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Thriving Tasmania: Emerging Stronger



COVID-19 disrupted our way of life, forced rapid change and new ways of doing things. We have a choice: to go back to 'business as usual' or to boldly create a stronger, thriving Tasmania.

This year, Sustainable Living Tasmania became one of two major partners in the Thriving Tasmania initiative. This involved a conversation open to Tasmanians of all backgrounds and ages to reflect on what COVID-19 has shown us and what is important to us to emerge and thrive. 140 Tasmanians came together full of energy, ideas and dreams to share their wishes for recovery and beyond. Thriving Tasmania:

- Showed how we can use technology in a new way of engaging our community using a collaborative, strengths-based approach.
- Provided a mechanism for Tasmanians of all backgrounds, ages, regions and sectors to be involved in the process of recovery.
- Provided a moment in time to connect Tasmanians to lift their sights to a shared future horizon providing a sense of togetherness, optimism and agency in recovery.

Two online conversations were held using an approach called Appreciative Inquiry. The event was largely held in small 'breakout' groups where participants shared stories in response to a series of questions. Participants captured key points via online survey, which has been consolidated into a summary document.

The two-hour conversation had four phases:

- Discover: what emerged stronger as a result of COVID-19
- Dream: wishes for a thriving Tasmania
- Design: unlocking commitment to emerge stronger
- Deploy: asks and offers and way forward

Next, Thriving Tasmania intends to inform:

- Participants and Tasmanians to take forward the ideas and actions into businesses, organisations, communities or households to contribute to a stronger, thriving Tasmania.
- The Tasmanian Way process to facilitate a state-wide response to the UN2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Shared into the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council consultation process.

For more information go to: www.tasmanianway.org/thrivingtasmania

Consulting services

During 2019/20, Sustainable Living Tasmania conducted 28 jobs for 18 organisations, including 15 basic energy audits, 9 detailed energy audits, and 1 precision sub-system energy audit to Australian Standard AS3598:2014; and 4 greenhouse gas inventories (carbon audits) to international standard ISO14064-1:2018.

Clients included MONA, Clarence City Council, Huon Valley Council, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, several charitable organisations, and several small-to-medium enterprises including in tourism, agriculture, childcare, and retail.

"Todd provided a fantastic consulting service giving us a detailed analysis of the centre's energy use and recommendations that can be considered to reduce energy use and associated costs. Todd shared information on new grants available that would also allow us to implement the recommendations. We are now about to implement a 10 kW solar panel system with a business grant from the Australian Government."

"I highly recommend Sustainability Living Tasmania, their support and advice has been invaluable. Their guidance will allow you to make essential changes to make a positive environmental impact in your organisation."

– Maude Macon, Project Officer, Adventure Patch

Tas Networks sponsored energy audits for Charities

In 2020, Tas Networks provided sponsorship for Sustainable Living Tasmania to conduct energy audits for charities on their Tasmanian-based premises. This work was started this financial year, with 5 being completed, 2 in progress, and a further 9 planned. 4 completed feedback surveys, all of which rated the service at the top of a 5 point scale as "extremely useful". Testimonials are included below:



"Thanks Todd and Sustainable Living Tasmania. You did a great job listening to all of our information and concerns and giving them consideration in your solutions report. It's really valuable to us. Every dollar saved is a dollar we can use to provide support to homeless men."

- Stephanie Meikle, CEO of Bethlehem House

"I was really happy with Julie's support through the energy efficient audit and this will help us set priorities for budgets and submission. Thank you so much"

- Nettie Burr, Manager of Starting Point Neighbourhood House

"With our community house being so old it was a great insight to discover what old fittings of the house are now outdated and in need of upgrades."

- Zoe Bennett, Activities, Program and Events Coordinator of Dorset Community House

"We were very happy with the service provided for our energy audit. It was very comprehensive, and provided us with clear information about the benefits and costs of implementing a range of measures to help us reduce our operating costs."

- Robin Krabbe, Coordinator of Live Well Tasmania.

Tarremah – Tasmania's first energy neutral school?

