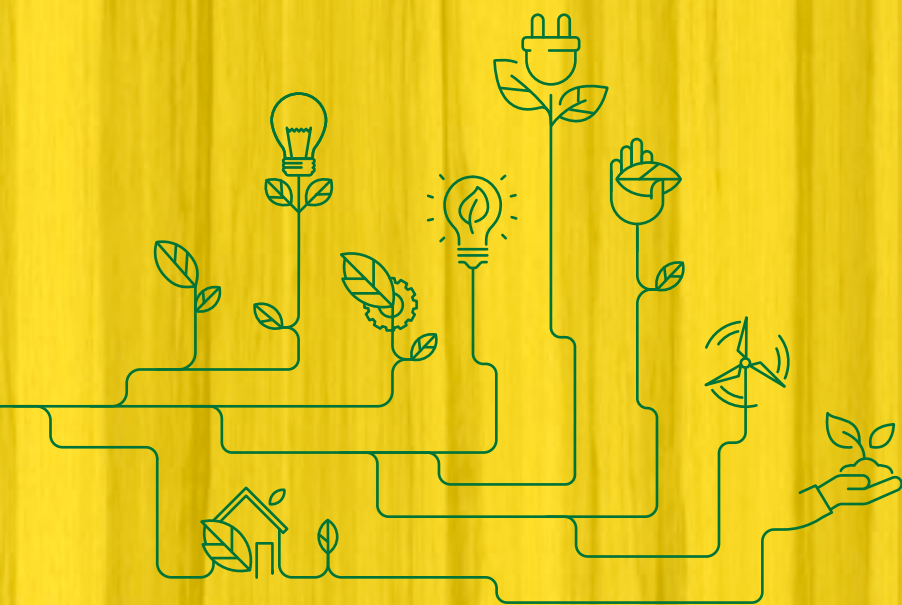


Healesville Community Renewable Energy Inc.

# 2020 Annual Report







## Acknowledgment of Country

Healesville CoRE acknowledges and pays their respects to the Wurundjeri people as the original custodians of the Healesville lands and waters.

We honour their elders, past, present and emerging, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the protection of this place and the preservation of the cultural traditions practiced within it.

Healesville CoRE acknowledges and respects the wide range of indigenous cultures throughout Australia and the Torres Strait and recognise their unique and enduring spiritual connection to the lands in which we live.

Healesville CoRE is committed to genuinely partner and meaningfully engage with the Wurundjeri people, and other local traditional owners, to further the protection of Aboriginal lands, help preserve indigenous cultural practices and support the broader aspirations of all First Nations People.



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# **Empowerment through Engagement**



## Our Vision:

**We see Healesville as a conscious and resilient community that provides all its own energy - renewable and affordable.**

---

## Our Mission:

Healesville CoRE will engage and empower the local community to be energy-efficient and increase production and use of renewable energy. Through partnerships, and commitment to the environment and social equity, we will lower carbon emissions and retain money in the community. By working with the community on renewable energy, we will strengthen environmental and economic sustainability whilst building community resilience.



## Our Values:



### Leadership

Provide leadership to inspire and empower the community to implement renewable energy initiatives.



### Environment

Create a sustainable environment at a local level and provide a model for other communities.



### Trust

Achieve community trust through integrity, authenticity, and professionalism.



### Access

Ensure fair and equitable access to renewable energy solutions for all.



### About us

**Healesville CoRE is a small, not for profit incorporated association run by local volunteers. We've come together to provide community leadership, focus, initiative and education, in order to transition Healesville and the 3777 post code area to Net Zero by 2027. In doing so, we seek to provide a model for other towns throughout the Yarra Ranges and, more generally, Australia.**

**Net Zero** in this context means the community is moving towards reducing the use of fossil fuels for electricity production to zero, replacing coal and gas with renewable energy from sun, wind and water. Healesville CoRE is one of over a hundred community energy groups around Australia with similar aims.

**Community energy** is about communities taking control of their energy consumption, production, distribution and storage. Equity of access is very important so all can benefit from this transition. A prime task of Healesville CoRE is to organise the technical expertise, business structures, contracts and finance necessary for the whole community to benefit from renewable energy initiatives and local ownership of infrastructure.

Government, other agencies and businesses to achieve our ambitious agenda.

**Farming the sun.** Energy from the sun has created the magnificent natural environment which surrounds our community. We are farming that energy to reduce and to eventually eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels like coal and gas. We will significantly reduce our contributions towards air pollution and carbon emissions to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

**Energy equity.** Healesville CoRE volunteers are engaging our community in an ongoing process of communication and sharing of ideas. We are working to organise the technology, the finance and the installation of solar systems so the whole town can benefit from renewable energy. This is to help reduce grid energy consumption, energy bills, energy poverty and to support the whole town in the inevitable transition to renewable energy that is currently underway in Australia.

**Healesville CoRE** will hold the vision and do the work until, as a community, we achieve our goal. We won't do this alone, but together with the whole community. We aim to create an example for others to follow, demonstrating how an empowered, connected & engaged community can take control of its own clean energy future.

## Clean, reliable energy that empowers our community, that's what we're about.

**Community engagement.** An important function of Healesville CoRE will be to engage our community in this process of energy transformation, through educational workshops and information sessions, so these creative changes are embraced by our whole community. We will work together for the common good of our town, bringing greater connectedness, equity, resilience and sharing.

**External engagement.** We will not do this alone but will seek to cooperatively engage the Yarra Ranges Council, the Victorian Government, the Commonwealth







*THE GOAL:*

**Net Zero**  
by 2027







A wide range of small scale and larger scale renewable energy projects could be initiated;

**Small scale projects include:**

- Reducing the amount and type of energy we use by creating energy efficiencies in homes and businesses and supporting energy efficiency audits for the community;
- Bulk buying schemes for solar energy technologies;
- Bulk buying schemes for solar hot water and heat pump technologies;
- Facilitating landlords & tenants to embrace renewable energy with new technologies;
- Aggregating home owners and businesses who want to sign up to bulk electricity purchase agreements with energy retailers at reduced cost.

**Large scale projects could include:**

- Developing 'distributed renewable energy' within the community where we buy and sell to/from each other using a micro grid network;
- Utilising a community energy retailer with significant economic benefits to us all;
- Building a solar farm & solar gardens, pumped hydro and mini hydro systems and town-sized energy storage solutions, with support from external agencies;
- Purchasing energy for the whole town at wholesale rates from wind and solar farms from within Victoria or interstate; and much more!

**Local ownership and retaining our money in the community.** We will create opportunities for potential local ownership of energy infrastructure, retaining money in the community that would otherwise be lost to large energy providers and overseas interests. We can establish a social enterprise to manage this process, financed by our larger projects. We aim to become a model for other towns in our region and eventually set up an Information/Action Hub for other groups to access information and inspiration for their community energy projects.

## Our History

**The urgency of Global Warming and the Climate Emergency, and the lack of political will in Australia to seriously tackle these threats to our way of life, prompted Jeff Barlow, a Healesville resident of 35 years, to think about the need for leadership at a local level. It was this thinking that formed the impetus for the creation of a community based renewable energy group in Healesville.**

What if a community group could be formed to provide leadership, guidance, education and focus, for community action on the Climate Emergency? What if hundreds or even thousands of communities around Australia and around the world did the same thing? Could a groundswell of community action be created to eventually create change from the bottom up and eventually move governments at all levels to take appropriate action to mitigate the impact of Global Warming? This was already happening at the time in Denmark, Germany, the UK and the USA, and with 90 community energy groups in 2017 already in existence in Australia, with the number growing rapidly.

Jeff came from a professional background in education and training with an additional qualification in community development. He had a long-standing interest in renewable energy and sustainable living with a deep commitment to the devolution of power to local communities and to the development of decentralised generation, storage and distribution of electricity to create greater energy resilience, and to put downward pressure on the cost of electricity. Jeff knew only a little about the technologies involved, but his focus was on how renewable energy technology could be leveraged for developing community

# Think globally





connection, resilience and empowerment, with a greater sharing of power and decision making between local Councils and the communities for which they exist. It was clear that technical expertise would have to be accessed from elsewhere.

He was also very aware that 'business as usual' was not going to mitigate the Climate Emergency. What was needed were creative solutions that brought together communities and all levels of government, to explore new ways of interacting and sharing power, for the good of the whole society – a move away from a top down model of governance to a more distributed model of co-creation and co-determination.

The Coalition for Community Energy Conference in February 2017 became the impetus for action, where over 600 attendees and over 90 grass roots groups from around Australia attended. At this very stimulating and exciting conference, Jeff gained much information and advice about community energy groups and he also reached out to Julian Guess and Simon Woodland

from the Yarra Ranges Council Sustainability team, who were in attendance. Julian and Jeff set up a Community Energy Steering Group in Healesville and this Steering Group helped guide the early

formation of the Healesville CoRE Working Group and the first Community Gathering of 230 community members at the Healesville Memo on 28 June 2017. This was described by one well-known local identity as one of the largest community gatherings in Healesville's history.

It was at this Community Gathering that the vision Jeff had of community renewable energy for Healesville was presented to the community, by Jeff and by speakers from Totally Renewable Yackandandah, Enova Energy (the first community energy retailer in Australia) and Glen Morris from a local company, Solarquip, who explained in clear and simple language what renewable energy is and how our community could benefit from its use.

The concept was presented of a community taking control of its own energy production, storage and distribution, using renewable sources, sharing locally produced energy across a distributed network and building energy resilience with solar rooftops, batteries, solar hot water, a solar farm, a community battery and a micro grid. The value of running renewable energy workshops to educate the community about this vision and to promote bulk buys of solar panels, batteries and solar hot water systems and heat pumps was presented. The enthusiasm and excitement generated saw 72 volunteers stepping forward to offer their help, and Healesville CoRE, the first local 'community renewable energy node' was formed.

