

# ANNUAL REPORT



## 2012 - 2013

*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'**

#### **ALEC Staff - as at June 30 2012**

ALEC Director - Jimmy Cocking  
ALEC Business and Operations Manager - Carmel Vandermolen  
ALEC Communications and Campaigns Manager - Nicole Pietsch  
desertSMART COOLmob Program Manager - Alex Mclean  
desertSMART Projects Officer - Ella McHenry  
desertSMART Projects Officer - Cassandra Douglas-Hill  
Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses (AWSHB) Team:  
AWSHB Program & Communications Manager - Liz Locksley  
Alice Water Smart Homes - Jethro Laidlaw  
Alice Water Smart Businesses - Hayley Michener  
AWSHB Community Engagement Officer - Neylan Aykut  
Water Efficiency Consultant - Richard Bentley  
Water Efficiency Consultant - Sunil Dhanji  
Water Efficiency Consultant - Ben Wall  
Water Efficiency Projects Officer - Jeremy Snowdan-James  
AWSHB Projects Communications Officer - Gail Rossi  
Alice Springs Community Garden Project Officer - Kim Hopper  
Alice Springs Community Garden Project Officer - Eleven Greenstones  
Beyond Nuclear Initiative Campaigner - Natalie Wasley  
Beyond Nuclear Initiative Campaigner - Lauren Mellor  
ALEC Paint Roof White Researcher - Deepika Mathur

#### **ALEC Board as at June 30 2013**

Public Officer - Jason Quin  
Convenor - Stewart Baillie  
Deputy Convenor - Jenny Pender  
Treasurer - Mark Keyworth  
Secretary - Emily Webster  
General Members - Glenn Marshall, Robbie Henderson, Ben Convery

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

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**Office Location:** Cnr Warburton St and Lindsay Ave, Alice Springs NT 0870  
**Postal address:** PO Box 2796 Alice Springs 0871  
**Phone:** 08 89522497  
**Fax:** 08 89532988  
**Email:** [info@alec.org.au](mailto:info@alec.org.au)  
**Website:** <http://www.alec.org.au>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Arid-Lands-Environment-Centre/447072910579>  
**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/AridLandsEC>



## 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 30 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.



*Plots flourishing at the Alice Springs Community Garden, March 2013*

***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



Introducing this 2012-13 annual report, I ask you join with ALEC in working towards a sustainable future for arid lands, people and beyond. It's been a successful year for us. Some notable achievements include the launch of a Roadmap to a DesertSMART Town, the completion of the Alice Water Smart Homes & Businesses (AWSHB) programme, organising the desertSMART EcoFair, pursuing community solar projects, supporting community gardens in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, holding numerous workshops, lobbying and participation in the policy development. Read the details in the program reports that follow.

The delivery of the AWSHB ends a huge undertaking and stands testament to ALEC's business professionalism and confidence. The programme's completion represents an opportunity and a risk for us. These large initiatives require a lot of planning and cultivation. The challenge we face now is to continue imagining and implementing sustainable programmes that help create the kind of world we want. To that end, ALEC is developing an environmental consultancy arm. This is not altogether new. Previously, ALEC operated Bowerbird Enterprises and Centre for Sustainable Arid Towns. However, these businesses were run independently. The difference now is that engaging in commercial activity is integrated into our organisational structure and strategic planning.

It is worth spending a moment to consider this difference. The world has changed for not-for-profit community organisations such as ALEC. A reliance on grant funding is no longer viable nor desirable. It is necessary that ALEC do things that earn income. The prevailing political climate has accelerated this necessity with Governments defunding environmental programmes and grants. Therefore, ALEC is building partnerships in areas such as solar power, food sustainability

and water efficiency. In doing so we are adopting a social enterprise model - i.e. "applying commercial strategies to maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being, rather than maximising profits for external shareholders." -- Wikipedia.

It is concerning that Governments aren't providing environmental leadership especially to tackle dangerous climate change. This means that active community organisations are more relevant than ever. Community organisations rely on motivated volunteers and staff. ALEC is blessed with an enthusiastic and talented group of Board members. I thank them for their commitment and encourage others to consider taking up this challenge. In particular, I'd like to mention our retiring Treasurer, Mark Keyworth, for his tenacity and professionalism through the demanding years of the AWSHB programme. ALEC adopts an ethos of consensus. Quite remarkably, there have been no contested motions before the current Board. There has been plenty of discussion though.

ALEC is also fortunate in the competence, enthusiasm and continuity of its staff. On behalf of the Board and the members, I thank the wonderful dedicated ALEC staff. Jimmy Cocking, the Director, will have more to say on this work in his report. However, as he can't blow his own horn, I'll finish up by saying what a privilege it is to have him: part advocate, part executive officer, part politician and all round good fella.

*Stewart Baillie*  
ALEC Chair



# ALEC Directors' Report



The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) has continued throughout 2012-13 to work strategically towards its vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people'. The change of government in the Northern Territory has required ALEC to adjust and adapt its strategic approach. The Northern Territory Government has not yet developed any climate change policies and the new 'open for business' tagline is placing more and more land under application for mining and petroleum exploration. This is of huge concern for the natural environment and people of the arid lands of Central Australia. ALEC continues to advocate strongly for groundwater protection and wise use of our natural resources in the context of a changing climate. Building community support through education while advocating to governments for responsible economic development is the approach ALEC is taking. 2013-14 will be an important year for building ALEC's supporter base.

The Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses was the biggest project ALEC has ever embarked upon. The AWHB team worked hard up to the final days of 2012-13 to deliver the milestones of the project, with 1041 homes and 50 businesses undertaking water efficiency consultations and identified savings of more than 900ML per annum. The program has been hailed a success with ALEC currently negotiating with Power Water Corporation regarding the finalisation of the program, future monitoring and water efficiency opportunities. Throughout 2012-13, ALEC lobbied for an integrated approach to build on the legacy of the Alice Solar City and Alice Water Smart projects, however despite ALEC's best efforts, funding was not made available. Although opportunities remain in 2013-14 to build on the successes of these major federally funded projects, the fate of these remain to be determined.

ALEC has managed to maintain its operational funding (\$70K) from the NT Environment

Protection Authority and \$30K from the Australian Government's Grants for Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO). Both of these competitive grants provide valuable assistance in maintaining ALEC's current levels of operation. However, the fate of desertSMART COOLmob beyond 2013-14 remains in the balance. A number of structural changes have been initiated to enable an environmental and sustainability services consultancy to be established with desertSMART COOLmob Program Manager Alex McClean actively pursuing contracts that achieve ALEC aims while providing income for the organisation.

ALEC continues to be a strong voice for the environment in Central Australia. The ALEC team including the Director, Business and Operations Manager and the Communications and Campaigns Manager are hardworking, dedicated and committed to achieving our strategic vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people'. The decreased returns for ALEC in 2012-13 are due to the consolidation of liabilities from previous financial years and the anticipated costs associated with the finalisation of Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses. With this in mind, ALEC has chosen to take an entrepreneurial approach to achieving its aims through developing ideas, acquiring funds and delivering outcomes that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. In 2013-14, ALEC will be putting the call out for members and supporters to invest in ALEC and its vision. The time is now to get on board and support this little organisation that does so much in Alice Springs. Be informed, be involved and be active - your support makes the difference.

*Jimmy Cocking*  
ALEC Director

# ALEC Business

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Alice Solar City – support in developing the study on roof paint and internal household temperature and support for developing the Solar in Alice Springs Teacher Resource.
- 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
- Australian Red Cross – community gardening in Tennant Creek
- CAT Projects – community solar farm feasibility study completion
- Centralian Senior College – ALEC provided advice and support for the Centre for Excellence and EcoFair participation
- Desert Knowledge Australia – on-going strategic partnership in DesertSMART Roadmap and collective impact.
- Environment Centre NT - on-going strategic partnership, regular communications, shared media releases, submissions and coordinated approaches to environmental issues and sustainable development in the Territory.
- Friends of the Earth – management of the Beyond Nuclear Initiative project
- 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

- Power Water Corporation – Alice Water Smart Homes and Business project, funding and support for Low-income Energy Efficiency workshops
- Red Hot Arts and Alice Desert Festival - desertSMART EcoFair promotion and organisational support.

