



LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTETM
AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

LIVING-FUTURE.ORG.AU



TABLE OF CONTENTS

5	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
6	SPONSORSHIP + MEMBERSHIP
10	TRAINING + SUPPORT
16	MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS
20	COLLABORATIVE UPDATE
24	TREASURER'S REPORT
24	MEMBERSHIP REPORT

THE INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE'S MISSION
IS TO LEAD THE
TRANSFORMATION
TOWARD A FUTURE
THAT IS SOCIALLY JUST,
CULTURALLY RICH
AND ECOLOGICALLY
RESTORATIVE.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As Australians are confronted by the difficulties of a changing climate, it is clear that we need to embrace a different approach. A new, positive narrative that will inspire us along 'a visionary path to a restorative future' can help us create the future we need. With serious challenges ahead, the Living Building Challenge (the Challenge) promotes exciting ideas in poetic language about the models we should strive to emulate, and the billions of years of 'research and development' that support their elegance and effectiveness. When we look to Nature as the model, restorative end goals are no longer seen as 'too hard' to achieve; they are revealed as the basis of all life, and the appropriate benchmark for all human activity.

As our elite athletes and business entrepreneurs strive for excellence beyond the norm, so too can we identify higher goals for which to aim in the built environment. Like the experiment with the grasshopper in a cage, we have been conditioned to believe we can only jump so high. Now is the time for us to redefine our expectations of ourselves, and show the way for others to do the same. We are called upon to share the experience and knowledge we and our teams gain to enable many more to come along as well.

2013 has been a year of ecosystem establishment for The Living Future Institute of Australia (LFIA). We have seen two buildings pursuing the Challenge open, one commence construction, and one new registration. From just one Collaborative in 2012, we now have one in nearly every capital city across the country. It has been a year of great growth, and we are now looking forward to developing the depth, diversity of services, and resilience of the organisation.

A key element of our success this year has been bringing together partners already achieving great things to work out how we can all do even better. In 2014, we look forward to strengthening our partnerships with both the profession and academia. We are particularly excited about working with researchers and students to test what the LBC can deliver, as well as the hurdles we need to address and overcome.

We hope you will come along with us on what will be a stimulating and rewarding journey. Let's stop debating what might (or might not) happen and direct our combined energy to creating the future we want.

"Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears." - Les Brown

Here's to getting out there and not just dreaming, but making it happen.

Caroline Pidcock
Chair of the Board

Mary Casey
Vice Chair of the Board



A full-page photograph of two children running on a grassy hill. On the left, a boy in a blue and white striped shirt and jeans is jumping or running with his arms outstretched. On the right, a girl in a blue t-shirt and dark shorts is running towards the right. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text "SPONSORSHIP + MEMBERSHIP" is overlaid in the center in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

SPONSORSHIP + MEMBERSHIP

SPONSORSHIP

To date, Sponsorship has been received from both our commercial and academic partners. This has been focused on events such as Jason McLennan's tour to Australia in 2012, the various talks and training undertaken since, and the trip by Amanda Surgeon in late 2013 to train auditors.

Pro bono legal advice on the LFIA Constitution and other legal agreements was gratefully received from Maddocks. Our sponsors to date include:

- Aurecon
- Viridis
- Design Inc
- ARUP
- COX Richardson Architects & Planners
- Maddocks
- Curtin University
- University of Melbourne – Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
- University of Technology Sydney – Institute of Sustainable Futures
- University of Wollongong – Sustainable Buildings Research Centre
- Tamburlaine Vineyard

