

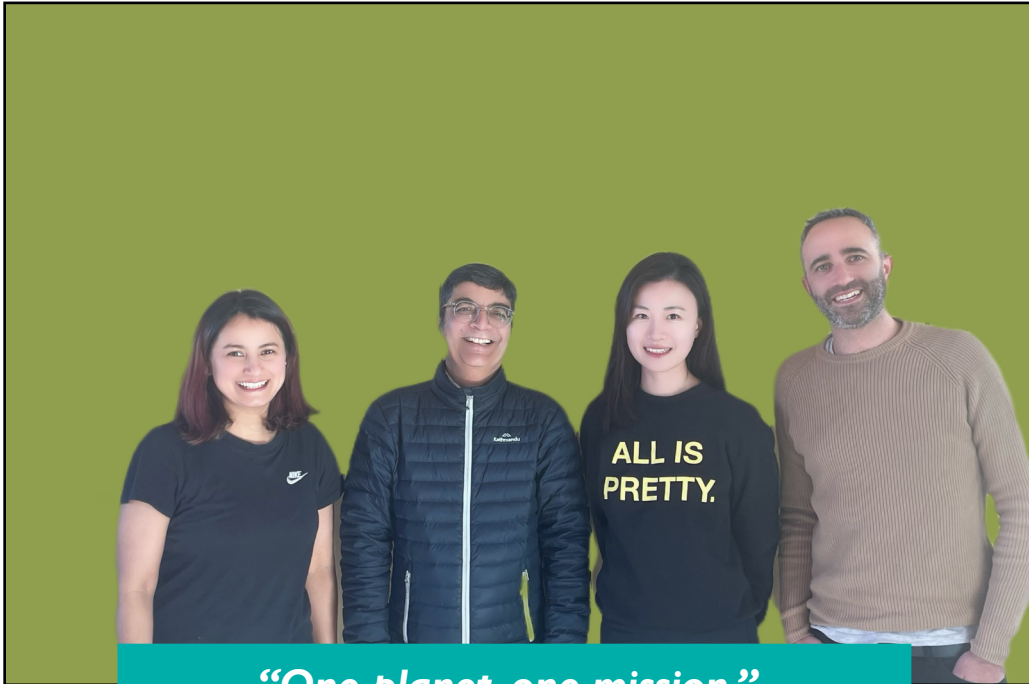


# SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS PROGRAM 2023 PROJECTS

Graduation  
Wednesday 2 August 2023  
Glen Eira Town Hall

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*Taking climate action together*



**“One planet, one mission.”**

## **Carbon Karma**

**Divya Verma, Mark Levi, Sanjay Sharma and Steph Liu**

Introducing **Carbon Karma** — an easy-to-use platform for cafés and local shops that raises awareness of your carbon footprint.

With our solution, your business can showcase your commitment to sustainability, attract environmentally conscious customers and make a positive impact on the environment in a few simple steps.

Not sure where to start? Keen for your business to be a force for good? Our user-friendly tool allows you to effortlessly track and monitor your carbon emissions, providing valuable insights to reduce your footprint.

We empower you to transparently communicate your sustainability efforts to customers and inspire others to join. We take a local, grassroots approach, harnessing the power of community and the village in which you operate. This collaboration is powerful, sharing learnings for the benefit of the wider community.

By using our tool, you will not only differentiate yourself in the market but also cultivate a loyal customer base with shared values. We provide educational resources and a social media toolkit for you to share your progress.

Join us on this transformative sustainability journey and contribute towards Glen Eira’s 2030 net zero mission. Let’s raise awareness together, reduce our carbon footprint and create a brighter, greener future for all.

**Contact:** [carbonkarma@yahoo.com](mailto:carbonkarma@yahoo.com)

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### **2023 Glen Eira Sustainability Champions**



*“Nature is not a place to visit, it is home.”*  
Gary Snyder

## Care for Nature Glen Eira

Kim Coleman and Tania Splawa-Neyman

In the last 20 years local fauna has rapidly declined in Glen Eira. Species of small birds are a notable example, with many now locally extinct or close to becoming extinct. While some manage to hang on, such as the White-Browed Scrubwrens at Mallanbool Reserve, their last vestiges of habitat are under threat through vegetation removal in both public and private green spaces. The way our green spaces are managed also has other less obvious ecological repercussions, such as collapsing food webs, local extinction of other fauna and overall decline in biodiversity.