Soon after, in August 2017 a workshop was organised, facilitated by Taryn Lane (from the Hepburn Wind community energy project, who had also studied community energy internationally on a Churchill Fellowship). The Healesville community came together in a process of co-creation, to learn from Taryn and each other,

# Act locally





# Our People

## Members who held office in 2020:

---



**Jeff Barlow**  
President



**Simon Prunster**  
Vice President



**Julian Higgs**  
Secretary



**Julian Higgs**  
Treasurer



**Shona Rimmer**  
Community Engagement  
Manager



**Leo De Jong**  
Technical Projects Manager



**Chris Sagewood**  
Media Manager



**Sean O'Sullivan**  
Committee Member  
(Membership lapsed July 2020)



**Peter Cock**  
Committee Member  
(Resigned June 2020)

## Members in support roles in 2020:

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**Marnie Gleeson**

Membership Co-ordinator

**Karen Roberts**

Grants' Officer

**Jeff Barlow**

Events Co-ordinator

**Walter Skilton**

Strategic/Action Plan Coordinator / Governance Officer

**Simone Knight**

Accountant

**Kate Hunt-Sharman**

Website Manager

**Michael Nardella**

Social Media Manager

**David Singleton**

Feedback Analyst

**Nathanael Hrabe**

Feedback Analyst

**Chris Sagewood**

Annual Report Coordinator







# Our Reach

## Website Statistics

The following statistics from Google Analytics provide a selective snapshot of our website traffic from July 2019 to June 2020.

healesvillecore.org.au

### WEBSITE USAGE

% increase from last year

**3104**  
+15%

Total Sessions

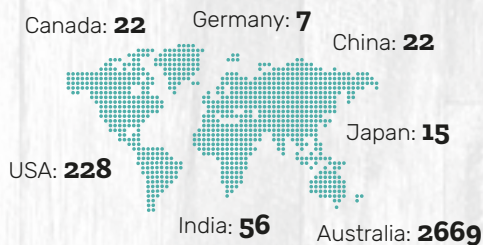
**1954**  
+20%

Total Users

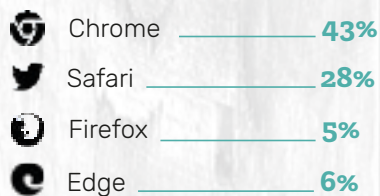
**8035**  
+11%

Page views

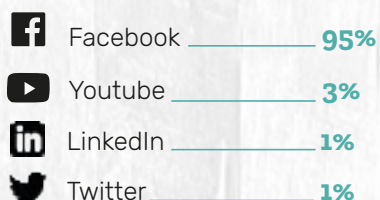
### OUR VISITORS LIVE IN



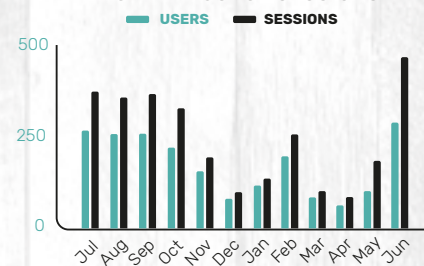
### BROWSERS USED



### SOCIAL MEDIA REFERRALS



### MONTHLY USAGE SESSIONS



### USERS / SESSIONS

Jul: <b>281 / 393</b>	Jan: <b>123 / 143</b>
Aug: <b>271 / 376</b>	Feb: <b>207 / 270</b>
Sep: <b>272 / 386</b>	Mar: <b>89 / 107</b>
Oct: <b>232 / 345</b>	Apr: <b>66 / 90</b>
Nov: <b>164 / 204</b>	May: <b>107 / 194</b>
Dec: <b>85 / 104</b>	Jun: <b>304 / 492</b>

### NEW AND RETURNED VISITORS



### MOST FREQUENTLY VISITED PAGES

- #1 Home page: **1826**
- #2 Solar Bulk Buy: **273**
- #3 About H'CoRE: **263**
- #4 Membership: **247**
- #5 Quote for Solar Systems: **65**

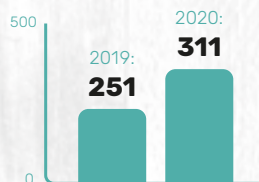


## Social Media Statistics

The following statistics reflect our social media activities and presence on Facebook from July 2019 to June 2020. All Facebook posts and activities are managed and uploaded by Michael Nardella.



Number of Posts



Number of Followers



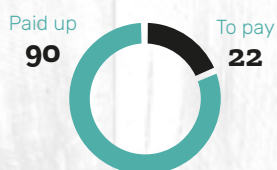
2019/20 Increase

## Member Statistics

The following statistics reflect the number of current Financial Memberships:



Total Memberships



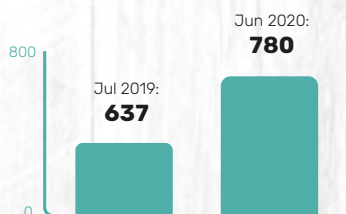
Financial Status



2019/20 Increase

## Database Statistics

The following statistics reflect the number of contacts on our Contacts List



Number of Contacts



July 2019 to June 2020 Increase







# Come join the energy revolution in Healesville

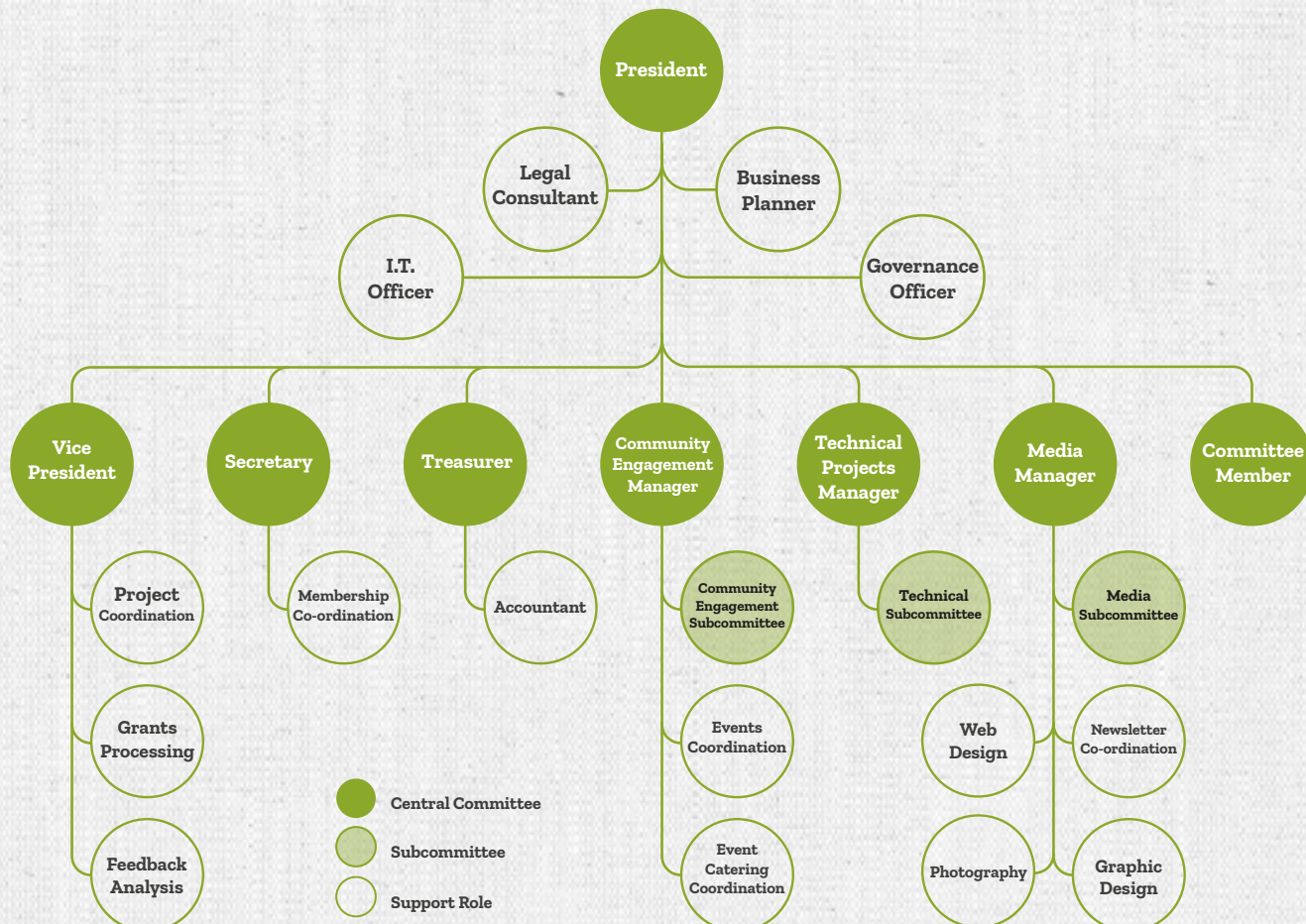


# Structure and Management

As of February 2019, the primary management body of Healesville CoRE is the Central Committee. This committee is made up of 8 roles, each with separate associated duties.

### Central Committee Roles:

<b>President:</b>	Provides leadership to the organisation and oversees the operations of the organisation
<b>Vice President:</b>	Supports the President in leadership and actions other allocated responsibilities
<b>Secretary:</b>	Supports the President in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Central Committee
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Oversees the financial administration of the organisation
<b>Media Manager:</b>	Oversees content policies and publication of all online and print media
<b>Community Engagement Manager:</b>	Manages the promotion and public relations of the group
<b>Technical Projects Manager:</b>	Keeps abreast of research and development in the renewable energy field
<b>Committee Member:</b>	Responsible for membership and supports all Central Committee members in workload delivery





# Strategic Plan Report



**Healesville CoRE has grown from a small group of volunteer Steering Group participants in 2017 to a regulated Not For Profit organisation that held its first AGM in August 2018.**

Amongst the many tasks necessary for the establishment of a new organisation, the Central Committee realised the importance of having a clear strategic direction to effectively develop and manage the business to achieve our goals. We needed to formally document our Vision, Mission, Values and Goals to enable our organisation to be sustainable in future years.

We held a 'Grass Roots Governance' workshop in August 2018. The workshop was facilitated by Megan J Buntine Consulting Services. We collaboratively identified many items in a Situational Analysis Summary that we listed as Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats and Risks. Megan Buntine then prepared a Strategic Plan, 2018-2021,

with input sourced from the workshop.

This work was

funded by a grant from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).

The Strategic Plan documented important matters that the organisation should work on over the next three years. Five priorities, known as our Key Result Areas (KRA), were agreed. These are:

- Renewable energy projects
- A robust governance framework
- Securing financial resources
- Marketing and promotion to stakeholders
- Boosting human resources.

