic Aim 2: Promote protection of ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources in Central Australia

The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 4: Contribute to ecologically sustainable Natural Resource Management**

## Representation

ALEC is represented in numerous forums related to natural resource management. This allows ALEC to have a positive influence in policy planning and development. ALEC is represented on a range of local, Territory and National committees and reference groups.

ALEC is an active participant that adds value with its participation. In 2013-14, ALEC was represented on the:

*Alice Springs Regional Weeds Reference Group* - ALEC negotiated for Buffel grass to be listed as a significant threat thus enabling the group to endorse the Regional Weeds Action Plan.

*Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee* - while the status of this committee remains uncertain, ALEC continues to lobby for the maintenance of an extraction cap and water efficiency targets.

*Environment Advisory Committee* - ALEC ensures questions are asked of the Alice Springs Town Council to improve waste management, land management, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy and water efficiency within the municipality. ALEC also provides reports to the EAC on the progress at the community garden.

*Trans-Australian Eco-Link* - despite being scrapped in 2012, Greening Australia organised a series of meetings to reconvene stakeholders under the National Wildlife Corridor Plan. The meetings resulted in the

establishment of the Ten Deserts Working Group.

*Ten Deserts Working Group* - ALEC was nominated the Coordinator of the Ten Deserts Working Group in a meeting of local, regional, national and international stakeholders in June 2014. The aim of the initiative is to improve livelihoods across the arid lands through better land management and broader collaboration across SA, NT and WA. This is a very exciting project and ALEC is in the driving seat.

*Alice Springs Regional NRM Stakeholders* - ALEC attended and participated in the meeting organised by Territory NRM.

*Rangelands Society Conference Programming Committee* - ALEC was represented on the programming committee for the Rangelands Society Conference being held in Alice Springs in April 2015. ALEC's continued involvement in 2014/15 will depend on staff capacity to participate.





## Ten Deserts

Ten Deserts evolved from the Trans-Australian Eco-Link (TAEI). The TAEI was a 3-year connectivity conservation initiative to connect vast swathes of the NT and SA through support for the expansion of Indigenous Protected Areas, National Parks and Conservation Areas from Arnhem Land to Port Augusta.

In September 2013, Greening Australia organised a stakeholder meeting to investigate opportunities for advancing the TAEI under the National Wildlife Corridor Plan. It was decided that a central Australian, arid focused project was preferred. In the second meeting, ALEC suggested that Western Australian organisations needed to be involved. ALEC was contracted for \$12 500 to develop a stakeholder engagement process and present the findings at a third meeting.

The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 5: Increase community knowledge of and participation in biodiversity conservation in the arid lands**

## Cat Traps

ALEC supports the eradication of feral cats to protect wildlife and conserve biodiversity.

In late 2013, ALEC purchased 10 cat traps through Land for Wildlife. It was initially anticipated that ALEC would loan the traps to ALEC members and interested community members to increase the numbers of feral cats trapped. Through the EAC, ALEC offered to gift the traps to the Alice Springs Town Council Rangers in return for wider reporting of trapping rates and cat removal.

Waiting periods for cat traps have been reduced and 87 cats had been trapped in the first quarter of 2014 as compared to 54 for the same period in 2013. It is anticipated that the trend will continue. However, a more

Representatives from a range of agencies including land councils, NRM bodies, conservation organisations and government departments attended a full-day meeting at Ross River. Through this process, a working vision was developed, a working group established and ALEC was nominated the coordinator. \$5000 was committed from the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and a firm commitment from Pew Charitable Trust.

Ten Deserts is an exciting approach to conservation and land management. ALEC's role is fundamental to the success of this collaboration. The ALEC Director will have 0.2FTE paid through 2014/15 to coordinate the working group, develop Terms of Reference, identify priorities and organise a workshop with tangible benefits for land managers working in the arid lands.

systematic and national approach to feral cats is needed to stave off extinction rates.



ALEC Director Jimmy Cocking hands the traps to Kevin Everett from the Alice Springs Town Council

## Biodiversity Matters



Biodiversity Matters is an ALEC initiative to increase community participation in land management and biodiversity conservation activities.