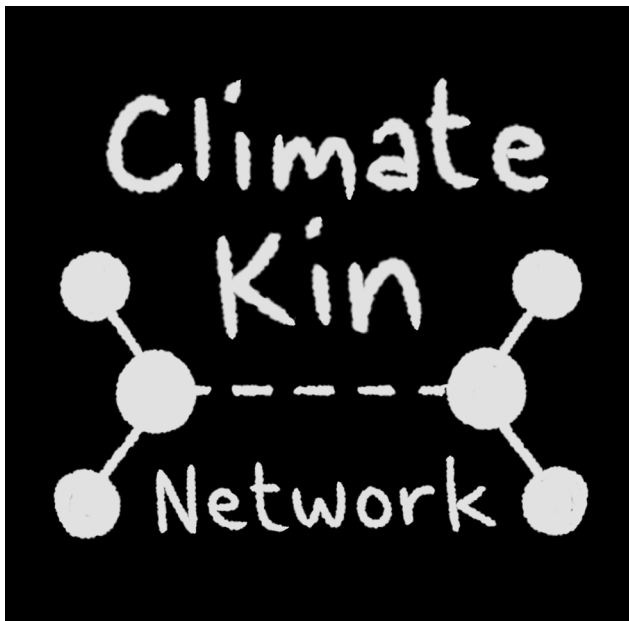
This matters to all of us — we are not separate from, but part of nature. We benefit physically and emotionally when our immediate environment is flourishing. Greater plant, animal and invertebrate biodiversity results in healthier, more functional ecosystems that support climate change mitigation, making urban landscapes better for human health as well as flora and fauna.

This project aims to support and inspire the community to learn about and care for local ecosystems and wildlife through citizen science, sharing of resources and hosting community events. This will form a resilient knowledge base, empowering residents to take positive action towards preserving and restoring local biodiversity.

**Contact:** [Care.For.Nature.GE@gmail.com](mailto:Care.For.Nature.GE@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/Care.for.Nature.GE](https://www.facebook.com/Care.for.Nature.GE)

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### 2023 Glen Eira Sustainability Champions



*“Let’s just keep asking ourselves this question ‘is what I’m about to do strengthening the web of connections, or is it weakening it?’”*  
— Margaret J. Wheatley

## Climate Kin Network

Elli Aleksenitser, Sarah Howell and Walter Galdames Opazo

**Climate Kin Network** will be a survey of the status of the climate action community network in Glen Eira.

It is a citizen science project that will provide a baseline to understand our community as a complex system and observe its changes, opportunities and challenges. This understanding will help propose activities to strengthen the network. It will also act as a platform to connect interest to resources. To encourage this, we want to facilitate a festive get-together of potential collaborators and create an artistic representation of our findings.

How can you help the **Climate Kin Network** project?

- Put us in touch with people you think we need to talk to.
- Offer your expertise in data science, ethics, qualitative research or other areas.
- Offer your time to help us with interviewing local community group representatives or help us run events.

We would like to thank our fellow Sustainability Champions for their contributions and feedback on our project, in particular Heath Kirby and Kiki Havos. We would also like to thank Kelly, Deb, Nadav and all of the guest speakers, in particular Lina whose ideas about communities and collaboration are informing our survey design.

**Contact:** [climatekinnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:climatekinnetwork@gmail.com)

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**2023 Glen Eira Sustainability Champions**

Bentleigh | Bentleigh East | Brighton East | Carnegie | Caulfield | Elsternwick | Gardenvale | Glen Huntly | McKinnon | Murrumbeena | Ormond | St Kilda East



*“You show what you value by the choices you make.” — Julia Gillard*

## **Energy Smart: Pocket and Planet Friendly**

Malcolm Guy, Madiha Ansari and Seathrun Hayes

We will hold community workshops to share our three personal case studies of improving home efficiency and personal carbon footprints, and the shift to home electrification. We'll then break into three focus area groups to answer attendee questions about our experiences and help people make more informed choices.

Our objective is to inform people how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by electrifying and utilising simple energy efficient practices around the house. We will share our experiences to help others invest in sustainable choices and reduce their carbon footprint while saving money.

### **About us**

#### *Malcolm Guy*

Malcolm and his family started electrifying their home in 2015. They have implemented four of the 'electric six' and Malcolm can share the detail about how their choices are affecting his household's energy bills.

#### *Madiha Ansari*

Madiha understands how you can measure your personal carbon footprint and will explore the order you might choose to reduce emissions around your home.

#### *Seathrun Hayes*

Seathrun knows many tips on how to implement energy efficient savings in your home. He will share a range of options for renters and homeowners, and explore associated government rebates.

Together we'll help you make better choices for you, your family and the planet.

**Contact:** [Energysmart@outlook.com.au](mailto:Energysmart@outlook.com.au)

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**2023 Glen Eira Sustainability Champions**



*“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” — Jane Goodall*

## Heat Aware

### Thirumagal Arunachalam-Elanthendral

**Heat Aware** will engage international students about the risk of heat stress during the Australian summer, and help build their capacity to be safe during heatwaves.

As the climate emergency worsens, Melbourne will experience more hot days, posing a significant health risk to residents. To put it starkly, heatwaves have been responsible for more deaths in Australia than any other climate related hazard, including bushfires, storms, cyclones and floods.

International students are one of the more vulnerable groups in our community due to a range of factors, including being unfamiliar with the local climate and unaware of practices that can reduce their risk of heat stress.

With an initial focus on international students from Monash University living in Glen Eira, the project will build their resilience to climate change through five-minute interactive drop-by sessions during orientation days. These sessions will provide information on the risk of heat stroke, how to mitigate the risk and where to get support, and cooling methods such as publicly accessible cool spaces where students can beat the heat.

