



# A Social Enterprise to be Proud Of!

**Bairnsdale Recycling Enterprise Incorporated  
(BREI)**

Sally Kendall

Ro Gooch



“We live in a strange world ...

where we think we can buy or build our way out of a crisis  
that has been created by buying and building things”

*Greta Thunberg – in a speech at the Goldene Kamera, annual film and television awards  
Berlin 03.04.19*

- Where pallets of polystyrene are wrapped in plastic for transport
- Where we don't want or can't afford to pay the cost of disposing of mattresses, so they're dumped in state forest
- Where most e-waste can only be dismantled at a cost *greater* than the income from the components
- Where parts to repair our possessions are not manufactured / not available



# Grassroots beginnings – “from little things, big things grow”

- BREI is a community-based not-for-profit, financially independent social enterprise initiated in 2007
- Shed was leased from East Gippsland Shire Council and partnership agreement developed
- Trading began in 2009
- Employs three permanent P/T staff; four casual/PT staff; two volunteers



# What's a social enterprise?

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISES:

- ▶ are led by an economic, social, cultural, or environmental mission consistent with a public or community benefit
- ▶ derive a substantial portion of their income from trade
- ▶ reinvest the majority of their profit/surplus in the fulfilment of their mission.

Source: Social Traders

# Tip Shop @ Bairnsdale Transfer Station

Main entry





BREI - a charity whose purpose is to advance social or public welfare by:

- Providing employment and training opportunities for people of Bairnsdale and surrounds who are long-term unemployed or with a disability, through utilising resources bound for landfill in Gippsland.
- Enhancing the natural environment by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, thereby extending the life of landfill sites and supporting Local Councils and the community to reach minimal waste targets

## Landfill Savings

	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017 – 2018	July 2018 – March 2019
<b>\$ value saved to Shire Landfill costs</b>	\$160,875	\$226,800	\$220,725
<b>Mattress taken and processed</b>	593	834	943
<b>Total m3 other product diverted from landfill</b>	776	1,095	1,000

# Product Sale Quarterly Summary Sept 18, Dec 18, March 19





Geoff – It's a great place to work!  
There's an interesting mix of items, and  
a big range of stuff. I like the planning,  
which is about trying to make East  
Gippsland better.



Nathan - I like saving stuff from landfill.  
We provide a cheap alternative to the  
big stores and without all the  
packaging waste that goes with it.  
We're reducing the environmental  
impact in our community.





## Have a think about this?


- ▶ Product diverted from landfill may still end up in landfill within a few months/years, so are we diverting them from landfill for a long time, or just a short time.

How can we measure this?

- ▶ About 30% of all dismantled mattresses is still being sent to landfill



## Have a think about this?

- Which grants are we eligible for?  
Our past experience and 'Our Community' tell us there's very few grants that we "fit"
  - We want the community more involved in visiting the Tip Shop. How can we do this?
- 




## Dilemma...

- BREI (and the Tip Shop) is a great example of our community solving its own problems, BUT it takes 1000's of hours of volunteer input annually to keep it running, with almost zero support from any level of government
- There are very few social enterprises in East Gippsland
- **Is there a way for social enterprises to be better supported in East Gippsland?**



## Dilemma...

- 98% of all our income is spent on wages. How can we improve infrastructure and replace vehicles?
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Jim - We give items a second life when they shouldn't be going to landfill. People re-purpose, and use their creativity with items they take home.



Rita - It's given me a job. Every day we give people an opportunity to get things for their home they otherwise can't afford.





# Our passion

- In the last two financial years, we've saved **2,584 m<sup>3</sup>** of material from going to landfill
- We've provided financial saving to the East Gippsland community totalling more than **\$387,600**
- Almost **20 people** who've previously relied on government benefits have gained the social value and advantages of being employed during the past 10 years


Mandy - I love the interactions with lots of people each day. It's exciting wondering what items people want to throw away, and there is only one of each.



Wayne - It's changed my life!  
I didn't think I'd get any work  
with my back injury.







“We live in a strange world.  
But it’s the world that my generation has  
been handed.  
It’s the only world we’ve got.  
We are now standing at a crossroads in  
history.  
We are failing but we have not yet failed.  
We can still fix this.  
It's up to us.”

*Greta Thunberg – in a speech at the Goldene Kamera, annual film and television awards Berlin 03.04.19*



# Things we can all do:

1. Discuss joining our  
Committee of Management or other  
ideas

Phone Sally      0412015824



## 2. The “Victorian Government Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management”

- ▶ You can contribute by typing your submission ideas into the easy-to-use form at this link:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/954-epc-lc/inquiry-into-recycling-and-waste-management>

For more information about making a submission please go to: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc/article/4144>

- ▶ Share this with all your contacts who may be interested
- ▶ The closing date for submissions is 10th May 2019

### 3. Useful sites:

<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/campaigns/love-food-hate-waste>

<https://planetark.org/>

[www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Services/Waste/How\\_Can\\_You\\_Reduce\\_Your\\_Waste](http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Services/Waste/How_Can_You_Reduce_Your_Waste)

