



# ANNUAL REPORT 22/23

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

## President's Report

It has been a very productive year for Sustainable Living Tasmania as an organisation. Thank you so much for your support. SLT turned 50 in December 2021, a great tribute to our commitment to long-term environmental care and education and our capacity to adapt to change. It would be wonderful to be able to say that globally we humans are responding effectively to turn around the ecological crises that are increasing in intensity but it is clear that is not happening. Big structural changes in economy and government are essential but so is the work that organisations like ours can do to help create the new patterns of resource use and community support.

We reported last year on the appointment of a Community Engagement (Events) officer in Sandra Astill to drive our re-engagement in community and she took on organising the Big Weekend of Sustainable Living Ideas, re-vitalising our newsletter and Facebook presence, and assisting with other events and governance tasks, all with a breathtaking energy and speed.

Sandra's role has been very much supported by the work of Todd Houstein as our principal consultant who has done remarkable work in securing and managing contract energy audit work and larger scale grant-funded programs.

Janine Cooke has continued to provide efficient administrative support. All our staff, voluntary, permanent, contract and casual do remarkable and vision-driven work. The re-invigorated board elected at last year's AGM has also contributed hugely to governance and strategic planning and to event organising.

So we are looking forward to a 2023-2024 full of challenge and engagement, including extending our role as a support and hub for sustainable living groups in Tasmania, with your help as members and supporters.

Margaret Steadman  
President 2022-23

## Activities

### Food for Thought E-Forums

For the past year, SLT has been running bi-monthly Food for Thought e-forums as a way of continually reinvigorating our thinking and goals around sustainability and as a means of providing information and inspiration for our members and friends. SLT now has good Zoom capability.

Our first speaker in August 2022 was Paul Gilding author of 'The Great Disruption' and corporate advisor on global economic change to cleaner, more sustainable business models. Paul's talk concentrated on the need to change the models around food production and consumption in order to lower our output of

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methane and carbon dioxide to mitigate against climate catastrophe. It was an inspiring and motivational e-forum that generated much debate.

Our October E-forum featured the Transition movement. We heard from 3 inspiring speakers about how they are incorporating sustainability into their community and personal lives through co-operative gardening, housing and resilience-building projects: Karen Hewitt from Transition Tamar, Karen Majer from Transition Margaret River and Paul Shelton from Transition Australia. Such positive energy!

After a break for the summer and for our Big Weekend at Brighton, we were fortunate to have Brad Mashman as speaker for our third e-forum – ‘Plastics – Where to from Here?’ Brad is a Circular Economy Churchill Fellow, resource recovery expert and co-creator, with Rena Dare, of the Tip shop concept over 30 years ago. He and Rena now operate Recovery Tip Shop in Glenorchy. Brad’s talk generated a lot of discussion, with people being particularly interested in how we can live without so much plastic. One of Brad’s statistics stays with me – there are now over 35,000 types of plastic being produced in the world and we could live just as well and much more sustainably if we limited production to 7 types, which could all be recycled.

Thanks so much to all our truly inspirational speakers who so generously gave their time and expertise for our e-forums. We look forward to more food for thought in the coming year.

Helen Pryor



**SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA** presents  
**Paul Gilding**  
 Wednesday August 24  
 6.30 - 7.30 pm  
**Member & Supporter E-Forum**  
 Join author, corporate advisor & advocate for a sustainable economy. Paul Gilding as he examines what happens when economic models are unsustainable  
 Author of the widely acclaimed "The Great Disruption"  
"Gilding is your guru" Tom Friedman, New York Times

Register your interest at [www.slt.org.au](http://www.slt.org.au)



**SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA**  
 3 speakers FREE EVENT  
**Member & Supporter E-Forum**  
 Wednesday October 26  
 6.30 - 7.30 pm  
**Karen Majer**  
 Transition Margaret River  
 Karen is a writer and environmental educator who is building an 8.9 star strawbale home in the new Witchcliffe Ecovillage to live the transition ideal of sustainability, resilience and nature conversation  
 Karen is one of 3 guest speakers who inspire us all about the work that is being done by the Transition Network across the nation, and indeed, across the globe

Register your interest at [www.slt.org.au](http://www.slt.org.au)



**SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA**  
**RECOVERY TIPS Waste Optimisation**  
**Member & Supporter E-Forum**  
**Plastics - where to from here?**  
 Wednesday June 6  
 6.30 - 7.30 pm  
**Brad Mashman**  
 Churchill Fellow  
 Managing Director Recovery (Tas) Pty Ltd  
 The Recovery Circular Economic Hub  
 Member WMRR National Market Development committee  
 Listen as Brad encourages us all to re-use, conserve natural resources and embed carbon by ensuring sophisticated products, parts and materials remain in circulation (and out of landfill) primarily through the local market place for as long as practical.