Future expansion of the program could include school-aged international students, local English language course providers and other multi-cultural groups. Feel free to be in touch to find out more!

**Contact:** [heatawareGE@gmail.com](mailto:heatawareGE@gmail.com)

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#### 2023 Glen Eira Sustainability Champions



## **(HERB)ville – Helping Environmental Regeneration**

Marc Perruzza, Paola Sparano, Revathi Krishna and Stephanie Epp

**(HERB)ville** aims to connect people to share ideas and growing knowledge to enable the process of planting on residential nature strips.

Leading by example, we envisage the project will help residents of Glen Eira overcome barriers to setting up nature strip plantings. People will be able to opt in to join **(HERB)ville** when applying for nature strip permits, creating a network of street gardens within the community that are in reach of most households.

Phase one of the **(HERB)ville** project will focus on the establishment of local indigenous nature strip plantings, using our collected resources to help inform residents on garden bed design. Encouraging these plantings within our community benefits the environment, improves our local biodiversity and creates pollination corridors. It will transform a previously bland monoculture of grass to an area that is inviting and productive for insects, birds, bees, butterflies and people alike.

The project benefits extend beyond the environment by improving community engagement and wellbeing and mental health outcomes for people who otherwise would not have access to a garden space or feel empowered to start a garden alone.

**(HERB)ville** will delight local walkers and become a source of interest for people living in and visiting Glen Eira.

**Contact:** [www.facebook.com/HERBville.GlenEira](https://www.facebook.com/HERBville.GlenEira)

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**2023 Glen Eira Sustainability Champions**

Today...



Transforming our streets from this...

Tomorrow...



To safe & green spaces for everyone!

**STREETS**  
**ALIVE** Glen  
Eira

## Streets Alive Glen Eira

Hayden Lavigne and Amanda Shen

**Streets Alive Glen Eira** is a passionate community-driven advocacy group, dedicated to transforming our streets into vibrant, safe, and sustainable spaces for everyone. With a strong focus on climate action and promoting sustainable transportation, we strive to create a future where our neighbourhoods prioritise the wellbeing of residents and the environment.

We believe that everyone's voice matters, and we work closely with local residents, community groups, and elected officials to advocate for positive change. Our initiatives revolve around three key pillars:

- 1. Lively streets:** We envision lively streets with inviting outdoor spaces, enhanced greenery and thriving local businesses.
- 2. Increased green space:** More trees, pedestrian-friendly spaces and greener neighbourhoods are vital for a healthier environment.
- 3. Streets for all:** Inclusive and accessible streets for everyone, no matter their ability or mode of transport. We push for safe infrastructure, low-speed limits, and equitable allocation of street space.

Join us and be a catalyst for change! Together, we can shape a resilient and climate-friendly future, making our community a better place to live, work, and thrive. Let's build a brighter tomorrow, one street at a time.

**Contact:** [www.streetsalivegleneira.org/join](http://www.streetsalivegleneira.org/join)

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### 2023 Glen Eira Sustainability Champions





# TransitionGlenEira.org

## Transition Glen Eira Sustainability Festival

Miriam Baxt

The climate crisis requires individuals, businesses, not-for-profit organisations and governments to cooperatively adopt energy descent plans and actions.

The concepts within Permaculture's Ethics and Principles offer the best approach, using the Transition Towns Network Framework to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, which is in line with those of a Circular Economy.

**Transition Glen Eira** (TGE), a local community group, was set up as an educational and event collaborator. The mission is to establish an annual *Sustainability Festival* with the possibility of satellite events within Glen Eira in the long term.

The purpose of the *Festival* is to engage people living, working and studying within Glen Eira to better understand and adopt more sustainable lifestyle practices. It will enable community groups and Council to showcase their activities. Council's Sustainability Team will be instrumental to support the promotion of the activities to the community to increase participation and engage people to adopt satellite activities.

The key to the success and longevity of the Festival is cooperation and collaboration — harnessing the willingness of sustainability focused groups and businesses to support the event by getting involved and/or funding its existence.

Timing and location are yet to be determined. Options include February, March, May and June 2024.

**Contact:** [permaculture.mb@gmail.com](mailto:permaculture.mb@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/TransitionGlenEira](http://www.facebook.com/TransitionGlenEira)

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### 2023 Glen Eira Sustainability Champions



**GLEN EIRA**  
CITY COUNCIL

### **More information about the project:**

[www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/sustainabilitychampions](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/sustainabilitychampions)

### **Glen Eira City Council**

Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield

Mail address: PO Box 42 Caulfield South, 3162

Phone: (03) 9524 3333

Fax: (03) 9523 0339

[mail@gleneira.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@gleneira.vic.gov.au)

[www.gleneira.vic.gov.au](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au)

### **National Relay Service**

If you are deaf, hearing-impaired, or speech-impaired, we ask that you call us via the National Relay Service and then ask for (03) 9524 3333.

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Speak and Listen: 1 300 555 727