



**BALLARAT
RENEWABLE
ENERGY
AND ZERO
EMISSIONS**

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

(December 2022 to November 2023)

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.



CAV: A0049836H ABN: 35 704 902 844
PO Box 1301 Bakery Hill Victoria 3354



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 2017-2020 BREAZE Inc. hosted the Ballarat Community Power Hub pilot program. In 2021 BREAZE Inc was selected by Sustainability Victoria to lead the 2021-2022 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 2022 and 2023 Annual General Meetings, which was from December 2022 to November 2023, 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 2022 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 ran from 1 July 2021 to June 2022
6. BREAZE Social Solar partnered with DELWP and Woodbine Inc via the New Energy Jobs Fund 6 to fund installation of solar PV on five Wimmera properties
7. BREAZE Public Fund – a registered charity with DGR status providing funds for renewable energy infrastructure for social housing and disability sector social enterprises.
8. 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: 2023

The Board approves and oversees all BREAZE activities.



L-R from top

- Lydia Mzondo
- Paul Tant
- Suzanne Nunn
- Simon Reid
- Dina Jones
- Catherine Oakley
- Pete Morison
- Vany Gunaratnam
- Campbell Mercer
- Sally Missing
- Sue Broadway
- Mary Debrett

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Mary Debrett	President	
Campbell Mercer	Vice President	April 2022 onwards
Paul Tant	Treasurer	
Dina Jones	Secretary	Until April 2023

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Catherine Oakley	Secretary	May 2023 onwards
Sue Broadway	Board Member	
Vany Gunaratnam	Board Member	March 2022 onwards
Sally Missing	Board Member	
Pete Morison	Board Member	
Lydia Mzondo	Board Member	
Sue Nunn	Board Member	
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)	
Peter Reid	BREAZE Board	
Paul Tant	BREAZE Treasurer	
Pete Morison	Chair Revolving Fund	

Permanent Volunteer Roles

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Jill Clarke	Web Support	
Patrick Hockey	Membership Officer, Web Support and e-Newsletter	

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/partners who have provided us with services and financial support during the period December 2022 to November 2023:

Organisation/Individual	Support Provided
The City of Ballarat	Funding to deliver the Smart Living Ballarat monthly talks program and presenting Children's Writing Competition Awards
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA formerly DELWP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Energy Jobs Fund 6 grant to install Solar PV on 5 properties owned by disability provider Woodbine Inc. at Warracknabeal • Funding for Home Energy Efficiency Workshops
Regional Sustainability Alliance Ballarat (RSAB), City of Ballarat and DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant for two Building Better Homes for the Future community forums in 2023 • Grant for Business Energy Efficiency workshop at Commerce Ballarat's Business Festival
CoPower	Grant of \$7,250 towards the BREAZE Social Solar Revolving Fund
Bunch of Grapes Hotel	Supporting Ballarat Green Drinks every third Thursday of the month

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. In 2023 BREAZE Inc. and Breaze Energy Solutions agreed to terminate the TM License Agreement in June 2024 due to ongoing community confusion.

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
- Ballarat Repair Cafe
- Ballarat Tool Library

BREAZE is generally run by members on a volunteer basis, unless specifically appointed as contractors. 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 2023 contractors have been involved in the following roles:

1. Smart Living Ballarat Program Hosting & Scheduling
2. Videography and photography for Building Better Homes for the Future forums
3. Home Energy Efficiency Workshop pilot run by the BZE Alliance
4. Business Energy Efficiency Workshop

President's Report 2023

It's hard to comprehend how we got here, with less than seven years from the 2030 cut-off for setting the trajectory to halt runaway climate change, and Australia still approving coal mines, subsidising fossil fuels and exporting coal. Not healthy for humans, the environment or any life-form on the planet. As a wholly volunteer-run not-for-profit, BREAZE Inc. work continues to be firmly grounded in the region, our focus on grass roots activities – *think global, act local* – aligned with others elsewhere who are doing this too.

The City of Ballarat's endorsement of the community-wide [Ballarat Net Zero Emissions \(BZE\) 2030 Plan](#) in October 2022 gave BREAZE a welcome new platform for advocacy and community engagement. The target is ambitious, which is good, and the Plan outlines five broad community outcomes with fifty specific actions. The BREAZE Board began this year with a January planning meeting at which we agreed to make the implementation of the BZE Plan our key goal for the year.

