



**BALLARAT
RENEWABLE
ENERGY
AND ZERO
EMISSIONS**

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(December 2020 to November 2021)

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.





Our Mission

To protect and enhance the natural environment and increase environmental sustainability within the region by promoting and developing renewable sources of energy and significantly reducing the region's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. BREAZE aspires to facilitate, encourage and educate the wider Ballarat community towards a goal of zero emissions by 2030

Our History

BREAZE was formed in December 2006 after Ballarat's "Walk Against Warming" event by a group of concerned citizens who decided there was a need for a community driven organisation to take the lead for action on climate change.

In its first 3 years, BREAZE arranged bulk purchase and installations of solar hot water and rooftop solar panels for its members well before commercial suppliers were established in Ballarat.

In partnership with state and local government agencies and other environment groups BREAZE established the Smart Living Centre as a shopfront for the public to access information and assistance on sustainable use of electricity, gas, water, transport and information on local foods and preserving Ballarat's biodiversity.

BREAZE has quickly grown in membership numbers and reputation as a trusted and authoritative voice for the Ballarat community on all climate change issues. BREAZE Inc. coordinates the Smart Living Ballarat Talks program, funded by the City of Ballarat. In 2017-2021 BREAZE Inc. hosted the Ballarat Community Power Hub pilot program. In 2021 BREAZE Inc was selected by Sustainability Victoria to lead the 2020-2021 Grampians Community Power Hub. This work sits closely with the work of the BREAZE Social Solar program, which leverages public donations to assist not-for-profits access renewable energy resources.

This report covers the period between the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings which was from December 2020 to November 2021 in order to align with the events, activities and achievements of the Board, contractors and volunteers during that period.

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SECTION 1.

AN OVERVIEW OF BREAZE

About Us

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc. is a volunteer run, not for profit climate action group. The BREAZE Board and volunteers in 2020 delivered the following programs, events and projects, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, in serving our mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the region:

1. Smart Living Ballarat – monthly lunchtime presentations/workshops for the public to gain knowledge, skills and reference contacts for sustainable living.
2. Green Drinks – a recurring social event for those interested in environmental sustainability to hear from guest presenters and share ideas.
3. World Environment Day — a Children’s Writing Competition and an environmental documentary screening for members and friends.
4. Sustainable House Day – supporting a national initiative in our region.
5. Grampians Community Power Hub which commenced on 1 July 2021
6. Grampians Renewable Energy Program in partnership with DELWP and collaboration with eight not-for-profits delivering shovel ready renewable energy projects across the Grampians region which was completed in June 2021
7. BREAZE Social Solar partnered with DELWP and Pinarc via the New Energy Jobs Fund to fund the installation of solar PV on four sites in Ballarat, completed in June 2021
8. BREAZE Public Fund – a registered charity with DGR status providing funds for renewable energy infrastructure for social housing and disability sector social enterprises.
9. Administrative assistance to affiliated groups committed to sustainable living: Ballarat Repair Cafe, Buninyong Boomerang Bags, Ballarat Tool Library, Buninyong Community Collective.

BREAZE undertook these activities solely through the efforts of volunteers and funding from Victorian Government, City of Ballarat, and donations.

Board Members: 2021



The Board approves and oversees all BREAZE activities.

L-R from top

Pat Hockey,
Therese Footner,
Tony Goodfellow
Peter Boadle,
Paul Duggan,
Emily Lee,
Nick Charleston,
Suzanne Nunn
Sally Missing
Mary Debrett,
Simon Reid,
Paul Tant,
Pauline Gleeson,
Peter Reid.

Not shown: Ramneek Sharma, Jakki Mikus and Dina Jones.

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Mary Debrett	President	
Paul Tant	Treasurer	
Pat Hockey	Secretary	
Peter Boadle	Board Member	April 2021 onwards
Nick Charleston	Board Member	July 2021 onwards
Paul Duggan	Board Member	
Therese Footner	Board Member	
Pauline Gleeson	Board Member	April 2021 onwards
Tony Goodfellow	Board Member	
Dina Jones	Board Member	June 2021 onwards
Emily Lee	Board Member	
Sally Missing	Board Member	
Sue Nunn	Board Member	
Peter Reid	Board Member	
Ramneek Sharma	Board Member	July 2021 onwards
Simon Reid	Board Member	

Public Fund Committee

BREAZE has a Public Fund for tax deductible donations. As part of the regulatory conditions of having a charitable fund an oversight committee is required to ensure the donations are spent for the purpose that was advertised.

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Ian Rossiter	Chair	
Mary Debrett	BREAZE President	
Daina MacLeod	Independent member (AC Accounting Practice)	
Jakki Mikus	BREAZE Board	resigned June 2021)
Peter Reid	BREAZE Board	
Paul Tant	BREAZE Treasurer	August 2021 onwards

Permanent Volunteer Roles

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Jill Clarke	Web Support	
Patrick Hockey	Membership Officer	

BREAZE Action Groups

In 2020 BREAZE re-framed some activities as Action Groups as a way of encouraging member participation via ZOOM, addressing the constraints of the pandemic.