## ALEC GRANTS (GST exc)

### Commonwealth:

#### Operational Funding 2012-13

- Grants to Voluntary Environmental Sustainability and Heritage Organisations \$30,000

#### Inspiring Australia

- Sustainable Science Trail (milestone payments) \$22,500
- National Science Week: desertSMART EcoFair \$25,000

### Northern Territory Government

#### Operational funding 2012-13

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

#### Environment Grants

- desertSMART EcoFair \$15,000
- Arid Zone Adaptation Workshops - \$10,000
- desertSMART Roadmap Evaluation - \$10,000
- Alice Springs Local Food Systems Mapping Project - \$10 000

#### Community Climate Change grants

- desertSMART Roadmap (2012-17) - \$10,000
- Food for Alice Local Food Box Project \$20,000
- Community Film Nights: Engaging community interest and participation in education, dialogue and action for climate change - \$15000

#### Power Water Corporation

Alice Water Smart Homes and Business Milestone payments \$893 533

# ALEC Business

- Low income energy and water efficiency program \$20,000
- Sponsorship of desertSMART EcoFair \$3,000

## REPRESENTATION

ALEC was represented on the following committees and reference groups:

- Alice Solar City Consortium
- Alice Springs Community Garden Management Committee
- Alice Springs Region – NRM Council
- Alice Springs Urban Land Management Group
- Alice Springs Town Council Environment Advisory Committee
- Alice Water Smart Consortium
- Australian Association of Environmental Educators NT
- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
- Australian Rangelands Society Conference Organising Committee
- Biodiversity Matters Coordinating Committee
- Boomerang Alliance
- Central Australian Business Innovation Forum
- Collective Impact Network Central Australia
- 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 Weeks Reference Group
- Places you Love Coalition
- Territory EcoLink –Stakeholders Reference Group

- Volunteering SA and NT

## SUBMISSIONS

ALEC made submissions to advocate various points of policy including:

- Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan (NT)
- Great Artesian Basin Water Allocation Plan (NT)
- Alice Springs Town Council Municipal Plan (local)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Tellus Chandler Salt Project (NT)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for the NT (NT)
- Senate Inquiry into Container Deposit Schemes (National)
- ARENA Regional Australia's Renewables Program (National)
- EPBC Referral Wonarah Mining Project (National)

## ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Australian Association for Environmental Educators
- Australian Environment Network
- 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

## ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT AND HOSTING

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

- Alice Springs Community Garden
- Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses
- Beyond Nuclear Initiative
- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance

# ALEC Business

- Australian Youth Climate Coalition – Alice Springs
- desertSMART COOLmob
- Education for Sustainability – Central Australia Network
- 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 2012

- ALEC Stall, Alice Springs Show
- August 2012
- desertSMART EcoFair, Olive Pink Botanic Garden
- desertSMART Regional Food Summit, Olive Pink Botanic Garden
- ALEC Stall, Alice Springs Town Council Markets

### September 2012

- Introduction to Permaculture Course, Alice Springs Community Garden
- Locals from the Bush: Planting Yarning Feasting, Alice Springs Community Garden
- Biodiversity Matters: Urban Connectivity and Biodiversity Conservation, Alice Springs Desert Park,
- Biodiversity Matters: Monitoring Biodiversity in the Arid Lands (Pt 1), Simpsons Gap National Park
- Biodiversity Matters: Monitoring biodiversity in the Arid Lands (Pt 2), Finke Gorge National Park
- ALEC Stall, Alice Springs Town Council Markets

### October 2012

- Biodiversity Matters: Landscape conservation on Private Land, Conlan's Lagoon

- Permaculture Design Certificate, Alice Springs Community Garden
- Ride2Work Day Community Breakfast, Arid Lands Environment Centre
- ALEC Stall, Alice Springs Town Council Markets
- Alice Water Smart Community Rules Workshop 1, Andy McNeil Room Alice Springs Town Council
- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance Gathering, Blatherskite Park Alice Springs
- Palestine, Permaculture, Pizza Night, Alice Springs Community Garden

### November 2012

- ALEC Stall, Alice Springs Town Council Markets
- Alice Water Smart Community Rules Workshop 2, Andy McNeil Room Alice Springs Town Council
- Arid Lands Environment Centre AGM, Arid Lands Environment Centre

### December 2012

- Australian Youth Climate Coalition – Solar Sounds concert at Alice Springs Youth Centre
- Alice Water Smart Community Rules Workshop 3, Andy McNeil Room Alice Springs Town Council
- Alice Springs Combined Community Organisations Xmas Gathering
- ALEC Stall, Alice Springs Town Council Xmas Markets

### February 2013

- In Transition Film Screening, Centralian Senior Collage Theatre
- In Transition Film Screening, Barkly College Auditorium Tennant Creek
- Alice Springs Community garden Working Bee
- Energy and Water Efficiencies – Information Session Alice Water Smart, Alice Solar City
- The 'Manuwangu, Under the Nuclear



# ALEC Business

Cloud' photo exhibition, Adelaide Fringe Festival

## March 2013

- Pyramidal Compost Workshop, Bullen Road
- Face to Face with Fukushima, Sydney
- Face to Face with Fukushima, Arid Lands Environment Centre
- World Water Day – Million Dollar Mermaid Film Screening, Alice Springs Cinema
- World Water Day Free Family Breakfast, Alice Springs Town Council Lawns
- Alice Springs Community Garden Open Day
- desertSMART RoadMap (2005 ) Evaluation Launch, The Chifley Alice Springs Resort
- EFSCAN: Professional Development for Educators, Alice Springs Desert Park Meeting
- Alice Community Garden Working Bees 1st and 3rd Sunday

## April 2013

- Arid Zone Adaptation Workshop 1: Aerobic Compost and Vermiculture, Alice Springs Community Garden
- Soil-Improving Techniques Aerobic Pyramid Compost Workshop, Alice Springs Community Garden
- Soil-Improving Techniques Workshop - Vermiculture, Alice Springs Community Garden
- Biodiversity Matters Launch, Alice Springs Desert Park
- Alice Community Garden Working Bees 1st and 3rd Sunday

## May 2013

- Alice Springs Community Garden Camel Burger Fundraising Stall – Wide Open Spaces Festival
- An Invitation To Explore Earth Laws – Free Community Workshop, Arid Lands Environment Centre

- Music and March for Muckaty, Tennant Creek
- Biodiversity Matters: Acacia peuce Monitoring Field Trip, Andado Station
- Alice Community Garden Working Bees 1st and 3rd Sunday

## June 2013

- Community Consultation Forum - Roadmap to a desertSMART Town (2013-18), Andy McNeil Room Alice Springs Town Council
- Local Business Consultation Forum – Roadmap to a desertSMART Town (2013-18), Desert Knowledge Australia
- The Andy McNeil Room, Alice Springs Town Council Chambers
- This Desert Life – World Environment Day Exhibition, Olive Pink Botanic Gardens
- Community and Climate Change Public Meeting, Andy McNeil Room Alice Springs Town Council
- 'Gasland' Film Screening, Andy McNeil Room Alice Springs Town Council
- Biodiversity Matters: Landscape Conservation on Private Land, Conlans Lagoon
- Food For Alice Produce Stall, Todd Mall Markets
- Alice Community Garden Working Bees 1st and 3rd Sunday



ALEC Stall at Alice Springs Show, July 2012

# ALEC Highlights

## Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses

The Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses project was the largest project undertaken by ALEC. Despite challenges, ALEC achieved its target of 1041 households and 50 businesses audited for water efficiency and identified more than 900ML of water savings. A concerted community engagement campaign consistently had water in the headlines and created widespread local discussions about the value of water and the concept of community water saving rules. Lessons have been learned, new skills and knowledge gained and water saving resources created. It is hoped that opportunities to build on the momentum of Alice Water Smart will be available in 2013-14.

## desertSMART EcoFair in National Science Week

ALEC was successful at attracting a National Science Week grant through Inspiring Australia which enabled guest speakers, Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki, Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis, Dr Mark Stafford-Smith and others to participate, learn and create



Planning for our Future Panelists at desertSMART EcoFair 2013

a sustainable and scientifically-engaged community. The five-day program of events included EcoScience Schools Day, an ABC783 Outdoor broadcast, an art and choral exhibition, EcoMarkets and Sustainable Food Summit, TEDx Alice Springs and a community garden pizza night. The NT Environment grant enabled ALEC to produce the event. It is hoped that the EcoFair and National Science Week can continue in the future.