In 2023 we also continued our various ongoing activities: [monthly chats on Radio 3BA](#) with Ballarat Today host, Brett MacDonald. Topics covered included the problems in communicating climate change in the media, green investments, CoP28 in the UAE, household electrification programs and more. We thank 3BA for this opportunity to reach the wider community and for confirming our fourth Friday of the month slot in 2024. Both our free monthly talks programs were also ongoing throughout 2023 and returned to in-person mode: [Smart Living Ballarat](#), hosted by Ellen Burns and funded by the City of Ballarat on every fourth Wednesday of the month, and [Ballarat Green Drinks](#), now being held every third Thursday of month at the Bunch of Grapes Hotel in Pleasant St South. We also continued our Social Solar program, undertaking project management of the [installation of 58kW of rooftop solar across five properties owned by Woodbine Inc.](#) a Warracknabeal NDIS provider, co-funded via a Victorian government New Energy Jobs Fund, Round 6 grant from late 2022. And the final output of the Grampians Community Power Hub (G-CPH), the [BREAZE Regional Guide to Community Energy](#), was delivered, produced by our G-CPH partner Hepburn Energy in consultation with BREAZE. It's worth checking out online if you haven't already done so.

Overall, 2023 kept our Board volunteers quite busy with events, projects and submissions – detailed in chronological order below.

In February BREAZE participated in the [Buninyong Smart Living Expo](#) which made a comeback after Covid lockdowns. In March we joined a Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) campaign in [advocating for a stronger Climate Safety Mechanism](#), via our social media and [meeting with the local Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King](#), who is also of course the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. Following our presentations to her we gave the Minister a copy of *The Big Switch* by Saul Griffith. While we don't claim responsibility for them, it should be noted that [some changes](#) were subsequently negotiated to the Climate Safety Mechanism with an emissions cap added which means that it does now actually reduce emissions.

In March and April we partnered with Hepburn Energy (formerly Hepburn Wind) in a [Hot Water Heat Pump bulk buy](#) offering Ballarat locals the opportunity to upgrade to these new super-efficient hot water systems at discounted prices. We learned there are a few myths that need busting – about Ballarat being too cold for this technology – please note Heat Pumps are good for temperatures down to -10C. Also in March the second of the *Building Better Homes for the Future* forums – [Achieving 7 Stars and Net Zero Homes was held at the Ballarat Mechanic Institute](#) with Jeremy Spencer, Director of Positive Footprints and founding member of Builders Declare, discussing the new National Construction Code 7 star energy rating for new buildings and what that will mean.

In May we partnered again with Hepburn Energy in their EV bulk buy via the Good Car Company, holding the key event, the 'Show & Shine' day at the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre in Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol, drawing about 120 attendees. In May we also made a formal [submission to the City of Ballarat's Draft Budget](#), calling for an investment of at least 5% of the total budget in climate mitigation policies, and implementation of the BZE Plan via a City Council sponsorship of a Home Electrification program among other things.

In June we were involved in four projects: the City of Ballarat's inaugural [Sustainability in Schools program](#), presenting on the benefits of renewable energy to students at St James Primary School; the [BZE 2030 Check-In at the Ballarat Soccer Centre](#), reporting on what BREAZE was doing to help to cut emissions, along with 11 other local organisations and businesses; in Powercor's Rural and Regional Electricity Distribution Summit at the RACV Goldfields, advocating for energy equity across the region; and the [BREAZE Children's Writing Competition to celebrate World Environment Day](#) now in its sixth year, which drew 126 submissions from six schools, with Ballarat's Mayor, Cr Des Hudson kindly officiating at the awards ceremony at Sebastopol Library on June 5.

In July the third of the *Building Better Homes for the Future* forums, [the All Electric Home forum](#) was held at the Mercure Ballarat. Yarra Energy Foundation member, Lloyd Heathfield presented on the many benefits of an all-electric home and how to plan for it, to 117 Ballarat locals. BREAZE also began a workshop pilot series of [How to Make Your Home Energy Efficiency](#), led by Victorian Energy Scorecard assessors, Dale Boucher and Tim Drylie, and funded by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The pilot ran for eight weeks at the Ballarat Tool Library in Barkly Square. You can read the [final Report here](#).

In August BREAZE took up an invitation to participate in Commerce Ballarat's B31 Business Festival, holding a [How to Make Your Business Energy Efficient](#) workshop at the Mercure Ballarat, hosted by local business woman and Smart Living Ballarat host, Ellen Burns and led by energy consultant, Dale Boucher. Energy audits are deemed particularly beneficial for businesses with high expenditure for refrigeration and water and space heating.

In September/October BREAZE was invited to participate as an Expert Community Partner in the [Electrify My Community](#) program being run by Rewiring Australia, the national organisation established by Saul Griffith and Dan Cass. Thinking nationally and acting locally, this program offers great networking and resource sharing possibilities, being very much focused on grassroots sustainability groups. In October BREAZE also made a [submission to the City of Ballarat's Draft Housing Strategy 2023-24](#)

In the same week I started writing this report, the journal *BioScience* published [The 2023 State of the Environment Report](#), which begins with the ominous words: 'Life on planet Earth is under siege. We are now in an uncharted territory.' It's the news we have all been dreading as we watch climate events unfold and wait for authorities to take the level of action needed to address the climate emergency. With an El Nino weather pattern now confirmed, and continual news of record temperatures and extreme weather events wreaking havoc across the globe, and fires already raging across NSW and Queensland, we know another terrible summer is coming. It's natural to want to turn away, but as those committed to acting on climate we mustn't. The propagators of disinformation are still very much at large with conspiracy culture continuing to thrive both online and in the [mainstream](#).