An Action Plan 2018-2019 was established with priority goals for each KRA. Each priority goal has an identified Due Date for completion. A Monthly Reporting template has been adopted for regular reporting of Action Plan progress to the Central Committee. This monthly report shows the progress of each goal and has a text description of progress and any issues since the last report. Walter Skilton and Jeff Barlow formed a Strategic Plan Subcommittee for regular review of Action Plan progress, and preparation of the monthly report. The Strategic Subcommittee held quarterly meetings with Megan Buntine for an in-depth review of progress against the Action Plan.

**Walter Skilton**

*Strategic Plan Subcommittee Convener*







## President's Report



**I am very pleased to be able to present to Healesville CoRE members and to the broader community our Annual Report for 2020, including my President's Report.**

The Annual Report has been created by the collective efforts of our volunteers and we all hope you find it a stimulating, interesting and informative document that provides you with a good understanding of our work over the past year.

Since our last AGM in 2019 we have worked consistently as a group to realise our Strategic Plan which was developed in 2018/19 and we are pleased with our achievements, the highlights of which are listed in various parts of this Annual Report, but I would also like to outline here just a sample of the work we have engaged in:

- We have continued to engage the local community with renewable energy via our events, our newsletters and community offers of solar panels and batteries and solar hot water;
- We have trained volunteers to assist households with advice on saving energy in the home;
- We have continued to work on three solar projects, funded by the Commonwealth Government, originally pledged by our local MHR, The Hon Tony Smith, for three not for profit groups, that collectively will save

tens of thousands of dollars for these organisations once the systems are installed before the end of 2020;

- We have, in addition, worked on two substantial administrative development projects which will not only assist us, but hopefully, will also assist many other not for profit groups around Australia to establish a solid administrative base for their work, as we have done:
  - Our "Policy Governance Project: to produce 40 policies, funded by FRRR to create a robust governance framework for Healesville CoRE";
  - A major project which we called, "Meeting the Administrative Challenges of a Community Renewable Energy Group: Setting up an Integrated Online Administration System for a Community Energy Not for Profit Group", funded by Sustainability Victoria. This involved four months of intensive work by our small project team of three volunteers and three professional consultants. The final report of 106 pages was submitted at the end of July 2020.

### Our 2019/20 Annual Report

Preparing for writing our Annual Report is a time for us as a group to reflect on our work for the year to see what we have achieved and how we could do better. This report consists of reports from our many volunteers who have had formal responsibilities in progressing our association towards our goals. As they report in some detail on the various facets of their individual work and on our collective work, there is no need for me to repeat that detail in my President's Report, but I do refer you to these reports and the section on Activities



and Achievements, for a full account of all the exciting developments we have initiated and progressed over the past year.

### **Engagement with Yarra Ranges Council**

Our relationship with the Yarra Ranges Council is integral to our work. This year has seen a strengthening of the relationship between Healesville CoRE and our local Council, with the Sustainability team collaborating with us in obtaining two government grants. In addition, we could not have achieved what we have done without the financial assistance provided by Council for our Annual Program of Events and the training of our volunteers in the use of our new online CiviCRM software. It has been a very positive experience for us to have this ongoing support over the past three years, for which we are deeply grateful. Of course, we are of the view that this support is warranted. It is sound policy to support a dynamic community group aligned with Council's own policies on sustainability, climate change, the environment, business development as well as community engagement and development, during the Climate Emergency!

Healesville CoRE also provided a letter of support to the Yarra Ranges Council's Environment Advisory Committee, supporting a vote by Council to declare a 'Climate Emergency'. Council formally voted to 'acknowledge' the Climate Emergency at a meeting on 10th September 2019. Healesville CoRE also made a written contribution to the draft "Livable Climate Plan 2020-2030" during community consultations and was one of a number of community groups consulted during the feasibility study into the establishment of a solar farm on various sealed tip sites around the Yarra Valley. This included the old tip site in Healesville, which we strongly supported, on which a council decision is pending at the time of writing. A

council built solar farm for Healesville could be a great bonus to our community.

### **Grant Funding, Donations & Pro Bono Work**

Healesville CoRE cannot exist without grant funding and donations from our supporters and these are outlined in more detail in our financial report, grants report and in my Acknowledgments & Thank You's section towards the end of this Annual Report (page 45). The Healesville Living & Learning Centre provided us with a room to meet each month as part of our mutual support Memorandum of Understanding and we are grateful to the Uniting Church and U3A Healesville for renting us their excellent spaces at an affordable price for events and training sessions respectively.

We are indebted to our pro bono supporters for their professional input. Our pro bono accountant,

**"I have felt proud to be associated with such a committed group of community volunteers"**

Simone Knight, is now moving on, and I would like to thank Simone for her service to our organisation since 2017. James McDermid has provided his outstanding skills in graphic design, pro bono. James has been responsible for our logo, many of our posters, our 2019/20 Program of Events and this Annual Report. We are deeply indebted to James for helping us create a professional profile in the presentation of our work to the community.





## Our Financial Members

Our members are the backbone of our organisation, providing us, year after year, with the financial and moral support we need to continue our work. For some time, we have been wanting to provide some added value for our members, always hindered by a lack of funds. However, with project funding from Sustainability Victoria this year, we have been able to establish a Members' Only portal for our website that will house documents for members and a Forum for communication between members.

## Our Central Committee and the Extended Management Group

Looking back over the past year and reflecting on our achievements, our strengths and our challenges, I once again feel deeply touched by the work of our key group of volunteers who have continued to work tirelessly in their Central Committee and Extended Management Group roles. I have felt proud to be associated with, and to be the President of, such a committed group of community volunteers.

Unfortunately, we lost two members of the Central Committee during the year, with the loss of our Secretary, Sean O'Sullivan and a Committee Member, Dr Peter Cock. I thank them both for their contributions. In addition, our Community Engagement Manager, despite strong aspirations and a willingness to engage with the role, was prevented by circumstances from doing so. These losses weighed on us as a group and did increase pressure on the remaining Central Committee Members.

However, we were fortunate that Julian Higgs, our Treasurer, stepped up to take over the role of Secretary, despite the heavy workload involved, and his work in these combined roles has brought a level of professionalism that has been a great support, enabling the Central Committee to move forward with greater strength and focus.

This year we also had a small group of four volunteers who wanted to attend committee meetings to be involved in shaping our direction as an organisation. Their contributions to discussions and projects enabled us to access a wider range of community input, and to achieve significantly more as a group than otherwise would have been the case.

I would like to personally acknowledge, and offer my thanks, and the appreciation of our broader community of members, to the work of our Central Committee team, who collectively and individually have provided enthusiastic direction and support for our community activities and achievements. Their

*From left: Leo De Jong, Karin van Bockel, and Marnie Gleeson at Healesville Market Stall - May 2018.*





names are mentioned in another part of this Annual Report.

### **Reflections on my Role as President and on our Future**

I have endeavoured to provide clear and consistent direction and leadership for our small association, being focused on the renewable energy needs of the community, the need for community engagement and interaction and for building community resilience in this time of the Climate Emergency. Changing minds and values and creating connections within the community is just as important as creating more solar energy.

As I have outlined later in this report, a voluntary community group requires much more financial and administrative support from local, state and federal governments, than is currently available, if we are to achieve our Net Zero goal. We can look to overseas

models to see  
the sort  
of

substantial support that some governments provide. The task is too urgent and too great for a small group of community volunteers to achieve alone.

Greater funding will enable greater community power and a more engaged movement towards the social and technical changes we need as a community. A rethink is required in this time of Climate Emergency, and a new collective and cooperative paradigm needs to be created, a paradigm that harnesses community volunteers, government funding, commercial interests and philanthropy in new organisational, funding and administrative structures, to create a 'Collective Impact' to really make a difference to Net Zero aspirations at a local community level.

**Jeff Barlow**  
*President*



*Audience members at Healesville CoRE's first community gathering, June 2017. On stage, Jeff Barlow & Bruce Argyle. Photo by Brendan Barlow*



*Community members attending the Solar Electricity Production and Storage and Yarra Ranges Council's Community Solar and Battery Offer event in March 2020. Photo by Chris Sagewood*







## Technical Project Manager's Report



It is my responsibility to serve on the Central Committee and to manage the Technical Projects' Group (TPG).

Volunteer Members of the TPG subcommittee in 2019/20 were: Jeff Barlow, Simon Prunster, Glen Morris, Michael Nardella, Ron Roberts, Walter Skilton and Ted van Bockel.

The TPG subcommittee meets regularly on an 'as needs' basis. In the last 12 months the Technical Projects' Group investigated and developed the following projects and ideas, all of which will help in bringing renewable energy to the Healesville Community:

- We were involved with Mondo in the development and promotion of the very successful Solar and Battery Offer to the residential community in Healesville between February and September 2019
- We assisted in the development and promotion, with Reclaim Energy, of heat pumps for supplying homes with energy efficient hot water between June and October 2019
- We selected 3 not for profit community properties in Healesville and prepared feasibility studies for solar installations for these properties, with funding promised by the Commonwealth Government. We then negotiated with the occupants, use of the roofs of their buildings for the solar installations. The 3 properties are: Galena Beek Cultural Centre, Robyn Jane Children's Centre and the Healesville Living and Learning Centre.
- With assistance from the Yarra Ranges Council, we prepared applications to the Federal Government for funding grants of \$90,000 for these projects and were successful in receiving the grants
- We were involved with Council in selecting the Project Manager and we are involved now with the tendering process for the installation work for these three solar projects

- Another project which we are establishing at the moment is a Home Energy Efficiency Advice program. In this project, we are training our volunteers with funding from a small Commonwealth Government grant; we will be visiting homes by invitation, will assess the energy efficiency of the houses and prepare a report with suggestions for improving their energy efficiency. We hope to start this service once lockdown regulations are lifted
- Other discussions and investigations we took part in were:
  - A Microgrid for Healesville
  - Council's feasibility study for a Solar Farm
  - A template for tenant and landlord's shared energy savings in rented property

Although the last twelve months showed again the challenge of attracting people with appropriate technical skills and attracting people to volunteer their time, we were still successful with the projects listed above and are very pleased with the work we have done over the past 12 months. We are open to new volunteers joining the TP group so we can expand our work.

