



February 2024

A Message from SLT President

Margaret Steadman

President's Ramblings

I've had a busy and satisfying day today (for a retired person!). Went to my new Tai Chi class first thing then sent some SLT emails, bottled yet more plums from the garden, picked up yet more hazel nuts from the best harvest I've had in 25 years, dropped plums off to local friends, shopped at wholefoods Eumarrah just down the road, read a chapter of my latest book (Simon Winchester's 'The Map that Changed the World') and finally gathered material for this newsletter contribution. I hope you've had a good day too. Every day I feel grateful to live in peace under the lutruwita/Tasmanian sky, with people like you.

Some items of news:

- Watch out for news of Sustainable House Day April 21, convened by Renew. Net Zero Channel down South is actively involved this year. <https://sustainablehouseday.com>

- And down South again, the City of Hobart is hosting Home Harvest again. It is an edible garden trail in nipaluna /Hobart organised by Hannah Maloney from Good Life Permaculture (and a great friend to SLT). I carelessly put my garden forward, seduced by her comment that gardens don't need to be super-groomed and mine's definitely not. If you are joining the tour on March 16 and add my chaotic garden to your list, please let me know that you are an SLT supporter – I'd love to know.
- The Tamar NRM Sustainable Living Festival is happening on March 2 in Launceston (organised by our Sandra Astill!). Board member Helen Pryor and I will be there for SLT and we will be promoting the idea of a Sustainable Living Network that can support statewide collaboration between groups. Love to meet you there.
- Finally, I want to make you aware of the intention of the federal government to revise the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. One of the most important additions to the Act is a climate change trigger which is not at the moment part of the intended revisions. There is an opportunity to contribute to a survey to make clear to the government that citizens want strong, effective environmental protection. Please take some time to respond. The Environmental Defender's Office has a great resource to help: <https://www.edo.org.au/2022/12/08/national-environment-law-reform-at-last-ambitious-reform-road-ahead>

Then send your views to the government:

<https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/australias-new-nature-positive-laws>

Best wishes

Margaret Steadman
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Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders Program is back for 2024!

by Lisa Crowthen



REUSE | REPURPOSE | RECYCLE | REPAIR
 | RETHINK DESIGN | REMANUFACTURE
 ACTURE | REGENERATING NATURAL
 | REMANUFACTURE | REGENERATING
 CLE | RETHINK | REMANUFACTURE

Sustainable Business & Community Awards

FINALISTS

Sustainable Business Award Finalists:

- TasNetworks
- Wildly Abigail
- Florage
- Golden Brown Composting
- McHenry Distillery
- Pink Poodle Vintage
- Plasticus
- Seed Freaks
- The Organic Grocer
- The Redress Hub

Sustainable Organisation Award Finalist:

- The Resource Work Co-operative
- St Marys Repurposing and Upcycling
- Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
- Verandah Music Festival
- Youth Climate Leaders

Congratulations Youth Climate Leaders!



This award is an initiative of Tamar MHR's Sustainable Community Working Group made up of members from Tamar MHR, The Hub in Tamar, Huonville Community, City of Launceston Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.



This March, our program will kick off for its 8th year of supporting young people aged 10-18 years to gain the knowledge and skills to take climate action in their community. Last year, 298 participants delivered 30 climate action projects across lutruwita / Tasmania and we cannot wait to see what participants achieve this year!

Central to our program are twice yearly conferences where we bring together young people in the North, North West and South to learn about climate change and discover what climate action is all about. With registrations now open for the program and March conferences, we encourage teachers and equivalent adults (if you home school) to register students to participate in this program.

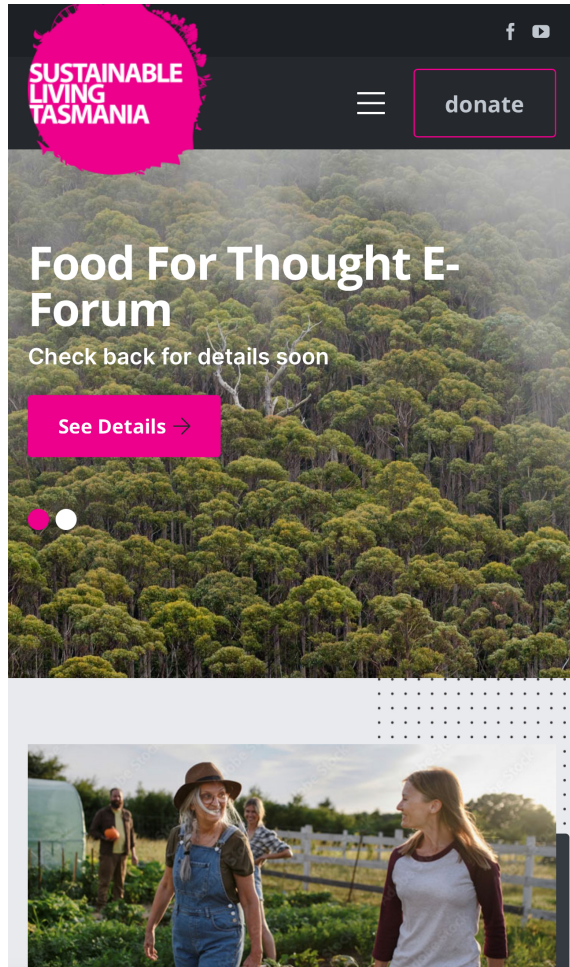
This year the program welcomes a new Program Coordinator, Lisa Cawthen, as well as a new team of Youth Program Officers - Iona Fleming, Thomas Howell and Irene Di Lauro. This team will be supporting mentors, teachers and participants in delivering climate action projects throughout the year. If you are interested in being a mentor for the program, it's not too late to register your interest.

