



BALLARAT RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ZERO EMISSIONS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

(December 2018 to November 2019)

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.





Our Mission

BREAZE's mission is 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

By 2020, the Ballarat community will have significantly reduced its GHG emissions with the direct intention of achieving 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 2018 and 2019 Annual General Meetings which was from December 2018 to November 2019 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 2019 delivered the following programs, events and projects all related to our mission of reducing the region's greenhouse gas emissions:

1. Smart Living Ballarat – monthly lunchtime presentations and 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. New Bushfire Reality Climate Adaptation Forum, partnering with BEN & DELWP
6. Ballarat Community Power Hub Pilot Project
7. BREAZE Public Fund – a registered charity with DGR status providing funds for renewable energy infrastructure for social housing and disability sector social enterprises.

BREAZE delivered these activities solely through the efforts of volunteers and funding from Victorian Government, City of Ballarat, market stall holder's fees and donations.

Board Members

Our board jointly supervises the activities of BREAZE.



(Left to right) Joe Natoli, Simon Reid, Jeremy Hunt, Peter Reid, Paul Duggan, Ian Rossiter, Barry Sullivan, Mary Debrett, Barbara Whitfield.

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Paul Duggan	President	
Mary Debrett	Vice-President	
Peter Reid	Treasurer	
Ian Rossiter	Minute Secretary	
Jeremy Hunt	Board Member	
Joe Natoli	Board Member	
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	

Permanent Volunteer Roles

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Jill Clarke	Multimedia Coordinator	
Ruth Bentley	Membership Officer	

BREAZE also draws upon its membership to volunteer to run and 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 2018 to November 2019:

Organisation or Individual	Support Provided
The City of Ballarat	\$11,000 provided to deliver Smart Living Ballarat and World Environment Day activities. Access to Ballarat Central Library for Smart Living Ballarat presentations and Board meetings.
Sustainability Victoria	\$50,000 provided during this period for the expenses associated with delivery of the Community Power Hub Pilot Program in Ballarat.
Tarn and Bernie	Storage space
Eastwood Leisure Centre	Supporting Smart Living Ballarat monthly presentations
Main Bar	Supporting Green Drinks
Lake View Hotel	Supporting Green Drinks

Structure & Management

The organisation is managed by a flat structure consisting of the BREAZE Board and supported by contractors and volunteers recruited for specific projects and activities. The Board is not remunerated and performs on a purely volunteer basis with the common aim of wanting to lead the Ballarat community towards a zero net greenhouse gas emissions 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 has a minority shareholding in BREAZE Enterprises Pty Ltd, trading as BREAZE Energy Solutions (BES), which is a for-profit corporation providing design and supply of renewable energy infrastructure. BES was formed after BREAZE participated in bulk purchase schemes for rooftop solar electricity and hot water heating systems for its members.

BREAZE has affiliated groups, which are covered by its incorporation status and public liability insurance, that align with BREAZE's statement of purpose and deliver specific community environmental outcomes, namely:

- 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 through volunteers. Contractors have been engaged during 2019 for the following roles:

1. Smart Living Ballarat Program Coordination
2. Community Power Hub Feasibility and Business Case Preparation
3. Assessments for the Household Energy Saving Program in association with the Waubra Wind Farm Community Fund
4. Printing and Reproduction
5. Graphic Design
6. Event Coordination and Marketing

President's Report

BREAZE continued its role as a major environmental group in the Ballarat region, and by using our large social media reach, we supported our projects as well as promoting other local groups and initiatives. We are seen by the Federal, State and local governments as a point of reference. The media has also used BREAZE for comments on local and national environmental issues throughout the year. However it was disappointing that at the federal election in 2019 action on climate change failed to get the recognition and policy changes that need to be made to meet the current climate emergency.

Our monthly events and special activities has resulted in a steady growth in our membership. Due to building works near the library we have successfully moved our monthly Smart Living Ballarat (S L B) (3rd Wednesday of the month) to the Eastwood Leisure Centre. These successful talks continue to attract large and varied audiences to a variety of topics. Similarly, we have moved Green Drinks to the Lake View Hotel on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The audiences for these are continuing to grow. We are also looking for new topics, guest speakers and volunteers to assist in the running of these projects.