I would like to thank all group members for their participation and contribution to the Technical Projects' Group during 2019/20

### Leo de Jong

Technical Project Manager

*Healesville CoRE's 1st solar hot water community offer heat pump installation in July 2019. Photo Nick Froek (Reclaim Energy)*





## Media Manager's Report



Having no experience in a Media Manager role, taking on something like this has been highly rewarding. I have really enjoyed the learning, particularly around maintaining a website, managing communications to our email database of nearly 800 members and promoting our community events.

I am proud to have been volunteering for Healesville CoRE since its inception in 2017 after moving from Melbourne to Healesville mid 2016. Having no networks in Healesville, the appeal of getting acquainted with some locals was a bonus to working on local projects to tackle climate change, which is a cause close to my heart. I had to step back from volunteering after my wife and I had our second child in May 2019, but when things settled down a bit I decided to take the reins as Media Manager.

Late 2019 was a blur as I familiarised myself with the technical landscape of our professional-looking website set up by our previous Media Manager, Lucinda Sam, and Kate Hunt-Sharman from Ozzinet, and with the administration software, CiviCRM, where we manage our members and where we send our slick looking mailings from. Thanks to tuition from Kate Hunt-Sharman and the CiviCRM training sessions

we held with a grant from Yarra Ranges Council, I got newsletters out without too many

headaches and got savvy at updating the website without crashing it too often.

Managing the promotion schedules for our events has been something where I've really noticed the impact of not having a sub-committee of volunteers to shoulder some of the tasks. Writing media releases, contacting media outlets, updating the website and communicating information to our database becomes more difficult when combined alongside working with designers to get posters and print media sorted out. Having said that, it is important to note that we are blessed to have an extremely skilled graphic designer in James McDermid, doing fantastic pro-bono work for us, including on our logo, our brochures, programs, event posters and this Annual Report! James has made my job so much more manageable with his brilliant work and professionalism.

A further note of thanks must go to Michael Nardella, who has been doing a great job managing our Facebook page. It would be great to see some more volunteers to develop our social media presence and assist with promoting our events, as with 2 toddlers and a full time job I do struggle at times to stay on top of things!

It has been a very tumultuous and disruptive year with bushfires and a pandemic, however it has been great to see how innovative and creative we have become in ensuring our goals to engage our community on reducing emissions towards net-zero continue to be worked towards. I look forward to continuing working with Jeff Barlow, our inspiring leader, and all the rest of our volunteers as we strive to grow Healesville CoRE and keep moving Healesville towards the solar town we dream of!

**Chris Sagewood**  
Media Manager



*Event poster design mockup  
by James McDermid*







## Membership Co-ordinator's Report



In the last year, Healesville CoRE's membership increased by 6% compared to a 49% increase the year before. At the end of June 2019, we had 106 financial members, and this had increased to 108 at the time of the last annual report. At the end of June 2020, we had

112 financial members comprised of the following:

- 78 members who had renewed from the previous year (74% retention rate for 2019/20 compared with 85% retention rate for 2018/19)
- 12 new members (down 74% compared with 46 new members in 2018/19)
- 22 members who did not renew for 2019/20 and remained 'in grace' for the 12-months ending 30 June 2020

Membership renewals for the 2020/21 financial year were due by 30 June 2020 and the membership has been in a state of flux as a result, with some members renewing by the due date, others after, and some still to renew. We currently have 90 financial members including 65 paid up members and 25 who are 'in grace' and still to pay their renewal fees. Although the current number of financial members is down 17% compared to the same time last year, we have a higher percentage of members who are paid up rather than 'in grace' (72% compared to 64% at the time of the last annual report).

In the last year, the total number of contacts on our database has risen by 22%, from 637 to 780.

### Membership renewal campaign for 2020/21

One of the main tasks I have undertaken as Membership Coordinator over the past couple of years has been the running of our membership renewal campaigns. As a new initiative this year, we had a prize draw as an incentive for members to renew by the due date of 30 June 2020. This initiative was successful in increasing the number of members renewing by the due date by more than double; from 25 at 30 June 2019 up to 52 at 30 June 2020.

On behalf of the Healesville CoRE team, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the local businesses who donated the prizes for our members, especially at a time when many local businesses are doing it really tough – Thank you No. 7 Healesville, By Barney, and Amaranth Honey for your generosity.

Congratulations to the winners of our members' prize draw: 1st prize (box of 6 wines) – Lou Sbalchiero; 2nd and 3rd prize (6-jar pack of produce each) – Jon Sharpley and Vitor Cardoso; and 4th, 5th and 6th prize (jar of honey each) – Bill Pickett, Lorraine Sorrell, and Shayne Gleeson.

I would also like to offer a sincere thank you on behalf of the Healesville CoRE team, to everyone who has been a member in the last year and supported us through your financial contribution. We appreciate and value your support and the positive feedback from our members encourages us to continue doing the work we are doing for the Healesville community. Thanks!

### Member's only section of the website

For nearly 2 years, Healesville CoRE has been wanting to create a member's only section of our website, where financial members will be able to access a forum to communicate various documents including minutes from Central Committee meetings, reports and survey results, and other information that we hope our members will find interesting and informative. We are very thankful for recent Victorian Government funding allowing us to implement this feature and we are very excited to be launching this soon, so stay tuned!

### Marnie Gleeson

Membership  
Co-ordinator

Lou Sbalchiero (left), winner of the Membership Renewal Campaign 1st Prize Draw of wines from No.7 Healesville, with Chris Sagewood (H'Core Media Manager).  
Photo by Liz James





# Highlights of Working Together as a Community

**Our approach to working together as a community has been to focus on renewable energy workshops and community offers of solar panels, batteries and solar hot water systems.**

However in addition to this, we also ran a practical on site workshop at one of SolarQuip's renewable energy labs (a first for 2019), collaborated effectively with other community energy groups and developed new administrative systems to facilitate a more effective working organisation. We also ran a training course for community volunteers on the delivery of home energy efficiency information, the aim of which is to establish an advisory service to be made available to interested households once the Covid-19 lockdowns have ceased.

Of special note as well was the guest speaker focused event we ran in November 2019. Here we were fortunate enough to hear from representatives from two significant community energy groups; Chris Weir from Bendigo Sustainability and Dan Cordell from Sustainability Geelong. They inspired the audience with details of the community energy projects they'd previously set up in their respective towns, including some significant community funded rooftop solar panel and battery projects. We were also able to meet with Chris and Dan informally after the event, a meeting that's helped develop the relationship between Healesville CoRE and their organisations. A development that's already seen additional support in the form of Healesville CoRE being able to view some of the legal documentation associated with community energy projects.

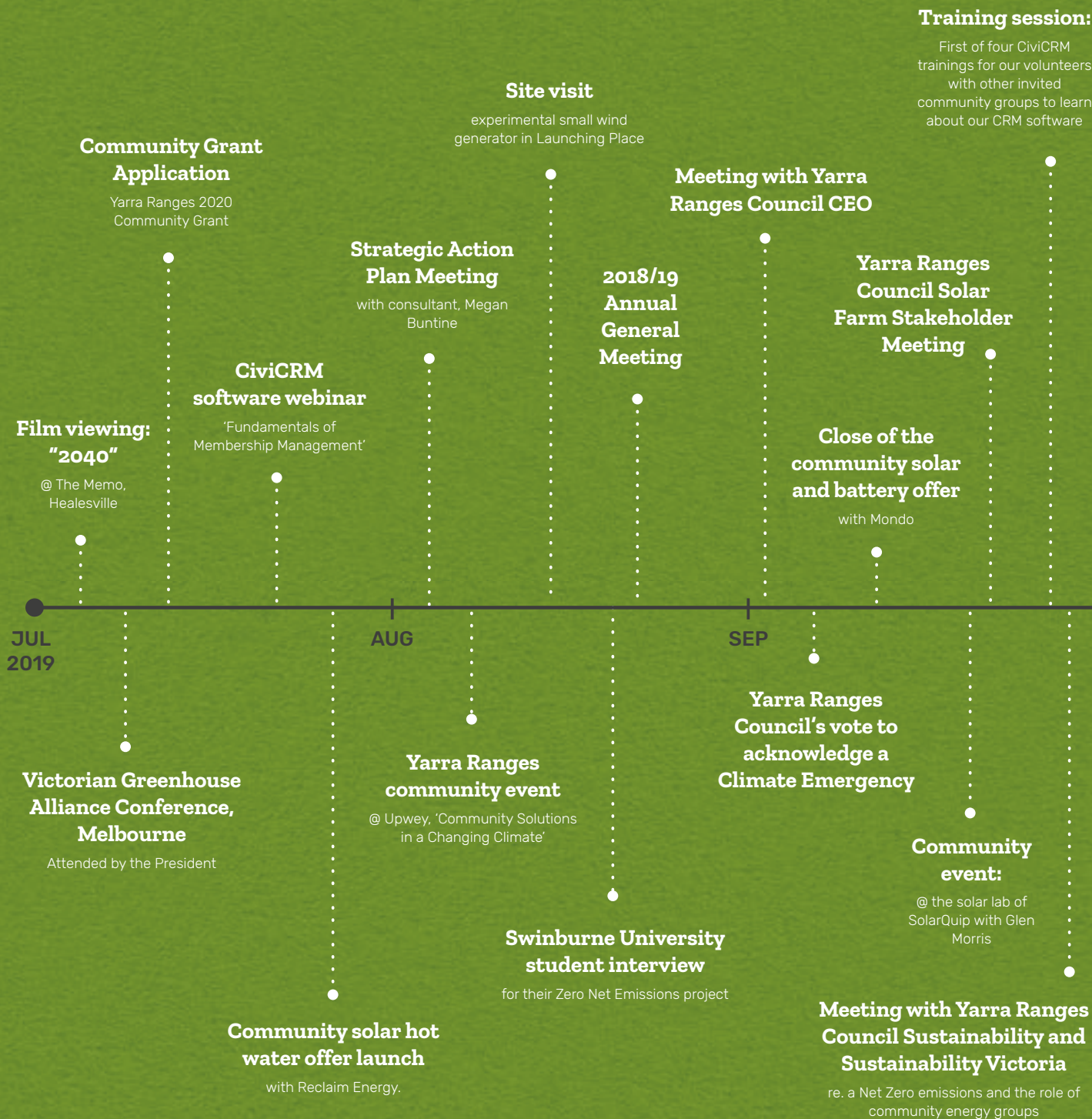
We were so gratified by the success of our 2018/19 community events that we decided to repeat these in 2019/20. We've had to change the format of these slightly due to the Covid-19 lockdowns and as such have now hosted our first online Webinars. We've now held two very successful sessions this year; the first on solar hot water and heat pumps - a launch of our early July community solar hot water offer with Reclaim Energy - and the second in August on reducing energy consumption in the home.