Register your interest at [www.slt.org.au/events](http://www.slt.org.au/events)

## Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders Program



*The first of the conferences were held in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie in June 2023, attracting over 300 students.*

The Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders Program is a collaboration within the Education for Sustainability Tasmania network by the University of Tasmania and Sustainable Living Tasmania, supported by the Tasmanian Government through Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT).

The program involves young school-age leaders (10 – 18 year olds) coming together at conferences with mentors, to plan and take action on climate change. The events aim to build a network of young people who are passionate about climate science, climate justice, renewable energy, STEM and sustainability.

The program has been igniting the passion of youth and equipping them with skills to support on-ground actions in their schools and communities since 2017. SLT and UTAS have been funded by ReCFIT to run it for 2023 and 2024. It is managed by experienced educator and long-term partner with SLT, Nel Smit, with an amazing team of young regional coordinators, who are employed through SLT.

## Good Car Company Show and Shine Volunteer Support

Sustainable Living Tasmania volunteers turned out in force to assist the social enterprise the Good Car Company in an electric vehicle bulk buy promotion in November 2021 and did the same in February and March 2023, in both Hobart (the old K&D carpark ) and Launceston (in the Tramsheds function centre). It is very pleasing to see an increasing number of EVs on the road with the Good Car Co sticker and we also received a generous donation from them. Thank you to our volunteers.

# The Big Weekend of Sustainable Living Ideas

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA PRESENTS**

# THE BIG WEEKEND

**OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING IDEAS**

10am - 4pm  
25-26 March 2023

Brighton Civic Centre & Botanical Institute  
Bridgewater

## FREE ENTRY

**Demonstrations**  
**Workshops & Activities**  
**Exhibits & Stalls**  
**Forums & Discussions**  
**Entertainment & Food**  
**Clothing, Book & Toy Swap**

**Waste 2 Art Exhibition**  
**Kids Activities**  
**Nature Walks & Talks**  
**Electric Vehicles & much more!**

*A weekend of connection & inspiration*

The focus group and discussions we had with supporters last year made it clear that there was enthusiasm for a revived Sustainable Living Festival. We could not afford to hire the Prince's Wharf Shed again but then Brighton Council invited us to organise a sustainable living event in their Civic Centre, an opportunity to expand our reach and to collaborate with local government. The Board appointed Sandra Astill as community engagement and event coordinator in June 2022 and she worked with a board sub-committee and huge energy to create the big event 25 – 26 March 2023.

Brighton Council provided their venue, and some financial support and MONA gave the use of their Botanical/Material Institute, close by, for outdoor events. It was a packed program of exhibits, talks, forums, demonstrations, music and food, with Repair Café, a clothes, book and toy swap; all to make sustainable living attainable and joyful.

## BIG WEEKEND OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING IDEAS BOTANICAL PRESENTATIONS

WORKSHOPS & ENTERTAINMENT		PRESENTATION TENT	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	11.00am No-Dig Vege Garden <b>Hannah Moloney</b> Gardening Australia & Goodlife Permaculture	<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.30am Grafting Maurice Seed Projects
<b>SUNDAY</b>	10.30pm Hot Composting Jeff McClintock & Kristina McCarthy UTAS Community Garden	<b>SUNDAY</b>	10.30am Grafting Maurice Seed Projects
<b>SATURDAY</b>	11.30am Bio Kilo Demo Bill Harvey Landcare Tasmania stall near entrance	<b>SATURDAY</b>	11.00am Tasmanian of the Year John Kamara Kamara's Heart
<b>SUNDAY</b>	VARIOUS TIMES African Drumming Kamara's Heart	<b>SUNDAY</b>	11.00am Tasmanian of the Year John Kamara Kamara's Heart
<b>SATURDAY</b>	2.30am African Children Dance Group Kamara's Heart	<b>SUNDAY</b>	12.00pm The Basics of Poultry Keeping Tim Polley & Julie Devyn Lushford, Tasmanian Healthy Chick
<b>SUNDAY</b>	VARIOUS TIMES Circus Skills for young & oldies Social Circus	<b>SUNDAY</b>	12.00pm Seed Saving Maurice Seed Projects
<b>SATURDAY</b>	VARIOUS TIMES Runaway Belles	<b>SUNDAY</b>	1.30pm Bee Keeping Maurice Seed Projects
<b>SATURDAY</b>	1.00pm Regenerative Agriculture Florlan Seed Projects	<b>SUNDAY</b>	2.00pm Edible Campus Jeff McClintock UTAS Community Garden
<b>SATURDAY</b>	2.30pm Seed Saving Maurice Seed Projects	<b>SUNDAY</b>	2.30pm Regenerative Agriculture Florlan Seed Projects