Group	Position	Name
Sustainable Living	Coordinator	Paul Duggan
Community Forum	Coordinator	Tony Goodfellow
Environmentally Sustainable Design	Coordinator	Sally Missing

BREAZE also usually draws upon its membership to volunteer to help with the projects and presentations we run during the year.

Our Supporters

BREAZE Inc. acknowledges the following supporters who have provided us with services and financial support during the period December 2020 to November 2021:

Organisation or Individual	Support Provided
The City of Ballarat	\$11,772.23 provided to deliver Smart Living Ballarat and World Environment Day activities.
Department of Environment Land Water & Planning	\$45,000 provided during this period for the expenses associated with delivery of the Grampians Renewable Energy Program in Western Victoria for the FY 2020-2021
Lake View Hotel	Supporting Green Drinks

Structure & Management

The organisation is managed by a flat structure consisting of the BREAZE Board and supported by contractors and volunteers recruited for specific projects and activities. The Board is not remunerated and performs on a purely volunteer basis with the common aim of taking the Ballarat community towards a zero net greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) target.

BREAZE Inc., which is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), manages the BREAZE Public Fund which has Australian Taxation Office Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

BREAZE Inc. has a minority shareholding in Breaze Enterprises Pty Ltd, trading as Breaze Energy Solutions (BES) – a for-profit proprietary limited company providing renewable energy infrastructure. BREAZE initially ran bulk purchase schemes for rooftop solar electricity and hot water heating systems for its members. When it withdrew from this activity in 2010, BES took on that business.

BREAZE Inc. also supports sustainability via affiliated groups, which are covered by BREAZE's not-for-profit incorporated association status and public liability insurance cover:

- Buninyong Boomerang Bags
- Buninyong Collective
- Ballarat Repair Cafe
- Ballarat Tool Library

BREAZE is generally run by members on a volunteer basis, unless specifically appointed as contractors. However, in 2021, as lead partner in the Grampians Community Power Hub (G-CPH), delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government, BREAZE Inc. employed two staff on 12 month contracts – a full time Project Manager and a half time Communications/Administrative Officer – to manage and promote the G-CPH and assist BREAZE Inc. volunteers, who are undertaking the Hub's community engagement across the region.

BREAZE Inc. has contracted services from organisations and sole traders that have the required training, skills, equipment, procedures and insurances to deliver services that could not be reasonably expected to be delivered by volunteers. During 2021 a contractor has been involved in the following roles:

1. Smart Living Ballarat Program Scheduling
2. Printing and Reproduction
3. Graphic Design
4. Event Coordination and Marketing

President's Report

This year, like the last, brought daunting challenges for many at a personal level. Again, as in 2020, at national level it has been profoundly disappointing to see the many prescriptions for a clean energy based Covid economic recovery passed over in favour of fossil fuels and unproven CCS technology. After so many years of inaction on climate the Prime Minister's declaration of a net zero 2050 target, with no evident modelling or legislation to support it or drive it – just in time for the Glasgow COP26 – is profoundly anti-climactic. That much of the inaction is being justified as being in the interests of regional communities, is also very galling, given the many regional communities that like ours, that are keenly embracing climate action and renewable energy.

However, at the local level, BREAZE Inc has some significant achievements to celebrate. In March this year City of Ballarat councillors unanimously endorsed an aspirational community-wide target of net zero emissions by 2030. This ambitious target is one long advocated for by BREAZE Inc. Ballarat now joins a growing number of regional communities pursuing ambitious emissions reductions targets. Climate think tank, Beyond Zero Emissions, has a page on [Zero Carbon Communities](#) which lists many of the others. The 2030 community-wide target, Zero Emissions Ballarat (ZEB) is currently being progressed by the City of Ballarat via a Steering Committee comprised of members from the Regional Sustainability Alliance Ballarat (RSAB), and includes a BREAZE representative. It is expected that a contractor will be appointed soon by Council, to undertake a draft Plan for driving the target. Once complete the Draft Plan will be the subject of a public consultation process. Members are urged to participate. If you are interested, follow BREAZE social media for updates on the community consultation process.

A major achievement for BREAZE Inc in 2021 has been its selection as lead partner in the Grampians Community Power Hub (G-CPH), which is being delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government. The role of the G-CPH Project Control Group – which includes BREAZE Inc. volunteers, Peter Boadle, Paul Duggan, and myself; Hepburn Branch partner representative, Hepburn Wind Manager, Taryn Lane; Sustainability Victoria's Regional Lead for the Grampians, John van Rooden; and the Hub's newly appointed Project Manager, Sowmya Nagaraj – is to identify potential community energy projects across the 11 local government areas of the Grampians Region. The G-CPH team also includes part time Communications and Administrative Officer, Sam Rodgers, already known to many BREAZE members as the host of Smart Living Ballarat. The broader goals of the Community Power Hub program sit closely with those of BREAZE – to facilitate the uptake of renewable energy across the community to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to build social licence for renewables. The 2021-2022 G-CPH is very grateful to have the support of the members of the previous Ballarat CPH Project Control Group: Ross Irving, Ian Rossiter, Peter Reid and Jane Lean, and their continued support to those of us who are still learning the ropes.

