## INTERNATIONAL LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

#### Hello, again.

It's time again to reflect on the work of the past 12 months and talk about where we are headed.

Within systems, it's important that each contirbutor understands the role it plays so they can focus on doing their part really well, so I'm going to borrow Dom Hes' question: 'Who are you in the rainforest?' to frame this update. I think the LFIA has a number of roles in the Australian 'rainforest', but the role which best describes what's we've been working towards is emergent canopy tree.

Our work this year has been threefold: put down deeper root systems to build the capacity and stability below ground; reach out to create links with natural partners within our ecosystem for mutual support and benefit; and continue to stretch ever upward, broadening the canopy as we go, and bringing the nutrients back to the soil for the benefit of the whole forest.

**Deeper roots:** When we started the LFIA in 2012, we had a vision of our organisation being a beacon, a gathering place, an umbrella under which like-minded people could work together, find natural partners, and combine our efforts to speed the transition to a restorative relationship with our world. We have done some essential foundational work to get our policies and corporate strategy in place to guide and focus our work, along with the appointment of two Independent Directors to help us get our plan together and hold us to it. In terms of our volunteer network, we have a Collaborative in nearly every capital city in the country. In 2016, we will look to the leverage the experience of the more mature Collaboratives to deliver a diverse program of events, and add more regionally-based Collaboratives to build connections into more remote communities over the next three vears.

Reaching out: We have been developing our relationships with more natural partners within Australia, signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the SEE Sustainable Experience. Internationally, we collaborated with New Zealand to bring Amanda Sturgeon to our shores, and we will continue to work with NZ next year to bring more international speakers to Australia. We have also surveyed you, our members, to understand what you value about being a part of this organisation, and what you would like to see as benefits.

**Stretching ever upward:** Projects are the best way to communicate the Living Future philosophy, as a demonstration of how changing your mindset affects every decision when making an intervention into a system. We look forward to seeing the SRBC in New South Wales achieve certification, and further progress on Castlemaine in Victoria over the coming year. To stimulate additional work around the application of LBC in Australia, we are working towards the launch of a design competition around the theme of Connection.

#### Bringing the nutrients back to the

soil: In terms of training, we were able to offer the first Understanding the Living Building Challenge 3.0 courses in Australia, as well as workshops in the Just Label, delivered in both Melbourne and Sydney. We also once again held a Living Future Download to bring the highlights of these amazing conferences back to our community of practice here in Australia, and this year's upgrade was to offer it via Skype so that a wider audience could join in. We're going to do a lot more of that next year - more webinars, more training offered (LBC, LCC and Just). In terms of research we have two more research projects complete, one on the SBRC and one on the Equity Petal, and a portal on the website on the way to share our ever growing body of knowledge as generously and widely as we can.



As always, to those of you whose names are on the back page, a huge and grateful thank you for your passion and support, and here's to another year of working with hope towards a better world.

