

AUGUST + SEPTEMBER 2023

THE SPARK



SHASA NEWSLETTER

GRANT WIN! FIRES TO FLOURISH

Great news! SHASA has secured funding for the SHASA/South Coast Community Kitchen Food Run, which provides weekly delivery of food to 60 families in the Batemans Bay and Moruya areas.

It includes funding for:

- a Nissan LEAF electric van – a first for the Eurobodalla
- magnets for the van promoting the service and other SHASA activities
- a 7kW EV charger to charge up the electric van
- installation of a solar system (panels donated)
- a fridge/freezer for the van to keep meat and cheese cold in summer
- two freezers to store meat
- a fridge to store fruit and vegetables
- recruitment of a coordinator to arrange a food feast in January 2024 for volunteers and clients

IN THIS EDITION OF SHASA NEWS

SHASA lobbies on bushfire preparation
Communities get active with protest actions

SHASA BACKS COUNCILLOR ANTHONY MAYNE'S MOTION ON BUSHFIRE + HEATWAVE PREPARATION

On Tuesday 26 July, SHASA President Kathryn Maxwell spoke at the Eurobodalla Shire Council (ESC) meeting about the increasing likelihood of a hot and dry summer, and heatwave and bushfire health threats. The address backed a successful motion by Councillor Anthony Mayne.

SHASA outlined the following actions that ESC could undertake to ensure the community is better protected from the impacts of bushfires and heatwaves.

1. Upgrade the evacuation centre buildings to include air conditioning and HEPA filters, to provide people with refuge from heat and/or smoke during catastrophic weather events.
2. Shade council car parks to reduce heat impacts in the middle of our towns.
3. Partner with SHASA to secure funding to implement the Eurobodalla Heatwave and Bushfire Haven Strategy. Heidi Stratford, Director Illawarra and South Coast, Reconstruction NSW, has recommended SHASA work with ESC to submit an application for funding under the second round of the Disaster Ready Fund. Reconstruction NSW sees heatwave havens as a high priority for the shire. Project proposals would include maintenance agreements for solar and battery systems.
4. Set up community information boards at key council facilities to keep the community informed in the event of power and telecommunications failures.
5. Engage with the Shoalhaven City Council about its Community Information Hubs at 25 community halls, to understand what could be replicated in Eurobodalla.
6. When evacuation centres are established, ensure they provide a separate area for families with babies and young children.
7. Encourage people to remove combustible materials from their yards by removing the green waste fees at the tip for all of spring, not just one weekend in September.
8. Allow residents to plant appropriate shade trees on verges in urban areas, to reduce heat impacts in urban areas in the future.

According to the National Emergency Management Agency, every dollar spent on disaster risk reduction yields an estimated \$9.60 return on investment.



UNITING CHURCH CATALINA HEATWAVE AND BUSHFIRE HAVEN OPENING

On 4 August, Fiona Phillips, Member for Gilmore, announced the Uniting Church Heatwave and Bushfire Haven (stages 1 and 2) in Batemans Bay is now operational. The project, spearheaded by SHASA and the Uniting Church Batemans Bay, is transforming the old squash courts into a vital facility to safeguard the community during extreme weather events.

This project received two federal grants totalling \$123,780 through the Preparing Australian Communities program and the Strengthening Rural Communities program (Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal – FRRR).

The project was also supported by significant contributions from the Uniting Church and SHASA, who contributed \$16,000 and \$8,600 respectively. The funds have been used to establish a whole-of-building emergency power supply, incorporating a large solar array, battery storage, and a backup generator. This ensures the facility's continuous operation, even during power outages when it is most needed.

"I saw firsthand how much our communities needed facilities like this during the bushfires. People were often stranded without appropriate facilities, and it just wasn't good enough – I knew something had to be done," Ms Phillips said.

The project's impact goes beyond safety in the event of bushfires and extreme weather. The facility's upgrades will enable the church to continue providing essential services, including the food bank and access to showers and washing machines.

"I want to thank the Uniting Church, SHASA and Micro Energy Systems for all the work they have done getting this off the ground. This will undoubtedly serve as a lifeline for our community during challenging times," Ms Phillips concluded.



Heads up! Moruya EV Expo

SHASA is partnering with the Moruya Business Chamber to organise an EV Expo in Moruya. It's likely to be held on Saturday 28 October, pending a successful grant from NSW business grants. October is NSW Business Month.