**ALL WEEKEND**

FERMENTATION WORKSHOPS	BUSH TUCKER WORKSHOPS	POTTERY CLASSES
Polytunnel 2 Chet Vlad The Beloved	Polytunnel 1 Polina Kipli	Pottery Studio The Beloved

**BRIDGEWATER FORESHORE WALK & TALK**  
VARIOUS TIMES  
Meyers & McNamara

**VARIOUS TIMES**  
Claremont College

**VARIOUS TIMES**  
Martin Blackwell

**BRITAIN COUNCIL** **UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA** **TasNetworks** **MONA** **HIT** **PLEASE TAKE A PHOTO SO YOU DON'T MISS A THING!** **SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA**

## BIG WEEKEND OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING IDEAS BRIGHTON CIVIC CENTRE PRESENTATIONS

SUNDAY		LECTURE THEATRE	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	CARPARK 10.30am & 12.30pm <b>CELEBRITY CHEF</b> MATTHEW EVANS FAT PIG FARM COOKING DEMO IN EV POWERED KITCHEN	<b>SUNDAY</b>	11.00am Small Change Chag Lyons Brunswick Wildlife Park
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>BREAKOUT ROOMS</b> 11.00am RM 2: Recycling Small Household Items Mica Paves Living Workshop	<b>SUNDAY</b>	11.00am Creating sustainable communities through nature connection Dr Emily Flery University of Queensland
<b>SUNDAY</b>	11.30am RM 2: Growing Produce in Urban Spaces Seed Project	<b>SUNDAY</b>	11.30am Using natural materials to design & construct buildings Stephen Cole
<b>SUNDAY</b>	1.30 - 3.30pm RM 1: East Side Repair Cafe Stimone Biles Energy Bill	<b>SUNDAY</b>	12.00pm Sustainable Futures Sandra Bamford Mary Ewaner Natural Futures
<b>SUNDAY</b>	12.30pm RM 2: Saving Money on your Energy Bills Todd Houston Sustainable Living Tasmania	<b>SUNDAY</b>	12.30pm Using your rights as a shareholder Elisabeth Baraka Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility
<b>SUNDAY</b>	1.30pm RM 2: Sustainable Futures Sandra Bamford Mary Ewaner Natural Futures	<b>SUNDAY</b>	2pm - 3.30pm THE FUTURE OF FOOD IN TASMANIA Alana Mason UTAS Anthony Houston Edith Broad Celia Liverton Regenerative Agriculture Interest Group Matthew Evans CIB Brighton Council

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
various times throughout the weekend  
Tomas Oswald  
Martin Blackwell  
Old Time String Band  
Meyers & McNamara  
Kvoesha Sutcliffe, Duo

**TASMANIA: A PLACE WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED?**  
PANEL  
2pm - 3.30pm  
Michael Platts: Breaking Sustainable Food & Beverage  
FACILITATOR  
Genevieve Collier  
Action Learning Institute

**BRITAIN COUNCIL** **UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA** **TasNetworks** **MONA** **HIT** **PLEASE TAKE A PHOTO SO YOU DON'T MISS A THING!** **SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA**

## Richard Jones Memorial Lecture



Sustainable Living Tasmania provided our continuing organisational support to the 29th Richard Jones Memorial Lecture, 24 November 2022. It was delivered by Dr Matthew Ives, Director for Economic Strategy in the South Australian Government and an Associate of Oxford University's Institute for New Economic Thinking. His topic was '*Are the Paris Climate Goals Still Attainable?*' The Lecture was presented as part of the UTAS 'Island of Ideas' series.

In his lecture, Dr Ives argues that climate change is a global emergency that goes beyond national borders. To stop it, we require international cooperation and coordinated solutions at all levels. The 2015 Paris Agreement is the most successful example of this to date, but is it falling short? He says there is still hope. He works at the University of Oxford on sensitive intervention points in socio-economic systems that trigger profound impacts and says evidence suggests that learning-by-doing in clean energy technology can decarbonise our global energy systems, supporting the Paris goals, and save us trillions in energy system costs. This work has profound implications for global sustainability and the prospect of future green economic prosperity. There is still work to be done before we break our addiction to fossil fuels, but there is reason to hope a smarter, cleaner, fairer future is possible. (It can be listened to at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a0S0A1Z0ZI>)

## Governance and Strategic Planning Work

During the 2022-23 year the Board set up a governance sub-committee which has done significant work focussing on our management processes and has prepared a Charter of Board Responsibilities. The Board has spent much time and thought around clarifying the role of SLT since the loss of our office and downsizing of paid staff. Millie Rooney from Australia reMADE facilitated a strategic planning workshop with the Board which resulted in a **new strategic statement**:

### Our Vision

Tasmania leads the world on climate mitigation and adaption and our communities are kind, welcoming and strong. Our island becomes an example of what is possible when we address the climate and ecological crises and ensure no one gets left behind.