## Feasibility study of Community Solar Power in Alice Springs

Funded through the NT Community Climate Change grants program, ALEC partnered with CAT Projects to research and produce a Detailed Feasibility Study of Community Solar Power in Alice Springs. Different models of solar generation and financing mechanisms were explored with a combination of approaches proving most feasible. The next steps are for ALEC to conduct market research and develop a business case for community solar in Alice Springs and Central Australia.

## Boomerang Alliance

In January 2013, Coca Cola Amatil took the NT Government to court over its Container Deposit Scheme. ALEC lobbied hard in support of the NT Government continuing the scheme and participated as part of the Boomerang Alliance and Clean Up Australia in calling for national support for container deposits and the 'Out of Order' campaign that followed. The NT Government exemption to the Mutual Recognition Act was supported by all state and territory governments and the Federal Government. Despite this, depots are struggling to thrive in Central Australia.



## Biodiversity Matters

Biodiversity Matters was developed in 2011 through support from the Territory EcoLink. The programs focus is to involve interested members of the public and partner organisations to participate in biodiversity monitoring and land management activities. After 2 years of programmed activities and more than 100 participants, Biodiversity Matters has become a true collaboration through developing a great diversity of partnerships based over a wide geographical area, has created a win-win-win situation for the volunteers, organisations involved and hopefully the local flora and fauna.

### Alice Springs Community Garden

The Alice Springs Community Garden continued to expand this year with the erection of a shed, courtesy of local Rotary branches and dedicated garden volunteers. Paid positions finished in 2012-13 which forced the Community Garden Management Committee to step up as the first round of 18 plots were taken up by keen gardeners. ALEC continues to build on this valuable community asset. Improving governance and management processes has been a focus with the development of fortnightly working bees. 2013-14 will see another stage develop and more food and knowledge produced locally.

### Australian Youth Climate Coalition – Alice Springs

The NT Community Climate Change grants program funded the establishment of an Australian Youth Climate Coalition branch in Alice Springs. The key proponent, fourteen year-old Jeremy Gillen and his friends organised a solar-powered concert. The issue was that the concert was held on December 1, the last time the Todd River flowed to date. Despite low attendance, Jeremy Gillen was nominated for Young Achiever of the Year Award – Environment section and won. ALEC continues to support him and the group as they plan and deliver community workshops in 2013-14.



Participants doing surveys at Fenn Gapp Field Trip with Land for Wildlife, Biodiversity Matters 2012



Planting at Locals From the Bush, September 2012



Alice Springs representative, Jeremy Gillen at the

## 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 a more cohesive and environmentally aware community'**

### desertSMART COOLmob



#### desertSMART COOLmob Core Funding

2012/13 has been a very productive year for desertSMART COOLmob, with the programme taking on a large number of projects, expanding its staff numbers and significantly raising its profile as a result. However membership numbers have gradually decreased, and the engagement of members in COOLmob activities has not necessarily strengthened. This will need to be improved in the future to ensure COOLmob is nurturing its core value proposition to donors and partners.



Program Manager,  
Alex McClean

#### Core Funded Activities

2012/13 was the third and final year of COOLmob's 3 year core funding agreement with the NT Government through NRETAS. At the time of writing a further year's funding has been secured with NTEPA, but beyond June 2014, no core funding has yet been secured – a key risk for the programme.

The funding available in 2012/13 has been used very productively, with COOLmob running the following events and workshops:

- EcoScience Schools Day workshop on Food Miles (Aug 2012). Successfully repeated at Tennant Creek High School (Mar 2013).
- The 2012 desertSMART Food Summit (Aug 2012) was a major success,

attended by over 50 people, with media coverage and high quality video of the whole conference produced. This directly led to the establishment of 6 working groups under the banner of Central Australian Sustainable Food Network (CASFN) and COOLmob leading a submission to the National Food Plan green paper process.

- Introduction to Permaculture workshop (Sep 2012) – 9 participants
- Permaculture Design Course (Oct 2012) – 8 participants
- COOLmob members photo competition 2012 (Dec 2012) – 6 entrants
- DIY Solar Air Heater making workshop (Aug 2012) – 9 participants

Furthermore, COOLmob has worked hard to secure further funding for the program submitting proposals for core and project funding to: NTEPA, DLPE, PWC and the Ian Potter Foundation.



## Grant Funded Projects & Contracts

Through NTG small grants in 2012/13, COOLmob; undertook an evaluation of the 2005 Roadmap to a desertSMART Town; was funded to follow this with the development of a new Roadmap for 2013-18 (still in process); has begun the development of an Alice Springs Food Map; put on community films screenings (in Alice, Tennant Creek and Darwin – with ECNT); developed a facilitator's guide, specifically for Alice Springs for the popular Living Smart course; and has auspiced the development of the Food for Alice group into a regular local producers stall at the Todd Mall markets.

In 2012/13, COOLmob also completed a 2 year PWC funded project working with low income households on energy and water efficiency. 20 Anglicare households were audited, efficiencies identified and resources developed, ready for further rollout, pending funding availability.

In addition, COOLmob has also engaged in some contract work, including designing and installing a new irrigation system for the Santa Teresa Orchard (contracted by Jesuit Social Services) and a pro bono contract reviewing the Alice Springs Community Garden site plan (both still in process as of June 30).



*Participants of the Permaculture Design Course, September 2012*

## Alice Springs Community Garden



In 2012-13 a volunteer Alice Springs Community Garden (ASCG) Management Committee took over the Garden's on-site and operational management from previously ALEC-employed staff. This had its challenges but also its rewards.

In December 2012, project funding that enabled ALEC to employ Project Officers Kim Hopper and Eleven Greenstones ended. The advantage of having paid staff was that there were direct lines of accountability. People were paid to organise workshops, develop infrastructure projects, build support networks and generate community support.

Without paid staff, it became up to volunteers who were not paid, rather they were driven purely by passion for gardening, community connectedness and a commitment to a



*Alice Springs Community Garden Committee, 2012*

healthy future for the town.

During the year 19 private plots were assigned and another 16 plots are planned for release in August. Individual plot holders were

assisted to develop quality soils and healthy gardens through the importation of truck loads of cow manure and other organic materials, including buffel grass, which were successfully composted down.

The focus for the Management Committee, led by Convener Bruce Simmons has been to strengthen the internal processes for membership, plot holder agreements, regular working bees and monthly Committee meetings. There has also been significant work with the ALEC Business and Operations Manager to clarify the financial position of the Garden and establish systems for reimbursement, fundraising and bill paying.

The ASCG Management Committee has addressed the growth of the Garden's infrastructure with grant applications to the Alice Springs Town Council Community Development Fund for the construction of a wheelchair access path and to the NT Environmental Protection Authority for a 'solar pergola' which will see power connected and solar panels installed along the walkway. The successful applications will see planning and construction occurring in late 2013 - early 2014.

The ASCG has become a venue for education with regular visits from Life Without Barriers clients and Acacia Hill School students, while also providing the perfect venue for various gardening workshops including Permaculture Design, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden demonstrations, arid composting, irrigation design and installation, no-dig gardens and fruit tree care and maintenance.

The big-ticket items this year included:

- Construction of the toolshed - courtesy of Rotary Alice Springs and Rotary Stuart, Stratco and Allan O'Keefe.
- Shelter for sign and prospective irrigation equipment and informational display courtesy of Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses.
- Development of personal plots and inspired group of gardeners.
- Regular barbecues organised by Britt

Puschak, and the Management Committee fundraising team raised over \$6000 in 2012-13.

- New website live [www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au](http://www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au)

There are many opportunities and challenges ahead for the Garden, its Management Committee and ALEC. Continuing overheads, including substantial water bills, developing and maintaining the site consistent with the Master Plan and refining the Garden website and other communication tools will all require considerable attention.

Furthermore, increased interest in the garden is anticipated as we develop the solar pergola, walkway, a school excursion guide for the Gardens and the development of public toilets by the Council in Frances Smith Memorial Park.

Garden development may be slower and more tenuous when governed by committee, but it can lead to a deeper and more thoughtful community engagement as a bigger group of people take on greater responsibility for action.



*Community Garden Planting, September 2012*

**By Jimmy Cocking,  
ASCG Committee Member**



## desertSMART EcoFair



desertSMART EcoFair 2012 was a great success. More than 2200 visits were made over the weekend and more than 1000 people attended the Sunday EcoFair markets.

