



ANNUAL REPORT 21/22

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President's Report

Dear Members and Supporters

Re-reading Alexis Wadsley's President's Report for last year, I feel like just writing 'ditto': Another COVID year, another year in which the impacts of climate change and ecological crisis become more apparent and another year in which there are some signs that governments and communities are taking these on, except of course we are now living in a geo-political environment with increasing threats. All reasons I am hugely grateful to be living in Tasmania and sharing the work of creating a shared future with you, doing what we can where we can!

Your Board has a strong sense that this is the time to act and following a focus group that gave enthusiastic support to our community re-engagement, we took the decision to fund a new half-time position, Community Engagement (Events) Coordinator. Sandra Astill was appointed right at the end of June 2022 and has thrown herself into organising a major community sustainability event in March 2023 and a celebratory calendar for our 50th birthday. It seems only yesterday that we celebrated our 40th birthday as an organisation but in December 2022 it will be fifty years. There will be lots of opportunity for you to participate and help in our next decade.

Our principal consultant Todd Houstein has continued to undertake important work in developing greenhouse gas inventories, emissions reductions plans and advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy for businesses and organisations. He is also managing the major project, Energised Learning. His diligence in pursuing funding opportunities and projects is much appreciated and the income he is generating helps support other community work. Janine Cooke has continued to keep our administration in good order. Thank you to you both. Thank you too to the individual members of the Board. It is a significant commitment of energy and support.

Reflecting again about our 50th birthday, I am inspired by the capacity of successive staff and members to re-invent the organisation to meet new needs and challenges.

Margaret Steadman
President



Sustainable Living Tasmania acknowledges and pays respect to the palawa people of lutrawita/Tasmania and their ongoing custodianship of and care for Country

Activities

Focus Group and Outcome

At the 2021 AGM we flagged that SLT would be re-engaging with the community and during 2021-2022 we have really made a start.

We convened a focus group of community groups and key SLT supporters on 5/10/21, led by Erin Buttermore, to garner ideas around reviving the Sustainable Living Festival. The session generated many insights and ideas. In her report, Erin noted that:

The energy and enthusiasm of the focus group was evident. This suggests that SLT continues to have a strong reputation as an organisation that brings people together to take action on the environment.

About the range of ideas, she said:

All these activities will require a significant degree of planning, coordination, and decision-making. Even if many tasks are carried out by volunteers, there needs to be some oversight and connectivity. Assuming the Board does not have available time to undertake this work, a reasonable budget would need to be allocated towards recruiting an event coordinator.

The Board agreed and subsequently we created the new half-time position of Community Engagement (Events) Coordinator and have recruited experienced event organiser, Sandra Astill, who started on 20 June 2022. She has been hard at work from day one. Sandy is a very experienced events coordinator including organising the Tamar Sustainable Living Festival. She also has a PhD in Society and Culture. Being based in Launceston, she has helped make the 'Tasmania' part of our title more real. She moved to Tasmania 7 years ago from Cairns, bringing with her a wealth of experience in event and festival management, as well as an academic career focused on resilience, climate change adaptation and natural hazard research.



Community Engagement Coordinator,
Sandra Astill

Energised Learning

Energised Learning is a project-based learning program that educates and inspires Tasmanian secondary students through real-world renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in their schools, mentored by professionals and tradespeople.

By putting students at the centre of school renewable energy and energy efficiency infrastructure projects, schools can simultaneously:

- Achieve excellent educational outcomes.
- Contribute toward Tasmania's renewable energy and climate goals.
- Reduce school operating expenses.
- Nurture tomorrow's leaders.

SLT secured funding from the Tasmanian Government and the City of Hobart to undertake the program. The program continues to the end of 2023. In 2021/22 we recruited five schools and developed project concepts with each, including those outlined below.

Hobart City High School – Renewable-powered kitchen

Hobart City High School's Ogilvie campus has a food garden, but nowhere to prepare food from it. This project involves building a renewable energy powered outdoor kitchen near the food garden.

Huonville High School – Controlling hot water to increase solar self-consumption

Huonville High School has 50 kW of solar panels installed. Approximately half of the energy generated is used onsite, with the remainder is exported to the grid. This project seeks to control hot water cylinders at the school to increase solar self-consumption. This is an excellent small-scale version of the emerging challenge of increasing renewable penetration to the national electricity grid by controlling deferrable loads such as electric vehicle charging.

Bayview Secondary College – Off-grid sustainability hub

Students at Bayview Secondary College have recently built a 'Sustainability Hub' that includes hydroponics systems, an aquaponics system, and a vertical farming system, all of which grow microgreens that are sold to local businesses. This project aims to take part (or all, subject to securing sufficient funding) of the Hub off the electricity grid by using solar panels and batteries. First though, the project aims to improve the energy efficiency of the system through changes like control of pumps and heaters, more efficient lighting, and insulation, as this will mean less solar panels and batteries will be required to take the system off-grid, making the whole project more affordable. This is a great lesson in how energy efficiency and renewable energy are complementary approaches to achieving sustainable energy solutions.

Ulverstone Secondary College – Efficient hot water

Ulverstone Secondary College's has a high-powered hot water system that delivers hot water throughout the school via a circulation pump. This Energised Learning project is exploring ways to reduce the cost of meeting the school's hot water needs by:

1. Reducing hot water use through efficiency measures.
2. Scheduling the circulation pump to reduce heat losses when the school is unoccupied.
3. Controlling power to the heating elements to shift demand to off-peak periods, and
4. Replacing the existing system with heat pump hot water or solar hot water (implementation of this last step will be subject to securing sufficient funding).

