



# ANNUAL REPORT 23/24

<b>President's Report</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Activities</b>	<b>2</b>
Food for Thought E-Forums	2
Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders Program	3
The Gathering 2023	4
Governance and Strategic Planning Work	5
Energised Learning	5
Climate News	7
Member Support/Connecting with Community	7
Consulting services	9
Future Activities	9
<b>Finances</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>10</b>
Board members	10
Staff	10
Volunteers	11
In-kind Energised Learning mentors	11

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

This has been a really full and challenging year for Sustainable Living Tasmania. We are still finding our way into a viable and useful role that can be supported by our financial base but at the same time we have made exciting and valuable contributions to community sustainability and resilience. This Annual Report is full of significant and inspiring projects. I'm very proud to have been the president during the time when we have moved back into community engagement and to have been a part of that. I'm looking forward to being a very active member, as I step down from the Board.

My warm thanks to Sandra Astill, the Community Engagement/Events Officer, who has energised so much of our work and Todd Houstein, Principal Consultant, who has generated the income that has made much of that possible. Thank you to the Board for your ongoing commitment and to you as members and supporters for being there for the long haul.

Margaret Steadman  
President 2023-24

## Activities

### Food for Thought E-Forums

SLT continued to offer a series of inspirational and challenging e-forums in the second half of 2023. The first of the new 23-24 year was 'Transport for Sustainable Living in Tasmania' with Professor Peter Newman from Curtin University (and a lifetime of research and campaigning on sustainable transport), Rachel Hay from Australia reMADE and Anton Vikstrom from the Good Car Company. The second was a deep discussion of 'Sustainability: What does it mean in 2023?' Dr Mark Diesendorf from UNSW, Corey Peterson from UTAS (a former SLT president) and Cameron McLennan from the Tasmanian government and who is developing the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy were the speakers and challenged the way we view sustainability.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA**

Join our panel as they discuss:

- the findings of the 2022 IPCC Mitigation Report on Transport
- how to reduce emissions in lutruwita/Tasmania
- the role of electric vehicles in reducing Tasmania's transport emissions

**FREE E-Forum**  
Tuesday July 25  
6.30 - 8pm

**Transport for sustainable living in Tasmania**

**Peter Newman**  
Professor Of Sustainability  
Curtin University

**Rachel Hay**  
Projects Officer  
Australia ReMADE

**Anton Vikstrom**  
Director  
Good Car Company

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

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA**

**Our Speakers**

**Dr Mark Diesendorf**  
UNSW  
will challenge our views of 'sustainability' & expose the barriers to achieving it

**Corey Peterson**  
UTAS  
will look at UN Sustainability Development Goals and how UTAS has worked with them

**Cameron McLennan**  
Tasmania Government  
will introduce the work on a sustainability strategy for Tasmania and explain how to

**Member & Supporter E-Forum**  
Tuesday  
September 26  
6.30 - 7.30 pm

**Sustainability: What does it mean in 2023?**

The contributors over the season of forums have been outstanding. 2024 webinars will be offered where we have the opportunity to contribute to local Tasmanian issues from our work.

23/24

## Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders Program

The Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders Program (TYCLP) is really remarkable. It offers students (aged 10-18 years) the opportunity to understand the ways in which their actions can contribute towards the global effort to address climate change and sustainability. While the program has been running since 2017, the 2023-2024 TYCLP has been a collaboration of Sustainable Living Tasmania and the University of Tasmania with two years of funding through the state government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy in recognition that climate change is a major concern of young people in Tasmania. The grant has been administered by the Tasmanian Government through Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT).

### Reporting to the September 2023 Conference



### Working with mentors March 2024



Each year, there have been twice-yearly conferences of students in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. The first conference helps inspire the climate projects on which students work during the year. At the second conference in September they report on successes and lessons learned (and also ably quiz representatives from ReCFIT). These events are really inspiring for the adults who are privileged to attend.

