

DOUBLE ISSUE: MAY + JUNE 2023

THE SPARK



SHASA
Southeast Health and Sustainability Alliance

SHASA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**SHASA
Public
Fund**

Like most community groups, SHASA relies on membership and donations to enable our work in the Eurobodalla community.

The good news is that all donations are now fully tax deductible – donate before the end of financial year on June 30!

All donations are used exclusively for community projects within the Eurobodalla. To date the SHASA Public Fund has assisted the following organisations: The Women's Refuge, Yumaro Living Moruya, Uniting Church Batemans Bay, Hope House, CWA Moruya and CWA Narooma.

You can donate as little as \$5!



Please
**GIVE BEFORE JUNE 30
TO SUPPORT SHASA'S
ONGOING WORK!**

DONATE



By visiting: shasa.com.au/membership-and-donations/

Or by bank transfer:

SHASA PUBLIC FUND
IMB BANK
BSB: 641-800
Account: 200924351

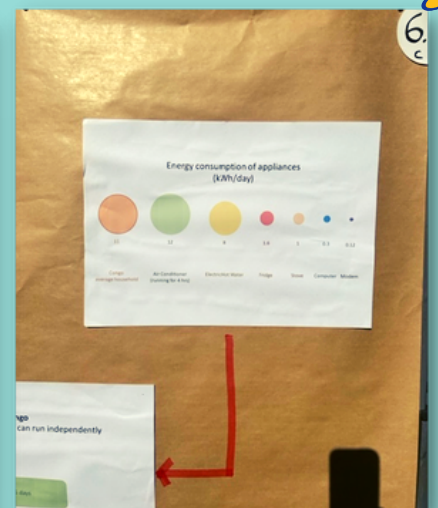


The first of the second round of microgrid consultations was held in Congo on Thursday 11 May. The beautiful outdoor setting saw a strong turnout of 30 Congo residents. These community consultations are part of the South Coast Microgrids Feasibility Project (SuRF). In Congo, speakers from Essential Energy, the Australian National University and the SuRF project team informed a lively discussion of renewables options for the small community. Data delivered by the research team included the cost of batteries, consumption of power and the relative drain from different appliances.

Community comes together for microgrid forums

The consultations will inform the preparation of business cases for microgrid installation in eight shire communities. Where microgrid solutions aren't the right fit, the communities can consider other options based on the information they now have. SuRF project community forums were also held in Broulee and South Durras in May.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR INFO ABOUT UPCOMING FORUMS...



ROUND 2 MICROGRID COMMUNITY FORUMS JUNE 2023

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR INFORMATION

**17
JUNE**

MYSTERY BAY
SATURDAY 17 JUNE
11AM -1PM
CENTRAL TILBA SMALL HALL

**17
JUNE**

CENTRAL+TILBA TILBA
SATURDAY 17 JUNE
3PM-5PM
CENTRAL TILBA LARGE HALL

**18
JUNE**

BODALLA
SUNDAY 18 JUNE
10AM-12NOON
BODALLA COMMUNITY HALL



For more information please contact **Phil Shorten**, SHASA's Project Manager for the SuRf project on 0438 217 916 or email phil@impartskills.onmicrosoft.com

SHASA HELPS BATEMANS BAY MUSEUM TO REDUCE COSTS

SHASA recently secured a Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Strengthening Rural Communities Grant for \$22,578. This was to fund a project titled *Brightening Batemans Bay Heritage Museum's Future, Stage 1*.

The Museum was being adversely impacted by rapidly increasing electricity costs. It also has plans to enhance its operations, which will increase energy usage. As a volunteer-run organisation, the museum has limited revenue capability, but has a high-maintenance site.

The viability of the museum requires a reduction in operational costs. This can be achieved by producing the museum's electricity via a rooftop solar system. This is ideal as the Museum operates during daylight hours.

SHASA's business partner Micro Energy Systems (MESA) has installed a 14.94 kW PV solar system and a catchpower diverter for the museum's hot water service. The project includes annual preventative maintenance for up to three years.

SHASA has now installed solar on 18 community facilities across the Eurobodalla as part of its community sector resilience program.