Mary Casey Chair of the Board

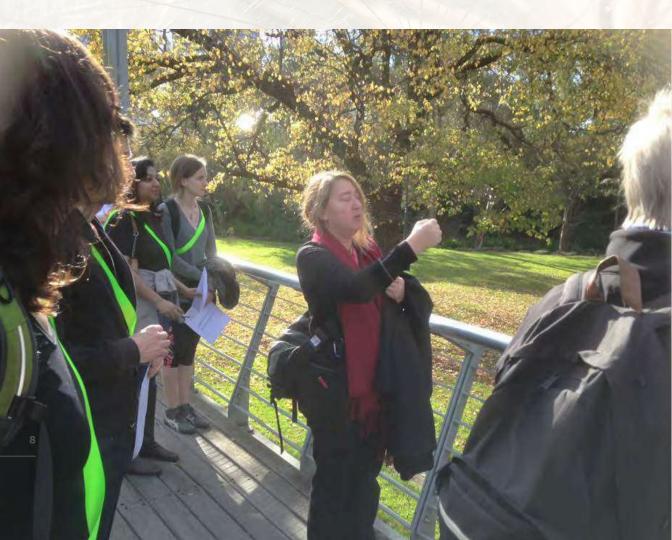
# SECTION ONE



# LIVING PROOF

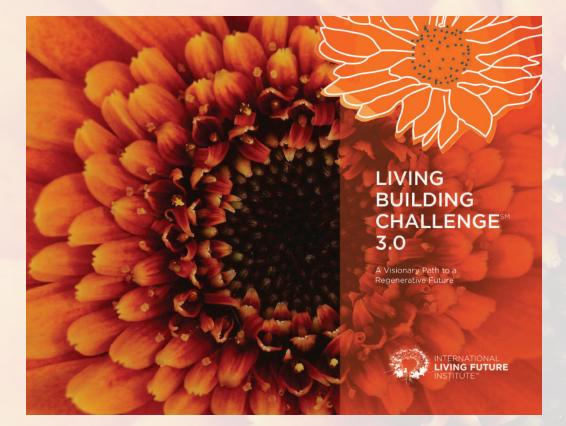
# LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE, REGIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

There have been some important milestones for Living Building Challenge projects in Australia this year. Notably the University of Wollongong's SBRC became the first Australian project to enter its operational period, with the next step being certification.



The Bull Street Terraces in the regional town of Castlemaine in Victoria is committed to achieving Living Building status, and has started selling townhouses off the plan. The town of Castlemaine is embracing this project and its influence is beginning to be realised at a community scale, with a second project now registered just down the road. These sorts of ripple effects are the beginning of what could be a very inspiring success story.

The T hoe project In New Zealand's North Island has brought its story to the world stage with the documentary 'Ever the Land'. This deeply moving film captures the meaning of place and community and how buildings can facilitate those connections.



# LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2015 has been significant on the education front. There were several courses throughout the year on different tools from the International Living Future Institute, and a lot of work behind the scenes to add value to project teams here in Australia. The year started with an in-depth course on 'Understanding the Living Building Challenge' delivered in Sydney by the Executive Director of the International Living Future Institute, Amanda Sturgeon. The room was filled by attendees from across New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

We are very excited to announce that the Understanding the Living Building Challenge 3.0 course addressing the Australian context is in the final stages of development. We believe that this will deliver valuable outcomes for designers and are looking forward to the fast approaching roll-out.



### LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE

Both Melbourne and Sydney played host to a half-day JUST Label workshop this year as presented by Stephen Choi. Representatives from 15 Australian-based organisations got together in Sydney and Melbourne to discuss what social justice in the workplace could or perhaps should mean at JUST workshops hosted by the LFIA. Participants were walked through the ins and outs of the label, how it works in an Australian context, and given tips on how to open the door to moving their company towards being truly socially just. A range of industries and company structures was represented, from individual private practices to international charitable organisations. The course feedback was incredibly positive, and we are looking forward to holding the workshop again.

You can also expect to see more on the Living Community Challenge in 2016. We have been making preparations to bring this tool to our Australian community of practice, and to increase and broaden the scale of how we apply the principles of a Living Future.

## THE PETALS

#### PLACE

- **01.** Limits to Growth
- 02. Urban Agriculture
- 03. Habitat Exchange
- 04. Car Free Living

#### WATER

**05.** Net Positive Water

#### ENERGY

06. Net Positive Energy

#### **HEALTH & HAPPINESS**

- 07. Civilized Environment
- **08.** Healthy Interior Environment
- **09.** Biophilic Environment

#### MATERIALS

- 10. Red List
- **11.** Embodied Carbon Footprint
- 12. Responsible Industry
- **13.** Living Economy Sourcing
- 14. Net Positive Waste

