



BALLARAT RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ZERO EMISSIONS

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

(December 2019 to November 2020)

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.

Our Vision

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.

About this Report

This report covers the period between the 2019 and 2020 Annual General Meetings which was from December 2019 to November 2020 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 monthly 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. Ballarat Community Power Hub Pilot Project which wound up on 30 June 2020.
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
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
8. BREAZE Public Fund – a registered charity with DGR status providing funds for renewable energy infrastructure for social housing and disability sector social enterprises.

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

Board Members



The Board approves and oversees the activities of BREAZE.

(Left to right, top to bottom)

Pat Hockey,
Therese Footner,
Tony Goodfellow,
Paul Duggan, Emily Lee,
Jeremy Hunt,
Barbara Whitfield,
Mary Debrett, Simon Reid,
and Peter Reid

Board member
Madeline Townsend is not shown.

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Mary Debrett	President	
Peter Reid	Treasurer	
Pat Hockey	Secretary	
Paul Duggan	Board Member	
Therese Footner	Board Member	
Tony Goodfellow	Board Member	
Jeremy Hunt	Board Member	
Emily Lee	Board Member	
Madeline Townsend	Board Member	Elected July 2020
Simon Reid	Board Member	
Barbara Whitfield	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)
Jeremy Hunt	Chair	
Daina MacLeod	Independent member	
Peter Reid	Member	
Ian Rossiter	Member	
Mary Debrett	Member	

Permanent Volunteer Roles

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Jill Clarke	Multimedia Coordinator	
Ruth Bentley	Membership Officer	December 2019- July 2020
Madeline Townsend	Membership Officer	July 2020 – November 2020

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
Advocacy	Coordinator	Therese Footner
Sustainable Living	Coordinator	Paul Duggan
Community Forum	Coordinator	Tony Goodfellow

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

Our Supporters

BREAZE acknowledges the following supporters who have provided us with services and financial support during the period December 2019 to November 2020:

Organisation or Individual	Support Provided
The City of Ballarat	\$10,000 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.
Eastwood Leisure Centre	Supporting Smart Living Ballarat monthly presentations
Lake View Hotel	Supporting Green Drinks
Bank Australia	A Community Impact Grant of \$10,000 to BREAZE Social Solar to assist in the installation of rooftop solar at a retirement village run by a local not-for-profit association.

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, 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 corporation 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 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

BREAZE has no employees and none of our members are paid for service, unless specifically appointed as contractors.

BREAZE 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. Contractors have been engaged during 2020 for the following roles:

1. Smart Living Ballarat Program Scheduling
2. Community Power Hub Feasibility and Business Case Preparation
3. Assessments as required for the Grampians Renewable Energy Program
4. Printing and Reproduction
5. Graphic Design
6. Event Coordination and Marketing

President's Report

Many will understandably be glad to see the back of 2020, the year that bought us the COVID-19 global pandemic, with over one million lives lost to date and the health of many left permanently damaged, along with a national recession that has driven many into poverty.

Before all of that started, 2020 signalled the dawn of the crucial last decade in which to rapidly decarbonise the world economy to keep global warming to within 1.5°C. At the Paris CoP21 in 2015, the Climate Change Authority had recommended a 2030 emissions reduction target of 45-65% below 2005 levels for Australia – our current 2030 emissions reduction target is 26-28% reduction below 2005 levels. By February 2020, Australia's Climate Council was advising that the science indicates keeping global warming to below 1.5 degrees needs a 75% or greater emissions reduction target by 2030. However, the climate emergency vanished from the media's agenda as the pandemic consumed our lives, making the challenge of communicating the need for ambitious GHG reduction targets much harder.

That the pandemic has not erased Australians' collective memory of the climate emergency is evidenced in the findings of The Australia Institute's Climate of the Nation 2020 Report released in late October: 80% of Australians think we are already experiencing the impact of climate

change; 82% are concerned that climate change will result in more bushfires and 83% support a phase-out of coal-fired power stations.

On the home front in Ballarat, Covid restrictions meant social interaction amongst BREAZE members was greatly reduced, obviously something we all regret. However, thanks to Smart Living Ballarat Coordinators Paul Duggan and Tim Drylie and Green Drinks Coordinator Tony Goodfellow, BREAZE, like many other groups and businesses adapted, with members logging onto Zoom meetings, talks and webinars – learning new skills that will still be needed during the COVID normal of 2021.

