

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 2022

A very busy and challenging year for our small team as we successfully implemented four funding grants (awarded in 2021) and organised important meetings and information sessions to encourage and engage with our community.

A 'Black-out Action' group was formed in March in response to ongoing unplanned power outages and to discuss how we can deal with loss of essential services, such as the crisis caused by the June 2021 storm, when our community was left without communications, power and water supply for three days.

We are grateful for funds from the **Coliban Water 'community rebate'** (awarded to TSG on behalf of our community) to complement the Energy & Climate Resilient Trentham project. Three excellent community information forums were organised and hosted by TSG:

- **"Power Outages and Essential Services" - 19 May:** representatives from Coliban Water, Powercor, Telstra and CFA Trentham, gave informative presentations and answered questions from the public. It was a great opportunity to learn more about our essential services, how they are responding to the challenges of extreme weather, and how our community can support better services and encourage climate action.
- **"Reliable & Renewable Energy: what can we learn from other small towns?" - 16 June:** Four members from Renewable Newstead told the inspiring story of their 10-year journey to renewable energy and how a community can work together to solve problems, support projects and deal with levels of government and funding agencies. The Newstead story was complemented by A/CEO from Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance who provided a regional perspective and insights into microgrid projects at Tarnagulla and Donald.
- **Energy & Climate Resilient Trentham: Feasibility Study Report to Community by Middleton Group – 4 August:** Funding received through Hepburn Shire and Trentham Community Bank totalling \$44,000 enabled TSG and CCCE, as bank project partner, to engage consultants in a comprehensive feasibility study for the township. An informative presentation outlined key points to secure greater reliability and resilience for future power supply, especially for our critical essential services. The session explored options for combining household solar generation, batteries (including community batteries and microgrids) and backup generators, in collaboration with key agencies, to deal with future power and communication problems. An interesting case study was also presented by a TSG member, showing the possibilities for going solar and reducing costs at the household level. A big "thank you" to project leader, Sebastian Klein, for his hard work and dedication to the energy project.



**** More extensive reports of the above events and projects are published in the Trentham Trumpet ****

Trentham Carbon Forestry project: This innovative project is nearing completion and a final report and booklet are ready for publication. TSG contracted central highlands-based company, **wood4good** to engage with local landholders to deliver the project which aims to sequester carbon, enhance biodiversity and, ultimately, grow firewood. A workshop and establishment of a local agroforestry group are planned for the future. A grant for the project was awarded from the 2021 Z-NET Climate Resilience Fund through the Hepburn Wind Impact Fund.

Local Food & Farming:

We received funds from the Adapt Grampians Grants Program to help us position local food security firmly within a climate change framework. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, this project was not able to proceed.

Produce Exchange: Another happy and successful year of swapping and sharing garden produce held every month at Trentham Farmers Market. Our swap table is a great place to meet and share information and gardening tips and the range of produce from backyard gardens and kitchens is amazing. There's nothing better than knowing where the food you eat comes from – and the more local and natural, the better for us and our environment. Next January will be the 9th anniversary of the Produce Exchange, thanks to our dedicated team and wonderful swappers.



Communications: We are proud of our informative news and project updates published every month in the Trentham Trumpet. TSG appreciates the enthusiastic support given by editors, Penny & Chris.

New Website: Thanks to Nat Cursio and More Studio with funding from Hepburn Shire, our website went “live” in July. A great way to find information and join TSG through the contacts form. We also have an exciting new look with a new logo and branding.

Sustainable Hepburn Expo Day: Organised by Hepburn Shire's Storm Recovery team, TSG participated in the inaugural expo day held on 29 October at Trentham Railway Station. It was a fabulous day showcasing local and regional environmental and sustainability groups. TSG's **Energy Survey** was launched and all residents are encouraged to complete the survey which is seeking to understand the level of interest in the community for renewable energy. The survey will inform next steps for the Energy & Climate Resilient Trentham project.

Z-NET Community Transition Plan: TSG continues to represent Trentham on the Z-NET Roundtable. Members meet every two months to help implement the 10-year master plan for our Shire to reach 100% renewable energy and zero-net emissions by 2029. More information can be found at <http://hepburnznet.org.au/> Community members are encouraged to join and are invited to complete an expression of interest to participate in this important endeavour for our Shire.

15th Anniversary - 26th February 2023: *Save the date!* After 15 years some long-time team members are stepping down. Watch out for celebration details and new opportunities for the group.

Thank you to TSG's wonderful team for their hard work and dedication this year: Sebastian, Ian, Nat, Jane, Soph, Matthew and Glen.

TSG thanks Trentham Neighbourhood Centre for their assistance and is grateful for TNC's continuing support through our Auspice Agreement.

We need more people power and would love you to join us! If you'd like a chat, please phone Glen on 0419-877-267 or email trenthamsustainability@gmail.com Find us on [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) and www.trenthamsustainabilitygroup.com

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