#### EQUITY

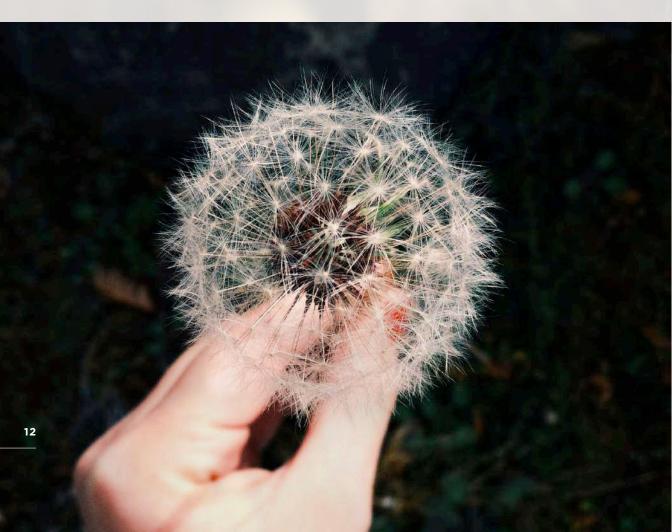
- **15.** Human Scale + Humane Places
- **16.** Universal Access to Nature & Place
- 17. Equitable Investment
- 18. JUST Organizations

#### BEAUTY

- 19. Beauty + Spirit
- **20.** Inspiration + Education

# **DESIGN COMPETITION**

It has been a long time in development, and we are thrilled to be calling for Expressions of Interests from parties looking to develop a deeply sustainable building or community within Australia to be the primary delivery Partner for their latest Australia-Wide Design Competition using the Living Building Challenge framework. Teams will be invited to respond to the Competition theme: *Connection*. By the end of the calendar year, we aim to have secured Project Owner(s) and Project Sponsor(s) interested in partnering with us for the successful delivery of the Design Competition.





# **DECLARE AND JUST**

Declare continues to offer Living Building Challenge Project teams a materials guide for product specification. For manufacturers, it offers an expanded point of entry into ground-breaking sustainable projects. The LFIA is planning a drive to engage local product manufacturers and suppliers in the Declare program in 2016. So far there are currently 2 Australian Declare labels - the Polastic Insulation System and Evcco Halogen Free Flame Retardant Electrical Conduit and Fittings - both represented by organisations in NSW.

# Declare.

#### **Your Product Your Company**

Final Assembly: City, State, Country Life Expectancy: 000 Years End of Life Options: Recyclable (42%), Landfill

#### Ingredients:

Your First Ingredient (Locally Sourced Location, ST), Sustainably Sourced Ingredient (Location, ST), Non-toxic Item (Location, ST), Living Building Challenge Red List\*, Another **Componant, US EPA Chemical of Concern,** Last Ingredient

#### Living Building Challenge Criteria:

XXX-0000 VOC Content: 0.00 mg/m<sup>3</sup> VOC Emissions: CDPH Compliant Declaration Status



INTERNATIONAL LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE\* declareproducts.com

# 162

TOTAL DECLARE LABELS DISTRIBUTED

100

**NEW LABELS** IN 2014

60%

**INCREASE** IN REGISTERED **DECLARE LABELS**  2015 has seen a small but significant jump forward with the first Australianbased organisation to achieve the JUST Label. With issues ranging from diversity, equity, safety, worker benefit, local benefit and stewardship, the region and the building industry is helping to lead the way globally, with one building sustainable development consultancy in Australia and a commercial interiors product supplier in New Zealand amongst only 17 organisations worldwide who have been successful in attaining the JUST Label.



Organization Name: Super Paint Corp. Organization Type: LLC Headquarters: Amherst, NJ Satellite Facilities: Portland OR, Houston TX, Montreal CAN Number of Employees: 3,220

#### Social Justice and Equity Indicators:

#### Diversity

Non-Discrimination
Gender Diversity
Ethnic Diversity

#### Equity



#### Safety



## THE SOCIAL JUSTICE LABEL

#### Worker Benefit

Worker Happiness
Employee Health Care
Continuing Education

#### Local Benefit

Local Control

#### Stewardship



36

REGISTERED ORGANIZATIONS

9

LABELS DISTRIBUTED

500%

INCREASE IN REGISTERED ORGANIZATIONS

# SECTION TWO



# RESEARCH

# LFIA RESEARCH

One of our core goals from 2014 was to partner with Academic Institutions to complete research into the application of the Living Building Challenge in Australia. This work is ongoing, and this year one student project has been completed:

• University of Melbourne, Are the human scale and humane places guidelines in the Living Building Challenge appropriate to all countries?