*Jeff Barlow & Julian Guess (YR Council) at Healesville CoRE's first community gathering at the Memo in June 2017. Photo by Shona Rimmer.*

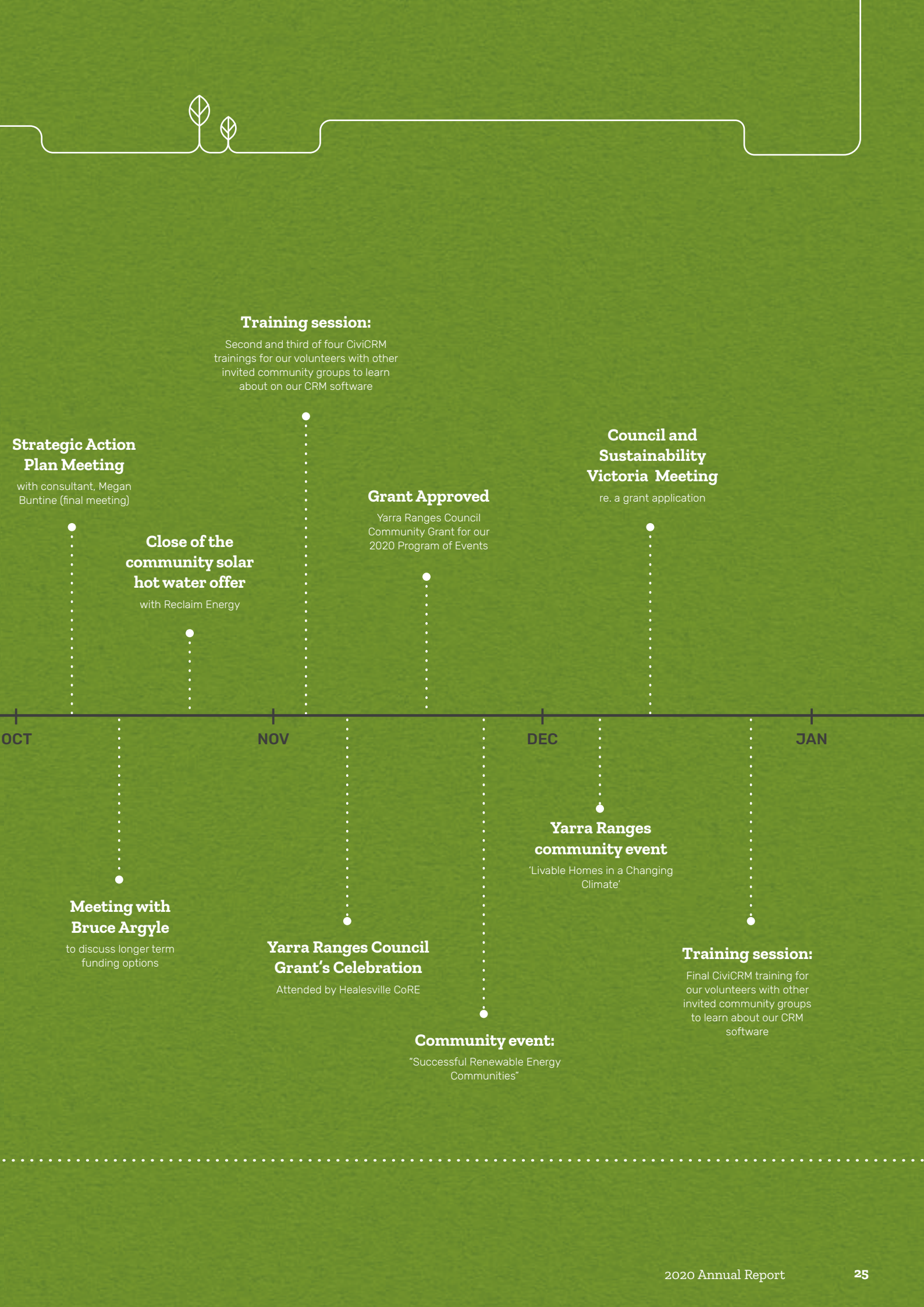






[THROUGHOUT 2019/20] Regular monthly Central Committee meetings, sub group meetings as required and many more informal meetings held throughout 2019 and more recently in 2020 (using video and chat due to Covid-19 lock-downs).





**Training session:**

Second and third of four CiviCRM trainings for our volunteers with other invited community groups to learn about on our CRM software

**Strategic Action Plan Meeting**

with consultant, Megan Buntine (final meeting)

**Close of the community solar hot water offer**

with Reclaim Energy

**Grant Approved**

Yarra Ranges Council Community Grant for our 2020 Program of Events

**Council and Sustainability Victoria Meeting**

re. a grant application

**Yarra Ranges community event**

'Livable Homes in a Changing Climate'

**Meeting with Bruce Argyle**

to discuss longer term funding options

**Yarra Ranges Council Grant's Celebration**

Attended by Healesville CoRE

**Community event:**

"Successful Renewable Energy Communities"

**Training session:**

Final CiviCRM training for our volunteers with other invited community groups to learn about our CRM software





## Activities & Achievements (cont...)

### Grant Application:

Joint submission with YR Council for a \$10,000 Sustainability Grant for Healesville CoRE to develop an integrated administration system using WordPress/CiviCRM and Google G-Suite

### Promotional support program launch

for Yarra Ranges Council & Solar Savers' solar panel and battery offer, the first community energy group to support Solar Savers in this way

JAN

FEB

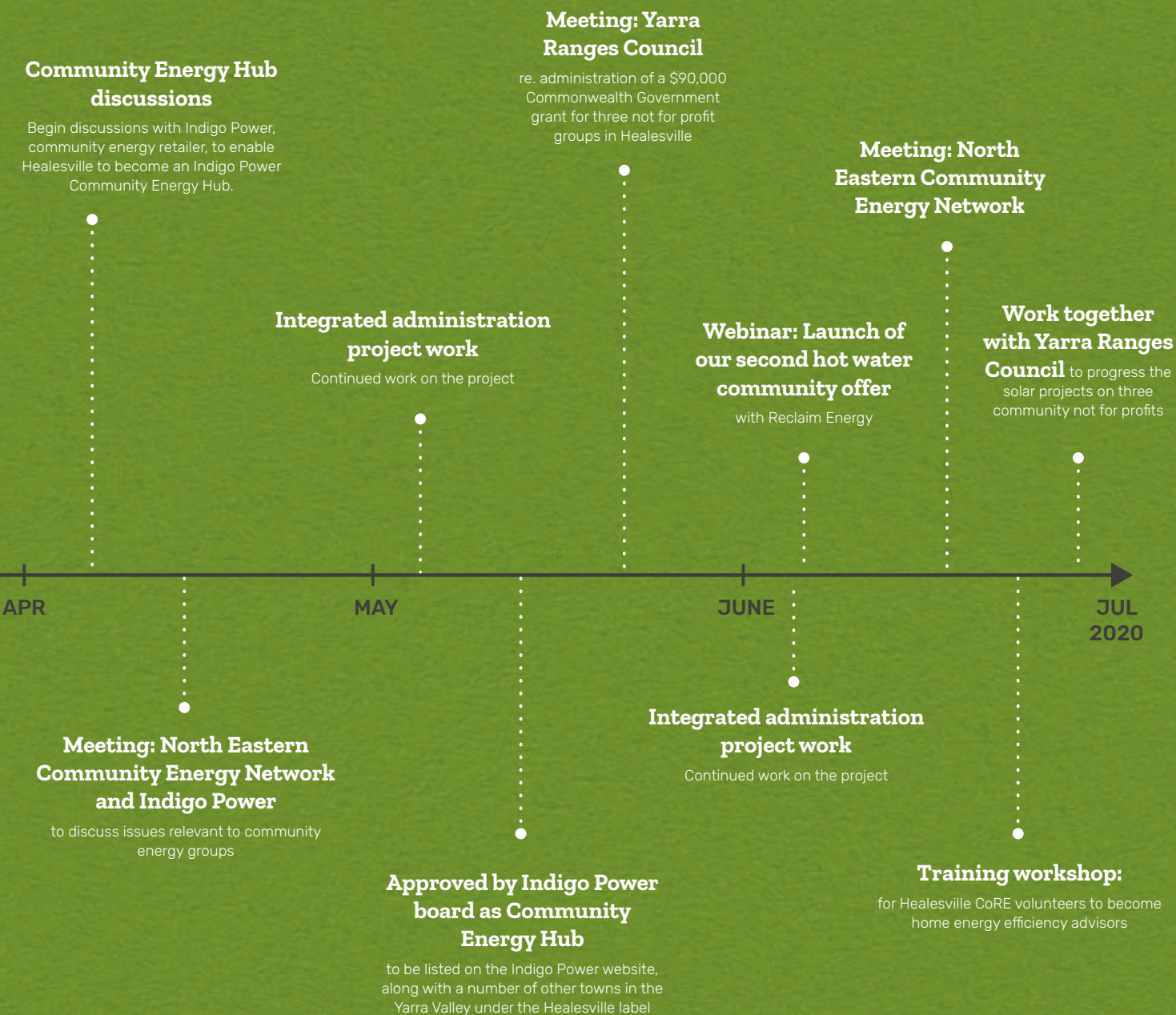
MAR

Attended 2-day Climate  
Emergency Summit,  
Melbourne

### Grant approved

from Sustainability Victoria for the commencement of work on setting up the project team of volunteers and external consultants. Project timeline: 3 months (later extended to 4 months due to Covid-19 lock-downs)







# What Lies Ahead

**With the Global Climate Emergency continuing to create deep concern, the need for taking action on reducing carbon emissions, and the need to develop resilient communities, is increasing. Hence the need for Healesville CoRE, and for our work in transitioning Healesville towards Net Zero carbon emissions from electricity consumption by 2027. We will continue our work in 2020/21 as we have done this year.**

## **Solar Panel Projects:**

We are continuing to progress the solar panel projects for three community not for profit groups: Healesville Living & Learning Centre, the Galena Beek Cultural Centre and the Robyn Jane Children's Centre, with a project manager appointed, systems being designed and a deadline of November 2020.