From time-to-time BREAZE Board discussion has touched on the personal benefits of climate activism in addressing the psychological stresses of climate change. On the matter of '*how to stay out of shock during moments of collective trauma*,' Naomi Klein advises: '*Gather together, find your footing and your story.*' Certainly, BREAZE now has a strong footing and a pretty good story, thanks to the vision of founding members, the hard work of successive boards and ongoing community commitment to climate action and sustainable living. I know my own involvement on the BREAZE Board and as President for the past four years has really helped me to cope in this bizarre business-as-usual world, where surprisingly few engage with what lies ahead. Community

activism definitely beats crawling back under the duvet. If you've been thinking about getting involved, take the leap. You won't regret it.

Finally, a few thanks are due: to the BREAZE Board for their efforts this year and particularly to our Treasurer, Paul Tant who manages not only our accounts but also those of our affiliated groups, Ballarat Tool Library and Ballarat Repair Café; to Patrick Hockey, BREAZE membership officer who also puts out the e-newsletter; and to our community of BREAZE members, whose support is vital to our work. I wish you all a relaxing break over the holiday season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Debrett", written in a reddish-brown ink.

Mary Debrett
President, November 2023



Financial Summary

The following statements cover the year to 30th June 2023. During that period, BREAZE is showing a \$41,769 surplus compared to a prior year surplus of \$4,116. Despite the comparative improvement in the 2022-23 result, BREAZE will continue to remain vigilant with its financial status.

Typical of community, volunteer-run groups, funding the core expenses, such as insurance (which covers BREAZE Inc. and its affiliated groups), the annual financial review and software, is always a challenge. BREAZE will need to closely monitor this element of the overall result.

Consistent with the \$41,769 surplus, BREAZE's net assets grew from \$128,704 to \$170,473 in the financial year. The net assets were mainly held in the form of bank balances of \$180,669. Offsetting these assets were liabilities of \$35,013, principally a liability of \$27,000 relating to grant funding received in advance. The separate reserves note of the financial statements shows that we have refined the classification of the organisation's reserves during the 2022/23 year. Rather than class all reserves as 'retained earnings' we now have separate reserves for:

- the affiliated groups, reflecting the fact that accumulated profits of those groups are regarded to a degree as 'owned' by those groups,
- the Revolving Fund, reflecting the 'earmarking' of certain monies for that Fund and
- the Public Fund, reflecting the particular separate requirements for governance of the deductible gift recipient funds therein, including oversight by a separate Public Fund committee.

Financial Statements

The financial statements reproduced below are only extracts from BREAZE's audited 2022/23 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's page on the ACNC website, [Ballarat Renewable Energy And Zero Emissions Inc. | ACNC](#)

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.

ABN 35 704 902 844



Independent Assurance Practitioner's Review Report to the members of Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the board.

Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board members of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the needs of the members. The board members' responsibility also includes such internal control that the board members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2400, Reviews of Financial Reports Performed by an Assurance Practitioner Who is Not the Auditor of the Entity in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2400 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc. does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

COOPER AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING PTY LTD

Grant Cooper
Director

Signed at Ballarat
Dated 12 November 2023

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.

ABN 35 704 902 844

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
Note	\$	\$
Revenue		
Affiliated Group Activities	27,461	18,523
Donations - Public Fund	315	2,899
Donations - Other	5,796	2,884
Grants - Community Power Hub	-	227,678
Grants - Grampians Renewable Energy	-	115,278
Grants - New Energy Jobs Fund	-	17,300
Grants - Other	237,713	5,030
Interest received	202	306
Member subscriptions	1,824	2,139
Other income	2,242	4,169
Total Revenue	275,553	396,206
Expenditure		
Administration	19,313	7,839
Affiliated Group Activities	21,283	14,026
Events	7,042	4,841
Community Power Hub - project costs	153,478	137,749
Community Power Hub - staff costs	32,668	87,857
Grampians Renewable Energy	-	115,278
New Energy Jobs Fund	-	17,136
Public Fund	-	7,364
Total Expenditure	233,784	392,090
Profit before income tax	41,769	4,116
Income tax expense	2(a) -	-
Profit for the year	41,769	4,116
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	41,769	4,116

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.

