



**BRINGING
SUSTAINABILITY
TO LIFE!**

**SUSTAINABLE
LIVING
TASMANIA**



**"JOY IS NOT IN THINGS,
IT IS IN US."**

- CHARLES WAGNER

President's Report	4
Executive Officer's Report	5
Projects	6
Events	9
Membership	11
Operational systems	12
Personnel	13
Finances	14



President's Report

A diverse and productive year!

We began moving in the strategic directions that we identified last year, with the priority of building a sustainable living movement in Tasmania that drives transformational change.

Through concerted efforts at our 2014 Sustainable Living Festival, we increased our membership to over 1,600 people. Then, in March this year, we called a "Gathering of the Clans" on the east coast – bringing together energetic and experienced people in sustainability related community organisations from all corners of Tasmania. Together, our organisations have over 20,000 members! As a result of the Gathering, we'll be better able to collaborate and support each other in promoting sustainability state-wide.

Throughout the year, our marvellous event space at 71 Murray Street has hosted a wide variety of activities, events and training in many aspects of living a healthy, happy life that is kind to the Earth. In autumn, the Living Local Feast was staged by lovely Lissa, with special guests Mathew and Sadie Evans, and everyone had a terrific time.

The major stages of our big home energy assessment projects concluded, with ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting continuing.

Unfortunately, lack of any government funding for our organisation, or for new project work, meant that we have had to reduce staff numbers and time. Our existing staff have worked harder with the support of a loyal body of fantastic volunteers.

There are several exciting initiatives in the pipeline, including the application (along with a range of educational institutions, led by the University of Tasmania) for recognition as a United Nations Regional Centre for Expertise in Sustainability. Research and planning is under way for our social enterprise – that's it, just a hint for now!

SLT continues to play an important role in educating and helping Tasmanians to be more sustainable. The activities outlined in this year's annual report are testimony to the great capability and dedication of our staff, particularly Todd, who has been outstanding. On behalf of the SLT Board of Management, I'd like to thank Todd, staff and volunteers for all their amazing work over the year. Thanks to my fellow Board members and our wonderful members and supporters.

These times call for strong community organisations such as Sustainable Living Tasmania and so I hope you will all continue to support us in the year ahead... Much more needs to be and can be done.

Anni McCuaig
President





Executive Officer's Report

While compiling this report it struck me just how productive Sustainable Living Tasmania has been this year... Assisting hundreds of low-income households with their energy bills; inspiring and educating people to eat local, in-season produce; assisting to build a statewide community of practice on sustainability education; training people to drive more efficiently; organising lectures by international thought-leaders; running a 2-day festival; gathering grassroots community leaders for strategic planning; running a plethora of film nights and workshops; growing our membership by more than 550%; divesting; and completely overhauling our operational systems!

On top of all of that are a bunch of everyday activities that don't make it into this report, but are also important aspects of what we do... Answering the Tasmanian public's questions; being interviewed by journalists; supporting community groups; contributing to government reviews; participating in workshops and forums; promoting other worthy initiatives; and providing on-the-ground information and data to academics.

If I didn't know firsthand just how passionate, skilled and hard-working our team was I would hardly believe so much was accomplished by so few people!

This year, the government-funded energy efficiency programs that have been our bread and butter over the past few years started to wind up. This meant saying goodbye to a few highly valued staff

members, including our Operations Manager, Carl Bennett.

It also meant great uncertainty around future income. This is a perennial problem for community organisations. However, we are in a better position than ever before in terms of having a larger and stronger supporter-base and reputation, skilled staff, well established systems, and a healthy 'rainy day fund'.

Also on the upside, as the government service delivery work has ramped down we've been able to lift our heads from our computer screens a little more and regain focus on the grassroots. This manifested in our "Gathering of the Clans", and we hope to continue supporting and collaborating with community groups in times to come.

I can see where the saying "scarcity breeds innovation" comes from, as the uncertainty around future funding has caused us to closely reexamine the value that we do and could offer, and how we can complement and collaborate rather than compete with others.

We'll be trialing the most promising ideas over the next year – exciting times are ahead, but aren't they always?!

Todd Houstain
Executive Officer



Projects

Get Bill Smart

Get Bill Smart is a project researching the effectiveness of a variety of energy efficiency approaches, in order to:

- a) Understand how a community capacity-building approach can assist low income households to reduce their energy consumption and how this approach compares with and interacts with more common in-home education and upgrade interventions.
- b) Understand the processes, key determinants for success, barriers, and drivers for each intervention approach.
- c) Understand how benefits from thermal and energy efficiency improvements are utilised by low-income households in a cool temperate climate; whether households choose reduction of energy use or increased thermal comfort; and, the impacts of these improvements on health and wellbeing.
- d) Assist low-income households in Rokeby, Clarendon Vale and Southern Tasmania to be more energy efficient.
- e) Provide employment, training and commercial opportunities for local residents and businesses.