On Friday 10th August, 180 students from 7 different schools participated in EcoScience Schools Day - a series of workshops organised by EFSCAN and facilitated by local organisations and Centralian Senior College students. The students particularly enjoyed the presence of Costa Georgiadis from Gardening Australia. In the afternoon the 783 ABC Outdoor Broadcast hosted by Rohan Barwick was well attended and featured special guests Costa, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Dr Mark Stafford Smith and Jeff Lang. In the evening the exhibition opening Look up, look down by Barbara Stuart saw more than 150 people attend and be entertained by the amazing Asante Sana choir.

On Saturday, Dr. Karl's Feature Presentation 'Global Warming' was attended by 300 people and was a highlight for EcoFair. The Changing Climate panel and Green Drinks in the Garden followed featuring local comedians Eshua Bolton and Leon Tripp. The Alice Springs Bicycle Film Festival saw 300 people attend on Saturday evening, with the locally made short films being a highlight.



Costa Georgiadis inspires students at EcoScience Schools Day, August 2012

Sunday saw the Ecomarkets with 1000 people attending, and featured local sustainability and community stalls, panels, workshops, competitions, food and music. Highlights included Costa's planting workshop with more than 60 new native plants being added to the Botanic Gardens Collection; Peter Latz's Biodiversity Matters launch walk and talk; and the Bushfoods Competition was a hit.

desertSMART EcoFair 2012 concluded with a Regional Food Summit, and a Ted X presentation at Centralian Senior College.

### Feedback from the community:

*"This year felt like a better showcase of what Alice has to offer in respect to sustainability and environmental-based activities and programs."*

*"It was great seeing the focus on sustainable local solutions to arid zone problems, and groups tackling hot political issues, getting important debates out there in the community"*

*"Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our students at the recent Eco Fair. The activities were very much enjoyed by the group, and they have indeed extended their knowledge of the local environment."*



Dr Karl's 'Global Warming' Presentation was a desertSMART EcoFair highlight, August 2012

## EFSCAN



The 2012/13 financial year has seen a consolidation of the activities that the Education for Sustainability – Central Australian Network (EFSCAN) has been involved in. For capacity reasons it was decided by the reference group that EFSCAN would focus on three main objectives:

1. Development and distribution of the first EFSCAN local excursion guide.
2. Coordinating the EcoScience Schools Day of the desertSMART EcoFair.
3. Providing professional development opportunities for local educators.

There are some great local spaces in Alice Springs that can really enhance learning in curriculum areas. This year EFSCAN was really happy to finally present the first local excursion guide which focused on Solar Power in Alice Springs. EFSCAN felt that with the likely hood of Alice Solar Cities closing their doors, and knowing how many classes and schools contact Alice Solar Cities for information on Solar this would be a great resource for teachers to enable teachers to still have some support in this area. The Guide focuses on two main solar locations and has ready to use activities that are linked to the national Curriculum areas of Science, Geography and Mathematics. A big thanks goes to Alice Solar City staff who helped produce this guide. EFSCAN's next excursion guide will focus on the Alice Springs Community Garden and we hope to have this completed by the start of 2014.

The 2012 EcoScience Schools Day of the desertSMART EcoFair was a great success with over 120 students participating in a number of different workshops based around science and sustainability. This event is becoming a great addition to the local events that schools can tap into to broaden their student's exposure to both local and interstate industries and experts in the fields of science and sustainability. Students enjoyed a fun

packed day learning about the biodiversity of Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, how to run and manage your own wild-life park, the reasons behind the number of Bilbys compared to the number of Rabbits, the art of recycling and why our water is such an important resource here in Alice Springs. All activities were accompanied with resources that supported continual learning in these areas.

Finally EFSCAN is committed to providing as much professional development for local educators as possible. This is one area that is getting more and more difficult to accomplish as the number of organisations available to support educators decreases. However this year we were able to give support and information on the Alice Springs Desert Park, the local uranium education resource and give local educators access to the large volume of resources available from Live and Learn.

EFSCAN will continue to strive to support local education in the areas of sustainability and science in any way it can with its limited resources.



Professional development course at Alice Springs Desert Park, March 2013

**By Carmel Vandermolen**  
**EFSCAN Coordinator**



## 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, community breakfasts, 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 activities.

Highlights from 2012-2013 include desertSMART EcoFair, which saw over 2000 people engage in science and sustainability activities in August 2012, the Alice Water Smart World Water Day Community Breakfast which saw hundreds gather on the Alice Springs Town Council Lawns for the Alice Water Smart Guide Launch, and the Music and March for Muckaty in the regional centre of Tennant Creek.

The Alice Springs Community garden continued to be a hub for community events, including workshops, skill-shares, pizza nights as well as 'Locals from the Bush – Planting, Yarning, Feasting' which was a partnered event with the Alice Desert Festival in September 2012.

'This Desert Life' art exhibition for World Environment Day was another event highlight in June 2013, which saw more than 30 artists contribute to a community exhibition which reflected the themes of living in Arid Australia. Hundreds of people viewed the exhibition over the days it was open, and money raised from the sales of the art supported both the artists and ALEC.

The Community and Climate Change Public Meeting in the Andy McNeil at Room Alice Springs Town Council saw more than 50 people gather to hear some latest information on climate science and potential impacts for the arid zone in Central Australia.



March for Muckaty, Tennant Creek May 2013  
Image: Tennant and District Times



Art in the This Desert Life Art Exhibition, June 2013



Community and Climate Change Public Meeting, June 2013

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

## Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses

The two year Alice Water Smart Plan has helped to identify over 1600 million litres of water savings for Alice Springs, yet there is more to be done says the project's manager Les Seddon.

"This is only just the beginning for the people of Alice to continue their good work", added Les.

"There is more to be done and more opportunities to help realise further water savings, which is why we will extend some Alice Water Smart initiatives until December 2013."

"The project has also set up some long term legacies for water use in Alice Springs, including the creation of the Alice Water Smart Guide which was developed by the community to help residents and businesses in the future to stay water smart."

Alice Water Smart helped identify opportunities to save water in homes, businesses, parks, ovals and tourist accommodation, as well as reducing losses from the water supply system and substituting precious drinking water with recycled water for commercial irrigation purposes.

"What has been achieved to date is fantastic with over 500 million litres of water savings identified in Alice Springs homes alone."

"This is equivalent to the water in 200 Alice Springs Aquatic Centre pools or an amount that would require 4,500 three-carriage road trains to carry. These road trains would stretch for 236 kilometers - that's the potential water

savings from just 1000 homes who had a Water Efficiency Consultation!"



"About 10% of all Alice Springs households participated in Alice Water Smart and with the great water savings they achieved we believe there is a huge amount of water saving opportunities for the rest of the community."

"More than 80% of all water savings identified in homes was from leaks, inefficient irrigation design and irrigation controllers that were set inappropriately. These presented the greatest water saving opportunities."

"In fact, one in three homes had a water leak, which was wasting over 250 kilolitres on average per home. This is more than the average Australian household uses."

"Households were already being water smart in some areas with over 50% of pool owners having a pool cover and most people having a water smart showerhead."

Businesses that took part in the program also made substantial water savings, with 400 million litres identified.

"We audited 50 businesses and found all of them had water leaks. The use of smart meters and specialised leak detection equipment helped identify thousands of dollars of savings for these businesses, including one business that fixed a leak that was wasting \$13,700 worth of water (7.9 million litres)."

Alice Water Smart will continue several key projects until December 2013 to further help



the community save water:

#### Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses:

- Promote and broaden the content in the Alice Water Smart Guide to assist the community to continue to change their water use habits.
- Provide follow up with homes and businesses to help them implement actions in the Alice Water Smart Guide.

#### Alice Water Smart Reuse

- Deliver recycled water to businesses and organisations south of Heavitree Gap for irrigation use

#### Alice Water Smart Reticulation

- Install flow, pressure and leak monitoring equipment to better manage water losses from the water supply system

#### Alice Water Smart - Smart Metering

- Provide 100 businesses and organisations and 200 households with data loggers and online access to real time water use for easy identification of leaks and to better monitor and manage their water use

“The legacy of Alice Water Smart will continue into the long term and this is the result of everyone playing their part to make Alice water smart”, says Les Seddon.