### Our Purpose

We exist to help create the conditions necessary to enable Tasmanian communities, governments, individuals and businesses to take action for an island that contributes to a safe global climate and is ecologically sound.

### Our What

We **educate**, **facilitate**, and **catalyse** communities for action.

### Our How

We do this by:

- **Connecting** organisations and people with each other
- **Inspiring** hope and possibility by seeding ideas, sharing solutions and showcasing successes
- **Supporting** communities to develop their own actions and activities
- **Advocating** for change as a powerful collective of sustainability organisations across the state

### We Know That

- There is no time to lose
- We are stronger together
- We need to work beyond the usual geographies and communities
- Good work can be done across party lines
- Something is better than nothing
- From little things big things can grow

A subsequent workshop with Lissa Villeneuve helped us identify future actions including working towards a statewide gathering of sustainable living groups and the development of an on-line portal or hub to facilitate communication and information sharing, both of which will be a significant part of our work in 2023-24.

The Board is working to extend our capacity to advocate for significant policy changes and made submissions to the Tasmanian Housing Strategy and the Draft Waste Strategy.

## Energised Learning

Energised Learning is a project-based learning program for which SLT was funded in 2021-22 by the Tasmanian Government and the City of Hobart to educate and inspire Tasmanian secondary students through real-world renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in their schools, mentored by professionals and tradespeople. The program continues until the end of 2023. Todd Houstein has been working with 5 high schools on a variety of projects (Hobart City High School, Huonville High School, Bayview Secondary College, Ulverstone Secondary College and Tarooma High School), with the help of a group of expert volunteer mentors.

The work of Huonville High School students is a good example of the program from the 2022-23 activities:

*28 Huonville High School students worked in teams led by eight mentors on a challenge to design and build the most effective model solar hot water system using waste and common household materials. Each team mentored by an expert in renewable energy, solar hot water, and/or engineering design worked together for three weeks planning and building their designs.*

*One student commented, "I like doing it instead of just planning it. I loved hearing about the different experiences from the mentors and their different perspectives, and I was actually inspired to go to Uni by both the mentors. I'm interested in doing something with engineering."*

*The winning design achieved a temperature increase of more than 8 degrees Celsius in just 10 minutes. Throughout the unit, students learned about solar radiance, absorbance and emissivity, the unique properties of parabolas (which reflect all parallel incoming beams to a single focal point) and how to build a parabolic trough reflector, conductive and radiative heat loss and how to insulate against them, how commercial hot water systems (electric, solar, heat pump, and gas) work, as well as a lot about the design and prototyping process, teamwork, and time management.*

*They also got glimpses of the opportunities they may find in the renewable energy industry through the mentors sharing their career stories. The efficiency of the winning design was estimated at 12%, which may sound low, but consider that even highly engineered photovoltaic solar panel systems generally only achieve*

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real world efficiencies of 15-20%. To get even close to this using only basic (mainly recycled) household materials such as plastic bottles, cardboard, aluminium foil, and black paint, is a solid achievement.



Here are the wonderful mentors, including on the right Todd Houstein who is managing the project, teacher Nel Smit and SLT Board member Anna Wrobel-Tobiszewska.

## 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](http://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/Connecting with Community

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, Food Garden Group, Sustainable Living in Kingborough, and Tarooma Gardening Forum.

## Community Information Sessions

At the invitation of the community program organiser at the Glenorchy Library, in March '23 SLT president Margaret Steadman and Rebecca Boyle, SLT energy assessor, presented 2 sessions on sustainable living, based on the booklet 'Stay Warm and Save Money'.

Principal Consultant, Todd Houstein provided a number of talks on saving money on power bills for Seniors Week 2022, for TasNetworks; he also spoke at an Open Home Day event and talked about sustainable living at the Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania annual conference and presented 4 workshops at the Big Weekend.

## Net Zero Channel

SLT President Margaret Steadman and Principal Consultant Todd Houstein spoke in March '23 to a packed Kettering Hall audience as part of the NZC Net Zero Houses presentation. 'Todd's Top Ten Tips for saving



energy at home' were a hit. (The surprise top tip, a water efficient showerhead, pays for itself in under a year.) It is a pleasure to continue to support such an inspiring community organisation.

