

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 2023

The year began with a special celebration to mark the 15th Anniversary of Trentham Sustainability Group!



The first TSG meeting was held on 26 February 2008 and this significant milestone was acknowledged and celebrated with a wonderful “birthday party” held at The Cosmo on 5th March. Around 40 members and supporters filled the wine room and heard about current sustainability plans and projects with a special “thank you” speech delivered by our Ward Councillor and Mayor, Cr Brian Hood. A huge and delicious black forest cake was cut and enjoyed by all and Glenda Holmes was awarded a “life membership” in

recognition of her dedicated service to sustainability and as a member of the core group since its formation.

The GIST Project – have you got the GIST?– your Great Idea(s) for Sustainability in Trentham: this contest of ideas was launched at the 15th Anniversary event. Open to all ages, especially younger people, to stimulate the thinking that will help our community become more sustainable over the next 15 years! The aim was for people to plan and implement their great idea, with the help of seed-funding and support from TSG. Several interesting ideas were put forward and an outstanding proposal received for a Sustainable Clothing Swap. TSG has decided to promote the GIST project again next year and will be open for several months.

Sustainable Clothing Swaps (GIST project) – The first Fashion Swap was held in June and proved a very popular and successful event, with women from Hepburn Shire and Macedon Ranges coming to swap pre-loved clothing, shoes and jewellery. A Kids (+ Maternity) Clothing Swap was held in September with many parents and children enjoying the occasion. Clothing Swaps tick all the boxes for sustainability and are a great way to reduce clothing waste, make connections and engage with our community. Congratulations to Susan for her great GIST proposal and the hard-working Swap Team for organising two wonderful events. The next Clothing Swap is being planned for Summer 2024.



Energy & Climate Resilient Trentham – Building on the successful Feasibility Study carried out in 2021-22, the next step is to secure funding for a Business Plan. While the TSG application to the State Neighbourhood Battery Initiative was unsuccessful, the Energy Resilience team has received positive feedback and continues to work in collaboration with DEECA, Powercor and various electricity re-sellers. Our project is seen as innovative and unique in being “an islandable microgrid that includes a community battery and generator”. This will ensure the power stays on in Trentham when there are prolonged outages from bush fires and storm events, such as the one in June 2021. Our project also has the potential to be replicated in other towns like Trentham. The dedicated Energy team meet weekly and we are grateful for their commitment and hard work on behalf of our community.

Trentham Carbon Forestry project – the release of the Victorian Carbon Forestry Program by the State Government will now allow this innovative project to proceed. TSG will continue to work with Wood4Good as the “registered advisory party” to complete and publish an agro-forestry ‘how to’ booklet. Work achieved over the past two years will continue to build on engagement with local landholders to encourage existing or newly planted woodlots. The project aims to sequester carbon, enhance biodiversity, provide craft timbers and future firewood needs. A workshop, book launch and establishment of a local agroforestry group are planned for 2024.

Produce Exchange – next January will mark the 10th Anniversary of happy, healthy local food swaps!

Thanks to our dedicated swap team and loyal swappers, we've enjoyed another successful year of swapping and sharing a wonderful array of garden and kitchen produce. The swap table is also a great place to meet old and new residents and visitors who share information, gardening tips, recipes and sustainability ideas. The popular Produce Exchange is held on the 3rd Saturday each month at Trentham Farmers Market and you'll see us under the Rotunda in the Town Square.



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

TSG Meetings are held every two months and meeting dates are promoted through our email network of members and supporters. We are delighted that new members have joined our core team this year and their contribution is very much appreciated.

Thank you to our fabulous team for their hard work and dedication: Sebastian, Matthew, Sophie, Jane, John, Ian, Nat, Glenda, Glen and our more recent members.

TSG thanks Trentham Neighbourhood Centre staff for their assistance and, in particular, the friendly and helpful support from former Manager, Tania Sawyer and former Admin Assistant, Karen Riley. We are grateful for TNC's continuing support through our Auspice Agreement.

Everyone is welcome to attend TSG meetings and become involved in our interesting projects and events. We have plenty of exciting programs planned for our community next year so keep a watch out for publicity. We are powered by volunteers and we'd love you to join us and help make it happen!

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

With thanks and on behalf of the TSG Committee,

Glenda Holmes
Convenor

Trentham Sustainability Group
Living Locally, Living Sustainably, Living Well