In September, the program will hold its 2nd series of conferences where program participants come together to share their successes and challenges of implementing their climate action projects, and explore climate action beyond the program.

This program has also been selected as a finalist in the Tamar NRM Sustainable Living Festival 2024 Business and Community Awards.

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, and is supported by the Tasmanian Government through Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania.

To find out more and register visit: <https://slt.org.au/yclp>



Have you explored SLT's new website yet?

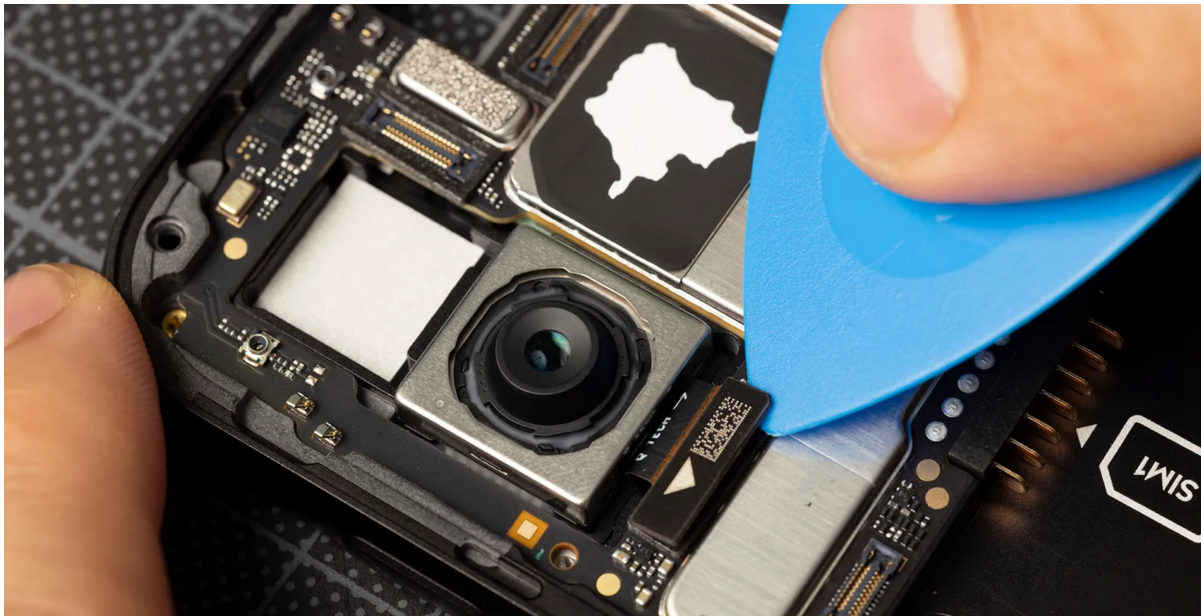
SLT's new website is up and running and is jam-packed with information, advice and helpful hints, as well as sustainability and environmental news from here and overseas.

Our new look website has had some wonderful feedback - so jump on - and let us know what you think!

www.slt.org.au

What does a sustainable smartphone look like?

An article by Isobelle Gerretsen from BBC Earth



In a bid to reduce global electronic waste, Fairphone has created a smartphone that owners can repair themselves. What makes its technology so sustainable?

"This is my phone's camera," says Bas van Abel, holding a small, square component aloft. He has just removed it from his smartphone, using a tiny screwdriver.

"There's eight components in total which can be removed and replaced," he says, as he meticulously disassembles his entire smartphone, placing the camera alongside his phone battery, USB port, screen and loudspeaker.

Van Abel is the co-founder of the Dutch social enterprise Fairphone, which claims to have built "the world's most sustainable smartphone". But with a complex product containing rare metals and components from all over the world, just how sustainable can a smartphone be?