Again, this year we, we supported the Sustainability Expo in Buninyong. This event had well over 50 environmental based stalls providing a wide range of environmental products and services. With over a 1000 attendees who are there to learn, buy and implement ideas, this continues to be a major support for residents of our region to implement the positive environmental changes that are required.

The other national events we supported were World Environment Day and Sustainable House Day. For World Environment Day. we screened the film "Human Element" followed by a panel discussion. We also ran our annual children's writing competition. Both events were well supported and I would particularly like to thank Mary Debrett for her efforts in organising these events. To support sustainable house day we ran related talks at Green Drinks and Smart living Ballarat as well as promoting the open houses via social media.

This year we successfully ran the first of what we hope to be a series of climate adaption forums.

The "New Bushfire Reality Forum" attracted over 100 attendees. The interesting and knowledgeable presenters gave an insight into the issues and realities of the new fire reality. The group discussion and following panel Q.&A raised many questions. These are currently being compiled by the organisers for feedback to attendees and the Ballarat Emergency Management Committee. Many thanks to Joe Natoli and his team of volunteers for the running of this event.

BREAZE continued with its policy of supporting affiliated environmental groups. Buninyong Boomerang Bags continues to operate providing free bags to the Buninyong Community. The Buninyong Community Collective recently celebrated its 1st birthday as a food collective in the Buninyong region. This year also saw the establishment of the "Ballarat Repair Café". After several years of planning the Café has been successfully running for 4 months and BREAZE is very keen to see its progress in 2020. BREAZE would like to thank all volunteers associated with these projects. If you have a project or event you would like to run, please discuss with us how we can provide the infrastructure support.

The Community Power Hub has been a successful endeavor, working with Sustainability Victoria. BREAZE has coordinated the assessment of multiple projects and provided feasibility studies on the viable projects. Funding was also available to complete additional assessments. Therefore BREAZE's involvement will extend into 2020. Hopefully this will eventually lead into the completion of multiple projects in the Ballarat region. The flagship project, a 500kw solar system for Grampians Health Services in Ararat is currently out for tender for stage 1.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the board members, volunteers and supporters for their assistance in 2019. In particular I would like to thank Ian Rossiter. As well as being President for 4 years Ian has provided great knowledge, leadership and experience to the board. His experience will be missed. Ian will be exploring other ways to support the environmental movement and I and the BREAZE board wish him the best into the future.

In summary BREAZE has the infrastructure, acceptance and capability to continue influencing the environmental discussions and actions in the Ballarat region. However to do this BREAZE needs further assistance from volunteers. Only with your help as volunteers, or via affiliated groups we can continue and potentially expand this role during 2020.

Paul Duggan President 18/11/2019



Treasurer's Report

In 2019, BREAZE made a nominal loss of \$94,437 which is **NOT** a true reflection of BREAZE's underlying performance over the year as the income and expenditure associated with Affiliated Group Activities, Donations (Public Fund), Community Power Hub (CPH), Gants Other, interest (CPH funds), Public Fund and Social Renewables 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, Donations (Public Fund), Community Power Hub (CPH), Gants Other, interest (CPH funds), Public Fund and Social Renewables. Once this is done the "true" underlying loss was **\$6,280**. This loss was funded out of cash on hand.



Peter Reid OAM Treasurer

BREAZE's net assets at the 30th June were \$124,096 of which \$112,001 was cash in the bank. As at 1st November BREAZE's net assets were \$160,821.82 of which \$159,591.82 was cash in the bank. The increase in assets is due to the activities associated with the Sustainability Victoria Community Power Hub contract.

The Board has adopted a budget for the current financial year, 2019/20, that should see BREAZE generate a loss of \$155. As at 1st November the difference between the actual and budgeted figures is \$2,147.11. The Treasurer is confident that BREAZE is on track to make its budgeted loss for 2019/20.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Reid', with a horizontal line underneath it.