Another major achievement for BREAZE in 2021 was the successful delivery of the Grampians Renewable Energy Program, in collaboration with DELWP, which saw the implementation of many of the projects to come out of the Ballarat CPH Pilot of 2017-2020. This program, part of the Victorian Government's Covid Economic recovery strategy, was administered by BREAZE Inc Board member, Peter Reid. In collaboration with other volunteers and the staff of regional not-for-profits, Peter oversaw the installation of 384.16kW of solar on 105 properties across the Grampians region, and a 27.6kWh battery at Ballarat General Cemetery. A Bank Australia Impact grant provided additional funding that assisted the installation of solar across the community centre and 37 cottages at the Old Colonists' Association retirement village in Ballarat. With the addition of Solar Victoria subsidies, BREAZE Inc. project coordinator, Peter Reid, ultimately delivered 127kW over and above the contracted figure, a terrific outcome for the program.

A fourth significant achievement for BREAZE was another Social Renewables/Social Solar project funded via DELWP's New Energy Jobs Fund, with additional funding from the BREAZE

Public Fund and Pinarc. This project saw solar and battery installations across all four sites owned and operated by Pinarc, a Ballarat based disability services provider. The final result, 75.72kW of Solar PV and 39.8kWh of battery power in total, was again over and above the initial target deliverable, thanks to the efficient management of BREAZE project coordinator, Peter Reid. The energy costs savings that will flow from these installations will enable Pinarc to invest more in their core services.

Despite the many constraints of the Covid pandemic, BREAZE also continued its delivery of the Smart Living Ballarat (SLB) talks program, online via Zoom. Under the early coordination of Ellen Burns, and more recently Sam Rodgers, these monthly talks covered a wide range of subjects – from sustainable fashion to Ballarat Council's recently launched circular economy plan. Despite growing Zoom weariness the SLB talks program has continued to draw in many BREAZE members and friends.

During 2021, the BREAZE Inc. Board has also continued to make submissions to various authorities on topics related to our mission: submissions to the City of Ballarat on: the community wide zero emissions target; elevating climate action and environmental matters in the upcoming Council Plan; and the Lake Wendouree Lighting Plan. Our thanks to those members who have continued to advocate for the environment and for climate action, via submissions and questions to Council, and letters to the editor. This year, thanks to Brett McDonald and Radio 3BA, BREAZE Board members also participated in a monthly talks slot on *Ballarat Today*, on the fourth Friday of the month – topics covered included climate change and health, electric vehicles, bipartisanship and climate change and environmentally sustainable design. Certainly, speaking up for the natural environment has never been more important than it is now. The collective efforts of the community in this regard have arguably been validated with the elevation of environment in the draft Council Plan to goal 1: An environmentally sustainable future.

This year is also significant for the departure of Peter Reid from the Board. Peter has been an inspirational and dedicated volunteer at BREAZE for many years now, serving in many roles. On behalf of the BREAZE community I thank him for his generosity as a mentor to many of us and for his service to BREAZE.

While the scale of the global problem facing us makes our achievements seem miniscule, I believe we should all take heart from the fact that what we do is being replicated around the world by many millions of citizen groups working at the local level, like BREAZE. Thank you for your membership and support.

All the best



Mary Debrett
President, November 2021



Treasurer's Report

This report covers the year to 30th June 2021. During that period, BREAZE is showing a \$23,724 loss. However, a substantial part of this is due to the way that income has been recognised in previous years on projects which, in reality, have a 'break even' or better result. To illustrate this, here is a table which breaks down BREAZE's income and expenditure on some of the main projects over the past two years (deficits are in brackets):



Paul Tant

Area/Project	2019/20 result	2020/21 result	Total
Grampians Renewable Energy	\$45,000	(\$9,880)	\$35,120
Social Solar by BREAZE	\$15,361	(\$9,846)	\$5,515
Affiliated Groups	\$5,830	(\$312)	\$5,518
New Energy Jobs Fund	\$0	\$1,761	\$1,761
Public Fund	\$2,404	\$3,195	\$5,599
BREAZE 'Core'	\$19,093	(\$6,508)	\$12,585
Community Power Hub	(\$63,472)	-	(\$63,472)
Grampians CPH	-	(\$2,153)	(\$2,153)
Organisation	\$24,216	(\$23,743)	\$473

At 30th June 2021, BREAZE had net assets of \$124,588; this was largely made up of \$221,486 of cash in various bank accounts (of total assets held by BREAZE of \$249,690), offset by liabilities of \$125,102, principally a liability of \$115,278 relating to grant funding received in advance. This liability reflects the fact that we had \$115,278 of Grampians Renewable Energy grant funding sitting in our bank account at 30th June which was earmarked for spending on expenses incurred on that project.