Meeting online has made some things easier, if somewhat less congenial, and 2020 saw the launch of the BREAZE Advocacy Action group by BREAZE Board member, Therese Footner. The Group is currently focusing on ecologically sustainable design and making homes more energy efficient and hopes to have input into the Council Plan which will be developed early in the coming year. Also in 2021, pending COVID normal restrictions, BREAZE is planning a symposium on the topic of sustainable building and making homes more energy efficient.

While most of the community groups affiliated with BREAZE - Buninyong Boomerang Bags, Buninyong Community Collective and Repair Cafe Ballarat have had to cut back on activities during the Covid pandemic, the team behind our latest sustainability-focused group, Ballarat Tool Library has been busy behind the scenes preparing for their launch in 2021.

This has also been an unexpectedly good year for our social justice arm, BREAZE Social Solar, which in collaboration with various not-for-profits from across the region received funding from the Victorian State Government's renewables led recovery. Announced in May, the Grampians Renewable Energy (GRE) Program saw 9 projects fully funded – 8 of which had previously been identified under the very successful Ballarat Community Power Hub pilot. Established on 1 July 2017 by Sustainability Victoria, the Ballarat Community Power Hub (CPH) pilot ended on 30 June 2020, having run for three years. The BREAZE volunteers who comprised the CPH Project Control Group – Peter Reid, Ian Rossiter and Jane Lean – contributed several thousand volunteer hours, overseeing the administration of feasibility studies into 40+ proposals for community owned, operated or funded renewable energy projects that had been identified via community meetings. It is thanks to their work that BREAZE was able this year to undertake this latest project management role with the Grampians Renewable Energy Project.

In October BREAZE Social Solar received another government stimulus grant – from the Victorian State Government's New Energy Jobs Fund (NEJF) – on behalf of the Ballarat disabilities support services provider, Pinarc. With additional monies from the BREAZE Public Fund and Pinarc, the grant will add another 68kW of social solar to Ballarat's roofs.

At the beginning of 2020 we were looking forward to Zali Steggall's bill for a Climate Act, hoping as an Independent MP on the cross bench that she could make a difference and build bipartisanship on this singularly important issue. Reintroduced in November, the Bill is now the subject of House Standing Committee.

That need for bipartisanship on addressing the climate emergency was also the focus of an Open Letter on climate policy that BREAZE initiated this year. Signed by a number of leaders from across the Ballarat community it was published in *The Courier* alongside an explanatory article by Rochelle Kirkham and also sent to all members of federal parliament to whom it was addressed.

During the year BREAZE also: filed the report on the *New Bushfire Reality Climate Adaptation Forum* held at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute on November 2019; lodged five submissions – detailed later in this report; undertook a short survey of Ballarat Council candidates standing in the October 2020 election and held an online Candidates Forum. Together the Forum and the Survey helped to put the environment on the 2021 Council agenda.

During 2020 the BREAZE Board hosted a number of guest speakers – many thanks to: Andrea Mason, Buninyong Sustainability; Michael Poulton, the Committee for Ballarat; John van Rooden,

Sustainability Victoria; Susan Moodie, Lake Burrumbeet Connected Sanctuary; Michelle Pollard, Bendigo Sustainability Group; Lisa Kendal, City of Ballarat; and Judith Bailey, Ballarat Dark Sky Community.

BREAZE has drawn dedicated volunteers over the years – sterling individuals. Among these is Peter Reid (OAM) who after four years as BREAZE treasurer has decided to step down. An engineer by profession and by nature extremely focused and rigorous, Peter's contribution is not something that is readily quantifiable. Suffice to say he has made an enormous difference to the work we do. A big thank you Peter, on behalf of BREAZE, for all your work as treasurer. We are delighted that you will be staying on the Board for a while yet managing the Social Solar program.

It has been an honour to serve as BREAZE president this year and regardless of Covid constraints, very satisfying to work with the 2020 BREAZE Board in delivering on our mission: protecting the natural environment, promoting sustainability and renewable energy, and facilitating and educating the wider Ballarat community towards a goal of zero emissions by 2030. I can think of no goal more worthwhile. I thank our current Board members and all BREAZE volunteers for their collaboration in serving that mission.

All the best

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mary Debrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being more prominent than the last name "Debrett".