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 2019, 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 2019 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 19 August 2019

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>

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 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue			
Affiliated Group Activities		10,942	-
Donations		4,927	12,909
Events		493	645
Farmers Market		88	29,356
Grants - Community Power Hub		55,000	200,000
Grants - New Energy Job Fund		-	23,891
Grants - Other		2,000	-
Interest received		2,646	2,051
Member subscriptions		1,567	1,838
Other income		3,771	2,890
Service Contracts		10,000	15,000
Total Revenue		91,434	288,580
Expenditure			
Administration		7,981	7,230
Affiliated Group Activities		9,294	-
Community Power Hub		140,233	50,912
Events		263	227
Farmers Market		2,003	23,187
New Energy Job Fund		-	24,006
Public Fund		2,727	18,423
RSAB		453	1,023
Smart Living Ballarat		11,499	12,429
Social Renewables		11,418	-
Total Expenditure		185,871	137,437
Profit/(loss) before income tax		(94,437)	151,143
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the year		(94,437)	151,143

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	112,001	222,899
Trade and other receivables	3	3,272	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		115,273	222,899
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other financial assets	4	1,230	1,130
Loans and advances	5	10,250	13,250
Property, plant and equipment	6	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		11,480	14,380
TOTAL ASSETS		126,753	237,279
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	2,657	18,746
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,657	18,746
NET ASSETS		124,096	218,533
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		124,096	218,533
TOTAL EQUITY		124,096	218,533

SECTION 4.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

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: *Ballarat Born and Bred - Creating a Wildlife Friendly Garden* by Stephanie Davison
- March: *Home Energy Saving Tips and Techniques - DIY, Retrofitting, Eco Ideas* by John Petheram and Joe Boin
- March: *Renewable Water - Achieving a More Sustainable Water Cycle* by Dr Tim Fletcher
- April: *Permaculture in Ballarat - a Sustainable Culture with Nature* by Steve Burns
- May: *Electric Cars in Ballarat: The Next 5 Years* by Jason Panosh
- June: *Vic Solar Rebate: How It Works* by Simon Reid
- July: *Keeping it Simple - Going Plastic Free* by La Vergne Lehmann
- August: *Veggie Planting Success in Ballarat* by John Ditchburn
- September: *Strawbale Mudbrick Passivhaus: Alternative Building Systems* by Richard Teed
- October: *Chooks, Goats, Pigs & Ducks - Successful Small-Scale Livestock Farming* by Kate Serrurier, Jodie Finnegan and Natalie Hardy-Hurst
- November: *Surviving the Rising Cost of Fossil Gas & Renewable Alternatives* by Tim Forcey
- December: *Celebrating a Year of Smart Living in Ballarat with 2 Short Films - Degrowth in the Suburbs/Life With Less Waste* presented by Paul Duggan



The 12 SLB sessions have attracted well over 500 participants and have been livestreamed on Facebook. The appeal of a wide range of practical topics was demonstrated by the variety of audiences with an estimated 30% of “new” participants to each event.

Our thanks go to:

- City of Ballarat for a funding of \$10,000 to cover coordination, promotion and presenter's costs.
- Our contractor Tim Drylie for his excellent work in securing presenters, marketing and promoting the events and event coordination.
- Eastwood Leisure Centre and The Ballarat Mechanics Institute for hosting our events.
- Our volunteers and coordinators

Green Drinks

Green Drinks is an international movement of people interested in environmental sustainability coming together in environments where they can network, share ideas and hear from guest speakers. While similar to the Smart Living Ballarat talks, Green Drinks is generally more conceptual and about networking with other like-minded people. It also provides an opportunity to explore possible ideas to see if they could “work” in Ballarat, e.g. the “Repair Café”. The presentation is a starting point but not the main event.

We started the year running GD on the first Thursday of every month at The Main Bar, Ballarat, but in July we switched to the second Wednesday of every month at The Lake View Hotel.