MEMBERSHIP

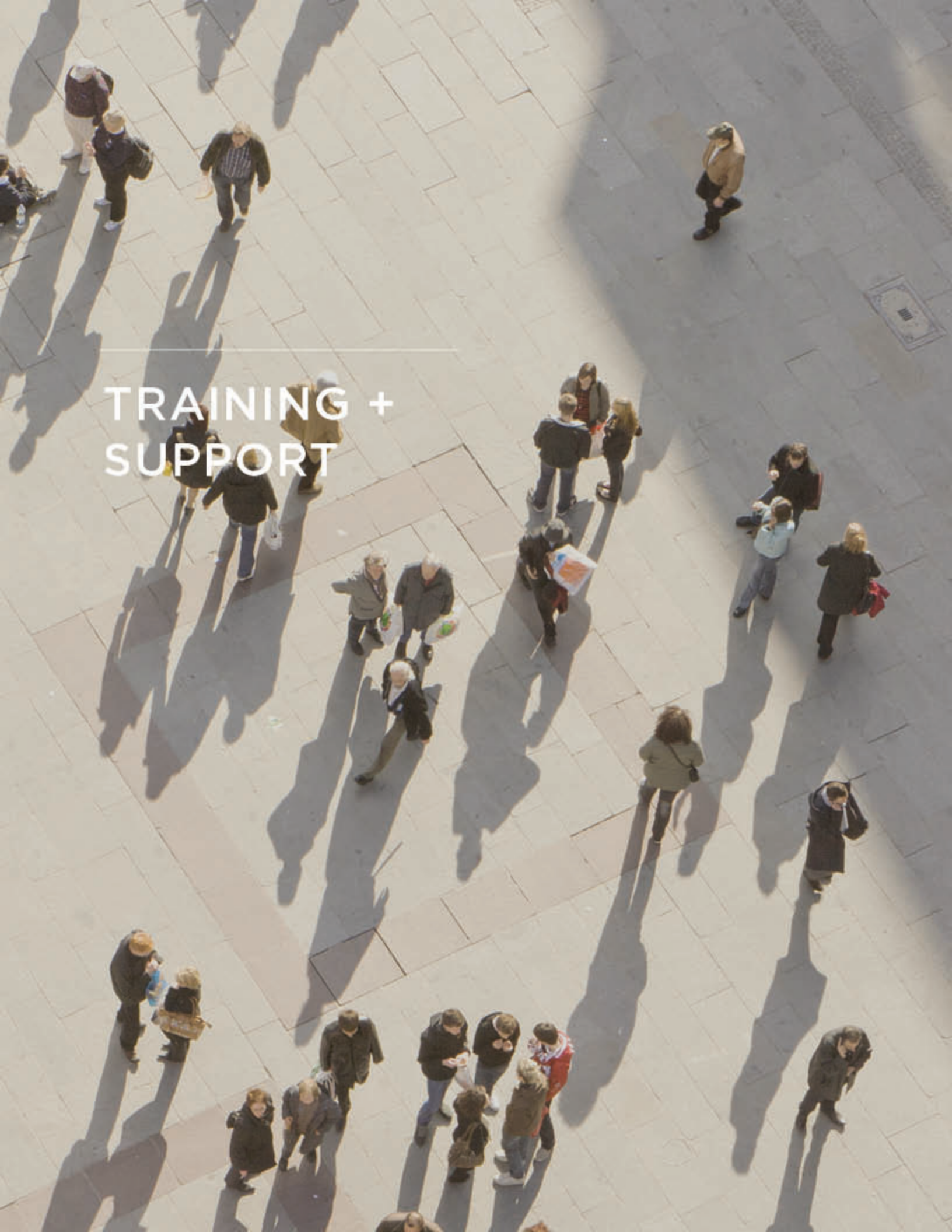
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LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE PROJECT REGISTRATIONS

Project	Status
Sustainable Building Research Centre (SBRC), University of Wollongong	Building complete and commissioning commencing
Retrofitting for Resilient and Sustainable Buildings (RRSB) – Transformational Technical Training Facility (TTF), TAFE Illawarra, Yallah Campus	Building nearly complete
Global Change Institute (GCI), University of Queensland	Building complete and commissioning commencing
South Terrace Development South Fremantle, WA	Just registered
Bull Street Terraces Castlemaine, Victoria	Just registered
Gold Creek Primary Environment Centre Canberra, ACT	Just registered
Crawford Road Renovation Chelmer, Queensland	Just registered



An aerial, high-angle photograph of a busy pedestrian plaza. The ground is paved with large, light-colored rectangular stones. Numerous people are walking in various directions, their long, dark shadows cast prominently to the right, indicating a low sun position. The people are dressed in casual to business-casual attire. In the center-left, a group of three people is standing and talking. To their right, another group of four is gathered. Further down, a person is walking with a shopping bag. The overall scene conveys a sense of movement and public space.

TRAINING +
SUPPORT

TRAINING + SUPPORT

The LFIA's core objective with regard to training is to build our capacity, both in terms of resources to deliver the courses, as well as the infrastructure to promote courses and events, register attendees, and gather feedback on events held.

The core objective related to support for operations is to provide a 'go-to' resource for projects pursuing the Challenge in Australia.