While BREAZE had total revenue for the 2020/21 financial year of \$444,434, an income level which has us classified as a 'medium sized charity' according to the classification set by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ('ACNC'), if we strip out the financial effects of grant funding for specific projects and affiliated groups we have a much smaller 'core' of organisational costs not covered by grant funding, which therefore needs to be covered by our sources of 'free income' – principally membership fees and royalties. One of the main tasks of the Treasurer then is to ensure that these 'core expenses' are covered by 'core income'.

Thanks to the sterling work done by my predecessor, Peter Reid, managing the GRE program, BREAZE has successfully earned a management fee on that program (see 'total' of \$35,120 in the top line of the table above). This helps the reserves position of the organisation; and for the 2021/22 year we have budgeted a 'break even' position for 'BREAZE Core', so we remain in a financially sustainable position.

My thanks to my predecessor Peter Reid who has done so much to ensure that BREAZE is both built on solid financial foundations and for his great work project managing GRE and NEJF projects over recent years.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue			
Affiliated Group Activities		13,845	8,555
Donations		5,129	3,893
Grants - Community Power Hub		-	45,000
Grants - Grampians Renewable Energy		334,722	45,000
Grants - New Energy Jobs Fund		75,000	-
Grants - Other		-	21,364
Interest received		296	953
Member subscriptions		1,591	2,139
Other income		3,149	3,722
Projects		-	21,545
Service Contracts		10,702	10,375
Total Revenue		444,434	162,546
Expenditure			
Administration		15,390	9,088
Affiliated Group Activities		13,920	11,163
Community Power Hub		-	108,472
Events		-	150
Grampians Renewable Energy		343,703	-
Projects		10,104	3,158
New Energy Jobs Fund		74,339	-
Public Fund		-	15
Smart Living Ballarat		10,702	6,104
Social Renewables		-	200
Total Expenditure		468,158	138,330
Profit/(loss) before income tax		(23,724)	24,216
Income tax expense	2(a)	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the year		(23,724)	24,216
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(23,724)	24,216

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	221,486	128,841
Trade and other receivables	4	22,724	11,100
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		244,210	139,941
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other financial assets	5	1,230	1,230
Loans and advances	6	4,250	7,250
Property, plant and equipment	7	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		5,480	8,480
TOTAL ASSETS		249,690	148,421
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	9,824	109
Other financial liabilities	9	115,278	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		125,102	109
NET ASSETS		124,588	148,312
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		124,588	148,312
TOTAL EQUITY		124,588	148,312

Financial Statements

The financial statements reproduced above are only extracts from BREAZE's audited 2020/21 financial statements and, as such, can't be treated as full audited financial statements. Note references shown are those to notes in the audited financial statements which are not reproduced here. Full copies of the audited financial statements can be found at [BREAZE Inc. 2021 - Final Signed Financial Statements.pdf](#) or via BREAZE's page on the ACNC website, [Ballarat Renewable Energy And Zero Emissions Inc. | ACNC](#).

Smart Living Ballarat Program

In partnership with the City of Ballarat, BREAZE has delivered monthly Smart Living Ballarat (SLB) presentations and workshops for the general public. The sessions are designed to be a practical and implementable solution for people living in the Ballarat region.



This years' events delivered online via Facebook and Zoom were:

- December 16 - Happen Films - The Future of Food
- February 17 - Meet your local Eco Groups
- March 17 - Pickling and Preserving Demonstration
- April 21 - Meet Ballarat's EV Enthusiasts
- May 19 - Your Guide to Ballarat Op Shops and Sustainable Fashion - Bianca Flint
- June 16 - Become a Locavore - A chat with Ballarat's Wholefoods Collectives and Farmers Markets
- July 21 - Ethical Investing with Market Forces - an affiliate with Friends of the Earth Australia
- August 18 - Spring Gardening - with John Ditchburn
- September 15 - Sustainable House Day: Two Ballarat homes - a strawbale masterpiece and an all-electric renovation
- October 20 - Waste, Recycling and the Circular Economy: How the City of Ballarat is changing the way we treat 'waste' and encouraging recycling via the online marketplace 'ASPIRE.'
- November 17 - Smart Renting Tips - how renters can be energy efficient and live sustainably.

This year has been another challenging year for SLB as we continued with ZOOM sessions which nevertheless attracted good audiences across the year, serving a much-needed social outlet during the COVID – an opportunity for BREAZE members and friends to meet like-minded locals.

