



ANNUAL REPORT 20/21

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President's Report

Dear Members and Supporters,

The Year 20-21 has been another very strange year. While this time last year we thought we would be through the shock of COVID, this is not the case. Events in New South Wales and Victoria show that it is very much still with us, and while we can be very grateful for the relative normality of Tasmania, we also feel the pain of our friends and relatives, fellow Australians, and fellow citizens of the world, on the mainland and further overseas.

For many of us the COVID outbreak is a reminder of how lucky we are to live in Tasmania, and how important it is that we live sustainably, so that our children and grandchildren can continue to enjoy the beauty and wonder that is this beautiful island and its oceans.

For this island I must also acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional and original owners of this land, the palawa, to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal people who are the custodians of this land. They have lived sustainably in Tasmania for tens of thousands of years, and we still have much to learn.

All of humanity faces an existential threat in climate change. In the summer of 2020, the harbinger was the largest bushfires Australia had ever seen. In 2021, North America faced heat waves, bushfires, hurricanes and floods – all at the same time. Climate change is real, it is here, and the costs of inaction are far higher, financial and in human terms, than taking action.

While the Australian Government's inaction and distraction continue to disappoint, both globally and in Tasmania, there are signs of hope.

Green shoots of a new world order are emerging, and we must nurture them so that they can grow stronger and we can move off the self-destructive paths of the past.

Sustainable Living Tasmania is part of that solution, supporting Thriving Tasmania to bring Tasmanians

together to chart a better future post-COVID, supporting community conversations on emissions targets, energy audits and facilitating students to learn about, and actively take steps, towards energy neutrality through energy efficiency and renewables. We also continue to support grass roots organisations like the Creek Road Community Garden.

The year ahead has more opportunities to do good, reviving the Sustainable Living Festival, exciting opportunities in school engagement and energy and carbon audits as more Tasmanian sectors moves towards carbon neutrality. There is so much, working together and with the community, that we can do, but it is a marathon and not a sprint, and we need to self-care along the way.

In enabling SLT to pursue some of these opportunities, I felt it was important that I stepped down from my role as President (due to my day job with Energising Tasmania). This in no way reduces my passion for SLT's future, quite the opposite.

I would like to thank Margaret Steadman for stepping up as President and continuing to be a critical part of the heart and soul and living memory of SLT. I would like to thank Janine for her faithful administrative support and Todd for his dedication to SLT and his pursuit of excellence and truth that is the backbone of SLT's sustainable consulting.

I would like to thank Shane Bartel for his years of service on the Board, including as President when we navigated the transition out of an office and towards financial sustainability. I would like to thank all the Board members, officeholders, volunteers and staff for their time, energy and support. We still have so much to do for a sustainable Tasmania. Thank you.

Alexis Wadsley
Retiring President



Activities

Thriving Tasmania

In 2020, Thriving Tasmania connected more than 140 Tasmanians of diverse backgrounds and ages in a virtual conversation to share their dreams and wishes about what Covid-19 has shown us and what is important to us to emerge and shape a thriving Tasmania.

This process:

- Uncovered a set of priorities to shape a thriving Tasmania
- Showed how we can use technology in a new way of engaging our community using a collaborative, strengths-based approach.
- 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 as we move forward.

The outcomes from this conversation have been reflected in the Premier's Economic and Social Advisory Council Final Recommendations and have informed the priorities of the Tasmanian Way during 2020-21. Thriving Tasmania was made possible thanks to Disruptive Co., the Wellbeing Hub, Sustainable Living Tasmania, Brand Tasmania, City of Hobart, and Futago.

Tasmanian Way and Sustainable Living Tasmania are continuing to collaborate to shape a sustainable and thriving Tasmania.

City of Hobart's community emissions target

We were engaged by the City of Hobart to research what community emissions targets other cities around Australia and the world have set, and how the process of setting such targets has been undertaken. We are continuing to work with the City of Hobart to develop a community engagement process to be rolled out in 2021/22.

Exploring reviving the Sustainable Living Festival

The Board is convening a workshop to explore ideas and possibilities to revive the Sustainable Living Festival which was such an iconic SLT event and contribution to Tasmania, so watch this space.

Consulting services

During 2020/21, Sustainable Living Tasmania conducted 24 jobs for 18 organisations, including 2 basic energy audits and 14 detailed energy audits to Australian Standard AS3598:2014; 4 solar opportunity analyses; and other sustainability advice and training for 4 clients.