2013-2014 saw the program work in partnership with Northern Territory Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM) - Flora and Fauna Division, NT Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC), Land for Wildlife Alice Springs (LFW), Centralian Land Management Association (CLMA), Alice Springs Desert Park (ASDP), Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club (ASFNC), Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), Olive Pink Botanical Gardens (OPBG), and Alice Springs Landcare.

The Biodiversity Matters program included informational sessions and hands-on field trips, where participants learnt about local biodiversity issues and participated in conservation activities including flora and fauna research, weed removal, fencing and other activities as needed.

Activities in the second half of the 2013 program included:

*Sunday 11th August*  
desertSMART Ecofair Biodiversity Matters Walk and Talk  
*Saturday August 31st / Sunday September 1st*  
Finke Gorge Palm Monitoring Field Trip with NT National Parks and Wildlife  
*Saturday 7th September*  
Threatened Species Day Community BBQ at Ilparpa Claypans

In November 2013 Biodiversity Matters was the NT winner of the Partnerships with Landcare Award, for its innovative and collaborative approach to volunteer-based conservation.

At the end of June 2014, half of the 2014 Biodiversity Matters program had been completed with approximately 50 community members participating in activities and field

trips. These included:

*Saturday April 12th*  
*Biodiversity Matters Program Launch at the Alice Springs Desert Park*  
*Thursday May 22nd / Sunday May 25th*  
Chemical Awareness Training Course with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.  
*Saturday 31st May / Sunday 1st June*  
Weed Management Field Trip at Finke Gorge With Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT + NT Flora & Fauna Scientists  
*Saturday June 14th / Sunday June 15th*  
Great Desert Skink Monitoring Field Trip at Newhaven with Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Highlights from this year included the Threatened Species Day Walk which exposed community members to the wonders of the Intertexta forest close to Alice Springs, and the Skink Monitoring Field Trip where another 60 Great Desert Skink warrens at the Newhaven property were discovered.

In late 2014 and beyond, Biodiversity Matters will build on the established program with returning trips to collect data and continue land management works. However funding cuts to ALEC will mean the number of field trips will be significantly reduced for 2015, and external funding will need to be sought.



Biodiversity Matters participants at the Weed Management field trip to Finke Gorge

[www.biodiversitymatters.org.au](http://www.biodiversitymatters.org.au)



The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 6: Support community action on development issues that have environmental impacts in Central Australia**

## Beyond Nuclear Initiative (BNI)



### OVERVIEW

Beyond Nuclear Initiative is a joint project of the Australian Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Earth Australia and has been hosted by the Arid Lands Environment Centre since 2006. The BNI convener Natalie Wasley was based in Sydney for the second half of 2013, returning to Alice Springs at the start of the 2014 calendar year.

BNI tracks the status of the nuclear projects across the Northern Territory with a focus on radioactive waste management and the disproportionate impact on remote Indigenous communities.

### MUCKATY NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP CAMPAIGN VICTORY

Traditional Owners of Muckaty had a landmark victory in June 2014, with announcement the federal government would no longer pursue the site for a national nuclear waste dump. The announcement came mid-way through a Federal Court trial being run pro bono by Maurice Blackburn Social Justice Practice. BNI was retained as community liaison to assist with communication between the legal team and the applicants/witnesses.

Beyond Nuclear Initiative has played an instrumental role in building support for the Muckaty campaign from organisations around the country. Traditional Owners have been supported to produce songs, films and poems as well as developing campaign skills through media training and lobbying.

BNI partnered with Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at University of Technology (UTS) Sydney to produce a half hour documentary titled "Protecting Manuwangu". This will screen on NITV in August 2014.

Traditional Owners were engaged and paid as cultural consultants for the film.

Post Muckaty, the Federal Coalition government is continuing to target Aboriginal Land in the Northern Territory for location of a national radioactive waste facility. BNI will support Traditional Owners in targeted areas and advocate for waste management options beyond a single remote dump to be considered.

Because a remote site has not progressed, spent fuel rods returning from reprocessing overseas will be taken to Lucas Heights nuclear reactor complex south of Sydney for interim storage. BNI has convened numerous meetings with Illawarra region trade unions and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The transport of radioactive materials on NT road and rail networks continues to pose a threat to the health and safety of NT residents, waterways and the local environment. BNI works closely with ECNT and Friends of the Earth to engage NT local councils, Aboriginal land councils, and groups with interests in land and water management on the risks posed by the transport of radioactive materials.

### AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR FREE ALLIANCE

BNI holds a committee position on the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance and is actively involved in the administration of the network. BNI assists with coordinating logistics for the national meeting (venue, catering) and booking travel and accommodation for sponsored delegates. BNI contributes to developing the national

meeting agenda and liaises with civil society groups to send delegates and make financial contributions to the event.

### NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATION

BNI coordinates key national initiatives for the nuclear free movement, including monthly national phone link ups and an annual national nuclear free strategy meeting.

### FUNDING

From 2006-2013 BNI operated through the generous support of the Poola Foundation (Tom Kantor Fund), Dara Foundation and other philanthropic donations. Since July 2013, BNI has received one day a week funding from the Environment Centre of the NT in Darwin. Grant applications are regularly submitted and the steering committee is working to secure an ongoing funding source.

The hosting arrangement with the Arid Lands Environment Centre has been critical

## Shale Gas in the NT

In 2013-14 the shale gas industry has started to make an impact and gain strength in the NT, with 95% of the NT being under application for exploration for the petroleum and gas industry.

ALEC has continued to be a voice in opposition to the expansion of the industry, and has researched the potential impacts, networked with other concerned environmental and community groups, and organised a number of community information sessions and film nights around the issue.

As a result of community concerns, ALEC has supported the formation of the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance in May 2014, by providing resources and a meeting space. This group aims to research the implications of fracking in the NT, and run a community education campaign.

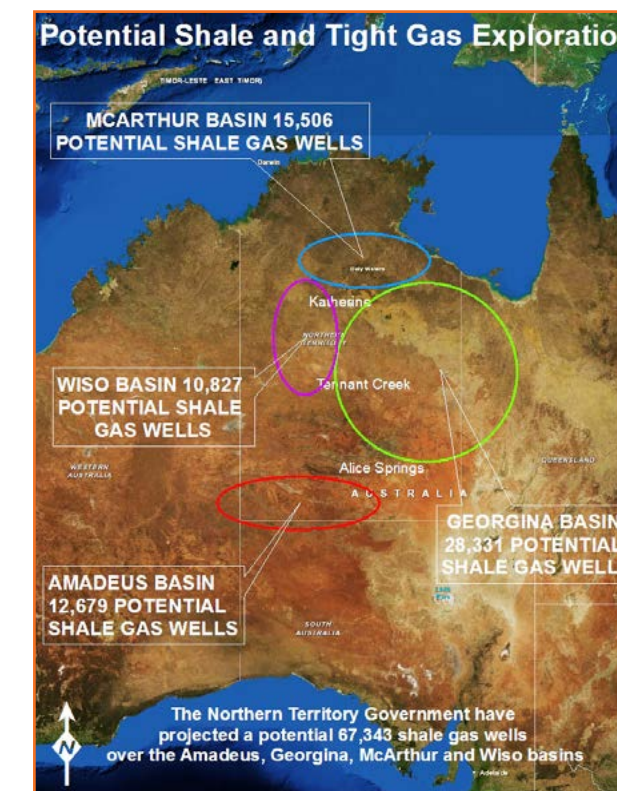
This issue of fracking and a proposed gas pipeline will be a big focus in 2014-15.

for maintaining operational capacity and a presence in the Central Australian region. BNI looks forward to continuing a strong working relationship with ALEC into the future.

*Natalie Wasley*  
**BNI Campaigner**



*Muckaty Traditional Owners at the press conference announcing the landmark victory*



*In their NT Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry submission the NT Government has projected more than 67,000 potential gas wells for the NT*



## Strategic Aim 3: Strengthen ALEC as an organisation

The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 7: Increase financial resilience**

In 2013-14 ALEC consolidated its financial situation and increased its resilience by reducing its reliance on government funding. In 2012-13 almost 94% of ALEC's income came from government sources (operational and project funding). In 2013-14, this was reduced to 54%. This is a good sign. Despite the expected and correcting deficit, ALEC remains in a comparably strong position heading into the constrained funding environment.

ALEC is a registered charity with tax-deductibility status for gifts and donations. Total ALEC donations increased by 448% to \$108 379 in 2013-14. 68% (\$74 060) was attributed to ALEC Programs, this includes the monthly Desert Defender Program and the recently created ALEC 100 Club.

