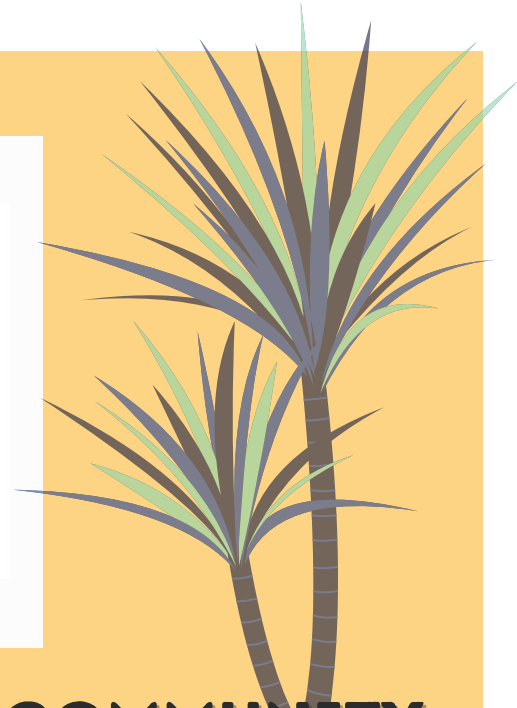


DECEMBER 2022

THE SPARK

SHASA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



CWA HALL: MORUYA'S THIRD COMMUNITY HEATWAVE + BUSHFIRE HAVEN

The CWA Hall has become Moruya's third community heatwave and bushfire haven - with SHASA's help. The CWA received more than \$90,000 worth of funding from two separate government grants to upgrade the hall with a solar PV system and batteries, a 22 kilowatt automatic back-up generator, windows and shutters, an electric hot water service and Catch Power device and a HEPA air filter. So far, the solar system has yielded 6055.5 kilowatt hours since metering began on July 26. During an emergency, the hall can accommodate up to 80 CWA members and their families.

CWA Moruya branch past president Sandra Bramble said the hall had been ill-equipped to provide for the needs of the community during the Black Summer Bushfires, with no power, no generator and no air filters. "We can now offer our members, their families and the community a place to come," Ms Bramble said.



Gilmore MP Fiona Phillips attended the CWA launch event and said upgrading community halls into havens supported community groups and built a more resilient society. *(cont. over page)*

LEFT: Lisa Cornthwaite of MESA, Kathryn Maxwell, Sandra Bramble, Fiona Phillips + Bryan Smith

IN THIS MONTH'S SHASA NEWS

EV market moves ahead
Councils unite for renewables

CWA Hall Bushfire + Heatwave Haven (cont.)

"This is a really good model," Ms Phillips said. "It supports so many people here and in the community."

SHASA president Kathryn Maxwell said the upgrades would make an enormous difference to the community during events such as bushfires, but would also help to ensure community halls remained available to the community. "The upgrade of this facility not only provides a place for CWA members and families to use during extreme weather events, but will also significantly reduce ongoing running costs," Ms Maxwell said. "A loss of any of our community-owned facilities would greatly reduce community resilience."

The solar, battery, back-up generator and electrical upgrades to the hall were carried out by, and in partnership with SHASA partner Micro Energy Systems Australia (MESA). A big thank you to the *Batemans Bay Post* and *Moruya Mail* for covering the opening.

SHASA COMPLETES HEATWAVE + BUSHFIRE HAVEN STRATEGY FOR THE EUROBODALLA

Wendy Wilson has worked extremely hard over the last four months to complete the strategy. SHASA was provided with a grant of \$22,760 from the St. Vincent De Paul Bushfire Recovery Fund to complete the strategy.

The document includes business cases to establish havens at 20 buildings across the shire and forms the backbone of SHASA's focus for grants over the coming years. The Strategy includes fully costed business cases for the upgrade of 13 community facilities and 7 council-owned community halls.



Kathryn Maxwell used the CWA opening to present a copy of SHASA's Heatwave and Bushfire Haven Strategy for the Eurobodalla to Ms. Fiona Phillips. To receive a copy of the strategy, email contact.shasa@gmail.com

SuRF project update



The SuRF project has finished its first round of consultations in the Eurobodalla on how a microgrid might operate in six separate communities. These consultations involved approximately 150 people participating in discussion forums and working groups across six communities, resulting in 12 microgrid design briefs.