Mary Debrett
President, November 2020



Treasurer's Report

In summary, for 2020, BREAZE made a nominal profit of \$24,216 which is **NOT** a true reflection of BREAZE's underlying performance over the year as the income and expenditure associated with Affiliated Group Activities, Community Power Hub (CPH), Donations (Public Fund), Gants Other, Grampians Renewable Energy (GRE), Interest (CPH & GRE funds), Public Fund and Projects have distorted the result. A more indicative outcome can be obtained by adjusting the P&L for income and expenditure associated with Affiliated Group Activities, CPH, Donations, Gants Other, GRE, Interest, Public Fund and Projects. Once this is done the "true" underlying profit was \$714.



Peter Reid OAM Treasurer

BREAZE's net assets at the 30th June were \$148,312 of which \$128,841 was cash in the bank. As at 4th November BREAZE's net assets were \$207,095 of which \$203,131 was cash in the bank. The increase in assets is due to the activities associated with the DELWP Grampians Renewable Energy Program.

The Board has adopted a budget for the current financial year, 2020/21, that should see BREAZE generate a loss of \$526. As at 4th November the difference between the actual and budgeted figures is \$3,262.99. This increase in expenditure is mainly due to extra costs associated with COVID-19 restrictions. The Treasurer knows that BREAZE has sufficient cash in the bank, \$21,159.01, to cover this additional expenditure.

Peter Julian Reid OAM (Treasurer)

Auditor's Report

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 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the board.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has 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 Boards' responsibility also includes such internal control that the Board determines 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.

Assurance Practitioner'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*. ASRE 2400 requires us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with ASRE 2400 is a limited assurance engagement. 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 2020 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*.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Boards' financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

COOPER AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING PTY LTD

Grant Cooper
Director

Signed at Ballarat
Dated 21 September 2020

Financial Statements

Complete financial statements can be found at <https://breaze.org.au/breaze/breaze-documents> and <https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/fb1f74876242b89b18ecd4f7f51a7dc1#financials-documents>

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue			
Affiliated Group Activities		8,885	10,942
Donations		3,563	4,927
Events		-	493
Farmers Market		-	88
Grants - Community Power Hub		45,000	55,000
Grants - Grampians Renewable Energy		45,000	-
Grants - Other		21,364	2,000
Interest received		953	3,067
Member subscriptions		2,139	1,567
Other income		3,722	3,350
Projects		21,545	-
Service Contracts		10,375	10,000
Total Revenue		162,546	91,434
Expenditure			
Administration		9,068	7,981
Affiliated Group Activities		11,163	9,294
Community Power Hub		108,472	140,233
Events		150	263
Farmers Market		-	2,003
Projects		3,158	-
Public Fund		15	2,727
RSAB		-	453
Smart Living Ballarat		6,104	11,499
Social Renewables		200	11,418
Total Expenditure		138,330	185,871
Profit/(loss) before income tax		24,216	(94,437)
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the year		24,216	(94,437)
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		24,216	(94,437)

Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	128,841	112,001
Trade and other receivables	3	11,100	3,272
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		139,941	115,273
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other financial assets	4	1,230	1,230
Loans and advances	5	7,250	10,250
Property, plant and equipment	6	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		8,480	11,480
TOTAL ASSETS		148,421	126,753
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	109	2,657
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		109	2,657
NET ASSETS		148,312	124,096
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		148,312	124,096
TOTAL EQUITY		148,312	124,096

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 were:

- February: *Gardens for WildLife* by Stephanie Davison
- March: *Cancelled*
- *March: *Sustainability in the time of COVID* Steve Burns
- April: *Cancelled*
- May: *postponed*
- *June: *Green Energy* by Peter Reid
- *July: *Bottom Up Economics* by Patrick Jones and Meg Ulman
- *August: *Food garden Design and Management* by John Ditchburn
- *September: *Prepare your property for Fire* by Hamish MacCall
- *October: *Making Electric Cars Affordable* by Anton Vikstrom
- *November: *The Good the Bad and Fossil Gas* by Tim Forcey
- *December: *Celebrating a Year of Smart Living in Ballarat with 2 Short Happen Films* looking at different aspects of modern agriculture including organic, regenerative and city farming - Is this the future of food?

This year has been a challenging year for SLB as we have had to move from a public forum to ZOOM sessions (marked with an asterix). We overcame these technical challenges with well over 300 people “attending” our Zoom session on Food Garden Design.

Our thanks go to:

- City of Ballarat for a funding of \$10,000 to cover coordination, promotion and presenters' costs.
- Our contractor Tim Drylie for his excellent work in securing presenters, marketing and promoting the events and event coordination.
- Our volunteers and coordinators

Green Drinks

Green Drinks is an event held in towns throughout the world. Every month people 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 runs Ballarat Green Drinks, which is normally held at Lake View Hotel, but after Covid hit in 2020 we took Green Drinks online.