This year the presenters were:

- February — Barry Sullivan presented Waste to Energy Technologies at The Main Bar
- March — Mary Duff introduced the concept of a Repair Cafe for Ballarat at The Main Bar
- April — Tony Goodfellow presented on Wind Energy in Our Region at The Main Bar
- May — we held a Federal Election Candidates Forum at The Main Bar
- June — Jason Panosh presented on Electric Cars - at The Main Bar
- July — we held an introduction Nightingale Housing at Ballarat at The Lake View Hotel
- August — Stephanie Davison presented Caring for Our Environment at Lake View Hotel
- September — Energysmart advisors presented Refit and Save at The Lake View Hotel
- November — Mary Duff gave a follow-up presentation *Find out about our Repair Cafe Ballarat* at The Lake View Hotel
- December — An End of Year Catchup (for green groups and others) at Lake View Hotel

Thank you to all our presenters, volunteers and to The Main Bar and The Lake View Hotel for hosting our events.



Repair Café Ballarat



After several months of research and preparation Repair Café Ballarat (RCB) was launched as a monthly event on 27th July 2019 at the Ballarat Tech School in Albert Street, with the slogan—‘don’t throw it, fix it.’

A free meeting place where expert repair volunteers share their skills and knowledge with community members who bring in broken items to be fixed, RCB has rapidly established itself as a key contributor to sustainable living in Ballarat and now has its own website – <https://repaircafeballarat.com.au> – and Facebook site. During its 6 months of operation, RCB’s 30+ volunteers with diverse skills, have repaired between 12 and 22 items and partially fixed 5-10 others each month. While the service is offered free of charge, donations are requested, and when items for repair require new parts, owners must buy these. RCB founder, Mary Duff, grew up on a farm and wants to share DIY knowledge and help change our throwaway culture.

Repair Cafe Ballarat was nominated for the City of Ballarat’s 2020 Community Activity of the Year Award.

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 reusable bags. By increasing awareness of the plastic bag issue it assisted in the banning of plastic bags.

Materials can be donated at Buninyong Foodworks or the regular Workshops / Sewing

Bees at 405 Scott St Buninyong every Tuesday between 9am and 11am.

Around 2,500 bags and other products have been produced. If you assume that a bag has been used 10 times on average then 25,000 bags have been saved from landfill.

The group would like to thank those that have assisted by making bags or donations throughout the year.

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.



In its first year we attracted 50 members. We sold over \$3500 worth of goods. We have expanded from an original 12 products to 40 products and are now investigating moving to other product categories. We have also purchased a range of food grade containers for storage and sale of our goods.

Our thanks goes to our members, volunteers and sponsors who have made this a very successful first year.

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

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.



This year BREAZE facilitated the installation of 10kW of Solar PV on Uniting's Howitt Street Op Shop, <https://www.unitingballarat.org.au/services/op-shops>. Most of the funding for this installation, \$7,728 was provided by the Renewables Communities Program of the Victorian State Government. These funds were supplemented by a \$1,000 donation from the Eureka Orienteers from their 2018 aMAZEing event. A total of 15 teams competed in the fun event which was held for the first time in Buninyong. BREAZE provided the balance of the funds \$1,417 from its Social Solar by BREAZE program. Eureka Orienteers is a Ballarat-based recreation club, responsible for the organisation and promotion of Orienteering in central Western Victoria.

BREAZE also provide \$2,000 to McCallum Disability Services to assist with the installation of an additional 3kW of Solar PV on their Lucas supported accommodation property. The addition of these solar panel enable the property to become the first in the state to achieve a 10 Star Rating (maximum possible) for a supported accommodation property under the Victorian Residential Efficiency Scorecard.

New Bushfire Reality Climate Adaption Forum

Adapting to the new CLIMATE REALITY BALLARAT 2020-2030

On Sunday 10th of November over 100 residents of greater Ballarat attended the New Bushfire Reality Forum at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute—the first in a planned series of Climate Adaptation Forums organized by BREAZE and the Ballarat Environment Network, with support from the Regional Sustainability Alliance of Ballarat (RSAB) and the Department of Energy, Land Water and Planning (DELWP).