We're keen to hear from any EV owners who want to be part of the EV Day. Stuart Needham is organising the EV owners' participation and can be contacted by email at diddyandstewart@gmail.com

For more details on Moruya EV Expo please email contact.shasa@gmail.com

SHASA AGM: Wed 13 Sept

SHASA's AGM is being held via zoom on Wednesday 13 September from 11 to 11.30am. The key task at the AGM is to elect the members of the SHASA committee, including the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. We're keen for new people to come onto the committee. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please email the secretary secretary.shasa@gmail.com if you would like to attend and/or seek a nomination form.

Regenerate Eurobodalla leaders projects

The Regenerate Eurobodalla Leadership Training Program included \$50,000 for projects to further develop the skills of participants. The following projects were selected:

- Re-Storying the Landscape - Eliza Cannon
- Develop a Eurobodalla Preparedness Guide - Sandra Makdessi
- Vision and Strategy for a Disability Reference Group in the Eurobodalla - Nicole Dawson
- Using 3D design software to provide visual displays and designs - Matthew Thomas

For more details, email contact.shasa@gmail.com



**Eliza Cannon of
Borrowed Ground growers**

BATEMANS BAY HERITAGE MUSEUM SOLAR ARRAY OPENING



At the opening of Batemans Bay Heritage Museum's solar array, Member for Gilmore Fiona Phillips and Eurobodalla Deputy Mayor Alison Worthington spoke about the museum's valued work.

Micro Energy Systems Australia installed a 14.92kW solar array and catchpower device to supply the museum with electricity and hot water. This is the first time in 10 years that the museum has had hot water. Solar power will dramatically reduce energy costs, helping to keep the museum – entirely run by volunteers – viable.

A big thank you to President Ewan Morrison for collaborating with SHASA and to the FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities program (Federal Government) for the funding. This is SHASA's 10th FRRR funded project and our 18th solar installation on a community facility in the Eurobodalla.



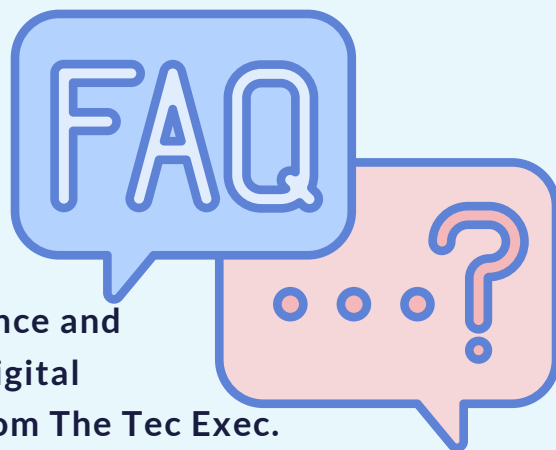
Digital skills workshops for clubs, not-for-profits and community organisations

Build your organisation's digital capability and online presence.

Need help connecting with your committee and community members, improving your online presence and attracting volunteers? Build your organisation's digital capability and online presence with free classes from The Tec Exec.

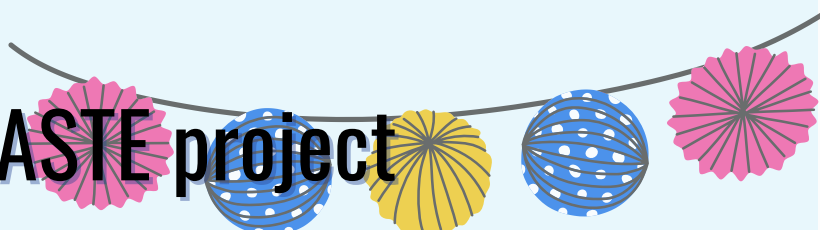
This program offers free classes to clubs and community organisations in the Eurobodalla to:

- develop technical skills + knowledge in the digital world
- answer questions about using computers and handheld devices in everyday life and communications
- learn how to securely access and use the internet, and build digital profiles



Each session consists of a workshop followed by a Q & A session. Sessions are conducted in small groups in various locations and are supported by our digital mentors. Register your interest via the QR Code or contact Trish Pye at admin@thetecexec.com or call 0414 442 707.