We coached the "Susteinerbles" - a group of terrific volunteer students at Tarremah Steiner School – to develop a strategy to have a large solar panel system installed at the school. We did some basic solar modelling, which the students used to put together a business case that they presented to the School Council. The Council agreed, and some time later, a 100 kW solar panel system was installed on Tarremah's gym. It is expected to supply 83% of the school's current energy use (averaged over the year). The students' next aim, which we are also coaching them on, is to reduce the school's energy use through efficiency measures by 17%. If successful, this would make Tarremah the first energy neutral school in Tasmania.



(L) The "Susteinerbles" volunteer student group
(R) The new 100 kW solar panel system

Community support

For many community groups we continued to provide support, including auspicing, payroll, other administrative services, and promotion. These groups included the Creek Road Community Garden, Education for Sustainability Tasmania, Food Garden Group, Plasticwise Tarroona, Sustainable Living in Kingborough, and Tarroona Gardening Forum. Activities for some of these groups is summarised below.

Education for Sustainability Tasmania

Sustainable Living Tasmania continued to support this network of organisations and community groups focussed on education for sustainability. Our support included auspicings funds, and employing the network's Facilitator, Ruth Osborne.

Plasticwise Tarooma

We continued to support this community group, which ran many workshops in schools focussed on the reduction of plastic waste. Our support included auspicings funds, and employing the group's Administrator, Hilary Green.

Creek Road Community Garden

Sustainable Living Tasmania continued auspicings the Creek Road Community Garden, with this report provided by their volunteer coordinators:

We were lucky earlier in the year to be given approval for gardeners to continue to attend the garden when other activities started to cease due to Covid19. After a call to the Health Department, we were able to advise our gardeners that, as long as they followed the strict Covid19 safety plan, they could continue to tend their plots. We know that a few were concerned and chose not to garden for a couple of months, but for those who did, it was a great tonic for their mental health.

We have been watching a new subdivision emerging over the creek from the gardens. This construction was due to impact our access and parking, however, again due to Covid19, work has fallen behind and it appears we will have a new access road into a hopefully larger car parking area.

We currently have 33 gardeners who garden in the 55 very usable plots. We have designated a few plots as 'unusable' due to shade from large pine trees, so let folk who were interested use them to grow crops of potatoes, much to their delight. One of our long-term gardeners decided that in his mid-80's he wanted to retire from gardening, so we have been able to welcome 4 new gardeners to take over his plots. We have another 5 or 6 people on a waiting list.

We are in the process of organising a Spring Working bee to mow, whipper snip, prune and generally have a big clean up. We are looking forward to another bountiful season to come.

Finances

	This year (2019-20)	Last year (2018-19)
Current assets	\$183,303	\$193,110
Non-current assets	\$0	\$2,205
Current liabilities	\$41,638	\$103,241
Non-current liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net assets	\$141,665	\$92,074
Total income	\$239,383	\$251,699
Total expenses	\$189,792	\$368,782
Operating surplus	\$49,591	-\$117,082

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Grant funding

Project	Funding source	Amount
Energy Audits for Charities	TasNetworks	\$40,000
Washes against Waste	City of Hobart	\$3,458

Personnel

Board members

Shane Bartel	President
Margaret Steadman	Vice President
Alexis Wadsley	Vice President
John Green	Treasurer
Uta Green	Secretary
Phil Anstie	Assistant Treasurer
Kim Barker	Board Member
Erin Buttermore	Board Member
Richard Scaife	Board Member
Sue-Anne Gunton	Board Member

Jodi Alexander	Greenhouse inventory research
Julie Hargreaves	Energy Assessor
Ruth Osborne	Education for Sustainability Tasmania Facilitator
Rebecca Boyle	Energy Assessor

Volunteers

Paul Duncombe	Accounting advice
David Berghouse	Climate News digest editor
Kelvin Carter	General office assistance
Richard Witherwick	General office assistance
Catherine Denehey	Office administration

Staff

Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Todd Houstein	Principle Consultant
Hillary Green	Plasticwise Tarroona Administrator