21% (\$22790) came in for Beyond Nuclear Initiative, a direct result of campaigning against Muckaty. 8% (\$8867) came in for the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, of which ALEC became the host organisation in 2013-14. The anti-fracking campaign raised \$632 and the Alice Springs community garden raised \$724.

Earned income increased by 337% to \$131 555 in 2013-14. This is due to income generated by Arid Edge Environment Services (\$60 433), cleaning and utility contributions from tenants (\$3 540), administration fees from projects (\$19 768), vehicle contributions (\$2055) and other sundry income.

The disappointing financial outcome of Alice Water Smart resulted in a significant decrease in member funds with \$129 388 being paid back. ALEC management staff have since attended a contract law workshop to

strengthen this aspect of financial resilience.

The major focus for ALEC in future years will be the building the Desert Defender Program and developing strong relationships with ALEC 100 members and interstate and international donors. Social enterprise will also play a strong role in ALEC's future. In 2013-14, ALEC Board, management and staff supported the transition of COOLmob into Arid Edge Environmental Services. This also happened as Food for Alice grew to become a regular stall at the Eastside Pilates cafe. Both of these enterprises are now entering their second year and while currently marginal, are making returns that offset staff wages and contribute to management costs.

In 2013-14, operational funding for ALEC contributed to \$175 000 of a total of \$336 622 of government grants. This included \$30 000 from the Australian Governments Grants for Voluntary and Heritage Organisations; \$70 000 from the NT EPA Environmental Grants - Operational and \$75 000 from NT EPA for COOLmob funding. In 2014-15, this will be \$105 000 less and in 2015-16, the total of \$175 000 will no longer be available to ALEC. This is forcing a rethink in how ALEC approaches government and the need to get moving in other directions namely philanthropy and social enterprise.

ALEC's future depends on diversification and community support. Despite the challenges, ALEC will remain a strong voice and active participant towards 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.' The key is to stay nimble and be confident that what we stand for is right and just. The question is, what can you do to help?

*Jimmy Cocking*  
**ALEC Director,**

The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 8: Strengthen ALEC membership, supporter base and engagement with key sustainability stakeholders.**

## Communications and Campaigns Report

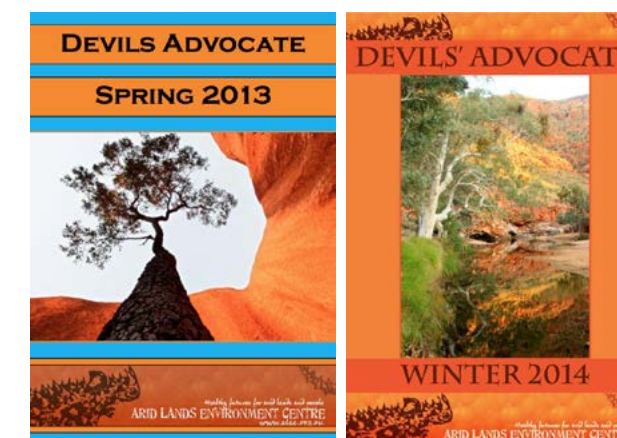
In 2013-14 ALEC's public communications have continued to strengthen, as the Communications and Campaigns Manager position has become an integral component of ALEC's operations.

Along with the ALEC Director and Business and Operations Manager positions, the Communications and Campaigns Manager completes the team that is the backbone of ALEC, and is involved in strategic planning, program delivery, communications and the ongoing running of the organisation. The Communications position has had a large role to play in organising, promoting and delivering the Biodiversity Matters Program, an integral role in the organisation of the desertSMART EcoFair 2013 and an increasing role in the Shale Gas Campaign.

A Communications Strategy was developed for the organisation post Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses that reflects the organisations current focus, and defines ALEC's key communications objectives.

ALEC continues to increase its online presence through regular updating of the ALEC website ([www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)) and through an increased social media profile with Facebook and Twitter.

Traditional methods of communication also remain a strong focus as ALEC recognises that people source their information from a wide range of media. The fortnightly e-newsletter The Thorny News remains the primary method of communicating with members and supporters, and the quarterly published Devils Advocate newsletter, which is distributed at information stalls, meetings and local cafes, is a strong tool for updating broader community members on the current



Past editions of the Devil's Advocate can be viewed online at [www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)

activities and priorities of ALEC.