In 2020 the presenters were:

- One Planet Living BedZED - Sheilagh Kentish
- Climate change Threat or emergency – with Dr Liz Boulton
- The front lines of climate campaigning in Victoria - Taegen Edwards Senior-Campaigner for Environment Victoria
- Ballarat Local Election Candidate Forum
- Trace Balla – Award winning children's author

Thank you to all our presenters and volunteers for making GDB's 2020 schedule a success.



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.

In 2020 RCB secured a Communities Environment Grant of \$2,518 for the purchase of tools to assist in stopping waste going to landfill. The RCB communicates to the public via its website – <https://repaircafeballarat.com.au> – and Facebook site. The service is offered free of charge, but donations are requested, and owners must buy any replacement parts required. Sadly, RCB also said goodbye to its founder, Mary Duff who returned to New Zealand early in the year, but her legacy, to share DIY knowledge and help change our throwaway culture now has a firm hold in the community.

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 reuseable 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.



This year started with a lot of promise. Due to COVID 19 we changed our model to be order online and contactless pickup. This has meant we have not attracted new members and have gone into a “holding” pattern. The financial position of the group has remained static. Once conditions improve we will relaunch the collective and return to normal operating conditions.

BREAZE Public Fund

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, but the Public Fund Committee also ensures grant funds are spent as specified by the conditions of the grant.

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

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 2020. All donations received will be used for projects scheduled for installation in 2021.

Sustainable House Day 2020



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 on 22 September. BREAZE promoted the 2020 event via its website, Facebook and an article in The Courier.

Sustainable House day was also the focus of an article by *The Courier's* Rochelle Kirkham - *Sustainable House Day highlights house design principles for cost and emissions savings* – in which sustainable home-owner and BREAZE member, Jeff Dobell's offered advice building on energy efficient home. <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6910954/building-a-new-house-consider-these-design-principles-that-will-reduce-long-term-costs/>

World Environment Day 5 June 2020

Children's Writing Competition

The pandemic lockdown and the shift to online schooling at home put teachers and parents under new and often taxing pressures in 2020. With World Environment Day coming in the midst of this it was unsurprising that entries in the BREAZE Children's Writing Competition were fewer than previous years.



BREAZE congratulates the 2020 competition winner:

Leni Williams of Pleasant Street Primary School.

In responding to the statement 'what I can do to help the environment' Leni identified the environmental benefits of the lockdown in her final sentence: 'Even though we haven't been enjoying the lockdown, the Earth certainly has!' Leni was awarded a \$25 book voucher along with her Winner's certificate.

Community Power Hub Ballarat

In May 2019 the Victorian Government extended the three Community Power Hubs (CPH) till June 2020. CPH bring together locals to develop community-owned and operated renewable energy projects in regional areas of Ballarat, Bendigo and the Latrobe Valley.

The aim of the pilot CPH's is to bring together and help the community in accessing the skills and expertise required to develop and deliver community-based renewable energy projects. This involves local volunteers, businesses, community organisations, not for profit groups and government agencies working to organise and support local community energy project ideas. The approach will look to assist testing project ideas and progressing those that are viable into bankable projects delivering local benefits and connecting them to capital to deliver.



BREAZE managed Community Power Hub Ballarat through a Project Control Group.

The following feasibility studies were completed, and are awaiting implementation:

- a) Ballarat General Cemeteries – 130kW Solar PV
- b) Ballarat Table Tennis Centre – 20kW Solar PV
- c) Rural Shopping Centre Microgrid – the modelling of 9 businesses' electricity data demonstrates feasibility for a virtual power network with battery storage.

During 2020 additional work was carried out with EGHS with Stage 1 installed and a consultant engaged to design one or more carpark shelters, that use the solar panels as the roof, in a way that meets the best urban design standards, as the carpark in a highly visible location.

Work continued with the Mollonghip Community and the CPH program assisted local farmers to apply for energy improvement grants under the Agriculture Energy Investment Plan. Approximately 20 farmers have since been successful in winning grants.

Over the 3 years of the program, 15 feasibility studies have paved the way for the installation of just over 1MW (1,088kW) of renewable energy.

Grampians Renewable Energy Program

In May 2020, the State Government announced that it had granted \$450,000 to BREAZE to install solar and battery generated power at eight community buildings and sites, which will enhance the Ballarat community's assets, create jobs, reduce energy costs, maximise savings and reduce emissions at a local level. The recipient entities were a mixture of not-for-profit organisation and social housing providers.