2014-15 was the “roll out stage” of the project. During this time we worked extensively in the Clarendon Vale and Rokeby communities. Our team of “Power Rangers” recruited from the local community organised and delivered a range of barbeques, home visits and educational sessions with partners like the community shed and at events including the Clarence Plains Fair. At the fair we hosted a door snake making completion, with the “Red Lion Snake” taking home the winning prize. Our home energy assessors also completed over 200 assessments and arranged further home upgrades including insulation and curtains.

This activity received funding from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science as part of the Low Income Energy Efficiency Program.



Some of the door snake making competition entries



Engaging and educating people at the Clarence Plains Fair

Energy Champions

The energy Champions project ran for almost 3 years resulting in over 3,300 Tasmanian households receiving energy efficiency retrofits and education sessions. This project demonstrated what simple energy efficiency measures can achieve, when implemented *at scale*. In fact 1.6% of Tasmanian households directly benefitted from this project.

In 2014-15 the project completed its final 32 assessments and completed a range of follow up monitoring and evaluation. Some key outcomes from the monitoring process included:

- Saved around 50 Olympic swimming pools of water each year by using low-flow shower heads – saving \$121,000 worth of water each year;
- Reduced household energy bills an average of 2.3kWh per day and \$166 per annum, totalling \$550,000 per annum across the project;
- Provided a simple payback period of 3.5 years and made households warmer and more comfortable.

Perhaps this project is best represented by the feedback received by its participants...

“Before the Energy Champions visited the gas heater just couldn’t warm my living room, even on full. Now I’m much warmer, especially my feet! And I don’t have to turn the heater right up so I’ve saved a lot on my gas bill”.

The Energy Champions project was funded by the Tasmanian Government and was implemented in Housing Tasmania properties.

Eco Driving Training

Eco-driving is a series of tips, measures, techniques and habits that to enable drivers to obtain the best possible fuel efficiency from their vehicle. There are many ways to make driving cheaper, safer and with lower greenhouse gas emissions.

This project came from an initiative from the Kentish Energy Efficiency Network Encouraging Renewables (KEENER) who successfully applied for a grant from the “Earn Your Stars” programme run by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office. Sustainable Living Tasmania took carriage of the grant and delivered training and information to Kentish Council staff and interested members of the Kentish public.

The training delivered in Kentish resulted in observable average fuel savings of 11%. Sustainable Living Tasmania is now delivering eco-driving training to other organisations and informing the general public

Did you know?

Driving at 100km/h uses 10% more fuel than driving at 90km/h.

It also increases the risk of a traffic incident by 30%!

Tassievore Eat Local Challenge

The results are in from the third Tassievore Eat Local Challenge, which was clearly embraced by hundreds of Tasmanians who increased their consumption of locally produced food and supported local businesses. The Challenge ran throughout March, with mini-challenges each week focussed on sourcing, growing, shopping and feasting on local produce.

We are lucky to live in a place with a great climate for growing a diversity of produce, skilled farmers and business people and a population that is inspired by good food. The Tassievore Eat Local Challenge is a great way for people to focus on what they are eating and to put in the extra effort to source locally produced food.

In the words of one participant:

"The deliberate focussing of my attention enabled me to take in much more information on labelling, ask questions about produce and become more discerning about which shops support local growers."

A survey of people taking the Challenge showed some impressive outcomes, including:



78% reported improved knowledge of what Tasmanian products are available and where to get them as a result of the Challenge.



87% reported they plan to continue eating more Tasmanian food than they did before the Challenge.

Benefits of the Challenge according to another participant included,

"... expanding my understanding of the range of amazing local products on offer and finding some amazing small local grocers that I didn't know about before. These benefits were also passed onto extended family and friends who are now looking to continue to eat more local produce and think about where their food comes from and how it has been produced."

Resources such as a Local Food Directory and Tassievore Recipes have been developed to assist people taking the Challenge and are available all year round on the website: slt.org.au/tassievore. While the Challenge is focussed on the month of March, organisers encourage people to make every day a Tassievore day.

The Tassievore Eat Local Challenge is an initiative of Sustainable Living Tasmania, run in collaboration with the Heart Foundation, Eat Well Tasmania, Tasmanian School Canteen Association, Urban Farming Tasmania, Produce to the People and the University of Tasmania.