Help SHASA, while helping the Eurobodalla become 100% renewable!

SHASA is encouraging Eurobodalla residents and businesses to switch to **Indigo Power** as their electricity retailer **by 30 June 2023**. Why? Because it's a community-owned electricity retailer focused on assisting SHASA to achieve its goals of establishing a community-owned solar farm and providing community batteries.

So far, we have ten customers signed up. When we reach 100 customers, Indigo Power will use their energy-sharing software dashboard to understand the Eurobodalla's energy profile. They will plan strategic projects to help SHASA achieve its goals, including 100% renewable energy supply to the shire. And, the provision of cheaper, locally-generated renewable energy to those unable to install roof top solar.

This partnership offers SHASA the potential to successfully bid for federal government funding for community batteries and solar farms. This is vital as these projects require funding and expertise beyond SHASA's capability and experience. SHASA needs the support of an electricity retailer to make it happen. We want to make sure the Eurobodalla gets its fair share and we have the chance to progress these goals with Indigo Power!

Indigo's rates are very competitive -- check them out here: <https://indigopower.com.au/competitive-pricing/> and click on **NSW Residential (or Business)**. There are Mondo Ubi smart energy control and monitoring devices to be won. Each person that signs up will also receive a free copy of Saul Griffith's *The Big Switch*, courtesy of SHASA.

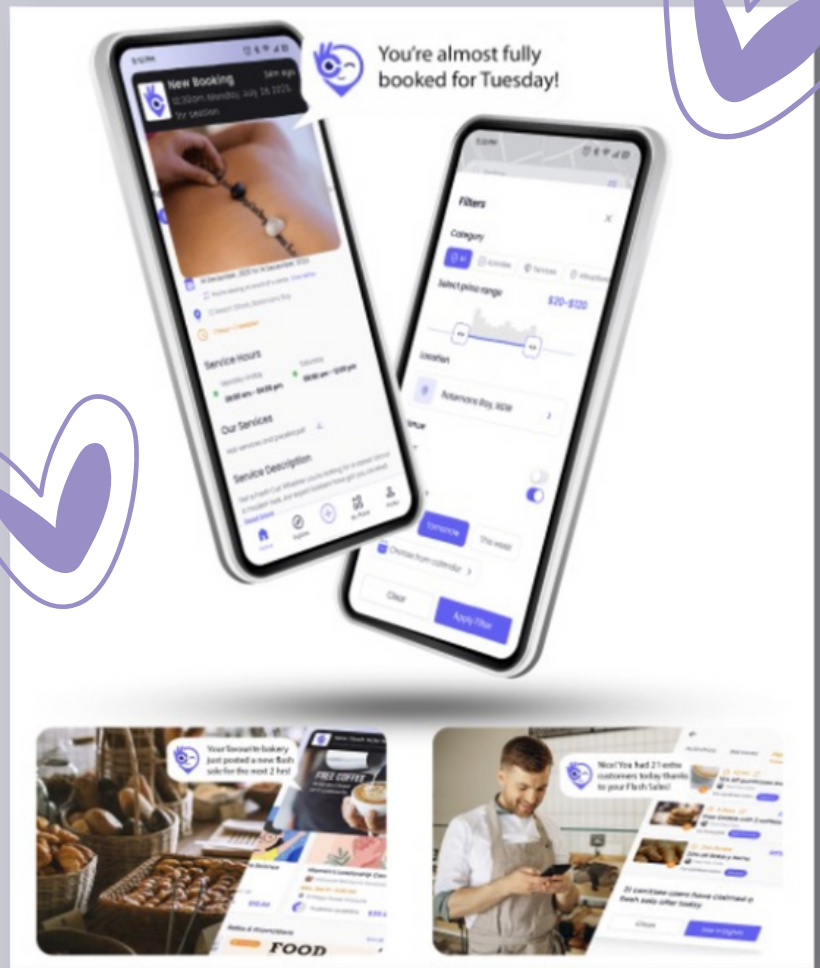
Signing up is easy -- contact Indigo Power on **1800 491 739**. Just give Indigo Power your NMI (National Meter Identification number) located on your electricity bill and they will do the rest. For more details, please email contact.shasa@gmail.com

Here's a great chance to help yourself and the community!