Our thanks go to:

- City of Ballarat for funding to cover coordination, promotion and online account and presenters' costs.
- Our contractors Ellen Burns and Sam Rodgers for their excellent work in securing presenters, marketing and promoting the events and event coordination.
- Our volunteers and coordinators

Sustainable House Day 2021



In 2020, Sustainable House Day, which is run by Renew annually, with owners and builders of sustainable houses opening their doors to the public, went online. Home owners, with assistance from Renew, produced videos to which visitors who registered were given access during September. BREAZE promoted the 2021 event via its website, Facebook, a Smart Living Ballarat talk that showcased two local homes – a strawbale home built to

sustainable design principles and a home renovation to optimise energy efficiency – which was also featured in an [article](#) written by Rochelle Kirkham for The Courier - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7444194/living-lightly-at-eco-friendly-ballarat-home/>

World Environment Day 5 June 2021 - Children's Writing Competition

COVID lockdowns and online home schooling continued to put teachers, students and parents under taxing pressures in 2021. Nevertheless World Environment Day drew a good number of entries in the BREAZE Children's Writing Competition.

This year the theme of [World Environment Day](#) (5 June), was ecosystem restoration. Taking up the BREAZE Inc. Competition challenge – 'What I can do to help the environment' – 68 children from grades 5 & 6 in primary schools across greater Ballarat, submitted entries. A panel of three BREAZE members assessed the entries and selected the following winners, with special mention certificates and prizes allocated to six students whose work also shone. While BREAZE Inc. very much regrets the



Competition awards ceremony had to be cancelled due to the COVID lockdown, prizes – book vouchers – were sent via Australia Post to all listed. BREAZE congratulates the winners:

Overall Competition Winner:

Jonty Clarke – Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

School winning Entries

- St Alipius Primary School : Grace Vermont
- Forest St Primary School: Taian Smith
- St Francis Xavier Primary School: Milla O'Donohue
- Canadian Lead Primary School: Mikaela Finley

Special Mentions

- Harper Heniak - St Francis Xavier Primary School
- Kate Hardcare - Forest St Primary School
- Myah Esther Sabuya - Forest St Primary School
- Ollie Seuren - Forest St Primary School
- Samantha Catherall - Forest St Primary School
- Sienna Templar - St Alipius Primary School
- Chance Burton - Canadian Lead Primary School
- Stephanie Tatneau - Canadian Lead Primary School

Green Drinks

Green Drinks is an event held in towns throughout the world. People regularly get together to hear talks from citizens, NGOs, academia, government and business. A non-partisan, networking opportunity, Green Drinks offers a forum for discussions relating to sustainability and the environment. BREAZE Inc. runs Ballarat Green Drinks, which has normally been held at Lake View Hotel, but after Covid hit in 2020 we took Green Drinks online.

On 15 April 2021, feminist, Muslim, green architect and climate change campaigner, Fahimah Badrulhisham shared



her intersectional approach to climate action via an online presentation. Director of Fahimah Designs, an architecture practice that specialises in energy efficient, low carbon buildings, Fahimah is also the co-president of Muslim Collective, committed to social action, and the Sydney convener for the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC).

On 21 May Green Drinks Ballarat live-streamed the Ballarat Action Climate Co-op Climate Strike at Victoria Park.

Later in 2021 given audiences had declined during the lockdown Green Drinks was put on hold until face to face mode is again possible. The Board will review decision in early 2022.

Repair Café Ballarat



Repair Café Ballarat (RCB) was launched as a monthly event in July 2019 with the slogan —‘don’t throw it, fix it.’ After a very successful first six months in which it built up a team of 30+ volunteers to deliver its free repairs service, and was nominated for a community award, RCB operations were suspended during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. RCB is planning a re-launch in 2021.

The CEP Grant was to include purchased of a number of tools, but following the relocation of the BRC to BGT in a space shared with the Ballarat Tool Library (BTL), additional tools are no longer required

Due to COVID the Repair Café has not been able to hold monthly events since June 2021. However, one is planned for Saturday 30 October in 2022.

Buninyong Boomerang Bags



Buninyong Boomerang Bags is part of a network of local volunteers who work independently to reduce waste in their communities. Donated fabrics diverted from landfills are sewn by volunteers into beautiful and unique re-useable bags. By increasing awareness of the plastic bag issue it assisted in the banning of plastic bags.

Due to COVID 19 the regular meetings and bag making have been suspended. Many

people continued to make bags at home to meet specific demand. Boomerang Bags will look at restarting when the COVID threat is over.

Buninyong Community Collective

The Buninyong Community Collective goals are to

- To provide the Buninyong community with minimal packaging, quality local and organic dry foods, and fresh home produce. Local goods in the future.
- To become a trusted, financially sustainable, not-for-profit project.
- To expand product lines, and then support more sustainable community projects with any excess funds.



During 2021 the Buninyong Community Collective managed to operate on a restricted basis due to COVID 19. Our operations varied our normal processes to minimise the risk to volunteers and consumers. This included operating a contactless pick up of email orders during the riskiest periods. Buninyong Community collective.

Ballarat Tool Library

The Ballarat Tool Library is a volunteer-led initiative providing access to the tools needed to repair and care for your home and belongings – saving you money from having to buy new tools you may only use once or twice.