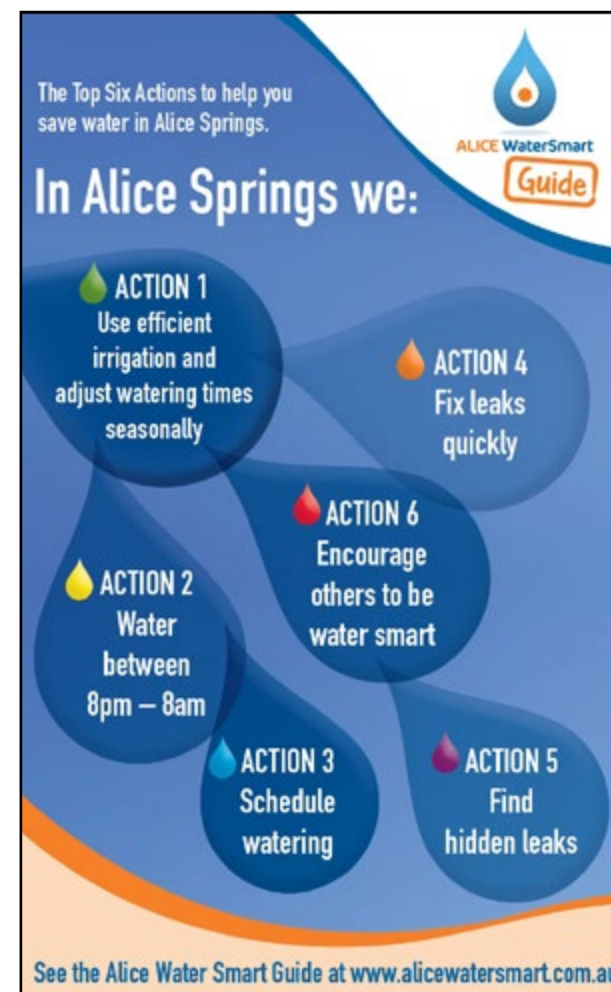
Alice Water Smart is supported by the Australian Government’s Water for the Future initiative and the Alice Water Smart consortium.

The Alice Water Smart consortium, led by Power and Water Corporation, comprises The Department of Land and Resource Management, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Alice Springs Town Council and Tourism NT.

#### Key achievements from the last two years of Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses include:

- \$900,000 was identified as potential savings on household water bills (an

- average of \$840 per home, per year)
- Of the residential customers who had a Water Efficiency Consultation and received water saving recommendations, 90% had fixed their leaks, 80% had made changes to their irrigation and 65% said they were taking shorter showers.
- Over 500 professional garden audits were completed
- 50 businesses and organisations received a Water Efficiency Consultation.
- More than 25 local suppliers, tradespeople, and real estate agents have been involved in supporting the Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses initiatives.



## desertSMART Roadmap



With the support for the NT Government’s Environment grants scheme, desertSMART COOLmob has sought in 2012/13 to take forward the highly successful 2005 Roadmap to a desertSMART Town initiative, both by undertaking an evaluation of the original Roadmap and by developing a new Roadmap for 2013-18.

### Evaluation

The Evaluation of the 2005 Roadmap, completed between January and March 2013, consulted with more than 28 people and stakeholders involved in the original Roadmap project and showed that some 30 of the original 70 Actions to Make Alice Springs a desertSMART Town had been at least partly completed. The likelihood of CO2 emissions and water savings were high, although difficult to quantify, given the small amount of funding available for this evaluation.

A partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Futures was explored for this project, but not possible given limited timelines and budgets. The Evaluation was successfully launched on 12 March 2013, attended by over 30 people.

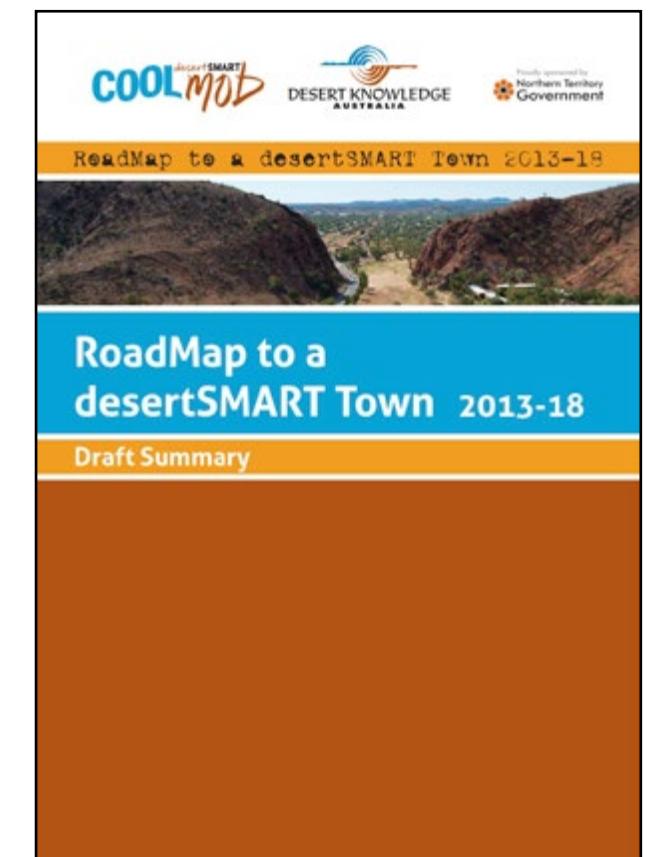
### Roadmap 2013-18

Following the evaluation of the 2005 Roadmap, COOLmob in partnership with Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) has begun the development of a new Roadmap to a desertSMART Town for 2013-18. This seeks to lay out an updated vision for a more sustainable Alice Springs over the next 5 years with key aspirational targets being laid out for a 20 year horizon (up to 2033).

This new Roadmap builds on the 4 thematic areas of the original 2005 Roadmap – that is energy, water, waste and the built environment – by adding 2 new areas, food and transport. Almost 100 people have been consulted

as of June 30, with interviews of experts and key stakeholders being undertaken by COOLmob, and community & business forums undertaken jointly by COOLmob and DKA. An advisory group has been set up to guide the development of the Roadmap, with representatives from ASTC, PWC, DLPE, DKA, local business and the community sector participating.

A draft summary for public consultation is currently available online on the COOLmob website, with a final version expected to be launched late in 2013, following final public consultations at the desertSMART Ecofair in August. This project has been a major undertaking for both COOLmob and ALEC on 2012/13, and will hopefully become a long term platform for more focussed advocacy around a more sustainable Alice Springs into the future.





## 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 one summer. That project ended on June 30, 2013. In order to continue the project and to evaluate the performance of the white roof for the winter months, additional funding was obtained through NT EPA-Individual Project Grants.

At the end of the first phase it can be concluded that there was a dramatic decrease in temperatures of the roof surface, attic air and ceiling after the roof was painted white. But it was not so direct on the internal room temperatures and further detailed studies are required to ascertain the variables that impact the internal temperatures. Since there are several factors that would influence the interior temperatures such as the orientation of the house, amount of glazing, external shading by trees or occupant behavior, it is difficult to ascertain how much difference the painting is causing at the

moment. Therefore this phase will conduct more detailed studies into the other variables that might impact the internal temperatures along with the painting of roof.

Several studies examining the impact of white roof have been carried out in experimental structures. However this research is critical since it evaluates the actual impact of painting the roof white in a lived in house and shows results that reflect real life conditions.



ALEC PRW Researcher Deepika Mathur with a PRW client.

## ALEC Workshop Highlights

ALEC has continued to be a hub for education around activities designed to help reduce the ecological footprint of Central Australian communities.

Throughout the year ALEC has provided workshops, skill-shares and field trips around a number of sustainability issues including permaculture and gardening, water and energy use reduction, and sustainable living.

Highlights have included the Alice Water Smart Homes and Business Community Water Rules Workshops, which resulted in the formation of the Alice Water Smart Guide.

The 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 been a site of learning with a number of workshops and skill-shares including Arid Zone Adaptation Techniques and Soil Improvement Workshops focusing on compost and vermiculture, bringing skills and understanding to local arid zone gardeners.

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

## Low Income Households Energy and Water Efficiency Project



From mid 2012 – 2013, desertSMART COOLmob worked with Anglicare NT to develop a methodology for assisting low-income households to reduce their power and water usage. The project was funded between 2011-13 by Power and Water Corporation with the goal of improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change, which is likely to result in an increased periods of extreme heat in Alice Springs.

By equipping households with strategies to live comfortably through very hot summers and very cold winters without using an excessive amount of energy or water, the project has worked to ensure low-income households are less vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate and the rising costs of utilities (particularly energy).