ABN 35 704 902 844

Statement of Financial Position**As At 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
Note	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	3 180,669	326,479
Trade and other receivables	4 23,587	24,810
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	204,256	351,289
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Other financial assets	5 1,230	1,230
Property, plant and equipment	6 -	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,230	1,230
TOTAL ASSETS	205,486	352,519
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	7 8,013	37,243
Other financial liabilities	8 27,000	186,572
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	35,013	223,815
NET ASSETS	170,473	128,704
EQUITY		
Reserves	89,713	-
Retained earnings	80,760	128,704
TOTAL EQUITY	170,473	128,704

Smart Living Ballarat Program

Smart Living Ballarat is a practical, monthly session generously supported by The City of Ballarat. In 2023, BREAZE ran 11 sessions, on a wide variety of topics, at a range of venues. Considerable work went into building the sessions back up after Covid 19 when sessions were run wholly on-line. A hybrid form of presentation was trialled, with sessions run in person and livestreamed on Facebook. Ellen Burns who presents the program ran some sessions herself, whilst other sessions featured guest presenters.



The sessions were promoted widely on Facebook – including through other online groups, through BREAZE and Smart Living Ballarat email lists, posters and fliers and through interviews on local radio 3BA and ABC Ballarat. The addition of an IT person to film the sessions has improved the quality of the recordings and freed up the presenter to focus on presenting/hosting. Grace, a volunteer who was recruited during the year succeeded in increasing the membership of the Facebook group to over 500 members (an increase of more than 200).

The Indigenous Plants session drew the highest number of in-person attendees with 27 people attending and the session in person and 4400 reached on the Facebook page. Free Ways to Keep Warm was also very popular reaching 1,900 people on the Facebook Page.

A key focus of the program is pitching the sessions to people on lower incomes and focussing on how living sustainably can save on household costs. Ellen and Grace have also worked on using the program as a means of engaging the community in a journey towards living more sustainably. Promotion of the program on air not only helps with attendance, but also provides a means of reaching a much larger audience with key messages about sustainability.

Smart Living Ballarat Sessions in 2023 – *Fourth Wednesday of the month 12:30-1:30 pm*

February - Community Energy
March - Owl Woods Passive Haus – Virtual Tour
April – Ballarat Tool Library
May - Free Ways to Stay Warm
June - Zero Plastics Ballarat
July - Thermal Imaging Camera (Draft Proofing Your Home)
August - Growing Seedlings with Ditchy – John Ditchburn
September - Sustainability for Kids
October - Indigenous Plants
November - Induction Stove Top Demonstration
December - DIY Reusable Gift Bags

Sally Missing, BREAZE Coordinator for SLB.

World Environment Day 5 June 2023 – Children’s Writing Competition

The 2023 World Environment Day BREAZE Children’s Writing Competition drew 126 entries.



This year the theme of [World Environment Day](#) (5 June), was *Solutions to Plastic Pollution*. Children from grades 5 & 6 in primary schools across greater Ballarat took up BREAZE's challenge, addressing the statement: 'What I can do to help the environment'.

A panel of three BREAZE members assessed the entries and selected the following winners, with special mention certificates and prizes allocated to students whose work also shone.

The Competition awards ceremony was held at the Sebastopol Library, with City of Ballarat Mayor, Cr. Des Hudson officiating. All winners and special mentions were awarded with certificates and book vouchers. The competition was reported in *The Courier* and *The Ballarat Times*.

Overall Competition Winner:

Riley Baker – OLHC

School winning Entries

- Newington PS: Allira Moran
- OLHC PS: Riley Baker
- Pleasant St PS: Maddie Barclay
- St Alipius PS: Charlotte Kanoa
- St Francis Xavier PS: Olena Vallance

Special Mentions

- Anna Reynolds: Emmaus PS
- Imogen Corcoran: Emmaus PS
- Pearl Brewer: Newington PS
- Jimmy Delacy: Newington PS
- Will Diamond: Newington PS
- Luke Siensma: OLHC PS
- Harry Murphy: Pleasant St PS
- William Vermey: Pleasant St PS
- Alfie Roberts: Pleasant St PS
- Mateo Bozzo: St Alipius PS
- Clementine Croucher: St Alipius PS
- Isla Petrie: St Alipius PS
- Emily Hanrahan: St Francis Xavier PS
- Annabelle Chalmers: St Francis Xavier PS
- Pearl Nicholson: St Francis Xavier PS
- Cooper Downes: St Francis Xavier PS
- Isa Jones: St Francis Xavier PS



Green Drinks

Green Drinks is an international non-partisan, networking concept, that offers a forum for community conversation about the environment. BREAZE Inc. hosts Ballarat Green Drinks every month from February to November at Bunch of Grapes Hotel. Thanks to all presenters for generously sharing their knowledge and experience.



Programme - every third Thursday from 6:30-8:00pm.