In response to the funding cuts announced in May, a fundraising campaign has been launched through financial appeals, posters, community networks and social media.

ALEC continues to organise a large number of community events - although these outputs will have to be reviewed in the next financial year as a result of reduced staffing capacity.

ALEC membership numbers have largely remained static, however have begun to increase as a result of the fundraising campaign, and are expected to continue increasing in the next financial year as the community becomes more involved in the organisation.

The Communications and Campaigns Manager position will be reduced to 2 days a week in 2015, however this will still enable the most important information to be distributed to the community, and assist in ongoing fundraising activities.

*Nicole Pietsch*  
**Communications & Campaigns Manager**



The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 9: Enhance governance, management and staff capacity**

## Business and Operations Manager Report

2013-14 was another big year at ALEC with many changes happening behind the scenes to keep ALEC in a position where it can continue to work for the community and provide a "Healthy future for arid lands and people".

The funding cuts that have been directed towards the environmental sector have come as no surprise, and it was over 18 months ago that ALEC started to prepare for the worst case scenario just in case. This started with plans to build up revenue streams that are not reliant on government funding and our first move was to establish our own social enterprise. Plans for this enterprise started over 18 months ago and on the 1st of January 2014 ALEC placed the growth and development of Arid Edge Environmental Services in the capable hands of Alex McClean.

The human resources of ALEC have seen the biggest decrease since ALEC was founded with a reduction of seven staff with the closure of Alice Water Smart Homes and Business. During the year our staffing capacity reduced by another three staff as the desertSMART projects such as the Road Map and Food Map were completed. We did however have the pleasure of employing Hayley Michener for most of the year working and managing desertSMART COOLmob. At the end of the 2013/14 financial year ALEC had a total equivalent of 5 full time staff, made up of four full-time and 3 part-time. This capacity is expected to reduce further in the 2014/15 financial year.

ALEC is continuing to improve its Occupational Health and Safety procedures and had two incidents in the year; both were due to repetitive computer use. New equipment and continual work on best practice has meant that

the two employee's injuries have improved. ALEC continues to modify its procedures and update its equipment to further reduce the risk of injury for both employees and volunteers.

The ALEC facilities continue to be a large cost for the organisation, as well as a great asset. There have been a number of organisations this year that have spent time working from the ALEC office including Enterprise Learning Projects, Banyalla Films, Red Dust Role Models, as well as some individuals who hired desk space so they could stop working from home and enjoy the company of working with others in a collaborative professional work space. And of course we still enjoy the company of Birth and Beyond and Big Hart.

The 2014/15 financial year looks to be a tough one with many hard decisions needing to be made. At the same time the small group of dedicated employees, the large number of volunteers that are willing to support the organisation and the every growing number of community members who appreciate and support the goals of ALEC will make sure that ALEC is here for many years to come.



*Carmel running the ALEC stall at International Volunteers Day December 2013*

**Carmel Vandermolen,  
Business Operations Manager**

## Treasurers Report

It is my pleasure to provide this statement as ALEC's Treasurer during this pivotal time for the role of environmental organisations in Australia. ALEC's financial health is a reflection of considerable effort to carefully manage a contraction, in scale, income, capacity and staffing while retaining, or increasing, levels of influence and social capital.

In recent years, ALEC has enjoyed an unprecedented size and breadth of programs and staffing. This growth has been largely associated with the Alice Water Smart program, which wound up at the end of the previous financial year (30 June 2013). This expansion, subsequent contraction and contingent program funding arrangements have significantly impacted on the current financial and operational profile of ALEC. As was highlighted in last year's report, a repayment of unexpended grant income was expected though underestimated at \$105,000. In finalising the agreement, ALEC has returned \$234,388. Consequently, the annual deficit is disproportionate and reflects an adjustment to several years of forecast surpluses.

Beyond this context of programmatic lifecycles, ALEC must now contend with a highly changeable and in some senses hostile policy and thereby public funding landscape. As is demonstrated by the cessation of Commonwealth funding for core operations and Northern Territory Government support for the long-running desertSMART COOLmob suite of programs. As testament to the foresight and tenacity of ALEC management, strategies had been put in place to bolster organisational finances through enterprise activities and enhanced donor relationships.

Along with the implementation of recommendations from the previous year's financial systems review, ALEC has undertaken its regular audit, with Basso Newman.