Low-income households typically spend a larger percentage of their income on utilities than other Australian households. These

households also often live in rental accommodation or public housing which makes implementing energy and water efficiency retrofits challenging. Further, low-income households are often unable to purchase high efficiency appliances as they may be more expensive.

COOLmob used a variety of strategies to assist the residents of 20 Anglicare Transitional Housing units to reduce their energy and water use focusing on providing better information/ encouraging behavior change and making small improvements to hardware in dwellings. Furthermore, through this project, COOLmob has been able to develop tools and resources that can be used for rollout with other Anglicare clients, or the clients of other accommodation providers around town, on either a grant funded or fee for service basis.

## Food For Alice

Food for Alice is a grass roots, local food initiative started by Cassandra Douglas-Hill in 2011, which approached COOLmob for support in accessing NT Government grants in early 2012. COOLmob agreed to auspice Food for Alice, which has now established a regular presence at the Todd Mall markets as a local produce. Although still tiny, the project is growing in strength, and 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.



Food for Alice Produce Stall at Todd Mall Markets, June 2013



## 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**

ALEC plays an active role in contributing to ecologically sustainable Natural Resource Management in Central Australia. ALEC achieves this objective through policy advocacy, representation on various local, regional, territory and national committees, community education and brokering and strengthening partnerships in biodiversity conservation and land management.

### In 2012-13, ALEC:

- Made a submission to the review of the Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan
- Made a submission to the review of the Great Artesian Water Allocation Plan
- Appeared via telephone on a Senate

- Inquiry into Container Deposit Schemes
- Contributed to the development of the Alice Springs regional weeds plan
- Successfully lobbied for the creation of an Alice Springs Town Council Environment Officer position
- Organised numerous workshops and community education events
- Increased the scope and scale of the Biodiversity Matters program
- Initiated a community education campaign on Unconventional Gas in the NT, in conjunction with Frack Free NT, Lock the Gate and Conservation Council WA - Clean Water Clean Country Campaign.

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

In 2012-2013 ALEC has been a signatory to the Places You Love Campaign, a national environmental alliance formed in response to the prospect of having national environmental laws handed back to state control.

History has shown that state governments do not assess development proposals with the national interest in mind, and the Places You Love Campaign has been lobbying to ensure areas of national interest remain under Federal

control.

The Places You Love Campaign has also been lobbying against threats to Australian national parks including logging, grazing and other destructive practices.

ALEC has been an active supporter of the campaign, and has been participating in online campaigning and promotion of the campaign through social media, and email networks.



## Biodiversity Matters



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

A number of field trips were held in 2012-2013 in partnership with Land For Wildlife, NT Parks and Wildlife, Department of Land Resource Management and the Alice Springs Desert Park.

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.

### In 2012 field trips included:

- Urban Connectivity and Biodiversity Conservation at the Alice Springs Desert Park
- Monitoring Biodiversity in the Arid Lands (Pt 1) at Simpsons Gap National Park
- Monitoring biodiversity in the Arid Lands (Pt 2) at Finke Gorge National Park
- Landscape conservation on Private Land at Conlan's Lagoon

Approximately 40 people participated in the 2014 program, and learnt about landscaping gardens for wildlife, biodiversity conservation monitoring, how to set fauna survey traps and engaged in palm and rock wallaby research.

At the end of June 2013, half of the 2013 Biodiversity Matters program had been completed with approximately 50 community members participating in activities and field trips. These included:

- Biodiversity Matters Launch and guided tour of the Alice Springs Desert Park
- Acacia peuce Monitoring Field Trip at Andado Station With Department of Land Resource Management

- Landscape Conservation on Private Land' at Conlans' Lagoon with Land for Wildlife

Participants learnt about the ongoing biodiversity management of the Alice Springs Desert Park, participated in measurement and monitoring of the Northern Territory's rarest tree, the Acacia peuce, and set fauna traps and participated in vegetation surveys at Conlans' Lagoon.

In 2014 and beyond, Biodiversity Matters will build on the established program with returning trips to collect data and continue land management works. It is hoped that the model of Biodiversity Matters can be replicated in other regions of the NT and across Australia, providing a wider collaboration with community members, community groups, environmental agencies and government departments.

With this model land managers get work done, scientists get data collected and volunteers have a deeply rewarding experience.



*Biodiversity Matters participants measure the rare acacia peuce at Andado Station, May 2013*



The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 6: Work towards a Nuclear Free NT**

## Beyond Nuclear Initiative (BNI)



Beyond Nuclear Initiative is a joint project of the Australian Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Earth Australia. The Arid Lands Environment Centre has hosted BNI since 2006, when plans for a national radioactive waste dump in the Northern Territory were announced. In the 2012 - 2013 financial year, BNI had project workers based in both Alice Springs and Sydney.

BNI aims to highlight the adverse impact of the uranium and wider nuclear industry in Australia and to promote a nuclear free future. BNI tracks the status of the nuclear industry in the Northern Territory and across the country, releasing media statements and organising community events to build networks and respond to significant developments.

### MUCKATY NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP

Attempts to progress a national radioactive waste facility at Muckaty have been significantly delayed because of opposition from Traditional Owners. BNI is a conduit to developing and maintaining support from peak national organisations including trade unions, public health and environment groups.

May 25, 2013 marked six years since the Northern Land Council nominated Muckaty to host a national radioactive waste facility. BNI helped organise a community rally and concert in Tennant Creek, attended by musicians and supporters from across the Territory and country. Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning Research Unit (University of Technology Sydney) documented the event and a short film *Protecting Manuwangku* has been produced.

BNI has supported Traditional Owners to produce songs, films and poems to accompany lobbying, public outreach and

media statements. BNI is a key partner in the 'Manuwangku, Under the Nuclear Cloud' photographic exhibition by Jagath Dheeraseskara, which has toured the country, including opening the prestigious 'Head-On' photo festival in Sydney. <http://jd.photoshelter.com/gallery>.

Because community opposition has stymied plans for an NT dump, spent fuel rods returning from reprocessing overseas will be stored in the interim at the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor complex near Sydney. BNI has arranged meetings between Muckaty representatives and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council which covers the region.

In 2012-13 BNI convened regular meetings with Traditional Owners and campaign stakeholders in Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Darwin to discuss and plan the next stages of the campaign.

A federal court challenge to the Muckaty site nomination is ongoing, with a trial set for June 2104. BNI assists the legal team by communicating developments to the



*Community rally against the Muckaty nuclear waste dump, May 25, 2013. Image from Tennant and District Times*

applicants and witnesses and obtaining statements and information to assist the case. The transport of radioactive materials on NT road and rail networks continues to pose a major 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 councils, Aboriginal land councils, and groups with interests in land and water management on the risks posed by the transport radioactive materials.

The return of the federal Coalition government will bring many challenges for the Muckaty community and campaign. BNI will continue to play a key role raising national awareness, building support for the Traditional Owners and advocating for waste management options beyond a single remote dump to be considered.

### AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR FREE ALLIANCE

The 2012 Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA) meeting was again hosted in Alice Springs with important logistical support from BNI and ALEC. BNI holds a Committee position and is actively involved in the administration, fundraising and convening of ANFA events.

### NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATION

BNI coordinates key national initiatives for the nuclear free movement, including hosting monthly phone link ups and organising a national nuclear free strategy meeting at the start of each year. BNI plays an active role in the Uranium Free NSW collective and convenes regular roundtables for organisations that have signed the NSW Uranium Free Charter.

<http://uraniumfreensw.org.au/charter/>

### URANIUM EDUCATION RESOURCE KIT

Launched in March 2012, the resource package is available in Arrernte and English and has been distributed to Aboriginal community representatives, health and environment organisations and schools. It is available to view online at <http://www.italklibrary.com/italk/environment/> or in hard

copy at the ALEC office. Centralian Middle School in Alice Springs ran a pilot program for year 7 and 8 students in the SOSE and Science curriculum from June to November (2012). There are proposals to translate the resource into Kriol, Warlpiri and Warumungu subject to funding.

### FUNDING

The BNI project has operated for 8 years through the generous support of the Poola Foundation (Tom Kantor Fund) and other philanthropic donations. Funding from these sources will not continue beyond 2013 due to organisational restructuring. The BNI steering committee is working to secure a new funding source that will allow the project to continue.