## **Policy Development Work:**

Our policy development work with an FRRR grant to create 40 policies is continuing with a deadline of November 2020.

## **Yarra Ranges Council Grant:**

We have a \$1000 grant in place from Yarra Ranges Council to run a training program for our volunteers in the use of our new online integrated administration software. The training program will be opened up to other community group volunteers as well.

## **Program of Events Grant Application:**

We have applied to the Yarra Ranges Council for a Community Grant of \$9,945 to run our community program of events in 2021 with a program similar to this year.

## **Home Energy Advisory Service:**

Once Covid-19 lockdowns are over and we can enter the homes of others, we will run our free home energy advisory service for the local community.

## **Focus on Recruitment:**

We will focus attention on recruiting more volunteers willing to assist with the ongoing work of Healesville CoRE, including developing more in-house IT support and continuing to further develop our professional approach to community engagement, including developing a Community Engagement Strategy.

## **Focus on Expansion:**

We will support the development of other community energy groups around the municipality and provide support for other environment and community energy groups by enabling better communication between groups via our dedicated environment forum (soon to be launched)



*Healesville CoRE volunteers at the 'home energy efficiency advice' training with Glen Morris, Moora Moora, June 2020.  
Photo by Ron Roberts*



# The Bigger Picture

## Last year I wrote in the annual report:

*"It has become clear to us over the past two years that a new way of conceptualising community renewable energy and council interaction with community energy groups is required. The urgency and the size of the task in transitioning communities to Net Zero carbon emissions and creating resilient communities is too great for voluntary groups to achieve on their own. The work load is too high for volunteers to be able to achieve this goal without paid labour to run the administration and the projects. Healesville CoRE is of the view that community energy groups are still required and that they need to be run by volunteers BUT sufficient funding needs to be provided by Council or Government or both to enable community energy groups to hire administrators to do all the hard, time consuming administrative tasks."*

I am even more convinced of this view now and I would advocate establishing a Collective Impact approach to the work of community energy groups. This is a way of working towards social change that involves a range of different groups coming together to work towards common goals to resolve difficult and complex social problems.

Community renewable energy is a social challenge just as much as it is an energy challenge and it is too important and too big a job to be left solely to volunteers.

Central to a Collective Impact approach is having a 'Backbone' organisation with more resources, in particular financial resources, to enable the Collective Impact work to progress and to succeed. Local and State Government could easily fill a Collective Impact Backbone role to support paid workers under a community-controlled board, but for this to occur, new

relationships with the community and new ways of thinking about these new relationships will be required.

## **A new paradigm needs to emerge with a focus on collaboration, cooperation and collective intent.**

We are at a crossroads in Australia with our energy production, storage and distribution. Centralised systems will quickly transition into distributed networks with local community energy production, storage and distribution playing an increasingly significant role and the move towards Net Zero is becoming increasingly more urgent. We will continue to do our bit by working locally and thinking globally!

**Jeff Barlow**  
President

Healesville CoRE's first  
community gathering June 2017.  
Photo by Kate Baker





## Secretary's Report



The role of Secretary has been somewhat unstable in FY2019/20.

Sean O'Sullivan, Secretary for some time, resigned from the position effective February of this year and we thank him for his service. John

Branton assumed the role after Sean but, due to personal circumstances, had to himself resign effective April.

To solve the problem this presented I offered to undertake the role of Secretary, in addition to my existing role of Treasurer, up until the 2020 AGM. Thus, I have taken responsibility for all secretarial functions for the last few months including organising committee meetings (held monthly), preparing and distributing agendas, compiling and distributing minutes etc.

Our committee meetings invariably involve a lot of topics and issues to be discussed and considered. By the time of the AGM it is intended that our Members Only page will be active on our website and this page will include copies of the minutes of recent meetings. Anyone who is interested in what the committee is dealing with is encouraged to view these minutes.

Note that committee meetings are open to any member to attend. In addition to the formal committee members (Jeff Barlow – President, Simon Prunster – Vice President, Julian Higgs – Secretary & Treasurer, Leo de Jong – Technical Manager, Chris Sagewood – Media Manager, Shona Rimmer – Community Engagement Manager, Peter Cock – Committee Member (resigned June) and Sean O'Sullivan – Committee Member (membership lapsed July), other regular attendees to committee meetings include Karen Roberts – Grants Officer, Marnie Gleeson – Membership Coordinator, Walter Skilton – Governance Officer and Nathanael Hrabe – General Member.

In addition to committee meetings, I have undertaken

organisation of the AGM including assisting with production of the Annual Report.

An ongoing project is to organise all our electronic files and to store them in our G-Suite Drive file management app so they are readily available to those who need access to them. This has involved setting up the Shared Drive and folder structure within Drive, a task I undertook with substantial help from Marnie Gleeson.

A key project currently being worked on is obtaining charity and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status with and through the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. DGR allows tax deductible donations to be made which will assist in increasing our donor base, donations being a key source of income for us.

Finally, Membership comes under the Secretary's areas of responsibility. In our case our Membership Coordinator, Marnie Gleeson, in practice manages all of this area without any need for supervision from me. She does a fantastic job and I express my thanks to her for her excellent work.

**Julian Higgs**

*Secretary*



An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. The image shows several houses with light-colored roofs and walls, surrounded by lush green lawns and mature trees. A paved road runs along the left side of the frame. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with long shadows cast by the trees and houses.

**Community energy  
for an energetic  
community.**



# Treasurer's Report



I assumed the role of Treasurer for Healesville CoRE at the 2019 AGM, having joined Healesville CoRE as a member in June of that year. Having stepped back from other community involvement activities some 20 months prior to that, I felt

the time was right to become involved in another community group and Healesville CoRE had always been in the back of my mind as an organisation that I could constructively contribute to.

I started by familiarising myself with the accounts and the online accounting package we use (Xero). Prior to my taking on this role, Healesville CoRE had been paying an external bookkeeper, Sue Forbes, to carry out most of the bookkeeping work using Xero. This was an expense we could do without so my first project was to learn Xero and take this work in-house. Under Sue's excellent guidance we undertook a transition process which resulted in all the day to day accounting activities being undertaken by me in-house by November of last year. This has reduced Healesville CoRE's costs significantly.

The second key project I undertook was to separate General operating income and expenses from Grants-based income and expenses in our accounts, primarily by opening a new bank account dedicated to Grants-based income and expenses, and reporting to the Central Committee with these two areas clearly separated. Healesville CoRE General finances and Grants finances are two very different things and in terms of financial viability General finances are the key item. There is only ever grants expenditure if there has been a grant received to cover that expenditure.

General income is from membership fees, donations and income from projects we run. General expenditure is for a range of items including bookkeeping, some catering and some venue hire, consultants' fees, website and general IT expenses, subscriptions and registrations, etc. Our financial viability is dependent on our General

income at least matching our General expenditure. Separating these General income and expenses out from Grants' income and expenses provides greatly enhanced visibility of our true financial situation at any time.

### Our Financial Performance for FY2019/20

The formal accounts are provided later in this section. To provide a more informative picture of our accounts two spreadsheets follow. The first spreadsheet breaks down the total (consolidated) income and expenditure into the General and Grants' components. The fact that the Grants' component is showing a loss is not important since it relates to timing issues of when we receive a grant as opposed to when we spend that grant money. It would only be an issue if in fact we spent more money on a given grant than was received for that grant. This has not happened.

The key result is the performance on our general expenditure, which shows we have made a small surplus of \$1,032.15 for the year. This is the true measure of our financial viability and is thus a satisfactory result.

The second spreadsheet provides data for General Account Income & Expenditure for both the 2019/20 financial year and the 2018/19 financial year, for comparison purposes. Some comments that can be made:

- Campaign contributions at this stage are down for 2019/20. This is perhaps to be expected to some extent since we are not running our own solar panel/battery project this calendar year and our Heat Pump Hot Water project start was delayed due to Covid-19. The fact that the campaign contributions include some from last calendar year's projects and some from this calendar year's projects makes meaningful comparison somewhat problematic.
- Membership income is up for 2019/20 which is encouraging although again this is partly from members joining/rejoining in the early part of





FY2019/20 and some joining/rejoining in the current membership drive for FY2020/21, which again makes any meaningful comparison rather problematic.

- Donations have increased which is also encouraging.
- Bookkeeping costs have reduced dramatically due to taking all this work in house. This is a real, ongoing saving and very helpful to our financial position.
- IT related expenses (consultants, software & website) continue to be our largest general expense although at least they have reduced a small amount this year. These expenses are also highly unpredictable and the key items to monitor in the coming year.
- Overall, we do show a surplus compared with a deficit for the preceding year, which is again encouraging. Achieving a decent level of donations is a key to maintaining that position for 2020/21 as is containing costs.

## Donations

Donations are an important source of income for us. We received donations from a number of individual members, typically but not necessarily as an extra payment made with their membership renewal, from attendees at our events and from some organisations. Of note for this financial year are:

**Brendan Barlow** - \$200

**Anne Touhey** - \$200

**EarthArtBeat Moora Moora Festival** - \$1250

**Healesville RSL** - \$500

We thank all our donors greatly, large and small.

*Healesville CoRE volunteers attend a CiviCRM training event run by Healesville CoRE, funded through a grant from YR Council, in November 2019. Photo by Julian Higgs.*

## Grants

We do receive and expend a variety of grants and the overall picture for those is included in the financial reports. Our Grants Officer, Karen Roberts, is providing a separate report on our grants activities and rather than repeat her report here, I refer you to her report.

## External Accountant

For the past couple of years Simone Knight has acted as our pro bono external accountant. Her key roles have been to prepare and submit our BAS Statements (GST reconciliation) and to prepare our formal end of year financial reports. She has also provided valuable advice on points of accounting I have been unsure of. Simone has elected to resign from this position. She has been a great asset to Healesville CoRE and we thank her greatly for her input.