Each year the students have implemented successful projects around waste, biodiversity, food security, transport, energy and climate justice; it is heart-warming to see their growing confidence and knowledge. They are supported by a statewide team of professional and community mentors and by the dedicated project team which includes Project Manager Nel Smit and Coordinator Lisa Cawthen and 3 young Project Officers. Nel has been with the program from its beginning and Lisa has given the 2024 program inspirational leadership.

We are seeking an extension into 2025.

Go to the Facebook page for more delightful images. <https://www.facebook.com/tyclp>

23/24

## The Gathering 2023



Forty committed, energetic, knowledgeable, inspiring people from 17 organisations across the state came together for a day of collaboration, conversation and problem solving at Brighton Civic Centre on Sunday August 20, 2023. Phil Everist generously and ably facilitated the day with groups discussing and posting their vision, successes and challenges in the morning session.


After lunch we watched the short animated film by Australia reMade 'The Stuff of Dreams', which brought together a beautiful, aspirational collective vision for our state. We then heard from Cameron McLennan (DPAC) about the direction the State Government is heading towards in developing its Sustainability Strategy. Our afternoon session saw us break into six World Café groups to flesh out actions around the major issue for the groups.



A state-wide gathering of sustainable living groups

*Gathering 2023*  
**INFORMATION  
 INSPIRATION  
 NETWORKING**

- Sharing information about projects, challenges & successes
- Workshopping emerging issues
- Building collaboration & support
- Discussing how SLT can help




The Gathering was organised by SLT as an outcome of its strategic planning process to support sustainable living groups from across the state. There was broad agreement that SLT is the most appropriate organisation to take on a co-ordinating role, and that similar networking events be held each year. SLT would like to thank all the participants, who brought good will and positive energy to the day along with considerable wisdom.

## Governance and Strategic Planning Work

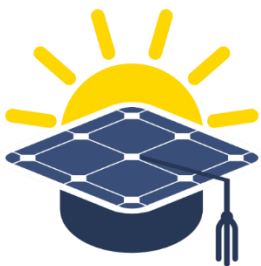
Last year the Board reported on the development of a new strategic statement and during 2024 we have worked with consultant Adam Lynch to turn this into a new board structure to make our work more effective and strategic. It looks like this:



Each of the four pillars will be led by a team drawn from the Board, staff and members, with the addition of a Governance pillar and team. The Board will meet every two months (rather than monthly) to provide direction and oversight and the teams will drive the work of partnership, community engagement, consulting, policy and governance.

As well as this development, we have reintroduced organisational membership and a process to develop more input into the Board from those organisational members as part of our work to encourage collaboration and mutual support in groups that are working to build sustainable living and resilience.

## Energised Learning



**ENERGISED LEARNING**



Energised Learning was a 3-year program that ran project-based learning activities focused on sustainable energy in five Tasmanian high schools, with mentorship from 35 tradespeople and professionals from the

23/24

renewable energy industry. This year we wrapped up the program by publishing a website and videos that support other schools to run similar initiatives: <https://energisedlearning-slt.nationbuilder.com/>

At a glance:

- 5 schools
- 12 classes
- 85 lessons
- 274 students
- 360 hours of mentoring from 35 mentors
- 1,700 users of the energised learning website per month since it was launched
- Winner of the Community Sustainability category of the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards 2024

Highlights for the 2023/24 financial year included:

- Hobart City High School students converting a bicycle to electric under the mentorship of Max Ford at Teros.
- The construction of a mobile renewable power station, which consists of solar panels, batteries, and inverter mounted on a trailer. This can take the place of a diesel generator for off-grid applications.

Mentors included tradespeople (electricians and solar hot water plumbers), professionals (engineers, investors, business managers), and academics. Their expertise was across solar, wind, batteries, energy efficiency, transmission infrastructure, electric vehicles, refrigeration systems, and more. They ranged in experience, from undergraduates who were able to share their aspirations to work in the sustainable energy industry, to retirees who were able to talk as elders about the changes they had seen in the industry across their working life and where they saw the industry headed. Mentors' input was very well received by students, inspiring many to consider potential career opportunities that can contribute towards a sustainable Tasmanian society.