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



*Image from 'Manuwangku, Under the Nuclear Cloud' exhibition by Jagath Dheeraseskara*



**BNI Campaigners**  
**Natalie Wasley & Lauren Mellor**



## Strategic Aim 3: Strengthen ALEC as an organisation

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

In 2012-13, ALEC contracted Matrix On Board to conduct a Financial Systems Assessment on ALEC. ALEC was found to be in reasonable to good financial health, dependent on the outcomes of AWSHB finalisation. 52 recommendations were made, most of which are being addressed in early 2013-14 through developing stronger financial policies and procedures and undertaking an entrepreneurial approach to fee-for-service projects.

ALEC donations for the year increased by 19% to \$24 216. This is due largely to the Beyond Nuclear Initiative 'No Dump at Muckaty' campaign (47%) with the regular Desert Defenders contributing 17% (\$4105). ALEC needs to increase the proportion of its income through boosting the regular giving program and investing more in building the ALEC Gift Fund in 2013-14.

Fundraising income decreased by 35% to \$14 461 and fundraising cost ratio increased to 0.54 from 0.34 in 2012. This is a concern. ALEC staff resources were focused on the delivery of the Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses project through 2012-13 and was prioritised over fundraising activities. An increased focus on diversifying fundraising opportunities and decreasing fundraising costs will be undertaken in 2013-14.

ALEC has posted its lowest surplus in 3 years. There are two reasons for this:

- consolidation of liabilities from previous financial years
- lack of clarity around the finalisation of AWSHB.

ALEC continued to receive operational funding from both NT Government (\$70K) and

Australian Government (\$30K). It is unclear as to whether this level of funding will be available in future.

ALEC's grant funded projects accounted for just over \$204 000 of government grant income received spread over 14 projects. This is an increase on previous years due to the increased grant writing activity of ALEC, desertSMART COOLmob and the Community Garden. From experience in 2012-13, it would be better for ALEC to focus on less projects of larger scale. Spreading staff time and wages across a number of projects is not necessarily the best approach.

ALEC is currently developing an intrapreneurship within the organisation. This is allowing Alex McClean to operate as a consultant to cover his wage and on-costs. A capability statement has been produced and he is currently pursuing opportunities including the planning and installation of irrigation at the Santa Teresa orchard. Other opportunities that ALEC is pursuing include the establishment of a community solar project in Alice Springs and testing the Food For Alice project which is a local producer network and market stall.

The financial future of ALEC will depend on a healthy mix of social enterprise, regular giving, large one-off donations, increasing the fundraising ratios and landing competitively funded project grants. The current management team is working towards increasing income from each of these and developing innovative partnerships to reduce program costs and increase environmental benefit.

The following ALEC programs and activities contribute towards fulfilling **Objective 8: Improve reach and influence of ALEC's vision**

## Communications and Campaigns Report

ALEC communications to members and the general public have strengthened in the last financial year as the Communications and Campaigns Officer role has developed within the organisation.

Community events have been a large part of ALEC communications engagement, and are a primary method of engaging the wider community in ALEC activities and programs. With 51 events and workshops in the last financial year (on average one a week), the Communications and Campaigns Officer position has taken a leading role in event organisation, management and promotion.

Today social media and online communications are becoming increasingly important as people leave behind traditional methods of accessing news and information, and ALEC has acknowledged this by investing in social media, radio and video production training with staff to aid in the media production that is integral to sharing information in 2013.

To aid in media production ALEC has also invested in new media equipment to enable staff to document activities and produce media competently, and a number of short films have been made to promote ALEC activities.

Besides regular social media engagement and updating of ALEC websites, ALEC has continued fortnightly email newsletter updates to members and supporters, as well as the quarterly production of the hard-copy Devils' Advocate Newsletter which is used as promotional tool at all ALEC events, informational stalls and distributed throughout local community venues.



**Communications and Campaigns Officer, Nicole Pietsch**

In the last financial year another investment in ALEC's communications was a professionally printed annual report, which has been an invaluable tool to promote the organisation and enable people to have an understanding of the activities and programs of ALEC. Member numbers have remained static, which is an achievement considering many membership-based organisations are struggling to maintain members in the current political and cultural climate. A membership campaign is being developed to launch in early 2014.

There has also been a notable increase in volunteer activity in the last year with the Alice Springs Community Garden and desertSMART EcoFair providing focal points for engagement. ALEC is facing an increase in requests for volunteer opportunities, and has hosted a number of university student internships.

In 2013-2014 ALEC plans to revise its' strategic plan and communications strategy post Alice Water Smart Homes and Business and Alice Solar City to reflect the evolving priorities of the organisation.



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

## Business and Operations Manager Report

It has been a very busy year at ALEC for the 2012/13 financial year, and while we have continually been putting on some amazing events and running some amazing programs there has also been a lot going on behind the scenes too. We had a number of goals that we set out to do this year and looking back it is good to see how well we have done.

One of the most important aspects was to bring our Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) up to the level required by the new national legislation, and with the help of an OHS inspector and Eagle Training ALEC is now much more prepared for any emergency as well as much more proactive in supporting our staff and volunteers to be safe in the workspace. While OHS always requires continual maintenance and improvements we have come a long way in 12 months.

We are also getting closer to the level of improvement we both needed and wanted in the overall governance of ALEC. We now recognise the ALEC Board members as a true functioning Board and not just a Management Committee and are a long way towards having a clear and measurable strategic management plan. This has included stream lining the links between our different events and projects and how they relate to the success of ALEC to re-evaluation our employment conditions and how they relate to and function within the Fair Work Act.

Continual updating, implementing and evaluating ALEC's policies and procedures is an ongoing goal with the aim of having a policies and procedures manual that supports all of ALEC from employees and volunteers to the project and event outcomes that we aim to achieve. The last thing we want or need is



**Business Operations Manager,  
Carmel Vandermolen**

a policy and procedures manual that sits on the shelf collecting dust, but one that is vibrant and support the organisation moving forward within the ever-changing environment that we work in.

Lastly one of our major achievements has been an overhaul of our financial management system which included getting a Financial System Assessment to help us work out how to make sure we are getting the best out of ALECs financial management system. From this a number of procedures have been implemented to enable both ALEC management and the Board get more useful information from our financial systems to enable better decision making in the future.

All in all it has been a busy year, and I am sure that 2013/14 financial year will be no different as we continue to make ALEC the best environmental organisation that it can be.

## Treasurers Report

This is my third and last year as Treasurer of ALEC. As usual, there has been plenty to do!

Once again Basso Newman audited the financial statements. Before I discuss the current financial position and financial performance I bring your attention to the following notes.

### **Note 6 Unexpended grants.**

ALEC had not fully expended all grants at 30th June 2013 and funds totalling \$180,827 were carried over. ALEC did not fully expend grants in previous years either, and were able to spend the remainder of the grant funds in the following financial year. I am not aware of ALEC ever having to return unspent grant monies at financial year end and I expect the unspent grant funds at 30th June 2013 will be spent in the financial year ended 30th June 2014. Note, this year's financial statements report a grant unpaid of \$105,000 but this is the PWC contract.

### **Note 7 Contingent liability**

A contingent liability has been provided for potential payments to Power Water Corporation. Recently it has been determined that \$105,000 that was invoiced to PWC prior to 30th June 2013, is to be repaid. This has been reflected in the financial statements. However, there may be other, as yet undetermined amounts that are also required to be returned to PWC. If further amounts are required to be returned, it would reduce the surplus and accumulated funds and you should be aware of this when reading the following sections.

### **Current financial position**

ALEC is currently in a healthy financial position.

The Balance Sheet reports that at 30 June 2013:

- Total members funds increased by over



**ALEC Treasurer,  
Mark Keyworth**

\$120,000 during the year to be \$778,000 at 30 June 2013;

- The majority of assets are current assets – either cash at bank, term deposit or receivables.
- The written down value of plant and equipment at 30 June 2013 was \$43,000;
- Current liabilities totalled \$459,000 of which unexpended grants, which are expected to be spent in 2013/14, total \$180,000.

### **Financial performance**

The Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2013 reports:

- Income continued to grow and was \$1,976,000 in 2013 compared with \$1,375,000 in 2012;
- The majority of income received is from grants which includes income from the PWC contracts;
- Other income was \$125,000 compared with \$163,000. Other income includes donations, membership fees, interest, fundraising and rent from sub leasing to various tenants;
- Expenditure totalled \$1,852,000. As usual salaries and wages was the largest expenditure and totalled \$885,000.
- The net surplus was \$124,000 in 2013 compared with \$306,000 in 2012, \$154,000 in 2011 and \$97,000 in 2010. Surpluses for the past 4 years total \$681,000.