February: The Electric Ute - Ajaya Haikerwal & Ben Lever

March: CoPower- an energy retailer that gives back – Peter Reid

April: Connected Sanctuaries Burrumbeet – Susan Moodie

May: BYD's Atto 3 – An owner's review by Gavin Cerini

June: Backyard Beekeeping Ballarat– Scott Denno

July: Sustainable, Energy Efficient Housing – Ronnie Reisenweber

August: Creating a Garden Haven for Little Birds – Stephanie Davison

September: Aussie Drop Slab Hut for the 21st Century – Gib Wettenhall

October: The Clean Energy Transition, the IRA and How Australia should Respond – Tom Quinn

November: Induction Cooktops – choosing and using – Ian Rossiter and Sue Broadway

Repair Café Ballarat

The year 2023 is probably our most successful to date! We have seen a record number of items and saved 100's of kg from landfill.



In summary our figures are:

Total Items	313
Total repaired	219
Partial repaired/ advice given	44
Total not repaired	42
Unclear	9
Total weight of repaired items kgs	664.74
No of volunteers	Average 16

Our success is largely due to the marketing work we outsourced to Designer, Beth Mynott, having decided to pay her a nominal monthly amount. She has increased our social media presence (FB 2662 followers, Insta 219 followers), created a digital newsletter (173 subscribed), designed banners and poster boards and enhanced communications with the volunteers.

This year, we received a second donation of \$2000 from the Australian Nurses and Midwives Federation, Vic Branch, enabling us to finance our marketing. We have been promised the same amount next year.

We have had a presence at the annual Buninyong Sustainability Festival, the National Volunteer Week Expo and the Plastic Free Festival, both held at Barkly Square. We were also represented at the Energy Breakthrough Event in Maryborough. We hosted the coordinators from Horsham Repair Cafe, who were keen to learn from our experiences.

Linking in more closely with the Australian Repair Network, we are becoming aware of an increasing need to capture our data (for advocacy use), and have recently improved our item registration system, and data recording system. To do that most efficiently though requires a dedicated computer, so we have been successful in our expression of interest in a national Volunteer Grant, inviting us to submit an application. We await the result of that application.

We look forward to another successful year, with our amazing volunteer team. We wish to thank BREAZE for all its support, and in particular, we would like to acknowledge the support of Paul Tant, and wish him well as he steps down from his role as Treasurer. We also acknowledge the Ballarat Tool Library team and Barkly Square management and thank them for their support as well. *Sue Jakob and Clare O'Connor Ballarat Repair Cafe Coordinators January 2024*

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 meetings and bag making have been suspended.

Ballarat Tool Library

The Ballarat Tool Library is a volunteer-led initiative that aims to provide access to tools, helping householders save money by avoiding the need to purchase tools that may only be used infrequently and ultimately contribute to landfill waste.



In 2022, our membership reached 215, and in 2023, our community expanded to 321 members. Notably, 134 members renewed from the previous year, and 187 joined as new members. Our dedicated team of 34 volunteers has grown and remains active and committed to our cause.

To meet the growing demand, we have extended our opening hours. We now operate on Tuesdays from 4-6pm, Thursdays from 5-7pm, and Saturdays from 10-12noon. We will reassess the Thursday hours at the end of daylight savings. Our inventory currently consists of 1080 items, and we continuously add to it and expand categories such as kitchen, craft, sport, camping, and entertaining.

We successfully completed our first full year of operating from our new space, which has been well-received by both volunteers and members due to its dedicated layout. Securing a grant from the City of Ballarat played a pivotal role in this success as it supported our relocation. The grant also enabled us to purchase a Home Energy Efficiency Kit, which has been highly popular among our members.

Financially, we are in a stable position with over 6 months of financial contingency set aside for rent and operating costs. The grant amount was close to \$9,000, which covered the relocation expenses, volunteer training, and the EE kit. This allowed us to allocate our membership income towards operating costs. Additionally, we have diversified our income sources, including \$185 monthly from scrap metal and approximately \$120 monthly from tool and garage sales.

Angie Malloy, Greg Jakobs and Nicole Elliot – Ballarat Tool Library

SECTION 5. BREAZE PUBLIC FUND & SOCIAL SOLAR



The BREAZE Inc. 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 Inc. 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.

BREAZE Public Fund Annual Report 2023

1. Public Fund Committee Membership

The committee membership as at November 2022 comprised:

- Mary Debrett (BREAZE President)
- Paul Tant (BREAZE Treasurer)
- Daina McLeod (Certified Practising Accountant AC Accounting)
- Peter Reid OAM
- Ian Rossiter (Chair)

In February 2023, BREAZE Board member Peter Morison was appointed to the Public Fund Committee and his nomination to the *Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water's* Registry of Environmental Organisations was approved in March 2023. Peter's role was agreed to be Chair of the newly established BREAZE Revolving Fund.

