

Welcome - Let's Be The Change - in Moonee Valley



Convenor's Report - Teresa Day

Hello and welcome to Autumn! We've been busy with campaigns, responding to consultation processes, filing our petition for climate officers, and presenting to Moonee Valley City Council's Climate Taskforce.

Our future campaign focus is shaping up nicely. As well as reducing community emissions, we are focusing on artificial grass and the use of glyphosate herbicides, which are two major biodiversity problems in our community.

We have also been focusing on our monthly events. Cleanups, held on the first Sunday of the month, have been well attended and have been removing debris from creeks. We are working in partnership with the Chain of Ponds Collaboration to identify sources of litter in the creeks. Polystyrene is the main enemy.

Sustain A Valley is at Dwell in Ascot Vale on the third Saturday of the month, with a different focus each month. Last month we had two great speakers discussing how we can remove organic waste from landfill, and this month (Saturday 20th May - see details below) it's all about clean transport. We now have a cafe at the event, which is loved by everyone who attends and is a good source of income for MVS. We really want to build this event over the next six months, so please invite your friends and family. However, if you are time-poor you may simply want to support us by becoming a yearly member for just \$20 individual or \$40 family/ household.

The Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 29 August. We will be sharing more details on what we've been up to these last twelve months, and what we hope to do in the near future. We hope you can make it. For now, save the date.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our events. Feel free to contact me should you want to discuss any ideas, plans or projects.

Teresa



Upcoming Events . . .

MVS Yarn - Thursday 18th May



You are invited to our second MVS Yarn! Come along, connect with us and participate in a conversation about all things sustainable. It's a new opportunity to link up with like-minded locals.

We'd love to hear your ideas on how we can take positive climate action in our daily lives, by sharing personal stories and dreaming up collective action. You're welcome to drop in and say hello.

7pm - 8pm Thursday 18 May, at Masterson's Bar, 67 Pascoe Vale Rd, Moonee Ponds. More information on Facebook: [MVS Yarn](#)

MVS Sustain A Valley & Repair Cafe

Saturday 20th May

With the focus on clean transport, this month's Sustain A Valley includes the following:



- Panel discussion with local electric car owners
- Short Talk by eBike experts Sparque
- Test drive an electric Nissan Leaf with Good Car Co
- Electric vehicles on display plus
- MV Repair Cafe, Rhys.pect.food, Roving Refills Inner North, Alma & Co., Fairy Folk Shoppe, Laminated Cotton Shop, Food Swap, Community Waste Collection, Electrify Moonee Valley, coffee, kids activities and good conversations!

If you'd like to help us on our Sustain A Valley & Repair Cafe day sign up here: [Volunteer signup sheet for MVS SAV](#)



MVS Community Clean Up

Sunday 4th June



Come along to our next monthly clean up and help us care for Country.

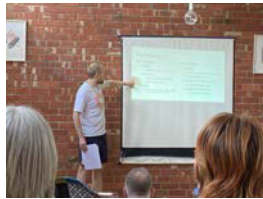
Meet us at 10am Sunday 4 June, at Steele Creek, Spring Gully, Niddrie.

Our recent activities . . .

Sustain A Valley - Feb/Mar/April

We have loved connecting with our community at our monthly Sustain A Valley events alongside the Repair Cafe. In **February** we kick-started the year with our new coffee bar, Milly Burke's (MVCC) talk on wildlife gardens, and some sizzling pikelets. In **March**, we focused on climate action and running on renewables. David Coote and Charlie Phillips discussed why reducing energy use and electrifying your home go hand in hand - sharing many low-cost actions. Greg Lanigan demonstrated how he makes string, and Sue Knox turned up on her electric motor bike. In **April** we were all about textile waste with not one, but two talks Patricia McCarthy Henry - Circularity in Fashion & Vaissy Dasler - Reducing Waste to Landfill, a textile drop, a darning demo, a hard-to-recycle waste collection and a rag

rug demonstration.



MVS Waste Collective

Like the sound of a one stop shop to drop off all of your hard to recycle waste items? Great - because we now have a community waste collective at our monthly Sustain A Valley events. Currently our volunteers are collecting; bottle tops (washed!), medication blister packs, toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes, used pens & textas, dead batteries, bread tags and more. Every so often we do an Upparel textiles collection and last month we collected around 43kg of old, damaged textiles! Keep an eye on our socials so find out when the next Upparel textile collection will take place.



Community Clean Ups - Feb/Mar/April

These wonderful monthly gatherings have gained momentum this year. Our [Clean](#)

Up Australia Day event at Five Mile Creek in Essendon was truly epic, with 64 volunteers collecting 6911 items weighing a total of 104 kg, and eating 55 sausages, 17 biscuits and 3 loaves of banana bread!

We're now partnering with Chain of Ponds Collaboration to collect data on the rubbish we collect so we can understand what is entering our waterways. This will enable the development of targeted education programs. So please join us on the first Sunday of each month as we work towards keeping Moonee Valley healthy and clean together!