United Nations Regional Centre for Expertise

Many of the education providers throughout Tasmania formed a community of practice. Sustainable Living Tasmania participated actively in a number of workshops over which the community decided to apply to the United Nations to be recognised as a Regional Centre for Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development. The application is to be submitted in September 2015.

Events

Sustainable Living Festival

In 2014 we got connected at the Sustainable Living Festival. This was the 16th annual event and was held at PW1 on Hobart's waterfront on 8 & 9 November. 80 talks, workshops, cooking demos and live performances entertained visitors throughout the weekend. We had over 7,500 attendees with 90% rating it at least 7 or better out of 10. Approximately 3,000 people made their lives more sustainable as a result of attending. Over 90 stall holders served up the best in sustainability goods and services and we gained 38 sponsors. Thank you to the 50 volunteers who helped us put on the Festival, without whom it would have been impossible to do.

Festival entry of \$5 for adults and non-members with an offer of free SLT membership was extremely successful in gaining new SLT members over the weekend, increasing our membership by 316%. This has allowed us to have an on-going relationship with festival goers. However due to the erratic weather and entry fee, attendance was down from the previous year.



The crowd enjoyed great food, music & sunshine.

Great fun and sweet honey for all ages!

For the first time we showed a selection of Breath of Fresh Air festival films at nearby IMAS and put on a Saturday night party, both of which were supported by small grants. We partnered with Cygnet Folk Festival, MONA FOMA, 10 Days on the Island, Fractangular, plus independent artists to create a dynamic program. Over 200 people braved the bad weather and gave rave reviews with lots of connections made.

The "Gathering of the Clans"

Affectionately dubbed the "Gathering of the Clans", this was a strategy retreat with grassroots community organisations focussed on sustainability from all around Tasmania. The participants represented 25 organisations with a combined supporter base of more than 20,000 people!

The purposes of the gathering were to build relationships, develop a shared vision, and devise collaborative strategies to build the sustainable living movement in Tasmania. Participants explored opportunities to collaborate on projects, events, advocacy, communication and fundraising.



Representatives of "the clans"

Living Local Feast

Our Living Local Feast is an opportunity to experience the wonders of our island state through a gourmet 3-course meal consisting of entirely Tasmanian ingredients. Our 5th Annual Living Local Feast was held in April with a Mexican inspired menu.

Guests brought an impressive spread of Tasmanian entrée's to share, followed by our main course of *Tacos de Tasmania con Charred Tomato Salsa, Herbed Crème & Salsa Verde* and a choice of *Pomme Crepes with Honey Caramel & Berries* or *Quesadilla Salvadorena with Honey Lavender Nectarines & Cream* for dessert.



Great company...

... and great food!

Gourmet Farmer, Matthew Evans spoke about his journey with local food and why he moved to Tasmania to pursue his love of real food. As our major fundraising event of the year, we were overwhelmed by the support of local businesses, farmers and backyard growers who donated generously to our menu and auction.

Richard Jones Memorial Lectures

This year we organised two lectures in honour of the late founder of our organisation and pioneer of the environmental movement in Tasmania, Richard Jones. The lectures were organised on behalf of the Richard Jones Memorial Committee and delivered by two global leaders in environmental thought, Professor David Orr, and Helena Norberg-Hodge. Both lectures were well attended and have since been viewed hundreds of times on the University of Tasmania's Live Stream page.


22nd Richard Jones Memorial Lecture

**BEYOND LEFT & RIGHT
Politics in a hotter time**

Professor David Orr

Friday 31st October

7:15pm for 7:30pm start
Stanley Burbury Theatre




23rd Richard Jones Memorial Lecture

**Toward an Economics of
Personal & Ecological Wellbeing**

**Helena
Norberg-Hodge**

Sunday 24th May

6:45pm for 7:00pm start
Stanley Burbury Theatre



The Art of Happiness

The Art of Happiness was a series of three workshops that explored the art and science of happiness and wellbeing in modern life, and its significant overlap with living sustainably. *Is Happiness Good for You*, *The Science of Flourishing*, and *Wellbeing* attracted 190 people overall, with 10 people attending all three. We had great media coverage including radio interviews on ABC and a three page spread in the Mercury.

Other events

We tailored our other events to the interests of our members and supporters, as learned from our annual survey. The events were very well attended, and resulted in more than 100 new members signing up.

Films including *More Than Honey*, *Plan Bee*, and the Tasmanian premiere of *Just Eat it: A Food Waste Story* were sold out. We also showed *Malagassy Way* and *Song from the Forest*, which had previously been shown at the 2014 Sustainable Living Festival.

We held an interesting *Wonderful Weeds* talk where attendees learnt about edible weeds and were able to sample them.