In addition to the above completed projects, the following research is progressing:

- Limits to Growth: what might better define Australia's unique and sensitive ecological habitats, and how much separation between these habitats and new development is appropriate?
- When and where is "Net Zero Water" an appropriate aim in terms of environmental outcomes?
- What regulatory barriers exist in relation to potable and non-potable water provision, and how might these be overcome?
- How can the materials petal in LBC3.0 be better attuned to the Australian context?
- What are some good examples of successful biophilic design, and how can success be measured?
- Does Australia need its own "ICE database" when it comes to calculating embodied carbon?

## FOR 2016

As we generate more of this research, it's becoming clear that we need a way to make this available to as many people as possible. As a key upgrade to the website for next year, we will build a Resources page to publish and keep a library available as a 'go-to' location for this leading-edge work.







# TURNING HEADS, CHANGING MINDS

# COMMUNICATIONS

Our main communications effort this year was aimed at reconnecting with our membership. In taking over control of the management of Australian membership, we took the opportunity to survey all of you and find out why you joined, what you wanted as benefits, and how you thought we were doing.

Here's what you told us:

- 'We would like more structure around what it means to be a member'
- *'We would like to have opportunities for membership options suited to our circumstances'*
- 'We would like to see more events happening at different times, on various days, in several places'
- 'We would like to know about LBC and LFA training'
- 'We would like a real LBC project to get involved in'
- *'We want to know more about the new LBC (3.0), but also about the other programmes*

BLOG POSTS ON WEBSITE (DOWN FROM 12 LAST YEAR) 675

FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER (UP FROM 580 LAST YEAR)

136 FOLLOWERS ON LINKEDIN (UP FROM 100 LAST YEAR) NEW

MEMBER PORTAL COMPLETE (IN DEVELOPMENT LAST YEAR)



Here's what we're doing in response:

- We surveyed all of our members ((both recent and current members) to investigate why people become members and why previous members let their membership expire. We clarified member benefits and improved out mail-outs to provide better information at the right time
- We increased our range of membership types to reflect those of the ILFI, including discounted membership for elder members and keeping our fees very low to maintain inclusivity
- We ran a number of events on different days in different cities to give options for members to participate. We have also trialled video link-ups for some events, and are planning a comprehensive calendar of events for 2016
- We have invested significant effort into making the LBC training course specific to the Australian context, which will be delivered in multiple cities in the very near future. We are investigating the LFA course, and members will be the first to hear about opportunities to undertake it
- We have connected with projects and teams across Australia and New Zealand for lessons learned, and to encourage the further take-up of the Challenge. One of our key activities for 2016 is the establishment of a LBC Design Competition to be held for the first time in Australia, inviting teams from all over the world. Watch this space!
- We ran JUST Label workshops in Sydney and Melbourne, and we are developing training and events surrounding Declare and the Living Community Challenge.



Presentations:

- 'The Regenerates: What is Regenerative Development' at Living Future 2015 [April]
- Living Building Challenge Workshop, Building Envelopes 2015 [June]
- 'The Australian Home: Standing on the Outside Looking In' Building Envelopes 2015 [June]
- Living Future 2015 unConference Download at UTS Sydney [September]
- Articles:
- 'Can the JUST Label help businesses avoid a race to the bottom?', by Stephen Choi, *The Fifth Estate* [August]

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• 'Living Buildings', by Caroline Pidcock, *Sanctuary Magazine* [May]

# **COLLABORATIVE UPDATES**

Our eight (8) Australasian Collaboratives have evolved and diversified their work this year with some exciting things happening. Here are some of the highlights from the past year:

The Melbourne Collaborative's following has more than doubled this year, and it's not hard to see why. They have had an outstanding program of meetings and events this year, including lectures on contributive practice, a presentation on the Living Communities Challenge, a hands-on build with bamboo workshop, and a webinar on 'A benefit mindset: Doing Good by Being Well'.