The panel of experts assembled by the forum coordinator, BREAZE Board member, Joe Natoli, included: Michael Boatman, Operations Manager, Ballarat and Chair of the Grampians Fire Fighting Committee; Adrian Whitehead, Director, Council Action in the Climate Emergency; Bill Cook, Municipal Emergency Manager, City of Ballarat; and Tony Grady, Community Fire Authority.

After the speakers' presentations the audience broke up into groups to discuss the issues raised and what changes might be needed in the ways that individuals and the community prepared for the changing bushfire conditions in the coming season. The fires in NSW were already raging at that time giving more significance to this timely event.

The forum panel then reassembled for a question and answer session on matters raised by audience members in their groups. A report on the Forum will be submitted to the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.



Left to right: Ian Rossiter (BREAZE Secretary); Adrian Whitehead (Director, Council Action in the Climate Emergency); Joe Natoli (Forum Coordinator and BREAZE board member); Michael Boatman (Operations Manager Ballarat Fire Service and Chair, Grampians Fire Emergency Committee); Bill Cook (Municipal Emergency Manager, City of Ballarat).

Sustainable House Day 2019



Sustainable House Day is run by Renew annually, with owners and builders of sustainable houses opening their doors to the public. Visitors get an opportunity to inspect houses designed, built and/or renovated with sustainability in mind. BREAZE usually promotes and supplies volunteers to assist at open homes in the Ballarat region. In 2019 BREAZE assistance was largely administrative

given no homeowners came forward.

World Environment Day 5 June 2019



Children's Writing Competition

In the lead up to 2019 World Environment Day, BREAZE conducted a primary school children's writing competition which attracted over 192 entries from 8 schools. As part of Ballarat's World Environment Day activities on the 5th of June, those children who had produced the winning entries from each school, and their parents and teachers, were invited to a presentation at the Eastwood Leisure Centre. City of Ballarat Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jim Rinaldi, officiated, presenting the prize winners with certificates and book gift vouchers.

Overall winner was Lock Jack Nending from Our Lady Help of Christians, seen here with Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jim Rinaldi.

The other winners were:

- Ellen Hammersley: Dana St PS
- Emily Morse: Delacombe PS
- Lily Oldaker: Forest St PS
- Ella Lavery: Emmaus PS
- Ellie Bence: Pleasant St PS
- Eloise Piper-Balboni: Phoenix P12
- Tara Irvin : St Thomas Moore PS

Another 19 students received Special Mentions and vouchers.



Members' Documentary Screening and Discussion

During the evening of World Environment Day, BREAZE held a documentary screening at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute, followed by a panel discussion consisting of Pat Hockey (Ballarat Climate Action Network), Miriam Robinson (Extinction Rebellion) and documentary makers, Lucinda Horrocks and Jary Nemo from Wind & Sky and BREAZE Vice-president, Mary Debrett, as chair. The films screened were *The Human Element* directed by Matthew Testa and featuring nature photographer, James Balog as he explored the impacts of climate change across the US, and a short documentary, 'Collections and Climate Change' made by local film making team Lucinda Horrocks and Jary Nemo of Wind & Sky about Australian scientists who are using scientific collections to increase knowledge of the likely impacts of climate change.

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 manages Community Power Hub Ballarat through a Project Control Group.

During 2019, the following project were completed:

- i) Ballan Community House – 6.6kW Solar PV installed.
- ii) Coghills Creek Community Hall – 6kW Solar PV.
- iii) McCallum Industries – 40kW Solar PV.
- iv) Invermay Recreation Reserve – 10kW Solar PV.

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

- a) Ballarat Regional Industries – 30kW Solar PV.
- b) Peel Street Commercial Building – 36kW Solar PV
- c) McCallum Disability Services – 80kW Solar PV over numerous buildings.
- d) Ballarat Squash & Racquetball – 52kW Solar PV.
- e) Woodbine Warracknabeal – 50kW Solar PV over numerous buildings.
- f) Timber Training Centre Creswick – 400kW bioenergy boiler
- g) Biomass Supply – study into the availability of biomass as an energy source.
- h) Ararat Aquatic Centre – 400kW bioenergy boiler

The East Grampians Health Service (EGHS) feasibility study into the installation of 526kW of Solar PV across two campuses was completed. Stage 1 installation has commenced and is due for completion in early 2020. BREAZE is assisting EGHS in sources additional fund to complete the other stages.