## Julian Higgs

*Treasurer*



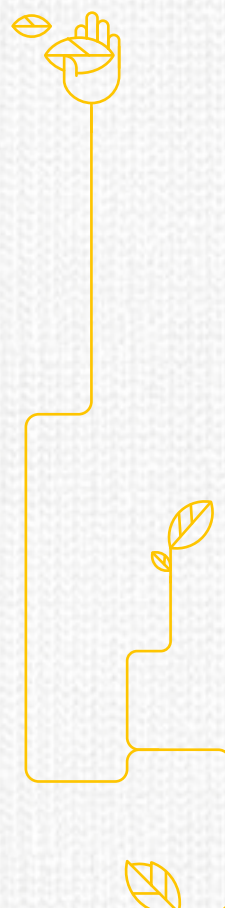


# Financial Report

## Income and Expenditure

2019/20 financial year (excludes GST)

	Consolidated Accounts	General Account	Grants Account
<b>Trading Income</b>			
Campaign Contributions - Feb 2019 Solar & Battery Offer	\$363.60	\$363.60	\$0.00
Campaign Contributions - Solar Hot Water/Heat Pump	\$636.30	\$636.30	\$0.00
Grants Income	\$19,590.00		\$19,590.00
Interest Income (General Account)	\$13.16	\$13.16	
Interest Income (Grants Account)	\$4.10	\$4.10	
Interest Income (Mastercard)	\$0.01	\$0.01	
Membership Income	\$2,281.86	\$2,281.86	\$0.00
Fee Income - Solar Savers Program	\$490.00	\$490.00	
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>\$23,379.03</b>	<b>\$3,789.03</b>	<b>\$19,590.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Donations	\$2,598.25	\$2,598.25	\$0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$2,598.25</b>	<b>\$2,598.25</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>25,977.28</b>	<b>\$6,387.28</b>	<b>\$19,590.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Advertising	\$480.00	\$0.00	\$480.00
Bank Fees	\$0.56	\$0.56	\$0.00
Bank Fees - PayPal	\$41.61	\$41.61	\$0.00
Bookkeeping	\$545.45	\$281.37	\$264.08
Catering	\$637.26	\$105.45	\$531.81
Consultant Fees	\$10,866.48	\$1,038.75	\$9,827.73
Equipment Less Than \$500	\$127.18	\$0.00	\$127.18
Equipment Greater Than \$500	\$720.00	\$0.00	\$720.00
Event Expenses	\$208.79	\$0.00	\$208.79
Filing Fees	\$370.20	\$370.20	\$0.00
<b>General Expenses</b>			
Printing & Stationery	\$14.51	\$14.51	\$0.00
Promotional Expenses	\$1,811.76	\$69.27	\$1,742.49
Software Expenses	\$560.12	\$526.03	\$34.09
Subscriptions & Registrations	\$501.80	\$240.00	\$261.80
Training Expenses	\$1,017.64	\$17.64	\$1,000.00
Venue Hire	\$603.41	\$212.50	\$390.91
Website expenses	\$3,307.49	\$2,437.24	\$870.25
Workshop Facilitator Expenses	\$3,878.73	\$0.00	\$3,878.73
<b>Total Operating Instructions</b>	<b>\$25,692.99</b>	<b>\$5,355.13</b>	<b>\$20,337.86</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$284.29</b>	<b>\$1,032.15</b>	<b>-\$747.86</b>







## Income and Expenditure

2019/20 financial year compared to 2018/19 financial year (excludes GST)

	General Account 2019/20 FY	Grants Account 2018/19 FY
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Campaign Contributions - Feb 2019 Solar & Battery Offer	\$363.60	\$1,863.46
Campaign Contributions - Solar Hot Water/Heat Pump	\$636.30	
Grants Income		
Interest Income (General Account)	\$13.16	\$46.27
Interest Income (Grants Account)	\$4.10	
Interest Income (Mastercard)	\$0.01	
Membership Income	\$2,281.86	\$1,499.86
Fee Income - Solar Savers Program	\$490.00	
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>\$3,789.03</b>	<b>\$3,409.59</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Donations	\$2,598.25	\$1,861.40
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$2,598.25</b>	<b>\$1,861.40</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6,387.28</b>	<b>\$5,270.99</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Fees	\$0.56	\$3.05
Bank Fees - PayPal	\$41.61	\$54.22
Bookkeeping	\$281.37	\$2,399.46
Catering	\$105.45	\$100.00
Consultant Fees	\$1,038.75	\$0.00
Equipment Less Than \$500	\$0.00	\$105.44
Equipment Greater Than \$500	\$0.00	\$0.00
Event Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Filing Fees	\$370.20	\$57.80
General Expenses		\$181.73
Printing & Stationery	\$14.51	\$109.08
Promotional Expenses	\$69.27	\$1,161.38
Software Expenses	\$526.03	\$1,040.65
Subscriptions & Registrations	\$240.00	\$34.09
Training Expenses	\$17.64	0.00
Venue Hire	\$212.50	\$80.68
Website expenses	\$2,437.24	\$3,405.01
Workshop Facilitator Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Operating Instructions</b>	<b>\$5,355.13</b>	<b>\$8,732.59</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,032.15</b>	<b>-\$3,461.60</b>



# Grants Report



I have been Grants Officer for the whole of 2019/20 and my responsibility is to monitor grant opportunities, assist with the applications for Healesville CoRE's grants and to acquit those grants at the end of the funding period once the grant has been used for its purpose. This work is usually done in collaboration with relevant office bearers and other volunteers.

This page details the grants we've acquitted, the grants still in progress and the grants we've applied for in 2019/20.

**Karen Roberts**

Grants Officer



**Grants applied for**



**Acquitted & still in progress grants**



**Future grant**

## Sustainability Victoria Zero Carbon Community Transition (ZCCT)

**\$10,000** was applied for and received, to develop an online integrated administration system for Healesville CoRE and to write a comprehensive report for Sustainability Victoria, with the ultimate aim of eventually making it available for other community renewable energy groups to use. The project was managed by three Healesville CoRE volunteers, and three external consultants over a four-month period in 2020. The 106-page report was finalised on 28 July 2020. Due to specific insurance requirements the project was managed in conjunction with Yarra Ranges Council.

## Yarra Ranges Council Community Grant

2020 Program of Free Community Events

Acquittal due 31/12/20

## Yarra Ranges Council Small Grant

Initial training for volunteers in the use of CiviCRM

## Yarra Ranges Council Small Grant

**\$1,000** successfully applied for, for further training of volunteers in the use of our new online integrated administration system. This training will commence soon.



H'CoRE President, Jeff Barlow, with Healesville teenagers at YR Council's vote to 'acknowledge' the Climate Emergency, September 2019. Photo Michael Nardella





Reclaim Heat Pump Hot water system installation.  
Photo: Julian Higgs.

### **FRRR Community Group Future's Grant**

Healesville CoRE member to prepare 40 policies as part of our strategy for developing secure Governance. Project in progress and about halfway through

*Acquittal due 31/12/20.*

### **Commonwealth Government Community Grant**

The Commonwealth Government provided a Community Grant of **\$90,000**, – originally pledged by our local MHR, The Hon Tony Smith in early 2019 – for Healesville CoRE to manage three local solar installation projects. It was agreed the funding could be established as a revolving fund for ongoing community use in perpetuity. \$20,000 was allocated to Healesville Living and Learning Centre, \$20,000 for Robyn Jane Children's Centre and \$50,000 for the Wurundjeri Galena Beek Cultural Centre.

A Project Manager has been appointed, preliminary designs for the three sites have been approved in principle and each site has a different manager allocated from Healesville CoRE for oversight.

The installations will be completed before November 2020 (subject to Covid-19 restrictions). Formal agreements for handling of the funds are to be written for each recipient and also with Yarra Ranges Council.

### **Yarra Ranges Council Community Grant**

2019 Program of Free Community Events

### **Yarra Ranges Council Community Grant**

**\$9,839** has been applied for to continue our Program of free Community Events during 2021, and has included the possibility of running them remotely if Covid-19 restrictions continue into next year. We will find out if we are successful, and if so, how much we will receive, by mid-November 2020.

### **FRRR Community Group Futures' Grant**

To pay for an external consultant to prepare our Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and Action Plan 2018-2019

### **2021 Proposed Grant: External/Internal Consultant**

Healesville CoRE would like to apply for funding engage either an external or internal consultant to prepare a Community Engagement Strategy. This strategy has been identified as vital to direct our future endeavours, and a member of Healesville CoRE has expressed interest in writing a proposal. We have applied to FRRR successfully on three previous occasions, and after preliminary discussions with them to float the idea of gaining funding for a Community Engagement Strategy, they have given us positive feedback, advising us to apply. The FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities is a rolling grants program, which means that applications will be accepted any time.



# Financial Statements

## Balance Sheet

As at 30 June, 2020

	2019/20	2018/19	See note:
<b>Assets</b>			
Current asset: Cash and cash equivalents	\$9537	\$10,837	3
Current asset: Accounts receivable and other debtors	\$339	\$147	4
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$9,876</b>	<b>\$10,984</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current liability: Trade creditors and other payables	\$6	\$1,398	5
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$1,398</b>	
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$9,870</b>	<b>\$9,586</b>	
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained surplus	\$4,940	\$1,500	
Funds Transferred from Unincorp Assoc.	\$4,646	\$4,646	
Current Year Earning	\$284	\$3,440	
<b>Net worth</b>	<b>\$9,870</b>	<b>\$9,586</b>	

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the period 1 July, 2019 to 30 June, 2020

	2019/20	2018/19	See note:
<b>Cash from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers	\$23,379	\$21,725	
Payments to suppliers and employees	(\$25,693)	(\$20,146)	
Cash receipts from other operating activities	\$2,598	\$1,861	
Net decrease/(increase) in debtors	(\$192)	\$338	
Net increase/(decrease) in creditors	(\$1,392)	\$1,398	
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(\$1,300)</b>	<b>\$5,176</b>	7(b)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Proceeds from Unincorporated Assoc.	-	-	
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$4,646</b>	
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>(\$1,300)</b>	<b>\$5,176</b>	
Cash at beginning of financial year	\$10,837	\$5,661	
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	<b>\$9,537</b>	<b>\$10,837</b>	7(a)
<b>Net worth</b>	<b>\$9,870</b>	<b>\$9,586</b>	





