



TRENTHAM SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

AUSPICED BY TRENTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

To inspire, inform and support our local community to meet their needs
without compromising the needs of future generations

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

This year was off to a great start with increased interest and enthusiasm from local people wanting to be involved in sustainability and keen to take action on climate change. This renewed interest was made all the more urgent by the horrific affects of catastrophic weather conditions experienced during Summer, followed by another crisis - the Coronavirus pandemic. We will all remember 2020 as a very different, sad and challenging year.

Our first event was a **Community Conversation** held on Sunday 15 March at The Cosmo. Good timing, just before Coronavirus restrictions were enforced. Almost 30 participants contributed to a respectful, inspiring and heartfelt 'conversation' as we shared ideas and aspirations for a more sustainable and fairer future for our community and natural world. We all agreed that despair can turn to hope if we take action individually and together.

Interestingly, TSG has met more often this year compared with previous years - but virtually - thanks to the marvels of technology! We wanted to harness the energy of the Community Conversation and keep up the momentum.

Several online gatherings (meetings) structured our big list of ideas (from the Conversation) into **four main priority areas** (Action Groups):

- Waste Recycling & Repurposing
- Local Food & Farming (Trentham Food Hub)
- Community Energy & Sustainable Housing
- Biodiversity & Conservation

A new Communications team was also formed to help with admin and publicity. It is great to have some younger members involved with these important tasks.

Each online meeting focusses on one priority area or 'theme', with invited guest speakers sharing their knowledge and expertise. Members have been inspired by presentations on '**Community Energy**' and '**Waste & Resource Recovery**'. Our November meeting will cover the important topic of '**Water Security**' - three senior managers from Coliban Water will be our guest speakers.

These informative sessions have raised compelling questions and challenges for all of us as we try to imagine and create a better, cleaner and more secure future. This could happen through community-owned and driven enterprises in areas such as: energy (we are all tired of an unreliable electricity supply); waste management (waste → resource = a circular economy); a vibrant local food economy; and, caring for nature and healing the earth (our life-support system).

A small team calling themselves Trentham Renewable Energy Transition (TREnT) worked hard on a substantial funding application for a **community energy grid**. Unfortunately, the submission was not successful but the research and information gained through this process will be a valuable resource for the future.

Produce Exchange: Our monthly food swap at Trentham Farmers' Market continues to be a wonderful success as we celebrated our 6th anniversary in January. The pandemic caused a 6-month pause from March to September and we all really missed swapping our backyard produce and socialising. September was an exciting month when we were able to resume and see many of our loyal swappers again (masked and socially distanced), including the kids. We look forward to celebrating seven years of the Produce Exchange in January 2021.

Local Food & Farming / Trentham Food Hub: New ideas are forming and will be the main focus for a TSG meeting in early 2021. The 'Local Food' team has been busy around the Food Hub and planting seedlings in the planter boxes, with more working bees planned over coming months.

Trentham Community Plan: TSG made a significant contribution to the Forum's plan, submitting many ideas and concerns covering a wide range of issues. We believe that sustainability should underpin all our thinking and planning to help build a resilient and healthy community for ourselves and future generations.

Z-NET Community Action Plan: This ambitious 10-year masterplan to reach 100% renewable energy and zero-net emissions by 2029, is being implemented across the Shire. Trentham continues to be well represented by four TSG members on the Roundtable, meeting virtually since March. Planned home energy audits had to be put on hold due to Coronavirus restrictions. Online information sessions on solar bulk buys and battery storage have continued with good take-up. The Electric Vehicle (bulk buy) offer is proving popular and E.V. charging stations will soon be available in towns across the Shire. A new website was launched this year <http://hepburnznet.org.au/> - a useful resource about Z-NET.

A big "thank you" to all our members and supporters for your interest and participation. Our group has been reinvigorated this year with new people taking the initiative and becoming involved in various ways. We look forward to exciting times ahead as we work together on new programs and activities.

We appreciate Trentham Neighbourhood Centre for their ongoing assistance and support through our Auspice Agreement.

New members are always welcome! Please phone Glenda on 0419-877-267 or email tsg@trentham.org.au Check us out on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) .

Glenda Holmes
Convenor

Trentham Sustainability Group
Living Locally, Living Sustainably, Living Well