The following feasibility studies are ongoing:

- 1) Ballarat General Cemeteries – 150kW Solar PV
- 2) Ballarat Table Tennis Centre – 20kW Solar PV
- 3) Mollonghip Community Energy – Negotiation to source a retailer that will allow trading of electricity between farms and rural residential properties with community scale investment in rooftop solar

The following projects commenced:

- A) EGHS Carpark Urban Design – Some of 526kW Solar PV panels from the EGHS project above, will be installed on carpark shelters. A consultant has been 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.
- B) Rural Shopping Centre Microgrid – Rural shopping centres, i.e. shopping centres that service small rural towns, are struggling to survive due the economic pressures and the lure of large regional centres. This project will investigate the potential implementation of a microgrid to reduce the cost of energy while at the same time increasing the amount of renewable energy used.

Media Activity

BREAZE was prominent in its public focus throughout this period with generation of e-Newsletters twice monthly promoting its events and appeals, Facebook posts through the BREAZE and SMART LIVING BALLARAT accounts and reports in print and electronic media as below:

January 2 2019 - *Ballarat Community Power Hub gives communities control of their own power* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/5833014/the-beginnings-of-an-energy-revolution-communities-create-their-own-power/>

February 7, 2019 – *Ballarat Has become a verge town* – Costa Georgiadis on ABC Ballarat Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/abcballaratandsouthwestvic/posts/-ballarat-has-become-a-verge-town-what-is-it-costa-georgiadis-official-from-gard/10156620857184818/>

February 12, 2019 - *McCallum Disability Services secures funds for massive solar PV system* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/5900411/solar-cuts-cost-emissions-for-social-enterprise/>

March 26, 2019 - *Ballarat Repair Cafe looking for venue to host monthly 'fix it' sessions* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/5963921/ballarat-to-join-fix-it-movement-to-keep-broken-items-out-of-landfill/>

April 11, 2019 - *Why we should all follow Greta Thunberg's lead on climate change* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6011739/why-we-should-all-follow-gretas-lead/>

April 14, 2019 - *Ballarat Walking Against Warming at Lake Wendouree* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6043475/community-walking-against-warming-climate/>

May 2, 2019, *Ballarat Federal Election 2019: Environmental candidates forum at the pub* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6100272/candidate-forum-on-environment-and-renewables-at-the-pub/>

June 4, 2019 - *Children send positive messages of change this World Environment Day* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6196088/children-send-positive-messages-of-change-this-world-environment-day/>

June 10, 2019 - *Questions asked over carbon plans in Ballarat council budget* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6226722/questions-asked-over-carbon-plans-in-council-budget/>

August 1, 2019 - *Solar panels on op shop divert more funds to Uniting programs* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6304828/solar-panels-on-op-shop-divert-more-funds-to-uniting-programs/>

August 29, 2019 - *Ballarat needs to adapt to a new climate reality* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6356722/how-will-ballarat-adapt-to-the-new-climate-reality/>

November 1, 2019 - *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/>

November 11, 2019 - *Ballarat's 'clear and present danger': Former CFA boss urges action on climate emergency* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6483484/ballarats-clear-and-present-danger-former-cfa-boss-urges-action-on-climate-emergency/>

December 20, 2019 – *Why we must talk about climate change* - <https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6553803/why-we-must-talk-about-climate-change/>

Formal Representations

During 2019 BREAZE made a submission to the *Victorian Parliamentary Enquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Regional Communities* and presented at the Committee's Ballarat Hearing — <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/967-epc-la/inquiry-into-tackling-climate-change-in-victorian-communities> — and made two representations to the City of Ballarat regarding its *Carbon Neutrality and Zero Emissions Action Plan* and of its adequate resourcing in the 2019-2020 budget <https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/city/strategies-plans-and-policies>

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.