Repair Cafe - Feb/Mar/April

The Repair Cafe runs alongside our Sustain A Valley events on the third Saturday of the month. February and March were buzzing with activity with many happy people going away with their things fixed. April's Repair Cafe was a busy one with a couple of fixers away and a week later than our regular schedule, but we still managed to fix quite a few things. We also had a few people new to the Repair Cafe who helped us get the coffee machine up and running! Hayley, one of our founders, was also back for a visit and to get a couple of things fixed.

If you are keen to fix stuff or help in any way, please reach out to us at repaircafe@mvsustainability.org.au

The next Repair Cafe will be **10am Saturday 20 May**, at 78 St Leonards Rd, Ascot Vale.



Campaigns, Advocacy & Projects

MVCC Emissions Reduction Taskforce

A number of our regular volunteers participated as members of the Moonee Valley City Council Climate Task Force in April. This hardworking group devised 28 recommendations that were presented to the Mayor on Saturday 6 May. We are looking forward to working with Council to support the implementation of effective climate actions.



Taskforce participants: Mike Collins, Tom Danby, (Angela Clarke/Logan Shield - invited speakers for day two), Darci Workman, Catherine Falconer, Adele Roeder and (not pictured) John Knox, Pat Sheehan & Mark Ziegelaar.

Logan and Angela presented on day-2 of the Taskforce. They shared MVS priorities for climate action and the thinking behind our campaign for two climate officers and an increase in Council's spending on the climate emergency. Taskforce members were receptive and keen to gather information about what works for the community.



Electrify Moonee Valley

This energetic action group not only serves up important information on creating an all-electric home, but we've also been serving up yummy pikelets cooked on an induction stove at Sustain A Valley each month!

We're currently advocating for a 'Home Hub' in Moonee Valley – a free info center to help everyone transition to clean and healthy electric heating, hot water, cooking, solar and EV's. We'd love to hear your thoughts on this idea and where you'd like to see it located.



Moonee Valley City Council 2023/24 Budget

Over the past 18 months we've been advocating for staff and funding to accelerate community-wide climate action in Moonee Valley. Our latest campaign asked Council to invest in two climate officers and \$20 per resident (\$2.25m total) to save food from landfill, cycle safely on our streets, have healthy electric homes, charge clean electric cars and share solar on apartments.

Our ongoing advocacy is having results. Council's 2023/24 Draft Budget was released last week, and it includes \$2.2m for saving food from landfill with a big rollout of the FOGO (green) bins. At the time of writing, it's not clear whether additional staff will be hired.

There is so much more that needs to be done, so we strongly encourage everyone to provide feedback to Council's draft budget calling for more action on climate, including climate officers.

Go to <https://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/initiatives-and-budget-2023-24> and provide your feedback today.

Nature Strips



MVS has also been busy following up with Council about their Nature Strip Landscaping policy review that was conducted in 2022, to advocate for the removal of the permit process for planting out nature strips. We are also developing a position paper on the use of artificial grass and mapping the proliferation of artificial grass in Moonee Valley. As we wait for Council to finalise their review we have spent some time sprucing the nature strip we do have a permit for at our home address - Dwell 78 St Leonards Rd Ascot Vale.

MVS Committee

Grants

MVS has applied for funding from Great Western Water to upgrade and update the look and functionality of our website. As the organisation grows, we need our website to connect and integrate with other applications, and to store more information on climate action. We want it to host local information on what we can all do as individuals, what we can do collectively as a group, and what events, campaigns and projects are ongoing. We should hear if we are successful by the end of June!

Volunteers

It's National Volunteer Week and we are working hard to facilitate ways for MVS supporters to get more involved. A new online roster for the Sustain A Valley events makes dropping in to help & have a chat super easy. Pop your name down (or if plans change, take it off) through our direct link. This record of names and activities stays in place to help us all stay connected.

Sign up here: [Volunteer signup sheet for MVS SAV](#)

How To Get Involved

We would love to hear from you! There are many ways to get involved with your local community through MVS.

- Come along to an MVS event and chat with us
- Email us at info@mvsustainability.org.au
- Head on over to the [MVS Connect Page](#) on our website and sign up to become a member for just \$20 (individual) or \$40 (family/household) per year or let us know how you would like to help / get involved.
- Join our [Moonee Valley Sustainability Forum group on Facebook](#)
- Follow our [Moonee Valley Sustainability](#) page on Facebook
- Follow [Moonee Valley Sustainability](#) on Instagram

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of Moonee Valley, the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people of the Kulin Nation, their spirits, ancestors, elders and community members past and present. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty and that it was never ceded. In the shadow of the brutal impacts of colonisation on First Nations peoples and the land we aspire to walk alongside Indigenous peoples in processes of collective truth-telling and healing. We honour this land as the greater organism of which we are all a part and recognise the need for urgent action on climate and care for Country.

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