Used & new tools for the: garden, construction, kitchen, woodworking, plus artist tools. Our library is always growing. Helping the community share resources helps us work towards a sustainable future. Plus everyone deserves the right to build and repair the things they own - not just those who can afford the tools.

With intermittent operations throughout the pandemic we are working to keep communication with members, to offer a reliable service. Restrictions enabled us to operate on a 'click and collect' basis - but to limit risk we reduced our days to Saturdays with minimal volunteers in attendance. This has worked well and members are appreciating the opportunity to undertake projects whilst spending more time at home. Libraries are open for click and collect only, to facilitate loaning and returning books, toys and other items from these facilities. Thus far we are pleased and proud of our progress and the benefits we are providing to our community.



SECTION 5. BREAZE PUBLIC FUND & SOCIAL SOLAR



BREAZE's Public Fund is a special fund for private charitable donations. It is administered by the Public Fund Committee which oversees collection and makes recommendation to the BREAZE Board as to where the collected money can be distributed. The Public Fund generally uses the privately donated money to leverage larger grants from government, business and other charitable bodies. Currently we only have one charitable project which is the Social Solar by BREAZE Project described below.

Donations from the public are collected and stored in the BREAZE Public Fund Account. The BREAZE Public Fund is a public fund listed on the register of environmental organisations under item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the income tax assessment act 1997. It is established and maintained to support the environmental purposes of the Association. It is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) under Australian Taxation Office rules. BREAZE also applies for grants from government, business and charitable bodies. Grants are kept in a separate account, and the Public Fund Committee ensures grant funds are spent as specified by the conditions of the grant.

Public Fund Committee Chair's Report

The BREAZE Public Fund Committee has convened for meetings in January, April and November this year to consider correspondence, financial transactions, organisational compliance, fundraising opportunities and potential recipients under the Social Solar program.

The committee's membership is detailed on page 6 of this Report.

The focus this year has been to continue the Social Solar initiative in which the Fund has utilised donations, grants and subsidies to fund rooftop solar installations on social housing to save money for the residents and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

During the last 18 months BREAZE has project managed the installation of 108 rooftop PV systems to social housing stock through funding provided by Department of Environment Land Water and Planning through the Grampians Renewable Energy initiative, meaning properties managed by Uniting Care, Child and Family Services Ballarat, Old Colonists Association Ballarat and MacCallum Disability Services have received the Social Solar benefit without the need to draw down on donated funds within our Public Fund. It is important that funds donated for this purpose are used to continue the program.

The Public Fund has at the 31st October a balance of \$11,115.58 with no outstanding liabilities and has received \$3,186.04 in donations and bank interest this year.

The BREAZE Public Fund's 2021 Statistical Return to the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment was lodged on 29/09/21 to ensure compliance with the Department's Register of Environmental Organisation's requirements.

Fundraising opportunities have been restricted again this year due to the cancellation of events and fundraising activities due to Covid-19 restrictions. A prospectus inviting donations for our Social Solar initiative was prepared and circulated early in the year to potential funding organisations, when we thought restrictions would be easing, however this wasn't to be the case. In the lead up to the end of financial year I prepared an article on the BREAZE website to draw attention to the capacity for donations to the Fund being tax deductible.

The funds allocated for expenditure in 2020/21 financial year have been rolled over to 2021/22 as reductions in the costs of solar PV installations has meant that all designated projects could be completed with the grant funding received. We have advised the regulatory bodies (Federal Environment Department Register of Environmental Organisations and the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission) of this plan.

Following the success of funding being made available through the Grampians Renewable Energy initiative to BREAZE to fund 108 social housing rooftop PV systems in our region this year, the Public Fund Committee has been focussing on Melba Support Services, which manages

16 special disability accommodation homes in Ballarat. We are hoping to be able to fund some of their properties receiving rooftop PV systems in the first half of 2022, subject to obtaining the relevant permissions from their clients, management and Powercor. At the November meeting the PF Committee resolved to also investigate options of energy efficiency audits for social housing where we have already provided PV systems, options for assisting community housing cooperatives and the funding of rooftop PV systems and heat pumps as offsets for organisations participating in the Net Zero Ballarat initiative.

We look forward to a return of traditional opportunities to raise funds and awareness of our Social Solar program in 2022 as more public events and school based fundraisers can resume.



Public Fund Chair, Ian Rossiter, 20 November 2021

Past Public Fund Activities

Year	Recipient	Installation
2016	Ballarat Regional Industries – a not for profit providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities (https://www.bri.org.au/).	30kW Solar PV installation on Walker Street packing plant.
2017	Uniting Housing – a not-for-profit providing social housing (https://unitinghousing.org.au/).	18kW of Solar PV on 6 properties.
2018	McCallum Disability Services – a not-for-profit providing a range of services for people with a disability (https://www.mccallum.org.au/) and Uniting Housing – a not-for-profit providing social housing (https://unitinghousing.org.au/).	6kW on 2 properties
2019	Uniting Church’s Howitt St Opportunity Shop – this enterprise supports Uniting Housing and McCallum Disability Services – a not-for-profit providing a range of services for people with a disability (https://www.mccallum.org.au/)	10kW PV Installation An additional 3 kW of Solar Panels
2020-21	Funds rolled over to 2021-22 for solar PV installation on the new cottages of the retirement village operated by the Old Colonists' Association	

Social Solar by BREAZE

Social Solar by BREAZE uses donations and grants to supply solar panels and/or solar hot water to not-for-profit community organisations. This results in more renewable energy in our region, reduced emissions and economic social justice, which is exactly what we stand for.

