

## MASG Financials, 2011-2012

MASG'S audited financial report is completed and is available for members and supporters. Here follows a summary of the financials of the last two years.

|               | 2010-2011    | 2011-2012    | Difference   |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Income        | \$80,403.96  | \$136,130.25 | \$55,726.29  |
| Expenditure   | \$195,869.13 | \$204,984.11 | \$9,114.98   |
| Cash Reserves | \$187,945    | \$125,801.81 | -\$62,143.19 |

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure in the financial year 2011-2012 increased in comparison to the previous financial year primarily because of the employment of one more staff member, the MACWind Project Officer Jarra Hicks. However efforts were made to reduce expenditure by changing accommodation and reducing some staff hours.

We moved office from the Hub to Room 9, 207 George Clarke Place. Thanks to Neil and Heather Barrett for their support and cooperation as landlords at the Hub and for the rent free use of the Hub Plot for the MASG Food Production Group and MASG Compost Trial.

Thanks too, to Heather Barrett for her diligent work setting up the Public Fund and MASG's Deductible Gift Recipient status and for being a signatory on the Public Fund. Heather has decided to step down as a signatory.

There was a hard decision made in January to reduce expenditure by reducing Kerry Bourke (finances and administration) waged hours to one day and recruit volunteers to fill the administration gaps. Cate Orr and Keith Neaves are our very able and warm administration volunteers and we thank them for their generous contribution to MASG, often working more than two days a week.

Kerry sadly left MASG at the end of June, we thank her for her passion, diligence, commitment, for being such a strong advocate of MASG and for being such a committed coordinator of the Wash Against Waste Trailer which she still coordinates. Melissa Pollock replaced Kerry but in an even more limited role-4hours of finances a week.

We also in our austerity measures reduced and finally stopped Dean Bridgfoot's waged work with MASG. He still operates out of the MASG office and does contribute to MASG operations but most of his salary and operating expenses are paid by the 100% Renewable Energy Campaign. MASG tops up his wage and super to keep him in par with his MASG colleagues.

We also try to collaborate more with our partnering agencies to reduce costs and share resources.

MASG is very committed to the Mount Alexander Community Wind Project and in late 2011 committed \$20,000 plus core costs to Jarra Hicks' position as the MACWind Project Officer. This was matching milestone funding offered by Embark.

We have certainly seen momentum gathered in this project from this investment of funds and human resources.

Other significant expenditure was in the acquittal of the Comfy Homes Project Funding (\$30,000 in the financial year 2011-2012). We are still trying to source funding to adequately maintain and build on the Comfy Homes Website and expand on the Sustainable Building Expos.

## **Income**

Unfortunately the return on our fundraising efforts wasn't as we had hoped, the constricting political and financial landscape was felt by many environmental organisations. Income increased in comparison with the financial year 2010-2011 because:

- The 100% Renewable Energy income increased with Dean Bridgfoot's increased hours with the 100% Renewable Energy Campaign.
- MACWind received the Maldon Community Grant of \$10,000 and other donations.
- Donations to MASG increased.

In May 2012 COG drafted then ratified as a working document the MASG Fundraising Strategy and Policy to assist us more effectively plan and implement our fundraising efforts.

Recognising that we were requiring more capacity in fundraising and coordination we committed resources to the one day waged positions of fundraiser Alex Dixon and coordinator Anna Hedigan. Andrew Mc Kenna replaced Ian Lillington as Communications person

We have spoken in the past of a MASG transformation date, a date which we obviously don't want to arrive but which is when MASG runs out of cash reserves to operate as it currently is...with adequate insurance to auspice all of its projects, an office space to rent, and waged staff to manage the fundraising, the finances and communications of the organisation.

Unfortunately we are possibly seven months away from that date.

The take home message, as before, is we need to raise funds and keep our costs down.

This financial report and budgets are based on figures, figures that don't really measure neither our courage, nor our wit, neither our wisdom, nor our learnings, neither our passion nor our commitment to a more sustainable community. To you, the people that sustain and give heart to this organisation, whether it is the Food Production Group, the Wind Group, the Wash Against Waste Trailer, the Compost Trial, the Waste Group, the Youth Action Group, The Sustainable House Tours, the 100% Renewable Energy Campaign, Growing Abundance, to all of you who support MASG with your courage, wit, wisdom, learnings, passion, commitment, thank you.

And as Eduardo Galleano quoted a bit of graffiti in Bogota in Columbia "dejamos el pesimismo para los tiempos mejores" "Let's leave pessimism for better times".

## **MASG BUDGET ANNOTATIONS**

Project budgets expenses and incomes apart from MACWind, the Compost Trial and Solar Hubs are an average of the last two years plus an increase of 3% CPI.

### **100% Renewable Energy Campaign**

The 100% Renewable Energy core cost (\$350.66) is being negotiated with 100% RE but should be more than this

Dean Bridgfoot is a project officer with the Australian 100% Renewable Energy Campaign that resides in the MASG office. He is paid \$30 /hr for his 100% RE work and MASG makes up the difference (\$2.80/hr) to keep him in par with his MASG colleagues hence the top up of wages (\$2,815.76) and super (\$832.91) listed in 100% RE income and as an income related expense in the MASG core cost budget. MASG COM agreed to pay this difference because they felt Dean still contributes to MASG in various ways. There is a written agreement between MASG and 100% RE to support this arrangement and this is being reviewed and updated.

### **The Goldfields Solar Hub project,**

The Goldfields Solar Hub project funding is being acquitted this year in November. Last financial year MASG negotiated some income (\$800 per month) to contribute towards administration and office costs because MASG was contributing significantly to this project in terms of staff time and resources.

Therefore last year MASG received \$9600 and are receiving \$3200 for this financial year towards core costs.

### **MASG Social Enterprise**

The Masg Social Enterprise was previously referred to as MASG Inc. We have dropped this title as we were concerned about the implications that MASG had set up a separate company which we hadn't. The projects that are included in the MASG Social enterprise are the Wash Against Waste Trailer, Sustainable House Tour, and Vital Signs.

### **MACWind**

MASG contributed \$20,000 RECS to the Wind Project Budget in the financial year 2011-2012.

The Wind Project is requesting \$14,785 RECS for the Wind Project Budget for this financial year 2012-2013.