Design briefs for Congo, South Durras, Mystery Bay, Broulee, Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba have now been compiled and sent to the SuRF design team (Australian National University, Zephen and Essential Energy) to continue this feasibility work.

These briefs include operating guidelines and mud maps to depict how the microgrid may be configured, taking into account the local landscape and topography. They will inform technical specifications to be put together for at least two design options for each community.

These discussion groups will reconvene in March 2023 to review the initial design options. The project outcomes, including business cases and implementation plans (feasibility) for each design, will become available in early 2024.

These group processes were facilitated by Phil Shorten, a highly experienced group facilitator from SHASA. If you'd like more information about these forums, phone Phil on 0438217916.

Meanwhile, SuRF microgrid research activities continue in Tuross Heads and Nelligen. If you would like to participate in this research and potentially receive a free electricity-monitoring device from Wattwatchers (valued at around \$1000 installed), please contact Ira Kittel at Australian National University on Irara.Kittel@anu.edu.au



South Coast councils unite to secure renewable electricity deal

Excerpts from Shoalhaven City Council website:

www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Council/News/South-Coast-councils-unite-to-secure-renewable-electricity-deal

Shoalhaven, Kiama and Shellharbour councils have joined forces to secure a renewable electricity agreement with innovative energy retailer Flow Power.

Under the agreement, the councils will be able to purchase renewable electricity from wind and solar farms in regional NSW to cover the operation of their large facilities, including pools, administration buildings, street lighting and treatment plants from 1 January 2023. The arrangements will see renewable energy added to the grid on behalf of the councils, offsetting their energy use.

This deal will anchor the development of at least two renewable energy projects on unused council land, delivering jobs and supporting local industry while creating clean energy generators in these important regional centres.

"The construction of two new regional solar farms with Flow Power will also provide local employment and educational opportunities for the community," Shoalhaven City Council Mayor Amanda Findley said.

Kiama Council Mayor Neil Reilly said: "This is an important step forward for Kiama Council, our residents and ratepayers, in realising a sustainable future for our community."

Shellharbour City Council Mayor Chris Homer said: "It's fantastic to collaborate with my neighbouring councils to further expedite the commitments of Shellharbour City Council in achieving our net-zero targets and I look forward to a future of renewable energy."

Flow Power General Manager of Energy Solutions, Jacob Mahoney said: "We are thrilled to be working with Shoalhaven, Kiama and Shellharbour councils on their renewable energy strategies."



Photo (left to right):

Mayor of Shellharbour City Council
Councillor Chris Homer, Mayor of Kiama
Municipal Council Councillor Neil Reilly,
Mayor of Shoalhaven City Council
Councillor Amanda Findley and Flow
Power General Manager, Energy
Solutions Jacob Mahoney

ELECTRIC VEHICLE UPDATES

STATE OF THE EV MARKET - OCT 2022

Uptake and charging continue to increase, but lack of supply of new EVs remains the number one barrier. The transition to decarbonising our transport is well and truly underway...the question now is how fast it happens.

The latest Electric Vehicle Council's *State of the Market* report is available here with some key points:

- 65% increase in year-on-year EV sales
- 3% increase (so far) in public charging this year against last year
- Rapidly growing interest from consumers
- Demand for EVs is not being met due to a lack of supply of new EV models to the Australian market, largely due to the absence of a fuel efficiency standard.

REMOVAL OF FRINGE BENEFIT TAX ON EVS

Electric vehicle fleet and lease companies are bracing for an explosion in demand after the government clinched a crossbench Senate deal to exempt low-and zero-emission cars from fringe benefits tax, potentially saving buyers more than \$30,000. The fringe benefit tax exemption will apply to vehicles purchased since July 1 and which fall short of the Commonwealth's luxury car tax threshold, which is set in 2022-23 for fuel-efficient vehicles at \$84,916.

There will be up to a \$2000 reduction in the purchase price of battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles (only to April 2024) that retail below the luxury car tax (LCT) threshold of \$84,916. This is offered in addition to other state and territory incentives.

The Good Car Company has recently increased the volume of EV imports tenfold from approximately 200 per year to 2,000! We've loaded our biggest shipment ever of high quality, affordable EVs such as Nissan Leaf AZEOs (30kWh battery), starting from \$28,000 + on road costs and the ZE1 (40kWh and 62 kWh) starting from \$35,990 + on road costs. In some cool colours, too!

www.goodcar.co/shasa



UPDATE



Each electric vehicle saves 2.6 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year. So, for example, the 40 EVs that are now in the Northern Rivers of NSW after one of our recent community Bulk Buys will remove 104 tonnes of carbon emissions every year from local roads. That's the power of implementing the right technology at scale with community!