Taroona High School – Heat pump control strategies

It is a commonly held belief throughout Tasmania that it is best to leave heat pumps running overnight. But is it true? This project will see students design and run a set of controlled scientific experiments aimed at answering that question once and for all.



Mentors working with students at Taroona High

Good Car Company Show and Shine Volunteer Support

Sunday 14 November 2021 a bunch of SLT volunteers turned out to help the Good Car Company showcase a great range of electric cars and vans for their bulk-buy. There was a great turn-out of southern Tasmanians keen to decarbonise their travel.

Pictured are some of the 200 people who turned up. You may recognise Anton Vikstrom in the front left, one of the founders of the Good Car Company (a former SLT employee), and SLT president Margaret Steadman behind him.



Red Cross Bushfire Preparedness Workshop

The Red Cross manual upon which the workshop was based



We were very glad to take up Red Cross Tasmania’s offer of a free Bushfire Preparedness Workshop for SLT members with Lissa Villeneuve ((another former SLT employee), a disaster resilience worker for Red Cross, on Wednesday 8th December 2021. SLT assisted at the session.

The workshop was based on the Red Cross manual ‘Your Emergency RediPlan.

Richard Jones Memorial Lecture

SLT continued to help organise these important events. The 2021 lecture was given on Monday 11th October 2021 by distinguished scientist Dr Dana Bergstrom, Australian Antarctic Division. Her topic was ‘Why is Antarctica Important?’ She is an applied Antarctic ecologist and the 2021 Eureka Prize winner for Leadership in Innovation and Science.



Dr Dana Bergstrom

Living Building Challenge

Moving towards a Regenerative Future with the Living Building Challenge
\$ FREE entry

WHEN: Tuesday 29th March 2022
5:45pm - 8:00pm
(please arrive 15 minutes early)

WHERE: Bahá'í Centre of Learning
1 Tasman Highway, Hobart, 7000

SPEAKERS:
Amanda Sturgeon Regenerative Design Lead, Molt MacDonald
Laura Hamilton-O'Hara Chief Executive Officer, Living Future Institute Australia
Rory Hunter Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, SoHo Partners
Stephen Chol Living Building Challenge Manager, Frasers Property Australia

Please Note: 2 CPD points available to all professionals

EVENT ORGANISER: wombat eco sensitive design

EVENT PARTNERS: LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA + SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA

TO BOOK GO TO: <https://events.humanity.com/what-is-the-living-building-challenge>

Forum poster

In collaboration with Wombat eco-sensitive design, SLT partnered with the Living Future Institute Australia to present a public forum, 29 March 2022 in the Baha'i Centre of Learning: 'Moving towards a Regenerative Future with the Living Building Challenge'.

Screening of 'Regenerating Australia'



This is Damon Gameau's latest film, a follow-up to '2040', celebrating climate solutions. It has been screened nationally. SLT hosted the Hobart screening Friday 13 May 2022, at which Damon spoke, and we distributed a 'Finding Your Folk' resource sheet. We helped fill the big theatre in the Village Cinema in Hobart.

Climate News

Our wonderful volunteer, David Berghouse, has continued to collate a wealth of interesting and informative articles about climate change and related issues at www.slt.org.au/climate_news. The links digest has a number of significant subscribers, including state and federal members of parliament.

Community group 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 Taroonia Gardening Forum.

Net Zero Channel

SLT President Margaret Steadman and Principal Consultant Todd Houstein spoke at the inaugural event of Net Zero Channel – an initiative by a passionate group of citizens in and around Kettering and Snug. The event was highly successful, and the group have gone on to become incorporated and have a number of exciting initiatives in planning that work towards the Channel community having net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Todd has continued to support them in identifying and assessing ways to measure, track, understand and reduce the community's emissions.

Consulting services

During 2021/22, Sustainable Living Tasmania conducted fifteen projects for a diverse range of clients. Ten of these focussed on assisting organisations to develop greenhouse gas inventories and reduction plans. Four were focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy, the largest of these being a detailed energy audit of the entire Port Arthur Historic Site. The other project was partnering with the Institute for Sensible Transport to develop electric vehicle transition plans for five Victorian councils.

Finances

	This year (2021-22)	Last year (2020-21)
Current assets	\$ 210,051	\$156,044
Non-current assets	\$ 0	\$0
Current liabilities	\$ 91,229	\$23,247
Non-current liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net assets	\$118,822	\$132,796
Total income	\$111,688	\$105,777
Total expenses	\$125,662	\$90,805
Operating surplus	-\$13,974	\$14,972

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Personnel

Board members

Margaret Steadman	President
Kim Barker	Vice President
Uta Green	Secretary
Phil Anstie	Treasurer
Lindi Wall	Board Member
Anna Wrobel	Board Member
Helen Pryor	Board Member
Ian Row	Board Member
Rena Dare	Board Member

Staff

Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Todd Houstein	Principal Consultant

Sandra Astill	Community Engagement & Event Coordinator
Julie Hargreaves	Energy Assessor & Education Coordinator
Shayn Harkness	Energy Assessor & Education Coordinator
Nel Smit	Education Coordinator

Volunteers

Paul Duncombe	Accounting advice
David Berghouse	Climate News digest editor
Nel Smit	Education Coordinator
Shane Bartel	Energised Learning Mentor
John Todd	Energised Learning Mentor