New app to support social connection in the Eurobodalla

Did you know that one in three Australians experience social isolation? Australia has always thrived on communities coming together when times get tough, and areas like the Eurobodalla are no exception.

Our communities have rallied together after each natural disaster, and we've become stronger. However, statistics show social isolation is becoming a huge problem facing regional Australian communities. Community directory **canXsee** aims to bridge this gap and support social connection.



The new app is the brainchild of local entrepreneur, Sanchee, who faced her own challenges with finding connections when she returned to Batemans Bay after living overseas. Sanchee, a mum, couldn't find a playgroup to join. This experience inspired her to write an app for mobile devices – a new type of community directory. The app will enable users to quickly find services, activities and events based on their needs, from playgroups to graduations, music classes to music festivals.

SHASA is supporting **canXsee** as a community organisation, with Andrea Charlton and Andrew Everard acting as test users. The app is launching exclusively in Eurobodalla in July. Once tested, the app will be available in Google Play, Apple and other app stores, and potentially be rolled out to other LGAs.

canXsee is seeking a range of businesses and community organisations interested in piloting the app, to see how it can help their organisation thrive. Email locals@canxsee.com for more information.

LANDMARK STUDY TO BE LAUNCHED

SHASA members and supporters are invited to **Babies and Young Children in the Black Summer Study (BiBS) Report Launch** on **Friday 23 June** at the **Eurobodalla Botanical Gardens**. The report is a culmination of 2022 research on the experiences of families/caregivers and emergency responders during the Black Summer fires. The research will be used to help Eurobodalla community organisations and families to develop bushfire plans for babies and young children, amongst other actions. **Please RSVP to Michelle Hamrosi and specify dietary requirements -- details are below.**

Australian Breastfeeding Association
invites you to the

Babies and Young Children in the Black Summer (BiBS) Study Report Launch

DON'T
MISS



Date

Friday 23rd June 2023
5:30pm - 6:30pm

Location

Banksia Room,
Eurobodalla Botanic
Gardens

Details

Join us for nibbles and
drinks as we share key
findings from the study

RSVP Please RSVP by 16th of June to
michelle.hamrosi@breastfeeding.asn.au

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



**Australian
Breastfeeding
Association**

This event is part of the Community Protection for Infants and Young Children in Bushfire Emergencies Project.
This project received funding from the Australian Government.

DOING MORE WITH LESS!

Repurposing for Resilience (RfR) Eurobodalla is a small not-for-profit organisation, doing more with less for our community and environment.

RfR has continued to jump hurdles to successfully bring electrical trade training to the Eurobodalla. Weekly classes for 1st year electrical apprentices will commence on 4th July at Kyla Park, Tuross, until a more suitable venue can be found. This is a first for the region, offering employers and apprentices relief from costly travel to training currently run outside the area. Making training like this more accessible also opens opportunity for school leavers and adult apprentices alike, to whom existing training venues in Canberra or Nowra have been out of reach. It also encourages growth in the renewable energy sector as solar, storage & wind are after all, electrical.

RfR has also been making good use of the Bodalla training room gifted by supporting partner, MESA. This purpose-built training room inside a 40ft hi-cube shipping container is constructed entirely from reclaimed materials and served as a training facility from the onset, having been wired by three electrical apprentices as part of their work sampling. The asset was entirely paid for using MESA monetary and in-kind contributions and is another example of how not-for-profit organisations supported by small business can achieve great outcomes.

To date the venue has hosted a circuit-design workshop, electrical training, and several creative art workshops. More recently it was used to host the first of the RfR's community workshop series in Test & Tag of portable appliances, which saw nationally accredited training provided to several community organisations, including SHASA's Repair café, Rally for Recovery, CWA Moruya, Narooma Woodies and Tuross RFS.

This training will allow volunteers of these organisations to test and tag portable appliances on a regular basis, saving them ongoing costs. In addition, MESA has gifted a PAT testing unit to the RfR, which will be hired out to these community organisations at heavily subsidised rates.