The Sydney Collaborative has hosted two key events this year: a drinks evening for Collaborative members to meet Amanda Sturgeon during her visit to Australia; and a screening of 'The Regenerates', the documentary made from interview footage of Dominique Hes and Chrissna Du Plessis' book, *Designing for Hope*. Simone Concha, a long-time member of the Collaborative, will be stepping up as Facilitator this year, and she is planning a great program of meetings, events and projects.

After three years of being part of the Adelaide Sustainable Buildings Network, Adelaide obtained official LBC Collaborative status. Ken's been continuing his good



work under the new banner, offering Peca Kucha evenings on case study buildings, and 'Living Building Conversations' around connection to Nature.

The Brisbane Collaborative is gearing up again, with Andy Ling catalysing the re-start. Andy has been searching for partner facilitators and has found them in Loreta Brazukas and Anne Kovachevich. Under this new arrangement the format of the events and content is expected to grow in diversity.

New Zealand members have once again enjoyed an inspiring and thought-provoking program of events through the Collaborative, including a screening of Ever the Land, the documentary film on the Tūhoe Building - Te Wharehou o Tūhoe, a lecture tour by Amanda Sturgeon, and a workshop with Bill Reed on 'The Nuts and Bolts of Integrated Design'.

## FOR 2016

Our plan is that all Collaboratives will gradually take over from the LFIA with regard to developing and implementing programs of activities of interest to their local members, and the LFIA will concentrate on delivering training. To enable that, we will build stronger connections between the Collaborative network and the Board, so that Collaborative Facilitators can be sure that the events they are planning are aligned with the LFIA Strategy, but also so that they can take advantage of the infrastructure we have put in place to promote and communicate events.

Current stats for each of the Collaborative's facebook pages are shown below in the format for years 2013/2014/2015

140/228/279

LIKES IN SYDNEY

31/39/**65** 

LIKES IN BRISBANE

392/688/**1206** \*-/-/**45** 

LIKES IN ADELAIDE AS SUSTAINBLE BUILDINGS NETWORK \*AS OFFICIAL LBC COLLABORATIVE 64/187/**376** 

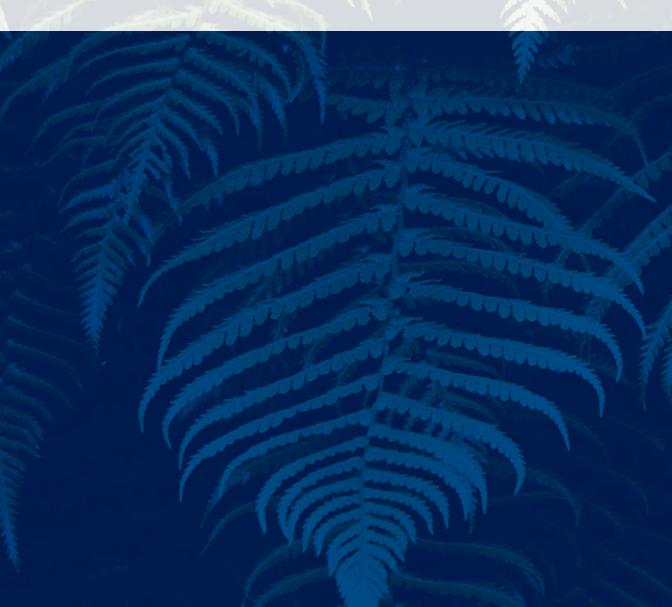
LIKES IN MELBOURNE

19/61/**71** 

-/-/288

LIKES IN NEW ZEALAND





# FINANCIALS

# **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

The Living Future Institute Australia invested in key systems to allow us to operate more effectively, including a sharepoint site for the board and the membership portal for the members. With the revenue gained from events and membership, we have been able to fund both investments, as well as hire our first staff member with only small operating loss of \$149.24. We remain in a strong financial position with \$12,258.70 cash on hand.