Tas Networks sponsored energy audits for Charities

In 2020, Tas Networks provided sponsorship for Sustainable Living Tasmania to conduct energy audits for 16 charities on their Tasmanian-based premises: Starting Point Neighbourhood House, Dorset Community House, Epilepsy Tasmania, Live Well Tasmania, Colony 47, The Wilderness Society Tas, Scouts Tasmania, Railton Neighbourhood Centre, Bethlehem House, Burnie Community Inc, Christian Youth Centre, AURORA Disability

Services, ParaQuad Association of Tasmania, Cancer Council Tasmania, Mission Australia Housing, and the Richmond Fellowship Tasmania.

Of those, 8 charities completed the post-audit survey. 7 of these rated it as "extremely useful" and the other as "very useful". Some testimonials are included below.



Colony 47 Chief Operating Officer Angela Abbott and SLT's Todd Houstain

"The education and advice we received from our consultant Todd through the Sustainable Living Tasmania initiative has been invaluable. Not only did Todd impart so much knowledge on the day of the site audit, but the detailed report and follow-up meeting was way above any expectation I had. We received a number of recommendations for improvement to implement across our site (small and large). One of the wonderful things that came out of the report and through my conversations with Todd are the ideas I have been able to pass onto staff to instigate in their homes. Thank you so much for your time and knowledge."

- Angela Abbott, Chief Operating Officer, Colony 47

"The detailed report that followed was excellent - easy to understand, very thorough, and provided a good insight into a broad range of efficiencies that included simple improvement measures that could be undertaken immediately at little or no cost, in addition to more extensive changes for consideration. We found the exercise of great benefit to our organisation."

- Angelique Payne, Executive Officer, Aurora Disability Services

"As an environmental organisation, we are extremely cognisant of the importance of energy efficiency as the world transition beyond carbon. Equally, we want to manage our members and supporters critically important donations and support as efficiently as possible. So we were extremely pleased to benefit from the technically accomplished, professional service, the reliable advice and comprehensive report, which included clear cost options, explanations and invaluable analysis that any decision maker in an organisation would appreciate having on their desk. The service was

excellent - because it took care of itself (thank you, Todd Houstein) and the process and product went beyond the minimum service you could expect."

- Tom Allen, Campaign Manager, Wilderness Society Tasmania

"Highly recommend this service. Very easy and a very informative outcome in an easy to read and understand format."

- Shandel Pile, Project Coordinator, Burnie Community House

Tarremah – Tasmania's first energy neutral school?

We have continued coaching the "Sustainerbles" - a group of terrific volunteer students at Tarremah Steiner School. Previously, they had a 100 kW solar panel system installed on the school's gym. We can now confirm that it is generating 85% of the school's energy use (averaged over the year). This year, modest improvements were made in reducing energy use, especially around heaters accidentally being left on. We still hope and aim to more significantly reduce the school's energy use to make it the first energy neutral school in Tasmania.



(L) The "Sustainerbles" volunteer student group
(R) The school's 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, Sustainable Living in Kingborough, and Tarroona Gardening Forum.

Public communications

Volunteer David Berghouse has continued publishing a regular digest of links to interesting and educational climate and related topics at www.slt.org.au/climate_news.

Our regular newsletter and our Facebook page keep our supporters in touch with local sustainability events and important environmental news: www.facebook.com/sustainableliving.tasmania

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 auspicing funds and having a representative on the steering committee.

Creek Road Community Garden

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

We have had a busy year, with some gardeners retiring from their plots and generally reallocating the plots to folk on a waiting list. Major road works in Creek Road and a new subdivision on the hill behind the gardens has meant some disruption, inconvenience and causes for concern for us, but we are still gardening away!

Finances

	This year (2020-21)	Last year (2019-20)
Current assets	\$156,044	\$183,303
Non-current assets	\$0	\$0
Current liabilities	\$21,847	\$69,638
Non-current liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net assets	\$134,197	\$113,665
Total income	\$105,877	\$211,383
Total expenses	\$90,905	\$189,792
Operating surplus	\$14,972	\$21,591

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Personnel

Board members

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

Staff

Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Todd Houstein	Principle Consultant
Julie Hargreaves	Energy Assessor
Rebecca Boyle	Energy Assessor

Volunteers

Paul Duncombe	Accounting advice
David Berghouse	Climate News digest editor

Vale John Green



John Green was first elected to the Board of Management of our organisation, then titled the Tasmanian Environment Centre, in 1979 and remained on the committee until his death in August 2020. At various times, he held the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. He was awarded life membership in 2012.

John may be remembered by SLT members for his role as one of the "4 musketeers", who did the behind the scenes marathon wash-ups in the cafe at the Alternative Home Expos (early iterations of the Sustainable Living Festival) at City Hall.