BREAZE's One Dollar for One Watt Program has installed solar panels on many social housing projects. It uses the slogan: For every \$1 donated, one Watt of power will be put onto social housing. Social or affordable housing is rental accommodation provided by not-for-profit organisations. Most of the money raised is from small donations from BREAZE members and other interested people. This is an ongoing program, but due to COVID-19 no fund-raising events were held in 2021. All donations received will be used for projects scheduled for installation in 2022.



Grampians Community Power Hub

In July 2021 BREAZE Inc. was selected as the lead partner in the Grampians Community Power Hub. The 2021-2022 Community Power Hub program is being delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government. The Grampians Hub is one of seven being delivered across the State.

The aim of the Hub is to facilitate the development of community-based renewable energy projects across the not-for-profit sector in the Grampians region by identifying viable projects and undertaking professional feasibility studies. BREAZE Inc is

partnering with Hepburn Energy (previously Hepburn Wind) as its Hepburn Branch partner.

Drawing on the experiences of those BREAZE members who led the Ballarat Community Power Hub pilot 2017-2020, BREAZE Inc. has appointed two staff - a full time Project Manager, Sowmya Nagaraj, an engineer with a Masters in Sustainable Energy (RMIT), and part-time Communications and Administrative Officer, Sam Rodgers, who has a Bachelor of Environmental Science Sustainability Management (Deakin) and Diploma of Business Management and Human Resources (Swinburne).



The Grampians Community Power Hub (G-CPH) is managed through a Project Control Group, comprising three BREAZE Inc. volunteers – Peter Boadle, Mary Debrett and Paul Duggan - Taryn Lane from Hepburn Energy representing the Hepburn Branch, the G-CPH Project Manager, Sowmya Nagaraj, and Sustainability Victoria's Regional Lead, Grampians – a role filled from July to December 2021 by John van Rooden. The work of the Hub involves community engagement across the 11 local government areas that comprise the Grampians region, contacting local community not-for-profits – social housing providers, sporting clubs, community-owned

kindergartens and day care centres, Men's Sheds and community centres and of course local renewable energy and environmental groups keen to cut greenhouse gas emissions. In its first six months the PCG identified approximately a dozen potential projects across the region for further assessment in the new year.



The G-CPH was formally launched on 12 November by Minister d'Ambrosio at the Halls Gap Botanic Gardens where the Hub is assisting plans for an off-grid solar battery system to support the work of the volunteers who care for the Gardens.

Over the 3 years of the 2017-2020 Ballarat CPH pilot program, 15 feasibility studies were undertaken, which eventually contributed the installation of just over 1MW (1,088kW) of renewable energy, under the program detailed below.

Grampians Renewable Energy Program (GRE)

During the first six months of 2021, BREAZE Inc. continued its collaboration with the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) installing solar and battery generated power at eight community buildings and sites. The recipient entities were a mixture of not-for-profit organisation and social housing providers.

In 2021 installations at the following sites were completed:

- Ballarat General Cemeteries – 30kWh battery.
- Old Colonists' Association (OCA) – 78kW Solar PV across 37 social housing properties in Lake Gardens.
- Uniting – 88kW Solar PV across 40 social housing properties in Brown Hill, Canadian, Maddingley, Mount Pleasant, Rupanyup, Sebastopol, Saint Arnaud and Wendouree.



BREAZE GRE Coordinator, Peter Reid with DELWP Regional Manager Community Partnerships, Kathryn Campbell, and BREAZE/OCA volunteers, in front of one of the 104 social housing properties to get solar installed under the GRE program, 2020-2021.

Media Activity

BREAZE pursued its community information role with generation of e-Newsletters promoting monthly events, through social media on Facebook and Twitter, and via media reports as below:

November 27, 2020 - November 26, 2021 - Radio 3BA BREAZE Board Members talk-slot - with Brett McDonald on Ballarat Today - 4th Friday of the month, 10:15 am.