LANTERNS FROM WASTE project



The Repurposing for Resilience team, in collaboration with River of Art, have been working on creating 'Lanterns from Waste' for this year's Luminous event on Saturday 23 September. The project shines a spotlight on repurposing of waste and has focused on working with youth as a way of increasing young people's participation in festival activities. The project has run several community workshops to make lanterns from plastic bottles, electrical industry and agricultural waste, as well as textiles diverted from landfill.

Now, over \$1350 in cash prizes are available to youth aged 16-26 years as part of the Lanterns from Waste Youth Art Competition. Free registration through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/678691373167> until the end of August. Entries will be exhibited at Luminous and judged on the night. The competition is open to individuals and groups. For more information: rfr eurobodalla@gmail.com

**FREE REGISTRATION
WITH EVENTBRITE**

**DESIGN & BUILD A LANTERN
CONSTRUCTED FROM A MINIMUM OF
50% WASTE MATERIALS
LANTERNS DUE SEPT.9TH**

YOUTH ART COMPETITION

Entry open to youth aged 16 - 26 years

RIVER OF ART LUMINOUS EVENT SEPT 23

THE THEME CELEBRATING PLACE

LANTERNS FROM WASTE

FIRST PRIZE \$650 2ND PRIZE \$450

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD \$250

**Judging of the lanterns at the event
by River of Art and Repurposing for Resilience**



**river
art**



**Australian Government
Festivals Australia**

LED LIGHTING SUPPLIED BY THE RFR TEAM

**For further information email rfreurobodalla@gmail.com
Or check our socials- Repurposing for Resilience**

TIME'S UP CLIMATE RALLY ASKS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO STOP MAKING IT WORSE! BY JACK EGAN, 350 EUROBODALLA

Using our marginal seat power, 150 Gilmore voters turned out for climate action on a surprisingly hot winter's day. People from many parts of Eurobodalla marched and danced to Member for Gilmore Fiona Phillips' Batemans Bay office to show their support for stronger climate action.

Uncle Bunja Smith welcomed everyone to Walbunja country and told how as a young man he saw dolphins and a hammerhead shark in the blue waters of Bhundoo (Clyde River). The water has not been the same blue since the bushfires.

Allan Rees, secretary of 350Eurobodalla, told the crowd, "The Albanese government is allowing five new gas basins to go ahead, which will lead to a massive increase in Australia's emissions. The government also plans to spend \$1.5 billion of our taxpayers' money to build a gas export terminal in Darwin harbour. The message from 350Eurobodalla is Stop Making It Worse!"

Eurobodalla Deputy Mayor Alison Worthington called for greater climate action by Eurobodalla Shire Council and said: "If our neighbours in Queanbeyan-Palerang can get federal climate funding to do heat mapping of their urban centres, then devise shade and tree planting strategies to mitigate against the deadly urban heat island effect, then so can Eurobodalla."

Dane Wilmott, a local firefighter and President of the Nature Coast Marine Group, said: "Climate change is already affecting us significantly on the South Coast. Ocean temperatures have risen as much as 4 degrees on average already."

Joslyn van der Moolen from the new South Coast Knitting Nannas for Native Forests said, "Our South Coast is a beautiful place because we still have our forests. Yet the federal and state governments continue to fund logging of over one million hectares of our NSW forests. The decision to stop logging our native forests is coming. We just need to bring it forward."



350Eurobodalla will back up our calls in a mid-September meeting with Ms Phillips.



FRACKING WITH OUR HEALTH!

BY DR MICHELLE HAMROSI

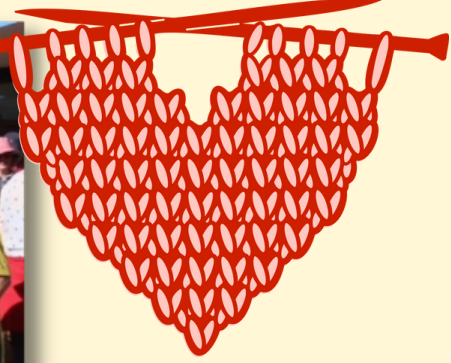


Last week, I participated in the DO NO HARM, STOP MIDDLE ARM protest at Parliament House, along with around 80 other health professionals. As a South Coast GP, I joined to raise awareness about the alarming health impacts of the gas industry, specifically the local health risks linked to the proposed petrochemical plant in the Middle Arm/Beetaloo gas region.