To read more, click [here](#)



To make a tax deductible donation click [here](#)

How Oulu became the winter cycling capital of the world

Lauren Ives, BBC Future Planet



Through a series of simple changes, the city of Oulu, bordering Lapland, encourages its residents to cycle through the long, dark, snowy winter. What can other cities learn from the pioneer of winter cycling?

It's a crisp winter morning in the Finnish coastal city of Oulu, the fourth most northerly city in the world, just 100km (60 miles) south of the Arctic Circle. Last night there was a snowstorm and today the temperature hovers around -5C (23F), but that is not deterring the city's hardy cyclists.

Everywhere you go, people of all ages flurry by over the fresh snow, wrapped in winter clothes and seemingly enjoying the brief pale sunshine and biting cold air. Oulu, which proudly calls itself "the winter cycling capital of the world" is blanketed in snow for five months of the year.

During the depths of winter, temperatures can drop as low as -30C (-22F), with just four hours of daylight. Despite these harsh conditions, 12% of winter journeys are made by bicycle in the city of Oulu. Compare that with the milder climate of England,

where year-round the proportion of trips made by bike is just 2%.

So how did Oulu gain its reputation for keeping cyclists on the move even in the depths of winter?

Click [here](#) to read more.



Do you have a sustainable business?

If you answered that question with a 'YES', SLT invites you to send through an image and a short bio to be included in the next newsletter.

Supporting our members is a priority, so we invite our members operating businesses incorporating sustainable living practices to share with us some information that enables us to publicise your business amongst our members.

Email your image and bio outlining what you do, the sustainable principles you have adopted and how these principles have given your business a point of difference within your industry to

sandra@slt.org.au

Weaver Green

Discover how a simple idea turned into a brilliant solution for cleaning up and reusing some of the millions of plastic bottles that get discarded or sent to landfill on a daily basis. Follow Weaver Green's journey from Asia to the UK and now here in Queensland, Australia.



It all started when founders, Tasha and Barney were travelling in Asia and stumbled across a very rudimentary fishing rope, made from unraveled plastic bottles, lids and all. Used to tether fishing boats, the rope was both strong and waterproof, and offered a moment of inspiration to the intrepid couple.

A long history in the flooring industry and love of antique textiles gave the couple a strong footing. The opportunity to help clear up some of the 35 billion plastic bottles that end up in our seas and landfill every year was too good to miss. Tasha and Barney began exploring the many ways that this practical, robust material could be given a second, more long-term use within our homes and gardens.

The biggest challenge was perfecting the means to turn hard plastic into lovely open fibres that would provide all of the softness and texture of wool. It took 7 years to create the perfect textile, that not only has the look and feel of wool, but is also machine washable, stain resistant, environmentally friendly and suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

Today, back in the UK, Tasha and Barney and our global Weaver Green team create beautiful recycled rugs, blankets, footstools, cushions and bags that offer all of the benefits of plastic without any compromise in style, feel or value. All of our lovely textiles are hand loomed by artisans throughout Europe, Scandinavia and Asia to make gorgeous, soft, practical products.

In 2019, Weaver Green Australia was officially launched by long term brand devotees, Nikki and Rupert. The pair first met whilst working on luxury super yachts based in the Mediterranean, during which time they saw first hand the impact of plastic pollution on the marine environment.

After leaving yachting and starting a business importing rustic antiques to Australia, they began searching for eco-friendly, ethical homewares, to compliment their unique pieces. Weaver Green ticked all the boxes: appealing to both their passion for the environment and eye for design. Two years on, overwhelmed by people's response to the Weaver Green brand, and excited by the products suitability to the Australian lifestyle, Australian company Indian River began trading officially as Weaver Green Australia.

Although we are not in any way encouraging our members to purchase products from their website, we though you might be interested in looking at what can actually be produced from such an environmental pest! Click [here](#) visit their website.

Sustainability Ideas Bank

SLT member Ian Rowe has shared a link to a site from his hometown in the USA filled with green initiatives for towns and cities. This site gives government and community leaders access to successfully implemented solutions to quickly advance their sustainability goals. Click [here](#) to see what is happening in San Mateo County.



Sustainable Living Events happening around Tasmania



The Giants Screening - A Fundraiser for Takayna

Starts on Thu, 15 Feb 2024 6:30 PM

Good Grief Studios, 62 Argyle Street
Hobart, TAS 7000

The Giants explores the intertwined fates of trees and humans in a poetic portrait of environmentalist Bob Brown

and the Forest.

From a seedling to forest elder: the film is a masterclass that draws on Bob's 50 years of inspiring activism, from the Franklin campaign for Tasmania's last wild river, to today's battle for the Tarkine rainforest. Told in Bob's own words, his story is interwoven with the extraordinary life cycle of Australia's giant trees, brought to the screen with stunning cinematography and immersive animated forest landscapes.