2. Public Fund Meetings

The BREAZE Public Fund Committee met on the following occasions during this period:

- 22nd November 2022 at Lake View Hotel
- 2nd February 2023 Video Conference Meeting
- 6th April 2023 Video Conference Meeting

3. Public Fund Governance Compliance

The committee met its governance compliance requirements by:

- Lodging the 2023 Register of Environmental Organisations Statistical Return with the Federal *Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water*.
- Lodging the 2022 Annual Information Statement with the Australian Charities and Not For Profits Commission.

- Examining bank statements and all transactions to ensure receipts were issued.
- Meeting the requirement to meet at least 3 times in the financial year.

4. Public Fund Activities

The Public Fund has invested its time over the reporting period as follows:

- The committee made application unsuccessfully to Ethical Jobs Inc. for a joint fundraising partnership.
- An application to Co Power (Not for Profit Energy Provider) resulted in \$7,500 being paid to BREAZE's Revolving Fund.
- Documentation was prepared to administer the BREAZE Revolving Fund including:
 - BREAZE Revolving Fund Information Document
 - BREAZE Revolving Fund Loan Agreement
 - Communications Plan to Launch the Revolving Fund

Approaches were made to the following organisations to see if there was interest in utilising funds from the BREAZE Public Fund and BREAZE's Revolving fund to finance the installation of renewable energy infrastructure within social housing properties in our region:

- Catholic Care Ballarat
- Salvation Army Ballarat
- Ballarat Old Colonists Association

As the only rebates available to operators of social housing during the reporting period were for rooftop solar systems, and the organisations contacted had already installed units where possible, we had no applications for assistance. As a result, none of the accumulated donations with interest in the Public Fund Account were expended during the reporting period.

5. Public Fund Donations

Six donations amounting to \$311.45 were received during the reporting period which were a result of promotions through the BREAZE website and BREAZE Facebook page.

6. BREAZE Revolving Fund

The Public Fund Committee has worked with BREAZE Board to establish the BREAZE Revolving Fund which is intended to:

- Provide interest free loans to social housing providers to invest in renewable energy infrastructure improvements including rooftop solar, heat pumps and split electric heating /cooling units.
- Utilise the Public Fund member's voluntary time and expertise to guide applicants through the processes of seeking quotations, applying for rebates and selecting suitable contractors for installations.

The Revolving Fund is intending to use the following sources of income to fund the interest free loans:

- Donations and interest accumulated in the BREAZE Public Fund Account
- \$7,500 grant received from Copower.
- Repayments received from BREAZE's interest free loan to Ballarat Regional Industries for a 30kW rooftop solar system.
- Funds received from Sustainability Victoria

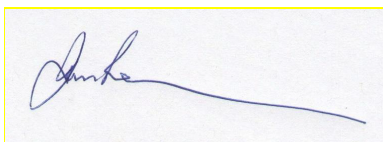
Opportunities for 2024

The Public Fund will consider opportunities for social housing operators to utilise a combination of interest free loans from the Revolving Fund and donations from the Public Fund to finance initiatives such as replacing gas installations with all electric and for where appropriate battery storage systems.

We hope further rebates from federal and Victorian governments will better incentivise these initiatives in coming months.

Ian Rossiter

Chair BREAZE Public Fund



Public Fund Chair, Ian Rossiter, January 2023



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. BREAZE Inc. is contributing \$10,000 as part of the NEJF6 grant program for the Woodbine Solar Project, co-funded by DEECA, Woodbine Inc. and BREAZE.

Above: Solar PV installation for Woodbine Inc. Warracknabeal.

Woodbine Solar Project

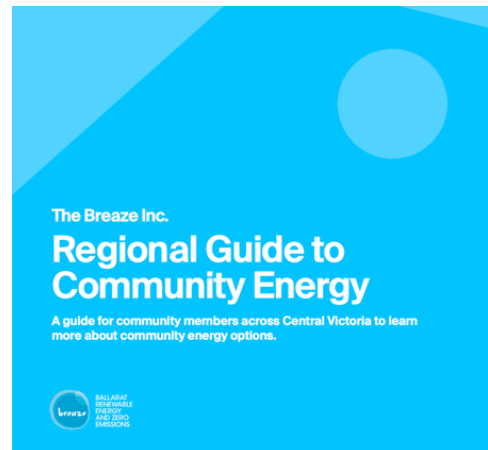
Thanks to a successful application in 2022 to the Victorian Government’s New Energy Jobs Fund Round 6 during 2023 BREAZE project managed the installation of 50 kW of Solar PV across five properties owned by Woodbine Inc, an NDIS provider based in Warracknabeal. The properties included accommodation, laundry, office and workshop facilities in both Echuca and