The contracts with PWC ended 30th June 2013, and unless other major contracts are entered into during this year, income and expenditure will significantly reduce in 2014.



ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
<b>INCOME</b>		
Government Grants	1,821,661	1,212,083
Grants - GVESH0	30,000	-
Donations received	24,216	20,352
Interest Received	25,983	34,883
Other Revenue	38,983	39,433
Rent Income	15,988	21,223
Fundraising	14,461	22,244
Recoveries	3,545	23,579
Consultancy Wages	1,327	1,465
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,976,164</b>	<b>1,375,262</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accounting Fees	31,042	25,610
Advertising	87,163	33,235
Audit Fees	6,413	4,000
Bank Charges	973	771
Bad Debts	709	-
Catering	12,798	6,373
Cleaning	4,364	5,164
Consultancy fees	71,190	21,246
Computer, IT & Internet Costs	17,781	24,695
Depreciation	10,880	9,819
DSW Expenses	-	94,673
Electricity	5,393	4,164
Fundraising	7,822	7,461
Grants repaid	105,000	-
Hire of plant & equipment	17,701	11,914
Insurance	21,487	14,961
Interest Paid	6,794	1,764
Materials & Supplies	35,178	5,714
Minor Equipment	16,010	1,747
Motor Vehicle Expenses	3,304	8,155
Multi Media Productions	8,243	21,013
Office expenses	2,737	871
Postage	2,110	2,286
Printing and Stationery	5,944	5,838
Professional Development	4,912	3,713
Program expenses	261,714	-
Provision for Annual Leave	(1,688)	20,128
Provision for Long Service Leave	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 2013

	2013	2012
<b>EXPENDITURE (Contd)</b>		
Recruitment	-	6,597
Rent, Rates & Taxes	59,391	47,451
Repairs & Maintenance	739	2,274
Salaries & Wages	885,559	597,721
Subscriptions	692	1,147
Sundry Expenses	10,273	(3,291)
Superannuation Contributions	78,794	53,306
Telephone	5,050	4,741
Travel, Allowances & Fares	48,557	22,929
Workshop Expenses	4,473	1,004
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,852,112</b>	<b>1,069,194</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 124,052</b>	<b>\$ 306,068</b>

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Retained Surpluses
Opening Balance, 1 July 2011	348,434
Net Surplus (Deficit) attributable to members	306,068
Closing Balance, 30 June 2012	654,502
Net Surplus (Deficit) attributable to members	124,052
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 778,554</b>



**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**  
**ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	2013	2012
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash equivalents	2	902,122	1,210,504
Accounts receivable & other debtors	3	260,227	306,112
Input Tax Credits		22,144	7,557
Prepayments		10,172	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,194,665</u>	<u>1,524,173</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	4	78,733	74,237
Less Accumulated Depreciation		35,344	24,603
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>43,389</u>	<u>49,634</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>1,238,054</u>	<u>1,573,807</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable & other payables		189,792	53,304
Accrued Expenses		7,500	7,486
Payroll Liabilities		40,483	32,055
GST payable		2,812	40,629
Unexpended Grants	6	180,827	758,667
Provision for Annual Leave		25,476	27,164
Provision for Long Service Leave		12,610	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>459,500</u>	<u>919,305</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>459,500</u>	<u>919,305</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>\$ 778,554</u>	<u>\$ 654,502</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained Surpluses		778,554	654,502
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>\$ 778,554</u>	<u>\$ 654,502</u>

Contingent Liability

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The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

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

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	2013	2012
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash Receipts		1,994,864	1,156,395
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(2,324,101)	(420,215)
Interest Received		25,983	34,883
<b>Net Cash provided by (used in) Operating Activities</b>	5	<u>(303,254)</u>	<u>771,063</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for Property, Plant & Equipment		(5,128)	(44,516)
Proceeds from disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment		-	-
<b>Net Cash provided by (used in) Investing Activities</b>		<u>(5,128)</u>	<u>(44,516)</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		(308,382)	726,547
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year		1,210,504	483,957
<b>Cash at the End of the Financial Year</b>	5	<u>\$ 902,122</u>	<u>\$ 1,210,504</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

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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 2013

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Act. The committee has determined that the Association the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**(a) Income Tax**

Under Section 50.5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 the income of the Association is exempt from income tax.

**(b) Property, Plant & Equipment**

The depreciable amount of all other Property, Plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Profit and losses on disposal of property, plant & equipment are taken into account in determining the surplus for the year.

**(c) Impairment of assets**

At the end of each reporting period the committee reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

**(d) Employee Benefits**

Provision is made in respect of the Association's liability for annual leave at balance date. Long service leave is accrued in respect of employees with more than seven years employment with the Association. Contributions are made by the Association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred. The Association has no legal obligation to provide benefits to employees on retirement.

**(e) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Grant income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally when the grant is acquitted.

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

**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.

	2013	2012
<b>NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash at Bank - Ops Account	1,929	35,829
Cash at Bank - Gift Account	212,182	157,384
Cash at Bank - Holding Account	179,003	1,014,428
Cash at Bank - Pay Pal Account	2,221	2,821
ALEC Debit card	859	-
Term Deposit	505,423	-
Cash on Hand	505	42
	<u>902,122</u>	<u>1,210,504</u>
<b>NOTE 3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade & Sundry Debtors	267,227	313,112
Less: Provisions for Doubtful Debts	7,000	7,000
	<u>260,227</u>	<u>306,112</u>
<b>NOTE 4: PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>		
Leasehold Improvements (at cost)	26,022	26,022
Less Accumulated Depreciation	5,033	2,318
	<u>20,989</u>	<u>23,704</u>
Office Furniture and Equipment (at cost)	36,896	32,400
Less Accumulated Depreciation	25,529	20,176
	<u>11,367</u>	<u>12,224</u>
Motor Vehicles (at cost)	15,815	15,815
Less Accumulated Depreciation	4,782	2,109
	<u>11,033</u>	<u>13,706</u>
Total Property Plant & Equipment at cost	78,733	74,237
Less Accumulated Depreciation	35,344	24,603
	<u>43,389</u>	<u>49,634</u>



ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
<b>NOTE 5: CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
<b>(a) Reconciliation of Operating Surplus to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>		
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	124,052	306,068
Depreciation	10,880	9,819
(Increase) / Decrease in Prepayments	(10,172)	-
(Increase) / Decrease in Trade & Sundry Debtors	45,885	(183,984)
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	93,019	82,859
Increase / (Decrease) in Provisions	10,922	20,128
Increase / (Decrease) in Other Liabilities	(577,840)	536,173
Net Cash provided by (used in) Operating Activities	<u>\$ (303,254)</u>	<u>\$ 771,063</u>
<b>(b) Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
Cash at the end of the financial period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the Balance Sheet as follows:		
Cash at Bank	<u>\$ 902,122</u>	<u>\$ 1,210,504</u>

**NOTE 6: 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 7: 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.  
In addition to unexpended funds negotiations are in progress with Power and Water Authority in relation to excess funds and the potential repayment of those funds. To date a repayment of \$105,000 has been accounted for at the date of the audit. Whether any further amounts are repayable are unquantifiable at the date of the audit.

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

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 2013 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  
Robbie Henderson              Ben Convery  
Glenn Marshall                  Mark Keyworth  
Jason Quin                          Emily Webster
- (b) The association is a community based environment organisation
- (c) The net profit of the association for the year ended 30 June 2013 was \$124,052

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 14<sup>TH</sup> day of November 2013



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc (the association), which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2013, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The committee of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Act and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Qualification**

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc to maintain an effective system of internal control over cash receipts from memberships, merchandise sales & other income such as fundraising until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to these activities was limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records.

**basso  
& newman**  
chartered  
accountants

Basso Newman & Co  
ABN 21 780 754 216  
286 Flinders Street  
Adelaide, South Australia  
PO Box 7033 Hutt Street,  
South Australia 5000  
Telephone: (08) 8224 0066  
Facsimile: (08) 8224 0670  
bnc@bassonewman.com.au  
www.bassonewman.com.au

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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**

**Qualified Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitations in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc as of 30 June 2013 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Act.

**Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying our opinion we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



**Trevor Basso - Partner**

**Basso Newman & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
Adelaide**

**18 November 2013**

**basso  
& newman**  
chartered  
accountants





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