## Connecting with Community

The task of re-building and increasing SLT's community presence has been a focus of the Community Engagement (Events) Coordinator, Sandra Astill. While SLT is well-known amongst Tasmanians who have worked long and hard to encourage a more sustainable way of living, Sandra has met the challenge to connect with the broader community, businesses, and other like-minded organisations across the state. To achieve this, Sandra organised a 2 day community-based festival in the Big Weekend of Sustainable Living Ideas, assisted with promoting the *Food For Thought* E Forums, created marketing materials, produced monthly newsletters and is in the process of assisting with the redesign of the SLT website.

SLT has really benefited from Sandra's marketing background as she has redesigned our promotional material with consistent branding across everything SLT is involved in, including social media posts, posters, flyers and newsletters and the soon to be released new SLT website.

Sandra has also focused on maintaining regular and consistent contact with our members and supporters with a monthly newsletter that has also built connections with other organisations across Tasmania.

Sandra has also focused on maintaining regular and consistent contact with our members with a monthly newsletter that has also built connections with other organisations across Tasmania.

## Consulting services

During 2022-23, Sustainable Living Tasmania through Principal Consultant Todd Houstein conducted a full schedule of energy audits, emissions reduction planning, environmental reporting, and policy advice for a diverse range of organisations. He is an accredited Climate Active consultant and a number of small business clients pursued carbon neutral certification under that program. Todd and SLT's regional energy assessors, Julie Hargreaves and Shayn Harkness, completed energy audits of 5 OneCare aged care facilities statewide. He continued working with MONA and MONA FOMA on reducing their greenhouse emissions. He has also done work on the Tasmanian Government's State of the Environment Report and the Hobart Emissions Pathways project of the City of Hobart, in partnership with other consultants.

## Finances

	This year (2022-23)	Last year (2021-22)
Current assets	\$301,609	\$210,051
Non-current assets	0	0
Current liabilities	\$20,469	\$8,524
Non-current liabilities	\$168,342	\$82,705
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$112,798</b>	<b>\$118,822</b>
Total income	\$271,522	\$111,688
Total expenses	\$277,547	\$125,662
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>-\$6,025</b>	<b>- \$13,974</b>

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

## Personnel

### Board members

Margaret Steadman	President/Public Officer
Kim Barker	Vice President
Uta Green	Secretary (resigned)
Phil Anstie	Treasurer
Helen Pryor	Board Member
Lindi Wall	Board Member
Roman Aizengendler	Board Member
Ian Row	Board Member
Anna Wrobel	Board Member (resigned)
Carl Bennett	Board Member (resigned)
Rebecca Faloon	Board Member
Oren Gerassi	Board Member
Janitha Senavirathna	Board Member (resigned)

### Staff

Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Todd Houstein	Principal Consultant
Sandra Astill	Community Engagement and Events Coordinator
Nel Smit	Energised Learning School Liaison / TYCLP Supervisor
Julie Hargreaves	Energised Learning School Liaison / Energy Assessor
Shayn Harkness	Energised Learning School Liaison / Energy Assessor
Toby Thorpe	TYCLP Coordinator
Amelie Hudspeth	TYCLP Coordinator
Shay Mudwari	TYCLP Youth Program Officer
Aisha Bissett	TYCLP Youth Program Officer

Mishca Linden	TYCLP Youth Program Officer
Ezekiel Willmott	Energised Learning Mentor
Cate Wallace	Energised Learning Mentor

### Volunteers

David Berghouse	Climate News digest editor
Nel Smit	Education Coordinator
Anna Wrobel-Tobiszewska	Energised Learning Mentor
Basil McKinley	Energised Learning Mentor
Colin Atkins	Energised Learning Mentor
James Fox	Energised Learning Mentor
John Todd	Energised Learning Mentor
Laura Jones	Energised Learning Mentor
Mike Fewings	Energised Learning Mentor
Pip Watson	Energised Learning Mentor
Tim Bowden	Energised Learning Mentor

### In-kind Energised Learning mentors

Shane Bartel	Climate Capital
Nathan Burke	GenR8
James Beattie	Hydro Tasmania
Toby Paynter	Hydro Tasmania
Zali Steiner	Hydro Tasmania
Brittany Walsh	TasNetworks
Eddy Knevet	TasNetworks
Eddy Rand	TasNetworks
Grace Saffin	TasNetworks
Jerry He	TasNetworks
Joe Dickinson	TasNetworks
Lachlan Towart	TasNetworks
Nancy Tran	TasNetworks
Nathan McKillop	TasNetworks