## Income statement

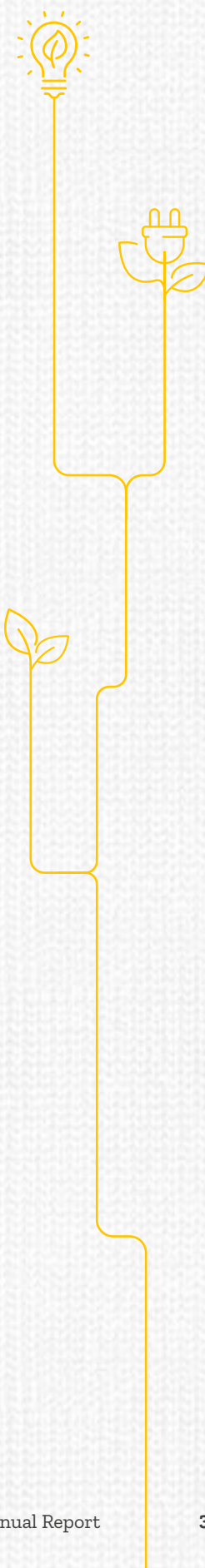
For the period 1 July, 2019 to 30 June, 2020

	2019/20	2018/19	See note:
<b>Income</b>			
Revenue	\$25,977	\$23,586	6
<b>Expense</b>			
Advertising	\$480		
Bookkeeping	\$42	\$57	
Bookkeeping	\$545	\$2,545	
Catering	\$637	\$753	
Computer & Software expense	\$560	\$1,974	
Consultant Fees	\$10,866		
Equipment Purchases	\$847	\$105	
Event expenses	\$209	\$338	
General expenses	\$371	\$239	
Insurance			
Printing & Stationery	\$15	\$109	
Promotional expenses	\$1,812	\$3,265	
Subscriptions & Registrations	\$502	\$34	
Training Expenses	\$1,018	\$0	
Venue Hire	\$603	\$506	
Website expenses	\$3,307	\$3,905	
Workshop Facilitator expenses	\$3,879	\$6,316	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$25,693</b>	<b>\$20,146</b>	
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>\$284</b>	<b>\$3,440</b>	

## Statement Of Changes in Equity

For the period 1 July, 2019 to 30 June, 2020

	Retained Surplus	Total
Balance at 1 July 2018	\$1,500	\$1,500
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	\$3,440	\$3,440
<b>Balance at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>\$4,940</b>	<b>\$4,940</b>
Balance at 1 July 2019	\$4,940	\$4,940
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	\$284	\$284
<b>Balance at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>\$5,224</b>	<b>\$5,224</b>





# Notes to the Financial Statements

## 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

### a. Statement of compliance

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with following Australian Accounting Standards:

- **AASB 101** Presentation of Financial Statements
- **AASB 107** Statement of Cash Flows
- **AASB 108** Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
- **AASB 1031** Materiality
- **AASB 1048** Interpretation of Standards
- **AASB 1054** Australian Additional Disclosures

### b. Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except where specifically stated.

## 2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

### c. Impairment

At each reporting date the committee assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. If any such indication

exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

### d. Income tax

The association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

### e. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits, held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities cash within three months.

### f. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

### g. Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

### h. Trade creditors and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days on recognition of the liability.



### 3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2019/20	2018/19
Cash on hand	\$0	\$0
Cash at bank	\$9,537	\$10,837
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,537</b>	<b>\$10,837</b>

### 4. Account Receivables and Other Debtors

Trade receivables	\$66	\$0
Other receivables	\$273	\$147
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$339</b>	<b>\$147</b>

### 5. Trade and Other Payables

Trade creditors	\$0	\$1,398
Other receivables	\$6	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$1,398</b>

### 6. Revenue

Grant income	\$19,590	\$18,316
Membership income	\$2,282	\$1,500
Donations	\$2,598	\$1,861
Campaign contributions	\$1,000	\$1,863
Sales	\$490	\$0
Other income	\$17	\$46
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$1,398</b>

### 7. Cash Flow Information

#### a. Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of financial year as shown in cash flow statement is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$9,537	\$10,837
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,537</b>	<b>\$10,837</b>

Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to surplus:

Surplus from ordinary activities	\$284	\$3,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$284</b>	<b>\$3,440</b>

#### b. Changes in assets and liabilities

(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(\$194)	\$338
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(\$1,300)	\$1,398
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(\$1300)</b>	<b>\$5,176</b>

### 8. Related Parties

Bookkeeping services are provided through ACCSP Pty Ltd a company owned by the President of Healesville CoRE. The Conflict of Interest Register was completed by the Secretary as instructed by the Chair on a motion passed by the Central Committee.



# Committee's Report

30 June 2020

## In the committee's opinion:

the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 1 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* associated regulations;

- The attached financial statements and notes comply with the Accounting Standards as described in note 1 to the financial statements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the committees



**Jeff Barlow**

President



**Julian Higgs**

Treasurer



**Come join the  
ENERGY REVOLUTION  
here in Healesville**







**Affordable, clean  
energy for our  
community is here  
right now!**



# Acknowledgments & Thank You's

Healesville CoRE would like to thank all our members, volunteers, Central Committee and Sub Committee group members for your engagement over this past year. In addition, we thank the Healesville and 3777 post code community for your interest, your curiosity and your enthusiasm in the work we are doing. We are gratified and encouraged by your positive words of support and by your attendance at our events. We also thank all our supporters who have provided financial and/or pro bono support to enable us to action our vision. In particular, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Yarra Ranges Council, the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal and both the State and Federal Governments for their substantial financial contributions. We have benefited greatly from the involvement of additional external organisations and individuals and in particular we would like to express our appreciation and our gratitude to the Yarra Rangers Council Sustainability Team, Mondo, Solar Savers, Reclaim Energy, Kubo Solutions, Apricus Australia, Matthew Charles-Jones from Totally Renewable Yackandandah, the Healesville Uniting Church, the Healesville Living and Learning Centre, the Healesville RSL, the Moora Moora Cooperative and everyone else who has assisted us. And a special thank you to James McDermid for his pro bono design work, evident in our logo, posters and this report.

It takes a community of supporters to enable an effective community renewable energy group such as Healesville CoRE!

# Community partners & Corporate Supporters

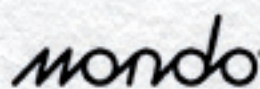
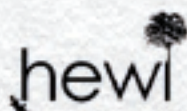
**We place a very high priority on our connections with individuals, families, associations, groups and businesses in our community.**

In seeking to significantly increase the uptake of clean solar energy in our town we want to engage as many people as possible in conversations about our energy needs as a community.

In forming Partnerships with groups and businesses and in obtaining financial support from them we increase our connectedness with the community and also strengthen our 'social license' – the more Financial Members and Partnerships we have, the greater legitimacy we gain as a meaningful voice and leader for our community in the field of clean solar energy.

The Partnerships below are all businesses and organisations who fully support the work of Healesville CoRE and they back this up with either providing grants, cash donations or pro bono support. We thank them all and Healesville CoRE is proud to be associated with each and every one of them.

If your organisation or business would like to become a Partner with Healesville CoRE please write to us at [contact@healesvillecore.org.au](mailto:contact@healesvillecore.org.au) and our President will be in touch!





# How You Can Help

## Donations

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**We need your help...** and would gratefully accept donations.

We need not only community enthusiasm but also your financial support. The people running the Healesville CoRE Project are community volunteers donating many hours of their own time for community benefit.

We are very short of funds to cover our administration expenses: website, room rental, design, printing, telephone etc. If you can afford to donate anything at all it would be a great help.

Here are our bank details:

Account Name: **Healesville CoRE**

Bank: **Bendigo Bank Healesville**

BSB: **633000**

Account No: **161834312**

PayID: **98 988 563 885**

## Volunteer your time

Healesville CoRE has achieved amazing things in a very short period of time! And we have done this all with a great team of community volunteers who have committed themselves to working towards achieving our goal of significantly increasing the use of renewable energy in Healesville.

Our volunteers have joined Healesville CoRE for a wide range of reasons:

- To become part of a powerful movement for change in renewable energy in Healesville.
- To support action to reduce global warming: think globally and act locally!
- To connect with other like-minded people in our community and to meet others interested in social action for meaningful change.
- To make a meaningful contribution to others by assisting households and businesses in our community to improve energy efficiencies to lower the cost of energy bills.

Would you like to join our very active and energetic group of volunteers? We certainly could use your help. Please contact us and we will get in touch with you. You decide on your time commitment



**Join our  
active and  
energetic  
group!**





## Become a Member

Healesville CoRE boasts a vibrant and growing membership base, which you too can join. By becoming a financial member of Healesville CoRE you will:

**Feel proud that you are providing moral and financial support to a small voluntary community group** working for the wellbeing of our local community as we bring the community together to engage collectively in the take up of energy efficiencies and a greater reliance on renewable energy sources.

**Help to retain more money in our local community** as we work for the uptake of more solar energy to create lower energy bills, support lower income households and not-for-profits, reduce the cost of running a business, and by developing a mini-grid and a local energy retailer help us return electricity bill money back to the community



**Be part of the transformation and decentralisation** of the electrical energy system in Healesville with an emphasis on transitioning to local production of solar energy, local storage, local distribution and community sharing of solar production.

**Connect with a network of concerned and active Healesville volunteers** who are passionate in doing what they can about global warming by transitioning away from carbon intensive fuels like gas and coal towards using more renewable sources of energy.

To apply for financial membership, complete the online form on our website and pay the relevant membership fee via your credit, bank transfer or Paypal.

Membership is from 1st July to 30th June in the current financial year. For NEW members who join in the period 1st May to 30th June your membership will be to 30th June of the following year.

There are 3 categories of membership:

- **Associate membership** (Aged under 15, no annual fee)
- **Individual membership** (\$25 annual fee)
- **Business membership** (\$90 annual fee)





## Contact Us

Postal address: **PO Box 146  
Healesville 3777**

Street address: **1 Badger Creek Road  
Healesville 3777**

Website: **[healesvillecore.org.au](http://healesvillecore.org.au)**

Email: **[contact@healesvillecore.org.au](mailto:contact@healesvillecore.org.au)**

 Follow us on Facebook:  
**[facebook.com/HealesvilleCoRE/](https://facebook.com/HealesvilleCoRE/)**



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T/A Healesville CoRE

Incorporation number A0101166X

ABN 98 988 563 885