The next workshop in the series is Soldering 101 scheduled for 1st July. For more information on RfR workshops and bookings please contact [**rfreurobodalla@gmail.com**](mailto:rfreurobodalla@gmail.com)



Solar panel reuse in our community

EMAIL: rfreurobodalla@gmail.com OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

GOOD CAR CO. POLESTAR OFFER

The Good Car Co. has some awesome news!

We are partnering with Polestar to bring you a great opportunity to go zero emissions and save up to \$10,000 each year! For a limited time there is bonus free charging on offer and a contribution to one of our favourite climate charities.



We are proud to be presenting the Polestar 2 with this limited-time offer. Polestar started as the Volvo performance arm, but is now its own brand that only makes electric vehicles and has a strong focus on sustainability. The Polestar 2 is a beautiful Swedish design and an amazing driving experience. You can charge from your home solar, commute to work zero emissions and drive anywhere around the country as you reclaim your weekends.

Goodcar 100% supports the Polestar 2 because of its:

- Great range up to 540km WLTP
- Sustainable design in batteries, 2030 zero emissions climate goals + life cycle tracing
- Ability to tow 1500kg!

In June, Polestar and Goodcar are bundling in for free :

- **A Zappi 2 home charger:** The Zappi is Australia's most popular solar diverting EV charger (also comes with a cable and standard installation).
- **A \$2000 charge voucher with Evie:** Evie has over 100 fast charge locations around Australia (and growing). Fun Fact: At current power prices, this is enough charge to drive around 17,500km (depending on your driving style).

Support Pollinate group...

Goodcar will make a \$500 donation to combating climate change with organisations like Pollinate Group. Pollinate Group empowers women as clean energy micro-entrepreneurs to light up lives in India and Nepal in the world's most marginalised communities.

Our Polestar 2 offer is only with a Novated Lease

Last year the Federal Government changed the tax law to make EV's Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) exempt. So if you get a Novated Lease you pay for the car in your pre-tax income, making every dollar go 20-30% further. Novating an EV is a great tax incentive. You pay for your car using 'before tax' income, so your car becomes GST exempt. In total you can avoid up to \$10,000 PA in tax!

Visit www.goodcar.co now for more details!

South Coast Property Specialists

on the value of solar...



Franzen Tips #1149

... this week we thought we would explore the topic of solar, its costs, and whether it adds value to your property.

Australia has a reputation for being an early adopter of most technologies (more on that below). Solar panels have been a classic example with nearly one in every three homes in Australia now having solar panels. Indeed, it has been so successful that it has highlighted potential issues with the design of the electricity grid that was never designed for so much power being sent the other way (i.e. from houses back into the grid).

The true value of solar is difficult to determine, as it depends on power usage during the day. For example, if you are usually at home during the day using household appliances or power tools, etc. then solar can be of great value in reducing your power bill. For this reason, you see a lot of businesses that use heavy-power-drawing tools and equipment often having huge arrays of solar panels on their roofs. You also get more value out of solar if you can afford to add a battery to capture the surplus power so that it can be used during the evening or when the panels are drawing insufficient power to meet your demands.

The panels can also add more value if you have an electric vehicle and can charge your vehicle with surplus power from the panels. Some (currently only a few) electric vehicles can be “a battery to the house”. This could be extremely useful during a blackout, where power from your car’s battery could be used to keep the essential appliances in the house running. The interesting point here is that while Australians have been early adopters of solar panels, we have been laggards when it comes to the uptake of electric vehicles. This is now slowly starting to change, and the ACT is leading the way with 18% of new vehicle registrations this year being ‘zero-emission vehicles’.

But, back to solar. You may be thinking about adding solar panels (and maybe a battery) but can’t quite justify the expense. If so, consider this: this week, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that “you’ll find the capital investment into your property will add at least as much value as the system itself with Domain.com noting that when it comes time to sell up, an energy-efficient home can be worth as much as 17 per cent more than an equivalent property.”

For more:

www.shasa.com.au



Southcoast Health & Sustainability Alliance