December 26, 2020 – *How can the lessons of Covid-19 help with climate action?* – <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7067113/how-can-the-lessons-of-covid-19-help-with-climate-action/>

January 3, 2021 - *Thinking about Ballarat's electricity needs in 2040* <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7041211/take-the-power-back-thinking-about-ballarats-electricity-needs-in-2040/>

January 7, 2021 - *How a sharing community found new ways with old tools* <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7076580/how-a-sharing-community-found-new-ways-with-old-tools/>

January 14, 2021 - Tool Library gets ready to lend <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/tool-library-launch/>

February 14, 2021 - *Interested in volunteering? Join this speed dating session with Ballarat eco group* <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7123379/interested-in-volunteering-join-this-speed-dating-session-with-ballarat-eco-groups/>

March 12, 2021 - McCallum gets power-up <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/mccallum-breaze-solar-power/>

March 19, 2021 - *Opinion: Think global, act local: why Ballarat should adopt a zero community target* <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7174275/opinion-think-global-act-local-why-ballarat-should-adopt-a-zero-community-target/>

March 25, 2021 - *City of Ballarat's push for net zero emissions across the community* <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7183358/council-to-push-for-net-zero-emissions-across-the-entire-community/>

March 25, 2021 - An hour of darkness offers hope for climate <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/earth-hour/>

March 27, 2021 - Mary Debrett talking about Earth Hour on Breakfast Radio, ABC Ballarat

April 19, 2021 – *Solar installation cuts costs for McCallum's residents* <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7213455/solar-installation-cuts-costs-for-disability-services-residents/>

April 26, 2021 - *Ballarat not-for-profits receive solar-powered financial boost*
<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7226179/ballarat-not-for-profits-receive-solar-powered-financial-boost/>

April 30, 2021 - Bills a BREAZE for groups on solar -
<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/ballarat-table-tennis-association/>

May 19, 2021 - *'Massive leap forward': councils' renewable energy deal welcomed*
<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7260624/massive-leap-forward-councils-renewable-energy-deal-welcomed/>

May 30, 2021 - *'More money in our pockets': retirement village residents see solar benefits*
<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7273562/more-money-in-our-pockets-retirement-village-residents-see-solar-benefits/>

June, 4, 2021 - A clean, green Charles Anderson Grove
<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/charles-anderson-grove/>

July 16, 2021 - *Hosting a power hub's a BREAZE* -
<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/grampians-region-community-power-hub/>

July 19, 2021 – *Grampians Community Power Hub to deliver renewable energy projects for community organisations* – <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7346530/program-to-deliver-renewable-energy-projects-for-community-organisations/>

September 13, 2021 - Ian Rossiter spoke about the solar PV installation project on the East Grampians Health Service with Stephen Martin on ABC Ballarat

September 26, 2021 - Forum answers energetic questions
<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/breaze-community-energy-forum/>

September 26, 2021 - *Community energy forum to encourage big thinking on possibilities*
<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7440069/big-ideas-for-renewable-energy-in-your-community-join-this-forum/>

October 25, 2021 - *Opinion: A political football at Lake Wendouree* - Mary Debrett, The Courier.

October 26, 2021 - Mary Debrett spoke about the work of the Grampians Community Power Hub on ABC Horsham
[transition-appointed/](https://www.abc.com.au/news/2021-10-26/mary-debrett-grampians-community-power-hub/11711111)

November 5, 2021 - Power Hub's team charging up -
<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/sowmya-nargaraj/>

November 7, 2021 - Rochelle Kirkham - *New leaders for Grampians Community Power Hub appointed* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7495457/new-leaders-for-regions-clean-energy->

November 10, 2021 - Mary Debrett spoke about the Net Zero Homes petition and the move to raise energy efficiency standards in the National Construction Code with Stephen Martin on ABC Ballarat.

November 26, 2021 - Launch of the Grampians Community Power Hub
<https://australianonlinenews.com.au/2021/11/26/launch-of-the-grampians-community-power-hub>

December 20, 2021 - *Opinion: This is the way of the future and Ballarat needs to get on board*
Michael Poulton - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7061558/lets-be-bold-this-is-the-way-of-the-future-and-ballarat-needs-to-get-on-board/>

Formal Representations

During the year BREAZE filed the following reports/submissions:

- Submission to the City of Ballarat Draft Budget
- Submission to Jaala Pulford MLC for e Community Energy Target as part of the VRET
- Submission to the City of Ballarat Draft Council Plan
- Submission to CoB Planning department against the Lake Wendouree Lighting Plan



BREAZE Inc. thanks all those Ballarat organisations, businesses and individuals who have contributed to BREAZE, and to the **One Dollar One Watt** campaign which feeds our **Social Solar** program.

One Dollar One Watt is a great opportunity for those looking to help the environment AND the community. By contributing to this initiative managed by the BREAZE Inc. Public Fund, donors can claim on their tax returns since BREAZE is registered with the Australian Charities Commission and has Deductible Gift Recipient Status.

Your donation will help a local not-for-profit organisation reduce its greenhouse gas emissions plus save dollars on its overheads and generate a return for its unused power. This is a *win win* that

enables organisations to plough those savings back into their charity, while also helping the climate. Donate here: <https://www.givenow.com.au/onedollarforonewatt>

Find out more about BREAZE

<http://www.breaze.org.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/breaze.org.au/>

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Become a member, volunteer and join the fight against climate change.