The essential strategies required to achieve these objectives are:

- Training of instructors
- Selection and training of auditors
- Creation of website with interactive forum for discussions
- Development of handbooks and template documents for submissions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2013

Introducing the Challenge:

We now have several Ambassadors trained in the Introduction lecture, who delivered numerous talks in New South Wales and Victoria, including a presentation to the Architectural Axis Conference in Sydney in March, to NAWIC in Melbourne in April, to students and the University of Melbourne and the World Building Congress in Brisbane in May, and Sydney architects in July.

Representation of the LFIA Board at the UnConference in Seattle:

Three board members attended the international UnConference, giving us an opportunity to network with other Living Future groups from New Zealand, Mexico and across the United States, as well as to discuss our strategy for Australia with the Executive team of the ILFI, discussing ways they can assist us in this critical establishment period with training materials and other support.

UnConference Download:

In partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Futures, the LFIA delivered a lecture to an audience of nearly 150 at UTS to share the highlights of the UnConference. The lecture was called: 'Re-Imagining Our Communities: Sustainability and Beyond', and was an unqualified success, with all feedback being extremely positive, and increasing both our Sydney Collaborative membership and the 'likes' on our facebook page by about 10%.

Training of Instructors and Auditors:

In 2013, we developed the on-the-ground capability to deliver the following courses:

- Introduction to the Living Building Challenge (1 hour lecture)
- Understanding the Living Building Challenge (all day training)
- Energy Petal Workshop (1 hour or half day)
- Water Petal Workshop (1 hour or half day)

We have also now commenced the training of two auditors in Australia. Additional candidates will be trained on an as-needs basis, as the volume of registrations requires.

Lectures and Training delivered:

Numerous lectures have been delivered since the inception of the LFIA, including:

- Lectures and Training hosted by the following partners: Curtin University, Perth, Integrated Design Commission, Adelaide, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, University of Technology Sydney & the Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney, University of Queensland.
- Lecture attendance in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane 390+ attendees
- Training attendance in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney 60+ attendees.

Website Launched:

Our new website, launched on 18 October, will be a key source of information on the LBC in Australia, including details on Australia projects pursuing the Challenge, and a blog for discussion articles on its application in our ecosystem/marketplace. The new website also includes a list of courses available and a registration mechanism so that we can deliver courses on a targeted, 'upon request' basis.

Submission Templates and Handbooks:

The Red List has been identified as a key area where project teams would benefit from the lessons learned of the SBRC project team. The potential for the development of a 'Red List Compliant' specification has been discussed for some time as a way to pass on this experience. An exploratory meeting was held with NatSpec to advise us on the creation of such a list.

PLANS FOR 2014

Capacity-building:

Now that we have built the capacity and infrastructure to support it, we look forward to delivering training courses over the course of the next year, and developing our suite of offerings.

We are also planning on sending three board members to the UnConference in Portland this year, and will deliver a presentation our progress as an Institute.

Support for teams pursuing the Challenge:

We will also look forward to further training of our new auditor crew, and watching the submission review process for both the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre and the Global Change Institute.

We will also progress the development of the Red List Compliant specification, and look forward to suggestions and requests from our members regarding other guidelines which would be of help.

Working on the Challenge in Oz? Discuss:

The development of an Australia-specific discussion forum on the website will also be a key deliverable for 2014.

Living Future 2013 unConference_

Right: David Suzuki kicking off the Living Future unConference in Seattle, WA; Below Left: Board members at the unConference chatting with Denis Hayes, founder of Earth Day



EDUCATION_

Top: LFIA's presentation of the highlights of the UnConference at the Institute of Sustainable Futures in August; Lower Left: Tamburlaine Organic Wines sponsored our after-talk drinks to encourage networking; Lower Right: Mary Casey and Caroline Pidcock presenting the UnConference highlights and an overview of the the Living Building Challenge





A photograph of a large, ornate hall with high ceilings and arched doorways. In the foreground, there is a massive, colorful floral arrangement featuring red, pink, and white flowers, along with various green foliage and ferns. A person in a dark jacket and light-colored pants is visible on the left side, looking at the flowers. The text "MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS

MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS

The key aspect to communication is our external image and engagement. In this our first year of operations, we have established the key elements of the infrastructure we need to communicate with our membership and with the wider community. Our focus for 2014 will be on developing a clear marketing strategy to build the brand, utilizing the mechanisms we have now established.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2013

Mailing List:

Through our marketing efforts to date, we have amassed a mailing list of over 700 people across Australia. This list includes professionals from a range of industries (not just building), students, and academics.