The program was funded by the Tasmanian Government, the City of Hobart, and the Australian Government.

**Max Ford of Teros Pty Ltd mentoring Hobart City High School students to convert a bicycle to electric**



## Front page of The Mercury newspaper, 21 May 2024



## 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.

## Member 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 Taroona Gardening Forum.

### Enhancing SLT's Website

One of the major accomplishments of 2023/24 was the complete overhaul of SLT's outdated website. This was a significant undertaking which SLT's Community Engagement Officer, Sandy Astill, undertook with months of hard work, with the end result a website that truly stands out.

The new site features a sleek, modern design that highlights concise information, promotes events, and showcases the latest news—all while maintaining consistent branding. We have also integrated accessibility tools to ensure that everyone can access the site easily and equitably.

SLT takes great pride in this new digital platform. If you have not had a chance to explore it yet, be sure to visit [www.slt.org.au](http://www.slt.org.au). We believe you'll be just as impressed as we are.

### Monthly Newsletters: Enhancing Member Engagement

Maintaining strong connections with our members is vital, and we believe our new Monthly Member Newsletter format successfully achieves this goal. SLT's Community Engagement Officer, Sandy Astill designs each newsletter to keep members informed about upcoming SLT events and updates while featuring inspiring articles that highlight positive changes and achievements from both national and international initiatives.

23/24

Additionally, SLT proudly showcases local businesses committed to sustainability and promote other sustainable events across Tasmania. Our aim is to support and uplift dedicated organizations in our community, fostering opportunities for learning, enjoyment, and connection among those focused on sustainable living.

Sandy always says that creating this monthly newsletter is a joy, and she acknowledges the input from members who both provide newsworthy articles, as well as positive feedback from many appreciate the informative and uplifting content in their inbox. We hope you continue to enjoy reading it as much as Sandy loves compiling it.

### **Tour of INCAT**

A fortunate group of SLT members completed a tour of the Incat ferry construction works on Saturday 28 October 2023, in Derwent Park, Hobart, with Chairman of the Board, Robert Clifford as our guide. We heard about the future for electric ferries and saw the huge electric ferry for Argentina under construction. It was awesome in every sense – the cathedral-like size of the huge workshops and the scope of the technology. Most of us are used to the household scale of change in technology but this is the industrial future on a grand scale. From a long career as builders of diesel ferries small and large (think the Tasman Bridge disaster), Incat has pivoted to electric ferry construction and Robert Clifford said their order book contains only e-ferries.



Robert Clifford and the ferry under construction

### **Submissions**

SLT made a submission to the draft Tasmanian Transport Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan (Nov. 2023), in collaboration with Net Zero Channel and Circular Economy Huon and supported by Sustainable Living in Kingborough, Tasmanian Climate Collective, Clarence Climate Action and South Hobart Sustainable Community. We also commented on the Draft Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022-2025.



## Consulting services

Ably led by Todd Houstein, our Principal Consultant, we served a diverse mix of 15 clients across state and local governments, waste management, disability services, architecture, theatre, museum, film, hospitality and events. Our services included greenhouse emissions inventories, target setting, reduction strategies, and carbon neutral certification; sustainable energy education; and environmental compliance reporting. In addition to assisting our clients to measure, understand, report, and improve environmental impacts, our consulting services were a crucial source of income to support our other activities.

A highlight of our consulting services this year was being lead authors for the Air theme of the Tasmanian State of the Environment Report 2024. This involved researching and writing the Indicator Reports and Technical Reports for Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions and particulate matter air pollution. This was publically released in Sept. 2024.

## Future Activities

An important aspect of our work over the 2023-24 year has been creating and planning future events, with the energy and skills of our Community Engagement Officer, Sandy Astill.