### Current financial position

The Balance Sheet shows that at 30 June 2014:

- Total members funds decreased by over \$342,728 during the year to be \$435,826
- Majority of assets are current assets - either cash at bank, term deposit or receivables
- Written down value of plant and equipment was \$6,553
- Current liabilities total \$335,378, of which unexpended grants total \$227,836.

### Financial performance

The Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2014 reports:

- Income decreased as predicted, following the completion of Alice Water Smart, \$624,178 in 2014 compared with \$1,976,164 in 2013
- The majority of income received from grants has decreased to \$336,622 while other forms of income including donations, membership fees, and rent income has increased (eg. donations increasing by \$84,133)
- Expenditure totaled \$966,906, with salaries and wages comprising the largest component at \$425,581
- The net deficit is \$342,728, the first deficit for ALEC in over 5 years.

*Jason Quin*  
**ALEC Treasurer**





**COPY**

**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

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**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	2014	2013
<b>INCOME</b>		
Government Grants	306,622	1,821,661
Grants - GVESH0	30,000	30,000
Donations received	108,379	24,216
Interest Received	19,907	25,983
Other Revenue	131,555	38,983
Rent Income	21,326	15,988
Fundraising	3,558	14,461
Recoveries	2,604	3,545
Consultancy Wages	227	1,327
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>624,178</b>	<b>1,976,164</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accounting Fees	27,251	31,042
Advertising	28,844	87,163
Audit Fees	9,537	6,413
Bank Charges	1,230	973
Bad Debts	-	709
Catering	10,812	12,798
Cleaning	5,945	4,364
Consultancy fees	61,501	71,190
Computer, IT & Internet Costs	11,404	17,781
Depreciation	11,697	10,880
Electricity	8,880	5,393
Fundraising	846	7,822
Grants repaid	129,388	105,000
Hire of plant & equipment	15,331	17,701
Insurance	17,365	21,487
Interest Paid	-	6,794
Loss on disposal of assets	607	-
Materials & Supplies	23,390	35,178
Minor Equipment	7,589	16,010
Motor Vehicle Expenses	16,915	3,304
Multi Media Productions	28,040	8,243
Office expenses	964	2,737
Postage	331	2,110
Printing and Stationery	4,223	5,944
Professional Development	5,116	4,912
Program expenses	32,184	261,714
Provision for Annual Leave	(14,480)	(1,688)
Provision for Long Service Leave	11,122	12,610

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report



ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
<b>EXPENDITURE (Contd)</b>		
Rent, Rates & Taxes	50,460	59,391
Repairs & Maintenance	2,616	739
Salaries & Wages	392,377	885,559
Subscriptions	1,059	692
Sundry Expenses	2,951	10,273
Superannuation Contributions	36,562	78,794
Telephone	3,014	5,050
Travel, Allowances & Fares	21,523	48,557
Workshop Expenses	312	4,473
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>966,906</u>	<u>1,852,112</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<u>\$ (342,728)</u>	<u>\$ 124,052</u>

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Retained Surpluses
Opening Balance, 1 July 2012	654,502
Net Surplus (Deficit) attributable to members	<u>124,052</u>
Closing Balance, 30 June 2013	778,554
Net Surplus (Deficit) attributable to members	<u>(342,728)</u>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 435,826</u>

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014	2013
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash equivalents	2	624,514	902,122
Accounts receivable & other debtors	3	58,512	259,799
GST Receivable		12,752	19,332
Prepayments & Accrued Income		<u>30,641</u>	<u>10,600</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>726,419</u>	<u>1,191,853</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	4	72,180	78,733
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>27,395</u>	<u>35,344</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>44,785</u>	<u>43,389</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>771,204</u>	<u>1,235,242</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable & other payables		41,101	189,792
Accrued Expenses		12,648	7,500
Payroll Liabilities		19,067	40,483
Unexpended Grants	5	227,836	180,827
Provision for Annual Leave		10,995	25,476
Provision for Long Service Leave		<u>14,182</u>	<u>12,610</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>325,829</u>	<u>456,688</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provision for Long Service Leave		<u>9,549</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>9,549</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>335,378</u>	<u>456,688</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>\$ 435,826</u>	<u>\$ 778,554</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained Surpluses		<u>435,826</u>	<u>778,554</u>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>\$ 435,826</u>	<u>\$ 778,554</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report



ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014	2013
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash Receipts		812,266	1,994,864
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(1,096,081)	(2,324,101)
Interest Received		19,907	25,983
<b>Net Cash provided by (used in) Operating Activities</b>	2	<u>(263,908)</u>	<u>(303,254)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for Property, Plant & Equipment		(14,000)	(5,128)
Proceeds from disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment		300	-
<b>Net Cash provided by (used in) Investing Activities</b>		<u>(13,700)</u>	<u>(5,128)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Net Cash provided by (used in) Financing Activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held		(277,608)	(308,382)
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year		902,122	1,210,504
<b>Cash at the End of the Financial Year</b>	2	<u>\$ 624,514</u>	<u>\$ 902,122</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (contd)

(f) **Goods & Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

(g) **Going Concern**

The accounts of the Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc have been prepared on the basis that it is a going concern and that the Association will continue to operate. The Association's future as a going concern is dependant upon grants and subject to compliance attached to grants received.

On this basis the Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc will generate sufficient cash flow to be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

	2014	2013
<b>NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash at Bank - Ops Account	(4,046)	1,929
Cash at Bank - Gift Account	302,867	212,182
Cash at Bank - Holding Account	56,893	179,003
Cash at Bank - Pay Pal Account	16,825	2,221
ALEC Debit card	192	859
Term Deposit	250,578	505,423
Cash on Hand	1,205	505
	<u>624,514</u>	<u>902,122</u>
<b>NOTE 3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade & Sundry Debtors	65,512	266,799
Less: Provisions for Doubtful Debts	7,000	7,000
	<u>58,512</u>	<u>259,799</u>
<b>NOTE 4: PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>		
Leasehold Improvements (at cost)	26,022	26,022
Less Accumulated Depreciation	7,747	5,033
	<u>18,275</u>	<u>20,989</u>
Office Furniture and Equipment (at cost)	16,343	36,896
Less Accumulated Depreciation	11,565	25,529
	<u>4,778</u>	<u>11,367</u>
Motor Vehicles (at cost)	29,815	15,815
Less Accumulated Depreciation	8,083	4,782
	<u>21,732</u>	<u>11,033</u>
Total Property Plant & Equipment at cost	72,180	78,733
Less Accumulated Depreciation	27,395	35,344
	<u>44,785</u>	<u>43,389</u>



**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

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**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

**NOTE 5: UNEXPENDED GRANTS**

At balance date the Association had not expended all of its grant funds. These unexpended funds have been carried over into the next financial year.

**NOTE 6: CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

A contingent liability exists in relation to the potential repayment of surplus funds to funding bodies. It is the board's view that any surplus represents unexpended funds and will not be repayable to the funding bodies.



**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**  
**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report being the assets and liabilities statement, income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc as at 30 June 2014 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc will be able to pay its debts as when they fall due.

We confirm as follows:

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

Jenny Pender	Stewart Baillie
Patrick Cozens	Ben Convery
Glenn Marshall	Mark Keyworth
Jason Quin	Emily Webster
Sia Cox	Alex Kelly
- (b) The association is a community based environment organisation
- (c) The net deficit of the association for the year ended 30 June 2014 was \$342,728

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Board Member



Board Member

Signed in Alice Springs this      day of October 2014

## ALEC Board as at June 30th 2014

Public Officer - Jason Quin  
 Convenor - Stewart Baillie  
 Deputy Convenor - Jenny Pender  
 Treasurer - Mark Keyworth, Jason Quin  
 Secretary - Emily Webster  
 General Members - Glenn Marshall, Ben Convery,  
 Alex Kelly, Patrick Cozens, Sia Cox



Jimmy Cocking  
ALEC Director

## ALEC Staff as at June 30th 2014



Nicole Pietsch  
Communications and  
Campaigns Manager



Carmel Vandermolen  
Business and Operations  
Manager



Alex McClean  
Arid Edge Environmental  
Services Manager



Hayley Michener  
desertSMART COOLmob  
Manager



Natalie Wasley  
Beyond Nuclear Initiative  
Campaigner



Deepika Mathur  
ALEC Researcher

**ALEC would like to acknowledge and thank our major funding partners for 2013-14:**



Australian Government







*Healthy futures for arid lands and people*  
**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**  
[www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)