Warracknabeal. BREAZE Project Manager, Vany Gunaratnam led the Steering Committee comprising Woodbine CEO, Jason Minter and Deputy CEO Jo Tobias, along with Mary Debrett of BREAZE Inc. The installation was completed in November 2023 but came in under budget. With an extension to the NEJF6 program an additional installation on another Woodbine property is being approved for completion by June 2024. Woodbine management are looking forward to investing the energy cost savings into their core services. *Left: Solar installation at 12 Tobruk Ave, Woodbine Inc. Warracknabeal*

BREAZE Inc Regional Guide to Community Energy

Another outcome of the Grampians Community Power Hub (July 2021-June 2022) [this booklet](#) produced by Hepburn Branch partner, Hepburn Wind offers regional communities aspiring to build renewable energy resources a comprehensive and accessible guide to what might be possible and how to go about achieving it. The Grampians Community Power Hub, delivered by Sustainability Victoria, sought to expand the uptake of renewables across the regions chiefly via community engagement and undertaking feasibility studies along with some implementation projects – as outlined last year in the 2022 BREAZE Annual Report.



How to Make Your Home Energy Efficient



From July to August the Ballarat Zero Emissions Alliance (BZEA) of which BREAZE is a member collaborated to run a pilot series of eight workshops funded by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). Held at the Ballarat Tool Library in Barkly Square, Ballarat East, the workshops were lead by two accredited Victorian Energy Scorecard Assessors – Dale Boucher and Tim Drylie. You can download the [Final Report on the Workshops](#).

Building Better Homes Forums

Building Better Homes for the Future was conceived as an opportunity to encourage more thermally efficient housing to reduce the carbon footprint of homes – currently an average 6 tonnes per year.



The Building Better Homes Forums were a partnership between BREAZE Inc., the Committee for Ballarat and the City of Ballarat, with financial support from the Regional Sustainability Alliance Ballarat, (RSAB), the City of Ballarat and DELWP. BREAZE thanks all partners and speakers for their participation and support.

In 2023 the Planning Committee: BREAZE board members, Sally Missing, Sue Broadway, Vany Gunaratnam and Pat Hockey organised two community

forums: *Achieving 7 stars and Net Zero Homes* on 23 April and *My All Electric Home* on 2 July. Above – Lloyd Heathfield addresses Ballarat locals, 2 July.

Second Forum: Achieving 7 Stars and Net Zero homes.

The objective of this forum was to educate new home buyers and members of the building industry about new 7 Star regulations in home building and key approaches to ensuring homes are thermally comfortable, light and energy efficient - which the legislation will support. The forum was held in April 2023 at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute.

This forum, targeted at industry members and the community, outlined the new regulations being introduced in October in Victoria that will require houses to be designed to be more thermally efficient, to make better use of orientation, siting of windows, insulation and double glazing as well as the importance of using more efficient appliances – particularly for heating our homes.

The forum's keynote speaker was the award-winning builder, Jeremy Spencer who is also a Thermal Assessor and Director at Positive Footprints, (award-winning energy efficient, high-performance design, construction and building company). Jeremy is also a founding member of Builders Declare and on the NatHERS (Nationwide House Energy Ratings Scheme) Stakeholder Consultative Group – advising on the 7-star program.



Third forum: My All Electric Home

Held in July 2023, this forum was presented by Lloyd Heathfield of Yarra Energy Foundation and targeted retrofitters due to requests for more information about retrofitting received at the previous forum.

This forum focussed on a step-by-step planning approach to electrifying all home appliances, outlining costs, savings and government rebates available. A key point was saving money on bills by electrifying home appliances.

Attendance far exceeded expectations and audience feedback signalled a high level of motivation for planning and action on home electrification.

Sally Missing, Coordinator, Building Better Homes for the Future sub-committee

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:

13 December 2022 – *City of Ballarat's GHG reductions* – Mary Debrett, BREAZE Inc. interviewed by Samantha Hogan WinTV

19 January 2023 – *Major upgrade for Ballarat Base Hospital and local network to support rooftop solar capacity and EVs* – Mary Debrett, BREAZE Inc. interviewed by Samantha Hogan WinTV

27 January 2023 – *Climate change in the media* – Mary Debrett interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

14 February 2023 – *Power Audit for aged care home* by Edwina Williams, Ballarat Times, <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/power-audit-for-aged-care-home/>

24 February 2023 – *BREAZE/Woodbine Solar Project* – Vany Gunaratnam interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

24 March 2023 – *CoPower: Taking back the power* – Peter Reid interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

28 April 2023 – *What to ask your builder if you want an energy efficient home*. Sally Missing interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

29 April 2023 – *Bulk Buy Plan about clean cars* by Edwina Williams, Ballarat Times, <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/bulk-buy-plan-about-clean-cars/>