LinkedIn:

Our LinkedIn page has been established since 2012, but it got a significant upgrade this year to include content on our products. It currently has 35 followers.

Eventbrite:

We have successfully used Eventbrite to promote and organise 11 events to date, including lectures, the Sydney Collaborative's Beauty Tour, and the AGM and SBRC Tour.

Website:

Whilst we use the LinkedIn page for status updates and announcements, a website was considered a key piece of infrastructure to establish an online presence for the LFIA. It was launched on 18 October. As noted in the previous section, it will provide a gateway/hub for two-way communication with our membership and other interested people.



Publications:

The LFIA contributed two Trim Tab articles this year, one on the creation of the Australian Institute and one on the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre. Trim Tab is published around the world in both print and electronic media.

Company & Industry Presentations:

In addition to the training and lectures described in the previous section, numerous corporate lunch presentations have been delivered this year completed by Directors, including:

- Living Building Challenge Introduction with Aurecon, Perth
- Living Building Challenge Introduction with DesignInc, Melbourne
- Living Building Challenge Introduction with Aurecon, Melbourne
- Living Building Challenge Introduction with Aurecon, Sydney
- Living Building Challenge Introduction with Cox Richardson, Sydney

PLANS FOR 2014

Our focus for 2014 will be to develop our marketing and communications strategy in detail so that we can use the infrastructure we have built to best effect. We will engage with a marketing and communications expert on a pro bono basis to assist us in this critical work to ensure clarity, consistency and coordination in our messaging. We anticipate that key actions coming out of that planning will include:

Brand & Marketing Strategy:

Conduct diagnostic of the LFIA brand and its relationship to the ILFI brand. This work should provide a coordinated approach for online and social media, funding and philanthropic, Collaboratives, and members.

Marketing and Communications material:

Develop inventory/resource map of the current material and material required, including promotional needs for events and training courses.



COLLABORATIVE UPDATES



Living Building Challenge Collaboratives are community-based, in-person groups of Ambassadors that come together for informal learning experiences and to advance community transformation. Collaborative members create the local conditions that support development of Living Buildings, Landscapes and Neighborhoods.

Our Collaborative network has grown rapidly in 2014, increasing threefold in one year. We now have Collaboratives established in nearly every state and territory in Australia:



Current stats for each of the facebook pages are shown in the table below:

Location	Likes
Sydney	140
Melbourne	64
Brisbane	31
Adelaide (as the Sustainable Building Network)	392
Perth	19

In addition to informal communications, the International Living Future Institute hosts a quarterly conference call for the Asia-Pacific Facilitators to share information, updates and assist each other.



TREASURER'S REPORT +
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Living Future Institute Australia profit & loss, September 2012 through August 2013.

INCOME

Memberships	\$4,404.18
National Tours	12,274.51
Sponsorships	10,300.00
Interest Received	59.06
Other Revenue	440.00

Total revenue	27,477.75
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Gross profit	27,477.75
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EXPENSE

Administration	969.37
Conferences & Events	22,247.06

Total expenses	23,247.06
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Net Income	4,261.32
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MEMBERS

Thank you to our members for their support in this, our first year of operations. The current list of members is as follows:

Tim Adams
Andrew Bennett
Nick Bishop
Elena Bondareva
Mary Bowe
Dylan Brady
John Brodie
Steven Bruinsma
Mary Casey
Stephen Choi
Ed Cotter
Alyssa Ellenwood
Kerry Gallagher
Dominique Hes
Judy Hollingworth
Suzette Jackson
Lance Jeffery
Andrew Ling
Ken Long
Leona McLaggan
Cynthia Mitchell
Griff Morris
Blair Nolan
Kathryn O'Sullivan
Clare Parry
Caroline Pidcock
Chris Reardon
Jeffrey Robinson
Warwick Savvas
Katie Skillington
Jim Stewart
Jane Toner
Yen Ru Wu



ABOUT THE LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA:

The Living Future Institute Australia (LFIA) is dedicated to establishing a powerful network of informed, influential, and active global citizens who are committed to redefining humanity's relationships with the ecosystems we inhabit. Joining together as citizens of the planet, we seek to redirect our future towards a society that is socially just, culturally rich and ecologically restorative.

The LFIA was established in 2012 by a passionate founding committee as a visionary hub for restorative programs and action within Australia. The Australian Institute provides training, support, and design initiatives across four innovative international programs.