BREAZE is pleased to announce the completion of these installations:

- Ballarat Regional Industries – 42kW Solar PV.
- Ballarat Squash and Racquetball Association – 33kW Solar PV
- Ballarat Table Tennis Association – 24kW Solar PV.
- Child and Family Services – 23kW Solar PV across 6 sites in Ararat, Black Hill, Mitchell Park and Redan.
- McCallum Disability Services – 53kW Solar PV across 9 social housing properties in Alfredton and Saint Arnaud.

The following sites have been scheduled for installation in 2021:

- Ballarat General Cemeteries – 30kWh battery.
- Old Colonists' Association – 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.



Eight of the 90+ social housing properties to get solar installed by the GRE program

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:

December 20, 2019 – *Why we must talk about climate change* –

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6553803/why-we-must-talk-about-climate-change/>

January 6, 2020 – Bushfires will become more frequent and intense but we can do something about it – <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6470552/the-new-bushfire-reality-we-should-all-be-preparing-for/>

January 28, 2020 – Hospital to cut electricity costs with solar panels –

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6599986/the-project-that-will-save-hospital-an-estimated-17m-over-25-years/>

February 8, 2020 – Ballarat Cemeteries is switching to renewables as part of a plan to be self-sufficient – <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6612931/how-a-ballarat-cemetery-is-working-to-become-self-sufficient/>

May 21, 2020 – Solar power grants to assist eight Ballarat community organisations – <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6764457/community-organisations-empowered-to-generate-their-own-energy/>

May 22, 2020 – Timing is everything – <https://breaze.org.au/editor/newest-articles/timing-is-everything> - published in The Courier – print edition

May 28, 2020 – Solar systems for groups, social and sporty – <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/solar-systems-for-groups-social-and-sporty/>

May 31, 2020 - Ballarat leaders call for action on climate change –

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6775206/ballarat-leaders-call-for-action-on-climate-change/>

June 22, 2020 – Solar installs up almost 20% – <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/solar-installs-up-almost-20/>

July 7, 2020 – Part for all to play on the road to zero emissions -

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/parts-for-all-to-play-on-the-road-to-zero-emissions/>

September 5, 2020 - Sustainable House Day highlights house design principles for cost and emissions savings –

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6910954/building-a-new-house-consider-these-design-principles-that-will-reduce-long-term-costs/>

September 19, 2020 - Solar project cuts costs and emissions for social housing residents -

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6922009/solar-project-cuts-costs-and-emissions-for-social-housing-residents/>

September 27, 2020 – Bushfire preparation must start now, expert says –

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6941930/start-thinking-about-your-property-now-bushfire-expert-says/>

October 7, 2020 – Solar grants to assist Ballarat community organisations –

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6957810/clean-energy-grants-to-assist-not-for-profit-ballarat-organisations/>

October 15, 2020 – Solar savings for organisations doing good –

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/solar-savings-for-organisations-doing-good/>

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/>

Formal Representations

During the year BREAZE filed the following reports/submissions:

- February: *The Report on the New Bushfire Reality Climate Adaptation Forum* (Ballarat Mechanics Institute, November 2019), based on feedback from citizen participants and distributed to Forum panellists and available on the BREAZE website.
- March: a submission to the Member for Wendouree, Juliana Addison, in support of the Coalition for Community Energy's Victorian Budget submission, calling for more funding for community power initiatives in the regions.
- April: a submission to the Victorian Government's *Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap*, endorsing the need for more EV fast charging infrastructure across the regions.
- June: submission to the *Technology Investment Roadmap for Emissions Reduction - Discussion Paper* prepared for the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reductions, Angus Taylor. Available on the BREAZE website.
- July: submission to the City of Ballarat 2020-21 Budget calling for more funding to be allocated to the implementation of the Carbon Neutrality and 100% Renewables Action Plan. The Action Plan includes a noteworthy clause 5.4 – *Empowered Communities*, which members may find interesting if they are not already across it. This clause offers BREAZE members an opportunity to play a role in helping the Ballarat City Council to implement the Action Plan.
- November: submission supporting the Member for Warringah, Zali Steggall's Climate Change Bill – to the House Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy in respect of the Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020. Available on the BREAZE website.

Acknowledgments



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.

Do consider helping a local not-for-profit organisation to 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.

Find out more about BREAZE

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.