4 May 2023 – *Session to be held in Sebastopol showcasing the benefits of owning an electric vehicle* by Nieve Walton, The Courier. <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8184940/showcasing-the-benefits-of-an-electric-future/>

16 May 2023 – *Renter friendly ways to stay warm in Ballarat winter* – Nieve Walton, The Courier.

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8196368/helping-everyone-find-free-ways-to-stay-warm-in-winter/>

20 May 2023 – *Low-cost tips on keeping warm* by Tim Bottams, Ballarat Times, <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/low-cost-tips-on-keeping-warm/>

26 May 2023 – *How can I reduce my energy consumption at home?* – Sue Broadway interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

4 June - *Ballarat pupils enter BREAZE's writing competition for World Environment Day*, Bryan Hoadley The Courier.

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8222568/world-environment-day-school-children-propose-plastic-free-future/>

8 June 2023 - *City of Ballarat draft Budget and climate funding* – Mary Debrett, BREAZE interviewed by Samantha Hogan WinTV

9 June 2023 - *City of Ballarat draft Budget and climate funding* – Mary Debrett, BREAZE interviewed by Steve Martin ABC Ballarat.

10 June *City of Ballarat net zero emissions check-in offers inspiration* by Melanie Whelan, The Courier. <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8228431/councils-bold-target-still-generating-positive-energy-from-business-community/>

10 June 2023 – *Enviro Writers champion cause* by Tim Bottams Ballarat Times, <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/enviro-writers-champion-cause/>

11 June 2023 – *BREAZE president calls for Ballarat council to act with urgency* by Alison Foletta, The Courier.

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8228161/we-are-running-out-of-time-says-ballarat-climate-action-advocate/>

12 June 2023 – *Ballarat library offers thermal imaging cameras to help locate drafts* by Bryan Hoadley, The Courier.

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8269057/how-new-library-device-could-help-save-ballarat-people-hundreds-of-dollars/>

16 June 2023 – *Alliance forms for zero emissions* by Edwina Williams, Ballarat Times, <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/alliance-forms-for-zero-emissions/>

23 June 2023 – *Green Investments* – Paul Tant interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

1 July 2023 – *Ballarat Mayor Des Hudson defends dedicated climate funds in budget* by Alison Foletta, The Courier. <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8253103/disappointment-over-unchanged-climate-funds/>

11 July 2023 – *Home Energy Efficiency Workshops by BZE Alliance* – Greg Jakobs interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

12 July 2023 – *Home energy Efficiency Workshops run by BZE Alliance*. Tim Drylie interviewed by Steve Martin on ABC Ballarat

20 July 2023 – *Home Energy Efficiency Workshops by BZE Alliance* – Dale Boucher interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

28 July 2023 – *The 2023 solar feed-in tariff review* – Pete Morison interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

14 August 2023 – *Attract birds in your garden*, by Miriam Litwin, Ballarat Times, <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/attract-birds-into-your-garden/>

15 August 2023 - *Ballarat businesses seek solutions to electricity price increases* by Kirra Grimes, The Courier <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8308970/how-ballarat-is-battling-the-cost-of-doing-business/>

22 August 2023 – *City of Ballarat signs up the City Switch program* – Mary Debrett, BREAZE Inc. interviewed by Mae James WinTV

25 August 2023 – *Going all electric* – Sue Broadway Morison interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

29 September 2023 – *What to expect at CoP28 in UAE* – Lydia Mzondo interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

26 October 2023 – *City of Ballarat on Sorting out our waste* – Mary Debrett, BREAZE Inc. interviewed by Mae James WinTV

27 October 2023 – *Induction cooktops* – Sue Broadway interviewed by Brett McDonald, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

23 November 2023 – *Ellen Burns talks about induction cooking* on ABC Ballarat Breakfast

24 November – *Changes to City of Ballarat's waste collection regime* – Mary Debrett interviewed by Frank Clark, Ballarat Today, Radio 3BA

7 December 2023 – *Is getting off gas a good idea?* – Opinion piece by Mary Debrett, BREAZE, The Courier. <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/8453528/the-challenges-and-benefits-of-switching-to-electric-homes/>

Formal Representations

During 2023 BREAZE filed the following reports/submissions:

- Submission to City of Ballarat Draft Budget May 2023
- Submission to ESC: on the Minimum Feed-in Tariff January 2023
- Submission to the City of Ballarat: Ballarat Housing Strategy October 2023



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/>

EMAIL: admin@breaze.org.au

MAIL: BREAZE Inc.
PO Box 1301
Bakery Hill, Vic 3354



Become a member – Individual, Family or Business: - <https://breaze.org.au/breaze/membership>

Volunteer and join the fight for a sustainable environment.