We also looked for opportunities to partner with others to put on joint events, most notably:

- *Healthy Food* workshops in Clarendon Vale and Rokeby with Mission Australia.
- *Meet the Makers* (papermaking and mosaics) as part of Art from Trash Exhibition with the Resource Work Cooperative.
- *Surfing the Suburbs* talk by David Holmgren – our first live webcast using our new event space.
- A screening of *A Modern Build* – a documentary by local producer Alex Palmer about the design and construction of an award winning passive solar and Feng Shui Tasmanian house.

Membership

In working toward our renewed purpose of building a sustainable living movement, we implemented a highly successful membership growth strategy. It involved:

- Reducing our membership fees to a flat \$5 per year to ensure cost was not a barrier to anyone joining our movement.
- Including optional free membership as part of the \$5 entry fee to our flagship event, the Sustainable Living Festival.
- Surveying our members and supporters to understand their wants and needs and tailoring our activities to be as relevant and useful to them as possible.

As a result, **our membership grew from 300 to over 1,700** – an increase of more than 550%!



Effervescent and informative, Daryl Peebles waxed lyrical about Wellbeing

Operational systems

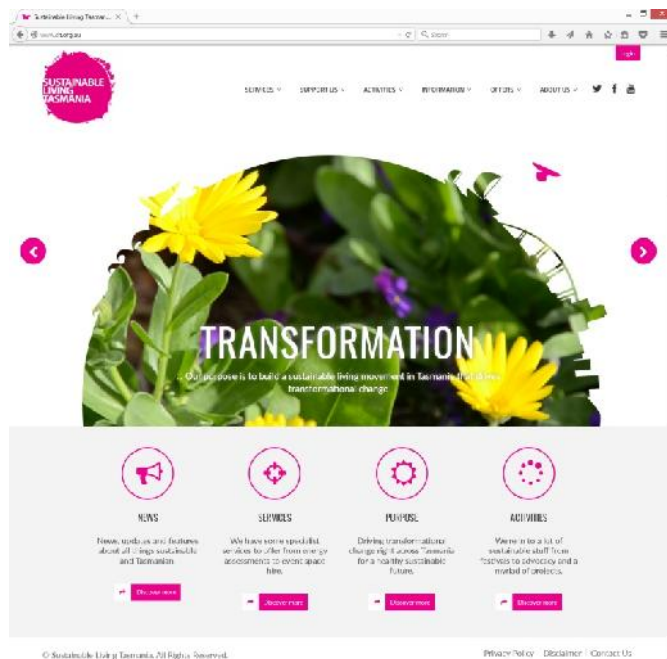
Divestment

According to Market Forces (an affiliate project of Friends of the Earth Australia), the Commonwealth Bank currently has almost \$10 billion invested in fossil fuels – second in Australia only to ANZ. Bendigo Bank, on the other hand, has no money invested in fossil fuels. As such, the decision to switch was straightforward, even if the paper work wasn't! This kicked off an ongoing partnership arrangement with Bendigo Bank that we hope will build over time.

Information technology systems

We now have information technology systems set up to facilitate the building of the sustainable living movement in Tasmania. Integrated together is a new website, membership database, relationship management, online payment processing, event ticketing, email marketing, After thorough research and analysis of available technologies and the evolving needs of the organisation we decided to go with Nation Builder as an integrated membership database and website development platform, and integrate it with eWay for online payment processing. Getting the system set up and data migrated was huge task, as was designing and building a website (with local web developers Ionata Digital) and populating it with all of the necessary content.

Staff members Carl Bennett, Todd Houstain, Sam East, Maria Clippingdale, and Alexandria Kline all played crucial roles in getting the website ready for launch at the turn of the new financial year. The new website enables our community to contribute content, including events, which has led to a statewide calendar of sustainability-related events.



Our new website is designed for better engagement and collaboration



(Some of the Sustainable Living Tasmania staff team

Personnel

Board members

Anni McCuaig	President
Phil Anstie	Vice President
Wendy Armstrong	Vice President
Kirstan Long	Treasurer
Jack Redpath	Secretary
Corey Peterson	Board Member
David Pointing	Board Member

John Green	Board Member
Luke Emeny	Board Member
Maree Fudge	Board Member
Nathan Males	Board Member
Phil Harrington	Board Member
Sharon Moore	Board Member