The protest underscored the significant health hazards associated with the gas sector, exacerbated by the climate crisis. The effects of climate change, including extreme weather events, heatwaves, bushfires, and floods are driving an uptick in respiratory diseases, heat-related fatalities, and mental health disorders. The expansion of the gas industry in the Northern Territory, particularly the Beetaloo Basin, threatens to escalate these issues. If Beetaloo reaches full operations, it could release emissions equivalent to those from twelve coal-fired power stations annually, undermining our transition away from fossil fuels. The government's staggering 1.5 billion dollar subsidy to the Beetaloo basin gas export infrastructure contradicts the scientific consensus on the necessity to divest from fossil fuels.

The adverse health consequences of the gas industry are not limited solely to climate change. Extensive research has demonstrated the health risks tied to exposure to gas industry pollutants, encompassing respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disorders, and neurological ailments. The extraction process of fracking poses the additional threat of contaminating drinking water with harmful chemicals. Fracking has been linked to various health complications, including respiratory issues, birth defects, and cancer. This is why 90% of NT paediatricians have written to the NT Chief Minister raising concerns about the health impacts of the Middle Arm Precinct and Beetaloo fracking.

An open letter to PM Anthony Albanese, endorsed by over 2,300 health professionals called for the subsidy for Middle Arm Precinct's gas processing to be urgently reevaluated, and for immediate intervention to avert fracking in the Beetaloo Basin. In the face of an escalating climate crisis, the government continues to endorse climate-wrecking industries. This stark dissonance is deeply unsettling, especially as we stand at the precipice of irreversible climate breakdown. The Australian government must halt support for the perilous 'gas-led transition' and expedite transition to clean, sustainable energy sources. Our window for meaningful action is narrowing, and the consequences of inaction are too grave to ignore.



Knitting Nannas!

The Knitting Nannas are an environmental conservation group of seniors who want to draw attention to the plight of our planet. They gather together to hold peaceful Climate Action Now 'knit-ins' on a regular basis in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla areas on the NSW South Coast, to call for our government to end native forest logging and to put a stop to new coal and gas mine approvals.

In light of World Environment Day on June 5, an intrepid team of Knitting Nannas visited 'Big Spotty', the largest known gum tree in the North Brooman State Forest. Dressing 'Big Spotty' up in wool and ribbons, they called for Compartment 50A to be removed from the native forest logging list.

The Knitting Nannas joined together with 350Eurobodalla at the Climate Action Time's Up Rally in Batemans Bay on Sunday 30 July. To learn more or join in a 'knit-in', message or follow on Facebook @KnittingNannasforNativeForests-SouthCoastLoop



SOLAR + EV PROJECTS!



SHASA member Lyn Smith discovered some fantastic initiatives during her recent trip to Northern NSW, including the 180 solar panels that power the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and Hospital. Lyn was also impressed with the Byron Shire Council solar carpark in Mullumbimby that provides power to the EV charging station and the Byron Shire Council Offices. Great work Byron Shire!



STOP NATIVE FOREST LOGGING RALLY AT ULLADULLA

Hundreds of people, including SHASA members, joined members of the Bob Brown Foundation, the Knitting Nannas, Greens and others in Ulladulla on Saturday 12 August to protest against native forest logging in NSW.



Similar rallies were held in Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Canberra and Hobart.

The election of ALP federal and state governments has not slowed logging of our irreplaceable native forests, which are being pulped and made into pallets at an alarming rate – about 20,000 hectares of publicly owned NSW native forest is being logged annually.

Undisturbed and mature forests are more resistant to the effects of fire, store more carbon and provide habitat to forest-dependent species. Many of the wildlife icons of our native forests are threatened with extinction because of habitat destruction, including Greater and Yellow-bellied Gliders, Sooty, Masked and Powerful Owls, koalas, quolls and platypus. Logging also runs at a significant loss and is propped up by tens of millions of tax-payer dollars annually. We are paying for the decimation of our native forests so we can have more pulp and pallets!

Labor needs to hear from you! At the ALP National Conference in Brisbane last week, the ALP ignored calls to stop native forest logging. Please write to your local member, and to Penny Sharpe (NSW Environment and Climate Change Minister). Before there's nothing left.

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For more: www.shasa.com.au



Southcoast Health & Sustainability Alliance