What can we do in THIS community?

Through our partnerships, we empower individuals and communities to take climate action into their own hands by doing one of the most powerful things households can do - switch petrol cars over to electric.

We're doing this in two ways:

- by removing two of the strongest barriers - affordability and availability of electric vehicles and
- collaborating with community organisations like SHASA to enable EV uptake at scale, in local areas.

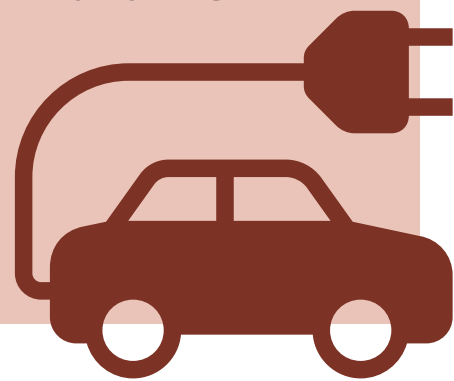
Are you ready to be part of the SHASA EV Bulk Buy to make a collective impact on local transport emissions (not to mention the hip pocket savings you will immediately notice)?

How to join the Bulk Buy

Step 1 Book A Test Drive: A great way to get a feel for how great the Nissan Leafs are is to book a test drive, by sending an email to contact.shasa@gmail.com

Step 2 Check out the SHASA offer below: Purchase one of our imported Nissan Leafs through this Bulk Buy and receive a \$1,000 community participation voucher to apply to the listed price. Get more info, view our available cars and claim your voucher here: www.goodcar.co/shasa

For every car sold through the SHASA EV Bulk Buy with the Good Car Company, Good Car Co. will donate \$300 to SHASA!





WELLBEING CHAT

A dozen community members attended a three hour 'emotional wellbeing' chat with Ian Gilfeather at the Red Door Hall on Wednesday 9 November. Ian is an experienced mental health educator, trainer and counsellor who has worked in both the government and corporate sectors. He approached SHASA to offer his services to the community in the wake of the bushfires and the COVID pandemic.

Ian talked about anxiety, depression and trauma and described some of the typical causes and symptoms. He shared his own experiences with the group who in turn talked about their responses to the challenges of the past three years. Most importantly, Ian explained some simple coping strategies with a focus on practicing mindfulness and gratitude. The session finished with the group running through a simple mindfulness exercise which can be applied at home.

Ian has agreed to run another workshop in February 2023. To put your name down for this amazing free workshop please send an email to contact.shasa@gmail.com



SAGE Summer Solstice
Sunday, 18 December
SAGE Garden, Moruya

Gates open 4.30pm
for 5pm dinner

Pizza made with
local produce
to the tunes of
local music

BYO
Picnic Rug
Drinks
Chair
Plates
Cutlery

Tickets: \$22 pp, \$60 family (4), \$13 children under 13yrs.

MORE FOR BUSHFIRE HAVENS!

Thanks to our generous donors to the SHASA Public Fund this year, SHASA has been able to purchase 20 stretchers (\$1950) for three Heatwave and Bushfire Havens:

- Uniting Church Batemans Bay
- CWA Moruya
- CWA Narooma



SHASA REPAIR CAFE END-OF-YEAR BREAK

The Repair Cafe will be running every Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm, Red Door Hall, Anglican Parish, Moruya, until and including **16 December 2022**.

There will also be a Repair Cafe stall at Art on the Path on Sunday 11 December 2022. Volunteers will then take a much-deserved break and reopen on **Friday 20 January 2023**. We are operating an outdoor welcome desk to ensure everyone is COVID-19 safe.

And, we now have a Repair Cafe Facebook page @RepairCafeEurobodalla

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

STAY UPDATED!

SHASA has a Facebook page @shasa.energy administered by Lyn Smith + a website administered by Lynne Griffiths: www.shasa.com.au

You're welcome to send your photos and stories to contact.shasa@gmail.com

ESC HOUSING SURVEY

Council has released a survey (closing 20 December) asking the community what they want to see in the Housing Strategy.

Complete the survey by clicking [HERE](#)



For more: www.shasa.com.au



Southcoast Health & Sustainability Alliance