Staff

Alexandria Kline	Engagement Officer
Anton Vikstrom	Energy Program Manager
Carl Bennett	Operations Manager
Catherine Elliott	Get Bill Smart Project Officer
Daniel Wolters	Get Bill Smart Meter Reader
Hannah Moloney	Live & Learn Project Officer
Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Jodi Alexander	Energy Champions Project Officer, Get Bill Smart Project Manager
Lissa Villeneuve	Events Manager, Food Program Manager
Lizz Smith	Energy Champions Project Manager, Bookings Officer
Margaret Steadman	Home Energy Project Auditor
Maria Firriolo	Get Bill Smart Community Engagement Officer
Michele Matthews	Events Officer
Nadish Kariyawasam	Database Developer
Sam East	Engagement & Fundraising Manager
Sarah Abbott	Permablitz Project Officer
Sharon Joyce	Energy Champions Bookings Officer
Todd Houstein	Executive Officer
Zac Cooke	Cleaner
Alister Mackinnon	Home Energy Helper
Andrew Watson	Home Energy Helper, Eco-drive Trainer
Brian Board	Home Energy Helper
Gillian Newman	Home Energy Helper
Glenda Hosking	Home Energy Helper
Ian Turnbull	Home Energy Helper

Judy Micklewright	Home Energy Helper
Julie Hargreaves	Home Energy Helper
Lori Puster	Home Energy Helper
Mike Willson	Home Energy Helper
Rebecca Boyle	Home Energy Helper
Russell Gibbard	Home Energy Helper
Sarah Lowe	Home Energy Helper
Shayn Harkness	Home Energy Helper
Thomas Webster	Home Energy Helper
Angela Cunningham	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger
Debra Austin	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger
Gillian Hilder	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger
Harold Higgins	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger
Kylie-Anne Muir	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger
Natasha Kean	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger
Rebecca Bruinger	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger
Rosemary Johnson	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger
Victor Panne	Get Bill Smart Power Ranger

Volunteers

Paul Duncombe	Accounting advice
Danny Taylor	Carpenter
David Stephen	Community Garden Coordinator
Sharon Joyce	Festival
Polly Alexander	Festival
Danielle Woof	Festival
Klaaske Greenwood	Festival
Felicity Hopkins	Festival
Adam Fowler	Festival
Sam Shepherd	Festival
Alex Sugden	Festival
Kimberley Eaton	Festival
Aimee Van Looy	Festival
Grant Wooldridge	Festival
Jane Hilliard	Festival
Rifka Sibarani	Festival
Pete Bannerman-Roberts	Festival
Alison Sayer-Jones	General assistance
Richard Witherwick	General assistance
Patsy Jones	Librarian
James Anderson	Library technical support
Andrea Weichert	Office administration
Catherine Denehey	Office administration
Daniel Auffret	Office administration
Maggie Allen	Office administration
Margit Assmann	Office administration
Melinda Morris	Office administration

Melissa Elbert	Office administration
Olga Poduskova	Office administration
Rhea Sermonia	Office administration
Daniel Wolters	Office handyman
Kelvin Carter	Office handyman
Serena King	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge

Caitlin Saunders	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Kym Blechenden	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Pen Clark	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Penelope Dodd	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Sandy Murray	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Sarah Connally	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge

Finances

	This year (2014-15)	Last year (2013-14)
Current assets	\$887,718	\$1,491,646
Non-current assets	\$2,500	\$2,500
Current liabilities	\$317,863	\$1,142,920
Non-current liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net assets	\$572,355	\$351,226
Total income	\$2,092,167	\$3,010,257
Total expenses	\$1,871,038	\$2,849,883
Operating surplus	\$221,129	\$160,375

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Grants

Project	Grant	Funding organisation	Amount (\$)
Final Footprint	Networking End of Life Care Across Tasmania	Tasmanian Association for Hospice and Palliative Care	4,254
Footprint @ Festival	Networking End of Life Care Across Tasmania	Tasmanian Association for Hospice and Palliative Care	1,130
Healthy Food	Healthy Food Project	Mission Australia	6,000
Science of the Hive	Inspiring Australia Public Science Events Grant	Inspiring Australia UTAS	500
Sustainable Living Festival	Community Committed Grant	Hobart City Council	3,115
BOFA Films (Festival)	Dr Edward Hall Grant	Hobart City Council	4,746
Celebrate! (Festival)	Events Tas Grant Program – Small Project Grant	Department Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts	3,000

Note that Final Footprint, Footprint @ Festival, and Science of the Hive grants were received this financial year, but activities will be carried out in the next financial year and so will be covered in the subsequent annual report.



"THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY CHOICES IN LIFE: TO ACCEPT CONDITIONS AS THEY EXIST, OR ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHANGING THEM."

- DENIS WAITLEY



Sustainable Living
Tasmania Inc
Level 1, 71 Murray Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000
Phone. 03 6234 5566
Fax. 03 6234 5543

info@slt.org.au
slt.org.au