### Reel Change Film Festival 14 – 19 October

This series of environmental movies over 5 nights with a different intimate venue and an expert leading a Q&A with the audience has already happened in the new SLT year.

### The Gathering 2024, November 16, Windsor Community Centre, Riverside

This is a now annual event following the suggestion of the 2023 Gathering, the next one will be held in the north, dedicated to fostering collaboration and mutual support among like-minded groups and organizations focused on building more resilient and sustainable communities.

### The BIG Day of Circular Living Ideas – March 22, 2025, C3 Convention Centre

March 22, 2025, will mark a significant milestone as SLT kicks off the year with an inspiring festival at the C3 Convention Centre in South Hobart. Headlining the event is Craig Reucassel, the renowned host of ABC's 'War on Waste'.

With Sandy's organising energy, the BIG Day will promote the principles of Circularity within the community with attendees looking forward to a vibrant line-up, including exhibitors, insightful speakers, interactive workshops, entertaining performances, market stalls, and activities that demonstrate key circular economy principles:

- Regenerating natural systems
- Repairing, reusing, repurposing, recycling, and rethinking design
- Designing out waste and pollution
- Keeping products and materials in use.

SLT can't wait to welcome everyone to this transformative festival that promises to inspire and empower our community towards a more sustainable future. Please give it every support.

### Harvesting Connections – November 9, 2025, Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Continuing the circularity theme, SLT's Community Engagement Officer, Sandy Astill is also in the process of organising yet another 'new' event to the SLT calendar. The 'Harvesting Connections' festival will be an engaging event that continues SLT's focus on the circular economy while celebrating community-driven food production.

23/24

The beautiful community garden at the Tasmanian Botanical Gardens will be filled with demonstrations, discussions, workshops, and activities that revolve around home gardening, community gardens, and regenerative agriculture.

Keep your eye on our newsletter and website for more details of upcoming events and opportunities to contribute and participate.

## Finances

	This year (2023-24)	Last year (2022-2023)
Current assets	\$229,618	\$301,771
Non-current assets	0	0
Current liabilities	\$16,920	\$20,469
Non-current liabilities	\$117,956	\$168,342
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$94,743</b>	<b>\$112,659</b>
Total income	\$357,570	\$271,339
Total expenses	\$375,486	\$277,502
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>-\$17,916</b>	<b>-\$6,164</b>

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Although there was an operating deficit for the year, it was within the limits set by the Board.

The Board has a policy to deliver activities, within resources available, to support the community to improve Tasmania's environmental and social sustainability. The Board reviews the operational budget monthly.

## Personnel

### Board members

Margaret Steadman	President/Public Officer
Kim Barker	Vice President
Lindi Wall	Secretary
Phil Anstie	Treasurer
Helen Pryor	Board Member
Roman Aizengendler	Board Member
Ian Row	Board Member (co-opted)
Rebecca Faloon	Board Member
Oren Gerassi	Board Member
Janitha Senavirathna	Board Member (co-opted)

### Staff

Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Todd Houstein	Principal Consultant
Sandra Astill	Community Engagement and Events Coordinator

### Project Staff

Nel Smit	Energised Learning School Liaison / TYCLP Supervisor
Julie Hargreaves	Energised Learning School Liaison / Energy Assessor
Shayn Harkness	Energised Learning School Liaison / Energy Assessor
Lisa Cawthen	TYCLP Coordinator 2024
Toby Thorpe	TYCLP Coordinator 2023
Amelie Hudspeth	TYCLP Coordinator 2023
Thomas Howell	TYCLP Youth Program Officer '24
Iola Fleming	TYCLP Youth Program Officer '24
Irene Di Lauro	TYCLP Youth Program Officer '24
Shay Mudwari	TYCLP Youth Program Officer '23
Aisha Bissett	TYCLP Youth Program Officer '23
Mishca Linden	TYCLP Youth Program Officer '23
Ezekiel Willmott	Energised Learning Mentor
Cate Wallace	Energised Learning Mentor
Andrea Persico	EV educator

## 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