Other major expenses this year included consulting services in accordance with a major sponsorship agreement, and supporting Amanda Sturgeon's visit to Australia in March.

The hiring of our first staff member in June was a major milestone, and it has made a significant positive difference to our operations and our membership offerings. We enter 2015/2016 committed to continuing to drive membership, identify sponsors and deliver training courses to improve our cash position and enable the engagement of additional staff members.

Thank you to all our members and generous sponsors for your continued support during these foundational years. We look forward to enhancing our membership and sponsorship packages over the next year and running more exciting events to boost our income.

The statement of activities from June 2014 to July 2015 is presented below:

### INCOME JULY 2014 TO JUNE 2015

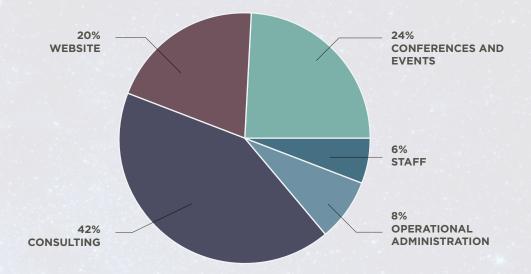
### EXPENDITURE JULY 2014 TO JUNE 2015

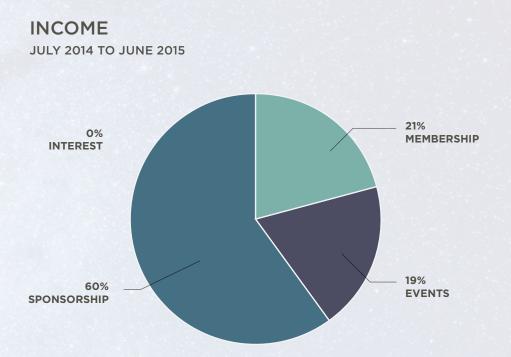
21%	\$4,152.18
19%	\$3,700.00
60%	\$11,600
0%	\$1.45
	\$19,453.63
	19% 60%

Staff	6%	\$1,202.34
Operational administration	8%	\$1,538.10
Consulting	42%	\$8,185.00
Website	20%	\$3,890.25
Conferences and Events	24%	\$4,787.18
Total		\$19,602.87

## EXPENDITURE

JULY 2014 TO JUNE 2015





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# SECTION FIVE



# ACKNOWL-EDGEMENTS

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA BOARD

Mary Casey, Chair, Associate Director, McLachlan Lister Stephen Choi, Vice-Chair, Senior Associate, Viridis Kate Ramchurn, Treasurer, Senior ESD Consultant, Cundall Brian Coughlin, Secretary, Senior Project Manager, CBRE Caroline Pidcock, Director, Director, PIDCOCK – Architecture + Sustainability Amanda Sturgeon, Director, Executive Director, International Living Future Institute Jim Murchison, Independent Director, Director, Murchisons

**Ricki Hersburgh, Director,** Manager, Sutainability, UDIA **and Juliana Abram, Director,** Director, Feng Shui Centre have been on leave of absence.

## LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE: (AUSTRALASIAN) HEROES

The Living Building Challenge has inspired significant change in how buildings are designed, built, rehabbed and operated. These successes are the result of tireless efforts made by individuals who have not only adopted the Living Building Challenge, but have also profoundly demonstrated how its principles can be used to rethink business as usual. These individuals have nurtured the Living Building Challenge as a movement—locally, regionally, nationally and internationally—and have led by example. In April 2015, the International Living Future Institute honoured two more Antipodeans:

- **Michelle Johansson:** Michelle led the materials specification work for Te Uru Taumatua, the Tuhoe Building, an effort that resulted in a sea change in the region's materials manufacturing sector. After working with Michelle, four companies have taken on the Declare label, with a further four companies in the process and many others interested. Since the Tuhoe Building, she has now moved on to her second Living Building project, while volunteering on a third, and continues to champion the Challenge throughout New Zealand, inspiring others to be bold and aim high. She is also a founding member and Facilitator of the NZ Auckland Collaborative, Ambassador.
- **Tricia Love**: Trish is a Mechanical Services Engineer and ESD consultant who believes that we each have a duty and responsibility to contribute to leaving this world in a better state than we entered it. Trish has been the ESD consultant, Greenstar professional and Living Building facilitator for many of the leading green buildings in New Zealand including Te Kura Whare (the Tuhoe building). Trish is now working on the Glenorchy Marketplace project, a Living Holiday Park in Glenorchy, NZ. She is an LBC ambassador/presenter, collaborative facilitator and treasurer of the Living Future Collaboratives in NZ.

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

We as an organisation depend on volunteers to promote regenerative practice and engage the community in alignment with our goals. A well-deserved thank you goes to the following people for their dedication in their mission to realise a living future, without whom we would be far less than what we are today:

Aline Da Silva Craig Stump Dominique Hes Evan Oppen Jane Toner Ken Long Susan Morrison

## SUPPORTERS

Living Futures is a labour of love, and we are so grateful for the passion and dedication of the many volunteers, members and supporters who have contributed in numerous ways to promoting and furthering this positive vision. We just want to say thanks to all of you, particularly:



## MEMBERSHIP

2015 was the year that membership started being fully managed by the LFIA for the first, allowing a more strategic and effective approach to new recruitment and fuller engagement of existing members with more responsive communications and member benefits, which include discounts to all Cascadia and ILFI events, including the Living Future unconference, discounts on all LFIA training and events, a 10% discount on Ecotone Publishing Books, and online issues of Trim Tab magazine. Other non-asset member benefits include right of vote/nomination for the Board, as well as special communications.

The membership history of the LFIA from Conception is shown in the chart at right. It shows that we have maintained our overall number of members, and have encouraged a number of new members since the current board took office:

## 2014/2015 MEMBERS

Adolfo Fernandez Angie Darby Ania Hampton Anne Kovachevich Ash Buchanan Ashley Dunn **Bob Hutchinson Brandon** Daley **Brandt Beattie Brian Coughlin** Caitlin McGee Catherine Forbes Cathy Ogeto Chris Lockhart Smith Chris Buntine Claire Geary Clare Parry Craig Riddle Cynthia Mitchell Darryn Parkinson David Blakemore **Digby Hall** Dominique Hes Dylan Brady Edward Poulton Elena Pereyra Ella Roessler-Holgate Fady Ghabbour Fergal White **Ginny Daniels** Ian Cleland Jane Toner Jeffrey Robinson

Juliana Abram Kate Ramchurn Katherine Madden Ken Long Ken Bezant Kerryn Wilmot Lance Jeffery Lauren Haas Lisa Miller Liz Locksley Lorelei Baum Mariela Zingoni de Baro Marine Calmettes Mary Casey Mary Ann van Bodegraven Matthew Carland Matthew Healev Mitchell Scanlan-Bloor Nick Bishop Phil Mudge Regan O'Brien **Reiner Schimminger Richard Clarke** Ricki Hersburgh Roberto Padovani **Rory Martin** Sandra McEwen Sara Rickards Sasha Alexander Stephen Choi Steven Bruinsma Tim Sonogan

Tim Adams Will Clarke Zsuzsanna Haraszty Stephen Choi **Richard Clarke** Ian Cleland **Drew Clements** Geoff Crosby Ashley Dunn **Emelia Fabris** Adolfo Fernandez Claire Geary Lauren Haas Linda Haefeli **Digby Hall** Ania Hampton Zsuzsanna Haraszty **Dominique Hes** Lance Jeffery Andy Marlow Rory Martin Sandra McEwen Caitlin McGee Laura Meyer Cynthia Mitchell Phil Mudge Caroline Pidcock Jeffrey Robinson Reiner Schimminger Matthew Tague Jason Twill Tim Williams Kerryn Wilmot Mariela Zingoni

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