Click [here](#) for tickets.



Behind Closed Drawers

Saturday 24 February, 2024

46 Margaret Street Launceston, 11am - 2pm

A Preloved Clothing Market at St Albies Hall. Free Entry.

For more details click [here](#).



Brewery tour, a beer, a pizza and a special viewing of 'Rachel's Farm'

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Du Cane Brewery, Launceston

Ticket includes a brewery tour, a beer, and movie (pizza is available at an extra cost)

RACHEL'S FARM is a triumphant film, featuring intimate interviews with Rachel, her family and the people she has been inspired by on her transition from the world of entertainment to the world of farming. It gives a unique

insight into her voyage from wilful ignorance about the ecological impacts of conventional agriculture to embracing a movement to restore the health of Australia's farmland, food and climate. "Rachel's Farm" is for anyone who cares about how their food is produced, how degraded our soils have become, and the changing role of women on farms.

Click [here](#) for tickets.

Going Circular

Celebrating ways to embrace *circular principles* in everyday choices - with **SPECIAL GUEST Craig Reucassel** from ABC's **WAR ON WASTE**.

| REGENERATING NATURAL SYSTEMS | REPAIR | REUSE | REPURPOSE |
| RECYCLE | RETHINK DESIGN | REMANUFACTURE |

Saturday | 2 MARCH FREE EVENT

from 10 am to 4 pm
TRAMSHEDS & INVERESK PRECINCT, LAUNCESTON

For more information: www.tamarnrm.com.au



This event is an initiative of Tamar NRM's Sustainable Community Working Group made up of members from Tamar NRM, Transition Tamar, Pipers, Free Launceston, City of Launceston Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

Tamar NRM 'Going Circular' Sustainable Living Festival

Lead-up events throughout February, various locations in around Launceston

Sustainable Business & Community Awards March 1 2024, 6-8.30pm, Tramsheds Function Centre

Sustainable Living Festival March 2, 202, 10am - 4p, Inveresk Precinct, launceston

It is a busy month in the state's north, with the Tamar NRM 'Going Circular' Sustainable Living Festival hosting and showcasing a month-long line-up of circular lead-up events, the Sustainable Business and Community Awards and the showpiece, the 'Going Circular' Sustainable Living Festival both in around Launceston.

For the info, including the full program of presenters across their 5 stages, including the keynote and forum presented by special guest, ABC's War on Waste host, Craig Reucassel, visit www.tamarnrm.com.au/festival

Go Circular with the AEVA!!

Saturday March 2, 10am - 4pm

Inveresk Precinct Launceston

Thinking of an electric vehicle, but not



sure if it is right for you? This is your chance to see vehicles on display, ride in and even drive an EV. Members of the AEVA will be taking EVs around the streets of Launceston as part of the Sustainable Living Festival March 2. Talk to people who drive EVs every day, then go for a ride in the vehicle of your choice. In certain vehicles you can even have a drive!

This is a free event!

Click [here](#) to register for a test drive.



Home Harvest

Saturday 16 March 2024, 10am - 5pm

Gardens in and around Hobart

Home Harvest Edible Garden Trail is a one day event on Saturday March 16th, 2024 in and around Nipaluna/Hobart where productive gardens open their gates to invite the public in to have a look, learn and get inspired. The main aim is that people are inspired to start (or continue) to grow their own food to increase local resilience and for all round general health and wellbeing.

Click [here](#) for more details.



Growing Food and Flowers with the Burnie Seed Library

Tue, 5 Mar 2024 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Burnie Library, 30 Alexander Street
BURNIE, TAS 7320

Burnie Seed Library is a free community seed-sharing group that aims to encourage a love of growing & gardening, promote sustainability, improve seed diversity & build food resilience & self-reliance in our community. Chat all about gardening – share and learn about growing plants from seeds, what to plant now and

much more.

Take home free seeds to get started!
Everyone is welcome.



NW EcoFest 2024

Saturday 6 April, 9am - 4pm

Camp Clayton, Ulverstone

NW Ecofest is an annual sustainability festival featuring products and information that encourage us to reduce our ecological footprint.

For details click [here](#).

Sustainable House Day

24th April, 2024



Sustainable House Day is an event from Renew that provides the opportunity to explore some of Australia's most inspiring homes, and learn from the people who designed them, built them, and live in them. Over 100 homes will be opening their doors across the country, and sharing their experience of building and living in sustainable homes. For more information about the open homes closet to you, keep watching <https://sustainablehouseday.com/>

Let us help promote your next sustainable living event!

Does your organisation have a sustainable living event you would like us to include in our newsletter?

Email the details and links to sandra@slt.org.au

Deadline 25th of each month

www.slt.org.au

Follow us on [Facebook](#)



Sustainable Living Tasmania
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